

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 21
May 23, 2025

- Memorial Day – May 26, Office Closed
- Personnel Committee Meeting – May 28, 6pm
- Choir Practice – May 29, 6:30pm

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



Fairhill Manor will be celebrating **Graduate Sunday** on June 8. If you are graduating or you have a family member who is, please contact the Church Office to let us know. You can call the office (724) 225-8610 or send an e-mail to fairhillmanor@yahoo.com with the name of the graduate, school they are graduating from, and their relationship to Fairhill member.

Information is needed by **June 1**.



The **Bethany Class** will meet at Eat'n Park on **MONDAY**, June 9th at Noon for lunch. Everyone is welcome. Von is changing it up with a Monday date (actually Eat'n Park is very busy, so this is the only time in June the room is available.)

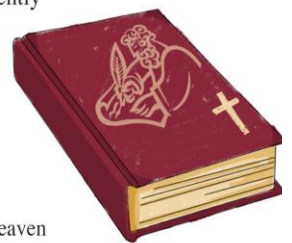


I am humbled and appreciative for the cards, phone calls, texts, food, and visits I received during my surgery and recovery from my knee surgery. I am so happy to be a part of such a caring church family. Thank you – Candy Wasalasky

BIBLE QUIZ

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31.)





Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(*Disciples of Christ*)
351 Montgomery Ave.
724-225-8610

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

May 25, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gary Ford

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God.

People: Let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: Let all nations be glad and sing for joy.

People: For you judge the peoples with justice and truth.

Leader: Let the ends of the earth revere you, Holy One.

People: For you bless your people with peace and hope.

Opening Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Sam Johnson, organist

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Guiding Spirit, you come to us in visions and dreams, showing us possibilities beyond our waking reality. Open our hearts this day, that we might understand Christ's teaching and share his presence with others. Guide our footsteps on our journeys, that we might go where you send us and share your message of love and peace with the world.

We know, Lord, it's going to be a good day. The sun came up, we are living and breathing, all around us we see evidences of your creative power, and we feel your love and the love of others in this place. Receive our grateful worship and accept our praise in the name of Jesus our risen Lord.

We acknowledge that your love has created us and sustained us, yet we have not always loved you in return or reflected that love to others. We have harbored grievances, we have answered in anger, we have been rude and curt, we have been pleased by the misfortune of those we dislike. Pardon us, we pray, for being less than loving, and help us to follow the example of the One who loved us and gave himself for us.

God of love, help us keep your word and love others as we ought. For we long to let go of our suffering and offer forgiveness to those we have shut out of our hearts. Send your Advocate to us once more, that we may feel Christ's promised peace and the release it brings. May it be so, O God. May it be so.

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:

“Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

Connie Sheller

Anthem

“O for a Thousand Tongues,” by Craig Courtney

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

When you get older there are three signs of old age. The first is memory loss I don’t remember the other two.

That is why it is important that we have a day like Memorial Day a day to remember those who sacrificed so much to give us the country that we have today. This holiday gets overlooked since there are no gifts and no candy but it is one whose significance I think has grown, not just because of the recent wars in which our country has been involved, but because we live in an increasingly selfish world.

There is too much looking out for ourselves and what we want, too much concern over our possessions and entertainment so that the idea of sacrifice is less and less an understood word.

We need to remember not only those who gave the ultimate sacrifice but we should also remember that we are called to sacrifice as well so that future generations will remember us fondly.

For Christians this should be easy, for every Sunday for us is a memorial day. Every Sunday in church is a memorial day for us. Here we remember those who have gone before, who sat next to us, who taught us, even those whom we have ever met but whose names are etched in the windows and the hymnals.

Each Sunday we remember what God has done for us and give thanks and remember what God can do and ask for God’s help. And every Sunday as we gather at the communion table to remember that even when Jesus faced betrayal by his friends and death by his enemies he sat with his disciples and broke bread, and told them to love one another, and washed their feet. Finally, we remember that when he was on the cross in agony and humiliation he asked God to forgive them. We remember this each Sunday because if we do not we will quickly forget. We will forget that love is stronger than hate. We will forget that violence leads to more violence. We will forget that Christ’s kingdom is not of this world. We come to church to remember that Christ does not forget us. That is something I hope you will always remember.

Second Scripture Reading

Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“What a Wonder FULL World”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

(The Manor Minutes had an early printing deadline this week. This is an older sermon of Rev. Chris' based on Acts 3:1-8 and not the sermon he will be preaching on Sunday.)

