

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 23
June 5, 2026

- Elders Meeting – June 10, 5:30pm via Zoom
- Choir Practice – June 11, 6:30pm

Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



June 8 – Vitalant Mobile Blood Drive
The Blood Mobile will be set up in the FMCC parking lot, 11am-3pm. There is still time to schedule an appointment. Go to www.vitalant.org or call (877) 25-VITAL.

June 21 – 50-year member recognition

June 26 – Wild Things Game
All of the available tickets have been spoken for. If you have requested tickets, please make sure to give payment to the Church Office by Friday, June 12.


Thank you to everyone who donated to CWS Blanket Sunday. A total of **\$1,317.83** was received, enough to purchase 131 blankets. This is one of the largest amounts donated.



Bible Quiz

Which follower of Jesus preached to the crowds after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?

A. John
B. Peter
C. Mary Magdalene
D. Paul



Answer: B (See Acts 2:14ff.)



Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Avenue
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

Elders: Gary Ford, Bread
Serena Dube, Cup

June 7, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Linda Reese

Leader: We call to the Lord,

People: And God hears our prayers.

Leader: We lift up our praise,

People: And God hears our songs.

Leader: We wait for the Lord,

People: And God answers our hope.

Opening Hymn

“Sing Unto the Lord a New Song”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Sing unto the Lord a new song. Sing unto the Lord all the earth. Sing unto the Lord a new song. Sing unto the Lord all the earth. For God is great, and greatly to be praised, God is great, and greatly to be praised.

Graduate Recognition

insert

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

O God, who turns mountains into roads and valleys into flat plains, we come before you in awe and gratitude. What are humans that you are mindful of us, mortals that you care for us? Thank you for holding us close and for caring for us. We come before you confessing that we worry too much, that we borrow worries from the future. We offer our worries up to you, author of our lives and bearer of our burdens. As we set down those things that weigh us down, may we be freed to pick up the work you would have us do. For your church in every place, hear our prayers.

May we shelter and steward your mysteries, inviting people to join the journey and giving safety and shelter to those in need. For your children in every place, hear our prayers. May we offer your grace and mercy to a hurting and anxious world. May we be agents of your justice and hope, flattening mountains of racism, classism, and other forms of injustice, making a clear path for all. For your created world, hear our prayers. May we shelter and protect the beautiful mystery of your creation, ensuring a safe world for future generations. For all whose worries are very real, and caused by illness, grief, and pain, hear our prayers. Calm and quiet their souls, as a parent holds and comforts a child. Bring your healing, your solace, your wholeness, so the rough places may be made smooth in their lives. We offer all these prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus, who came that we might have life and have it abundantly. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response:

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

First Scripture Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

Serena Dube

Special Music

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

We are honoring graduates today. Have you graduated yet? Maybe from pre-school or kindergarten but it will be many years before you graduate from high school or college. What does it mean to graduate? For some it means to get to a new level. One chapter of their life ends and another begins. For others it means to end, as if they no longer have to do homework or catch the bus.

Do you think that when you graduate from school you will no longer need to learn? Will you know everything you need to know for the rest of your life? Of course not, you will learn many new things in your life but it may happen in a different way than in a classroom

Do you think you will ever graduate from being a Christian? There is never a time when you will know it all or have done it all, so what you learn here in church will help you in all things.

Second Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-12

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Graduate and Commence”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

Well, here we are at the beginning of summer, and so many things are happening. In addition to all the yard work we have to do now, plus the little league games and dance recitals, we have graduations to attend and parties to plan. Now the school year is coming to its peak, which is fun and stressful for both students and teachers alike, and for a few students it will mean the end of life as they know it. For soon graduations will commence.

I always thought that it was strange that graduation was referred to as commencement. After all to commence something is to begin it, and these students will have just finished their time in school. It seemed much more appropriate to hold a service of commencement at the beginning of one’s time not at the end. And yet every year each school will compete for the best, most notable, speaker and the success of the service will be judged upon their words.

If any of them need an example of how to give a commencement speech, they may turn to the gospel of Luke where Jesus gives a commencement address to his disciples after everything is over. After he has been born and ministered in Judea, after he performed miracles and taught in parables, after he was tried and crucified, and after he was resurrected and appeared to his disciples, when there was nothing left for him to do, he gives his farewell speech.

Jesus’ last words begin with him reciting the history of God’s people and of God’s actions in the world just as he had spoken to Cleopas and the unarmed disciple on the road to Emmaus. He quotes the Jewish scriptures and talks about the past saying, “The Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead” He talks of the present when he states, “Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all

the nations,” and he ends with the future when he announces, “I am sending upon you what my father promised so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

After these words, the very last that he speaks, he leads the disciples out of Jerusalem to the town of Bethany two miles outside its gates. There he blesses them and finally ascends into heaven to return from whence he came. When he is gone the disciples return to Jerusalem where Luke states, “They were continually in the temple blessing God.” First Christ blesses them, and then they return the blessing to God.

The way that this story is presented speaks to the literary nature of the gospel of Luke. He writes his gospel in such a way that virtually everything that happens in it is designed to either foreshadow the future or remind of the past and sometimes both at once.

