

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 14
April 3, 2026

- Elders Meeting – April 8, 5:30pm via Zoom
- Choir Practice – April 9, 6:30pm
- Women’s Tea – April 11, 1pm

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



THEY WON!!!

Congratulations to the Fairhill Manor Christian Church **Dartball Team**. They won Tuesday night and are the Washington Area Church Dartball League 2025-2026 Champions! (overall, #1, the entire league, the whole enchilada!)

The **Spaghetti Dinner** is April 25, 4:30-7. We have posters to advertise the dinner. If you know of a good place that allows posters, contact Kevin Puskarich or the Church Office for a flyer. Advance tickets will be sold. Contact Karen Thomas for tickets to sell. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex if you can help before, during or after the dinner as well as a sign-up sheet for desserts needed.

Important Dates and INFORMATION

- April 12 – Special Board Meeting following worship to discuss air conditioning bid
- April 25 – Spaghetti Dinner 4:30-7pm
- May 10 – Mother’s Day & Blanket Sunday
- May 21 – Tri-County Men’s Dinner 5:30-8pm
- May 24 – Pentecost & Baptism

Disciples Mission Fund Easter Offering

The Disciples Mission Fund **Easter Offering**, will be received on April 5. This special offering supports several of the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more. You can give by placing your gift in the envelope in the bulletin and putting it in the offering tray, on Givelify through the church’s website or directly to disciplesmissionfund.org/give.

Online Church Directory

Download our new church directory!

To download the app to your Apple device, click here: [Apple - Instant Church Directory](#)

To download the app to your Android device, click here: [Android - Instant Church Directory](#)

Text or email Pastor Gena a photo of you/your family to be included in our new online church directory.

More information can be found at www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app.

Need help?? Ask Pastor Gena 😊





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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Chuck Riggle, Bread
Jackie Nelson, Cup

April 5, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Kevin Puskarich

Leader: Look, life is here,

People: Even when the tomb is empty.

Leader: Listen, love is calling,

People: Even when death is all around.

Leader: Believe, for hope reigns victorious;

People: This is the gift of resurrection.

All: This is the miracle of Easter. Hallelujah! Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Sam Johnson, organist

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

On this Easter morning, we welcome you, Jesus, into our lives. We welcome your resurrection, for it is life-changing, life-giving and life-sustaining. We welcome the hope it brings into our world. We welcome the joy it brings into our darkness. We welcome the empty tomb, for we know that it means that you are alive and with us.

God of new and renewed life, we praise and worship you! We give you thanks for your presence in our lives – resurrected and powerful! We celebrate your victory over death, over all the powers that would defeat us!

O God, with faces touched by the light of a new day, and hearts warmed by our prayers and praises, we come to you with the needs of our world and the burdens of our hearts.

Into the light of Easter morning, we raise those who are struggling with illness, with despair over their lives, or with the breakdown of relationships... May the light of Christ shine upon them.

Into the light of Easter morning, we bring those places in our world where war, violence, poverty and need are the experiences of everyday life... May the light of Christ shine upon them.

Into the light of Easter morning we bring ourselves and those we love: our private struggles, our heart's yearnings, our disappointed dreams, our fears and anxiety... May the light of Christ shine upon us.

Raise us up, risen One! Renew our lives, living One! Resurrect our dreams, resurrected One! Through Jesus the Christ, our risen Lord and Savior, we pray together as he taught us...

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:

“He Is Lord”

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

First Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Connie Sheller

Anthem

“We Welcome Glad Easter,” by John Purifoy

Choir

A Children Worship & Wonder Story

Pastor Gena

“Jesus Is Risen: Appearance to Mary Magdalene” - Based on Matthew 27:57-28:10 and John 20:1-18

From *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman, Westminster John Knox Press, 1989, pp. 193-195.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Living In Resurrection”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

Reprinted from Easter 2025, based on Luke 24:1-12

Have you ever gone on a journey? I don't mean a trip where you pack a bag, get on a plane and return a week later. I mean a journey where you pack as much as you can because you don't know how long it will take you to get where you're going, to a place that is strange and different and you know you won't be back for a while.

The stories of our culture are filled with such journeys, in fact the idea of such a journey makes for a good story. So heroes like Dante descend into the Inferno. Phineas Fogg goes around the world in 80 days. Frodo takes the one ring to Mt. Doom in the heart of dark Mordor.