The original Seven Wonders of the World existed in ancient times. They were works of art and architecture regarded by ancient Greek and Roman observers as the most extraordinary structures of antiquity. They were statues, memorials, mausoleums, and tombs built by human hands to show the greatest height of human ambition.

The seven wonders included, The Pyramids of Egypt, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, The Statue of Zeus at Olympia, The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, The Colossus of Rhodes, and The Pharos of Alexandria. Each one was designed to inspire human ambition while at the same time declare the potential of the people. Most were also made as a gift to the Gods in an attempt to incur their favor by impressing them with their devotion and their skill. Of the original Seven Wonders of the World all were manmade, and all have long since fallen into the sea, except for the pyramids of Egypt which are slowly fading into the desert.

Although, I have never seen any of these wonders in person, I have been in some incredible temples, lovely churches, magnificent halls and homes. Certainly it was amazing to be in England and to see the wonders of Westminster Abbey and Yorkminster and to touch walls that were more than a thousand years old. I got to see graffiti in the tower of London that was five hundred years old. One of the most amazing aspects of the experience was to stand in the courtyard of the tower while being able to see the Shard, the largest of the modern skyscrapers on the London skyline, so that an ancient wonder stood side by side with a modern wonder. It was strange to think of how small the Tower of London looked in comparison with London's modern buildings, and yet hard to imagine that the current wonders of Britain might last as long as the ancient wonders.

Each civilization has its own set of wonders and, without a doubt, the greatest wonder of the biblical world, for the Hebrews, was the temple. Built by Solomon during the height of Israel's greatness, the temple was the dwelling place for God almighty. It was the centerpiece of Jewish worship and the only place where sacrifices could be made.

The eastern entrance to the temple complex was enshrined by the Nicano Gate which was a bronze gate called the Beautiful Gates. Here, at this architectural wonder built by people to please God, many beggars came to beg, hoping to take advantage of human hearts in their most merciful state.

In particular, a man who was unable to walk from birth "was carried there each day so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple," when Peter and John came by to worship in the temple. On their way in the man asks them for money. Not only did he hope to capitalize on their generosity, it was part of the Jewish law to give alms to the poor and needy, and this man certainly was one of those.

Now Peter and John were not men of wealth, but they knew that God does not ask us to only give of our wealth. If nothing else this story seems to remind us that God asks us to give of our whole selves. Peter responds "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." and with that the man who had never walked "stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God."

It was at this point that the man who turned to the Beautiful Gates to help him knew all man made things are temporary. It was here that the man who had asked for gold learned that all material things lead to naught. But he was not the only one who learned that lesson that day, for the people who had also come to the temple saw this.

They recognized the man as the beggar who could not walk, yet he was walking. They saw the man who could not leap, leaping, and they were filled with wonder, not at the grandeur of the temple or at the majesty of the beautiful gates, but at the sight of a man walking and leaping and praising.

It reminds me of a story I once heard. Junior high school students in Chicago were studying the Seven Wonders of the World. At the end of the lesson, the students were asked to list what they considered to be

the Seven Wonders of the modern World. Though there was some disagreement, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal in India
3. The Grand Canyon in Arizona
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch...
2. to taste...
3. to see...
4. to hear... (She hesitated a little, and then added...)
5. to feel...
6. to laugh...
7. and to love.

The room was so quiet; you could have heard a pin drop.

There are many wonders in this world, and the ones made by humans eventually fade to dust. The Statue of Zeus at Olympia was destroyed in a fire during the 6th century. The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus was destroyed by the Goths in the 3rd century. The Colossus of Rhodes was destroyed by an earthquake 224 years before the birth of Christ. The Pharos of Alexandria lasted until the 14th century when it was leveled by an earthquake.

Of course Solomon's temple and the Beautiful Gate where the beggar met Peter and John was destroyed by the Romans within a generation of that day. Many of England's castles still stand but many of them are in some form of ruin. Most of the abbey's of England were vandalized and left to decay after the protestant reformation. All stained glass was smashed during the English civil war and even the abbey's that remain had their gilding removed and painting whitewashed.

Since any building, fortress, cathedral, statue, or monument that we put our hopes in or cast our longings onto will eventually fall away into the past, is there any doubt then, that the wonders of which the little girl spoke, "to touch and taste, to see and to hear, and then to run, and to laugh, and to love" are the true seven wonders of the world?