This story, and the whole gospel, ends with a scene in the temple and an expectation that God is doing something great just as the gospel of Luke began with such a scene and such an expectation. The disciples praising God in the temple reminds us of Zachariah praising God in the temple when he was told of the birth of his son John at the very beginning. The end of the story brings everything back around to the beginning so that the reader will read again and all will come to make sense. Like any great work of literature, the story must be read again and again for all to be revealed.

This story not only reminds us of the past; however, it also points the reader toward the future by indicating that God isn’t finished working yet and neither are the disciples. As we finish the gospel, Luke prepares us for the next chapter, the Acts of the Apostles, by leaving us with the feeling that God is still speaking.

And so, it comes to me, that the last words of Christ:

Thus, it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

are a graduation speech to his disciples, recent graduates of the most intensive and life changing course of study ever taken.

It is Jesus’ commencement address, for though it may seem that their work is now at an end, after they followed him, after they heard all he had to teach and saw all the miracles he had to perform leading up to this most amazing miracle, after they were sent out and preached in his name and won converts, after they traveled to Jerusalem, after they deserted him, after they themselves were accused of treason, now they have come to the end, and all is well. Now they may feel that all has been accomplished, but what they learn is that things are just beginning. What God plans to do in this world is just begun.

This is the difference between great stories that we have read and the greatest story ever told. I’ve read wonderful stories like the Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and The Wizard of Oz but when you get to the end that’s it. It’s over. When we get to the end of the gospel, we learn that the story is just beginning, in fact it is still being written.

I contend that Jesus’ last words to his disciples is a commencement address also to us. For we have come through the advent season and celebrated the birth of Christ. We have heard the stories and parables and studied the miracles. We have examined ourselves during Lent and sat at the foot of the cross on Good Friday. We have celebrated the empty tomb and met the risen savior on the road to Emmaus.

It is all so much and, now that schools are winding down, and summer is here, we may feel as if things are coming to an end, but the comedienne Gracie Allen once said that we should, “Never place a period

where God has placed a comma.” In other words, do not presume that God has finished speaking to God’s people.

The disciples learned this lesson and along the way learned why a graduation ceremony is called a commencement. Once they had graduated from following Christ as *disciples* their work as *apostles* to preach the good news to all the nations was just beginning, and so is ours. Congratulations, all the work that you thought was so hard was just the beginning. We have graduated from hearers of the word, and now we commence as speakers and doers of the word.

Now it is time to get to work as Easter people with actions and truth saying that proclaim “repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” Congratulations graduates. Now let the real work begin.

Communion Hymn “Take My Gifts” Sam Johnson, organist
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free, now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply.

Invitation to Communion Pastor Gena

Prayer for the Bread & Cup Gary Ford
Lord, thank you for sending Jesus into this dark world to be the Light of the world and our Saviour. We ask for Your guidance so that we may walk in the Light and let the Light of Your love shine from us to others. Now, we come to Your table, and as we take this bread and cup, we pray that it will strengthen us so that we may live lives that are pleasing to you. Amen.

Sharing Holy Communion
All are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward down the center aisle, as you are able, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Place your offering in the trays as you return to your seats by the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward, the meal will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers & individual servings are available in the Narthex.

Call to Discipleship
If you need a community to belong to, if you are thirsty for the word of life, and want to live as a disciple of Jesus, join us in his ministry and mission. You are welcome and needed here. If in the work and worship of this congregation you are being nurtured and fed in Christ our Lord, we invite you to join us in his service. There is a place for you in this family of faith.

Closing Hymn “They’ll Know We Are Christians” Sam Johnson, organist
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored: And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

Benediction Rev. Stillwell
Embrace Christ’s promised peace.
Abide in God’s promised home.
Go in the Holy Spirit’s promised power.



Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) or Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033 directly and confidentially. Or scroll down on the opening page of our website (www.fairhillmanorchurch.org) to "Requests for Prayer or Help." There you can send an email which will go directly to Rev. Chris. We are One Body in Christ!

Homebound Members

Mrs. Mary Lou McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
900 N Cass Lake Rd, Apt 324
Waterford MI 48328

Southminster Residents

880 S Main St
Washington PA 15301

Patty Pryor, Apt 102

North Strabane Rehab

100 Tandem Village Rd
Canonsburg PA 15317

Donna Bakaitis, Room 202

Premier Resident

36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd
Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown, Room 213

Transitions Healthcare Resident

90 Humbert Lane
Washington PA 15301

Doris Haniford, Room 121

Mary Allison
Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Bereznyay
Jacquie Best
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Maci Caster
Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Jane Correll
Ruth Cox
Mickey Cunningham
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Steve Engle
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Raymond Fraley
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Judy Hanning
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess

Danni Iams
Shelly Kubincanek
Chris Lewis
Charlie McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
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Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Mike Ryan
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Kristie Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Jan Stillwell
Beth Teagarden
Ginger Throckmorton
Cece Watson

In the Military

Lance Dague	Andrew Gregg
Terrell McClain	Zachary Keene
Brandon Lipscomb	Sarah Lipscomb
Travis Ringer	Emily Chase
Dylan Demain	Noah Rudolph

The brave men and women who serve our country make incredible sacrifices every day. We are forever grateful for their service and dedication. Please remember the military members that are deployed and away from their family that they may return to their homes safely.