In Homer's *Odyssey* Odysseus makes the long journey home from Troy after a long war and goes through a series of adventures which he survives because of his strong desire to get home to his family only to find that when he gets there home has changed, and he has changed.

Now the closest I have ever come to an Homeric journey is when my dad and I packed up a moving van with all that I owned and traveled across the south and southwest from Wheeling to Fort Worth, TX and he and I saw things we had never seen before except maybe on tv. I remember one time sitting in the passenger seat and exclaiming with horror that the single engine plane I saw out of my window was going to crash into the side of the road only to see it pull up at the last second and dust the crops with pesticide. When I finally did return home four years later, home had changed, and so had I.

As I say the idea of a journey is what makes so many stories compelling and the gospel story is no exception. For the disciples went on a journey with Jesus Christ when he said to them “Follow me”. This

journey took them from the shores of the Galilee to Capernaum, from Nazareth to crowds in small towns all across Israel, and eventually it took them to Jerusalem.

In fact, they had begun their journey to Jerusalem a while ago and when they got there it ended in disaster. Jesus entered to the sound of cheering and praises as the Son of God should. Then he threw the money changers out of the temple just as God's anointed would. Then he set down with his disciples after a week of teaching and turning Israel's capital on its ear to celebrate the Passover, the most holy of Jewish holidays, as you would expect a true rabbi to do.

Things were going so well, and then it all went to Hell almost literally when he told them that he would be arrested after one of them betrayed him. Then Judas left. Then he said that they would deny him, and they said that they would not, but they did. Even then it seemed like this was nothing that Christ couldn't get out of. He told his captors, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?"

Why didn't he? As they beat him, as they tried him, as they mocked him, as they hung him on the cross, he did nothing until the unthinkable happened and he drew his last breath. The journey which started with such passion, hope, excitement and possibility, ended in the complete humiliation and destruction of the one whom they had given up their lives to follow. At that point it seemed to be a journey to nowhere. As if that wasn't enough, to make matters worse, to add insult to injury, they woke up the next day to their friend Mary telling them that someone had taken his body so that they could not even perform the traditional burial rites. Peter went to investigate and seeing that what Mary had said was true, did the only thing he could think to do. "He went home, amazed at what had happened."

Later that night Jesus appeared to them and eventually ascends into Heaven, but the gospel of John tells us a bit more. In John's gospel he appears to them, and they go home to where they began the sea of Galilee.

I often wonder what that walk home must have been like. Certainly it was more different than the journey to Jerusalem. It is a lot easier to go somewhere when you are excited about what you will find there, but when you're returning home after a journey that did not end well every step must feel like failure. They saw Jesus risen from the dead so their journey was complete and the happy ending that they had hoped to find was found, but I have to believe that their joy was overshadowed a bit by the fact that their faith had failed them.

They abandoned Christ during his time of need. Moreover, he had told them many times that he would die and be risen. As they were closer to him than anyone, they should have known what was happening. They should have understood. They should have believed. Jesus had told them, but they didn't listen, they didn't understand, and they didn't believe.

Fortunately for them the story doesn't end there. From this point on they do understand and they do believe and they live a life inspired by their belief in Christ's resurrection.

T.S. Elliot once remarked:

We shall not cease from exploration and the end of our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.

That was the disciples experience. To go on a journey that was wonderful and bewildering and only at the end did they wind up where they had begun and finally understand not only where they had been, but where they were and where they were going so that the book of Acts tells us that disciples go around preaching the good news of Christ to all whom they meet.

Peter who failed so miserably is redeemed so wonderfully when Jesus appears again by the sea of Galilee and commands him to “Feed my sheep”.

From the point of the first Easter the disciples’ journey is complete and they returned to their homes only their homes were not the same because they were not the same. They no longer lived in Galilee. They lived in the resurrection.

We too have journeyed to Easter, but we did so expecting to find the tomb empty and Christ resurrected. We experience resurrection today, and, in that regard, we have one step up on the disciples, but can we do what they did and live in resurrection not just on Easter but for the rest of our lives?