Not coincidentally, the things that make this such a wonder FULL world are the wonders that come from God, and because they are so common to so many people, they are often taken for granted, but not by those who have lost any of these seven or who have never known them.

What the crippled man and the patrons at the temple learned is that the supposed wonders of human invention are nothing compared to the seven true wonders of divine design. What is more, few people in the ancient world ever saw any of those human made wonders, and no one, not even the greatest king,

ever beheld them all at once. But each day, every child of God enjoys several of God's wonders at the same time.

Perhaps the great pyramids and statues of the world are so wondrous because they stand out from the rest of the world, but the gifts that God gives us are so abundant and manifold that we get used to them and we often don't appreciate them until they are gone.

My dad did not appreciate the wonder of being able to walk until he spent 6 months not being able to move without pain. Perhaps that is the most wondrous thing of all. That we could see so many wonders that they cease to be wondrous, is a wondrously terrible thing. When the way of the world has made you cynical think of what a wonder it is to see. Or at least think of how terrible it would be if you could not. When you are feeling particularly unblessed think of how blessed you are to be able to taste and to touch. When you wonder what is so wondrous in your life run, laugh, love, and wonder no more.

Call to Offering

Charlotte Stillwell

As we collect today's offering, may our gifts help wipe away one another's tears, even as we anticipate the time when God will dwell among us, wiping away every tear.

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dedication of Offering Prayer

Pastor Gena

We offer our gifts to you, Holy God - not only our finances, but our community to any who are lonely, our hearts to any who are grieving, our hope to any who have lost their way, our lives to any who have been tossed aside by the world. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

Come to the table. It's an open feast. Christ invites us all – those who have more than they need and those who are trying to make ends meet, those who we have decided don't belong and those for whom we pull out the best chair. Come to the gathering of those who try to follow Jesus yet often get it wrong. Come to this blessed table where the resurrected Christ reigns! Come and taste the "already but not yet" kingdom of God, where all are welcome.

Communion Hymn

"Come, Share the Lord"

Sam Johnson, organist

We gather here in Jesus' name, his love is burning in our hearts like living flame; for through the loving Son the Father makes us one: Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord. No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs; finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Eternal God, we bow before your Majesty as we consecrate these emblems of communion, the bread and the cup. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may these common elements become profoundly more than physical food and drink. Transform them into symbols of Christ's body broken and blood poured out for us. As we consume them, may we supernaturally experience spiritual nourishment, healing, and oneness with Christ. Let the divine truth of Christ's atoning work at Calvary be unveiled afresh to our hearts and minds. Strengthen our faith to receive fully all spiritual blessings secured by Christ's finished work. Revive us in the power of His resurrection life. Amen

Words of Institution

Pastor Gena

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

You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal. Gluten free wafers are available in the Narthex.

Call to Discipleship

Pastor Gena

This is the promise of the gospel: God already knows you. God already loves you. God has already gifted you. God has already called you. You are invited—to deepen this knowledge, to feast in this love, to cultivate these gifts, and to follow this calling. There is a place for you among the people of God in this community of faith.

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Closing Hymn

“We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

Sam Johnson, organist

We’ve a story to tell to the nations that shall turn their hearts to the right, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noon-day bright, and Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

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

Memorial Day (originally known as **Decoration Day**) is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

It is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in national cemeteries. Others such as family and friends will also come to lay flowers and grieve on the graves of those who died in the US military.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as *Decoration Day* and observed on May 30, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. This national observance followed many local observances which were inaugurated between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate" with flowers.

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to the Wiseman family on the passing of Mary on May 21. Arrangements are not complete at this time. Please keep Chuck and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



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 McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Chuck Wiseman
880 S Main St, Apt 214
Washington PA 15301

Bo & Patty Pryor
880 S Main St, Apt 102
Washington PA 15301

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

Carol Brown
36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Rm 213
Washington PA 15301

Doris Sorice
880 S Main St, Apt 336
Washington PA 15301

Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezney
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Wanda Chicone
Ruth Cox
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Connie Faust
Gary Ford
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Barb Graff
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Alberta Haught

Aryn Hess
Danni Iams
Ed Jackman
Von Lacock
David Leonard
CJ Martin
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Dick Pilgun
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle

John Samida
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Spowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden

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.