To live in resurrection is to live in the joy and power that comes from Christ. It is to see the hope of Christ in every situation. For if Christ is risen from the dead, if he has power over all things including death then there is nothing that can overcome him, and it means knowing that even when we abandon him he never abandons us.

The hope of the resurrection is that this world is not just where Jesus died-this world is where Jesus lives! And because Jesus lives, because God has broken the power of sin and death, we have been set free to live as well. Sometimes that is hard to believe. The principalities and powers of evil often appear to be in control. Some days it is hard to see with eyes of faith. That is why we need the church, so that in those times when our sight is blinded by tears, we can hold on to another's faith.

Above all living resurrection means expecting resurrection. It doesn't mean that things are always going to be great and happy. After all in order for there to be a rainbow there must be a thunderstorm, in order for there to be a springtime there must be a winter, in order for there to be a resurrection there must be a death. Living in the resurrection does not mean that trouble and trial will not find us, it simply means that trouble and trial will not end us, for there is good news always to be found.

If we learn anything from the Easter story it should be that we should always expect a resurrection to occur in our life. It may not look all bright and white and shiny or new but it will be there, and having heard the gospel story we have no excuse to expect anything less.

Our Lenten journey is complete, but our Easter celebration is just now beginning, and now as we return to our homes I hope that you will find that it is a changed place, because you are a changed person. May the power of the resurrection live in you that you may live without fear, love without limit, believe without fail, and know that the Lord God who rose from the grave can make all things new.

Communion Hymn

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

Sam Johnson, organist

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and on the earth again shall stand; I know eternal life he giveth, that grace and pow'r are in his hand. I know, I know that Jesus liveth, and on the earth again shall stand; I know, I know that life he giveth, that grace and pow'r are in this hand.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

As Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome approached the tomb in the gospel of Mark they had a very serious dilemma before them. They had come to anoint Jesus’ body with oil for burial. They had come to restore the dignity that the crowd had taken from him at the crucifixion, and they were prepared. They had the spices that they would need, and they knew the way to where Joseph of Arimathea had laid him, but one thing that they had not planned for became evident to them as they approached the tomb. Jesus’s tomb had been sealed with a stone, which was very large. As they approached the cave, they asked themselves, “Who will roll away the stone for us?” Of course they could not, for they did not have the strength. You can imagine that they may have despaired had they not arrived at the tomb to find that the stone had been rolled away for them. Of course what we know is that the stone had been rolled away by the risen Christ, and if it had not been for his strength the stone would be there still.

What stones do we all have in our lives? Things that are to us very large and immovable to our own limited strength. Who will roll away the stone for us? Just as Jesus Christ rolled away the stone at his tomb for Mary and Mary and Salome so too can Jesus Christ roll away the heavy stones that block our way for us. As you partake in the Lord's Supper give your shoulder a rest. Give your back some ease. Stop pushing and shoving at the immovable stones in your life and ask God in Christ Jesus to roll it away for you.

We all have different stones to contend with, some larger than others, but the one stone with which we must all contend, the one stone that will never budge by our hands is the gravestone. No matter what that stone is made of it is always an infinite weight that is immovable to human strength, but thanks to the strength of Jesus Christ even that stone will be rolled away for us, and the tomb will not be a destination but a path to our own resurrection. May this knowledge prevent any stone in your life from getting between you and Jesus Christ.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Chuck Riggle

Gracious God,
During the past few days, we have reflected on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Today, is Easter Sunday, the holiest of days, when we celebrate our savior and son, Jesus Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven. Now, as we partake of these communion emblems, we ask for blessings on this bread and cup. Let us be reminded of your son's ultimate sacrifice made for us so many years ago. Therefore, today, help us make a commitment to pattern our lives in a true Christian manner and be followers of our lord and savior in all that we say and all that we do. Hallelujah!!! In his holy name, Amen.

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

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

Rev. Stillwell

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

"He Lives!"

Jody Mullis, pianist

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today; I know that he is living, whatever others say. I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's always near. He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

As we go forth with resurrection joy, may we bring Christ's living presence with our words, our actions, and our love.



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

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Todd Barnhart
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Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Jane Correll
Ruth Cox
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Steve Engle
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Raymond Fraley
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Judy Hanning
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
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Danni Iams
Shelly Kubincanek
Chris Lewis
Charlie McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Mike Ryan
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci 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.

