

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 19
May 8, 2026

- Elders Meeting – May 13, 5:30pm
- Board Meeting – May 13, 7pm
- Choir Practice – May 14, 6:30pm

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

Tri-County Men's Dinner

May 21, 2026
\$15/per person
5:30pm Registration
6pm Dinner
7pm Entertainment by Sam Johnson
Sign-up sheet in Narthex
RSVP by May 17



June 5, 8am-5pm
June 6, 8am-2pm
Set Up dates: **June 2 & 4, 9am-1pm**
June 3, 1pm-5pm



Fairhill Manor will be celebrating **Graduate Sunday** on **June 7**. 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**.



- May 24 – Pentecost Sunday & Baptism
- May 26 – Bethany Class Luncheon, noon at Eat'n Park
- June 5 & 6 – Rummage Sale
- June 7 – Graduate Sunday
- June 26 – Wild Things Game



Buy gift cards through the **RaiseRight** program. FMCC earns a % of every order. We currently have the following \$25 gift cards:

Bath & Body	Olive Garden (2)
Bob Evans	Outback (4)
Jimmy Johns	Panera (2)
Old Navy (2)	Red Robin
Texas Roadhouse (2)	

FMCC is going to the Washington Wild Things game on **Friday, June 26!** This year we will have 25 tickets for the Community Room. Tickets are \$10 each. Sign-up in the Narthex or call the Church Office (724) 225-8610



This Mother's Day



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

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

May 10, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Connie Sheller

Leader: O God, when we face trouble, when we need help and care,

People: You reach to us through others who listen, love and share.

Leader: Then you teach us to be neighbors; you teach us what is true-

People: That when we are helping others, we are also serving you.

Leader: May we live with eyes wide open, hearts ready to respond and hands willing to serve,

People: For we are serving Christ in every person we meet!

Opening Hymn

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Jody Mullis, pianist

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Alpha and Omega, you are the first and the last, the beginning and the end of all things. In you all things move and have their being.

Be present in our time of worship, as you have been present in every moment of our lives. For your light dawns for the righteous, and your joy blesses the upright in heart.

Stir our hearts within us, that we may feel the kinship we have with you and with one another. Despite our pretense of self-assurance, we feel insignificant in your presence. We yearn to have the courage of Paul and Silas, who spoke your truth to power, even when it cost them their freedom. Somehow, fear always seems to hold us back. We long to fulfill Jesus' prayer that we may be one with you and each other. But our longing cannot overcome the divisions we cling to through our prejudices and our need to set ourselves apart.

Forgive us, Holy One. Shake the heavens and awaken us from our dreams of separateness. For your light dawns on the righteous, and your joy comes to the upright in heart. Bless us with wisdom and truth, that we may be instruments of your grace and vehicles of your saving love.

This we pray through the power of your Spirit and the radiance of your son, Jesus the Christ. 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:

“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

Psalm 66:8-20

Gary Ford

Special Music

“Jesus Loves Me,” arrangement by Sam Johnson

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

Today we share a skit to further explain how a Church World Service blanket can help the one who receives it...

NARRATOR: I wonder if you had a blanket when you were little or if you have a favorite blanket. Some blankets have been with us a long time. Maybe they help us sleep or keep us warm or offer us comfort – maybe they even become a superhero cape sometimes. Blankets can make us feel safe. A blanket does a lot of things.

PERSON EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: Imagine not having a place to sleep. It’s getting colder and you’re not sure where you’ll be tonight— let alone how you’ll stay warm.

NARRATOR: *(hands the Person Experiencing Homelessness a blanket)* A blanket helps. *(The Person Experiencing Homelessness wraps it around themselves.)*

YOUNGER SIBLING: Imagine you’re a little kid and your family’s going through a hard time. You don’t know all the details, but everything feels uncertain. You just want something to hold onto. Something that feels normal.

PERSON EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: *(hands the blanket to the Younger Sibling)* A blanket helps. *(Younger Sibling hugs it or wraps it around themselves.)*

DISASTER SURVIVOR: Now imagine your home was hit by a fire, flood or storm. Most of what you had is gone and you’re staying in a crowded temporary shelter. There’s no privacy—no space that feels like your own.

YOUNGER SIBLING: *(uses the blanket to create a little space between them and the disaster survivor)* A blanket helps.

NARRATOR: See? A blanket does a lot of things.

PERSON EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: It keeps you warm.

YOUNGER SIBLING: It gives you comfort.

DISASTER SURVIVOR: It can be a pillow, a bed or even a small bit of privacy when you need it most.

NARRATOR: But more than that—it's a sign of love. A sign that someone cared. That someone gave. That someone chose to show compassion in a simple, real way. We may never meet the people who receive the blankets we buy—but you can be sure they'll remember the care behind it.

PERSON EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: Someone thought of me when I had nothing.
YOUNGER SIBLING: Someone wanted me to feel safe.

DISASTER SURVIVOR: Someone gave me comfort during the hardest time of my life.

ALL TOGETHER: Thank you for supporting Church World Service Blankets.

The children and youth will collect the Blanket Sunday offering while the congregation sings the following song:

God, You Wrap Your Love Around Us

CONVERSE 8.7.8.7 D ("What a Friend We Have in Jesus")

God, you wrap your love around us, like a blanket, soft and warm.
You give rest when we are weary, you protect us from the storm.
May each person who finds shelter in these blankets that we share
Also feel the joy and comfort of your love's protecting care.

Jesus, you were once a baby, sought by those who would destroy.
Into Egypt you were carried — far from home, a little boy.
Were you wrapped up warm to travel, safe from terror, free from harm?
Did you feel God's strong protection, snuggled there in Mary's arm?

May the women, men and children fleeing danger every day
Know, through us, your living presence; you walk with them on their way.
Spirit, as you give them comfort, teach us here to freely give;
May we blanket this world over with your love, so all may live.

Tune: Charles Crozat Converse, 1868 ("What a Friend We Have in Jesus") Text: Copyright © 1999 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000). Email: bcgillette@comcast.net New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

We will bless the Blanket Sunday offering with this prayer:

Gracious God, you have given us so many good gifts and today we share these gifts with our neighbors in love. Bless the blankets our offering will purchase, that they may bring warmth and shelter, comfort and healing, dignity and hope—wherever your people need care. Bless the hands that gave this offering and the hearts that responded. May our giving reflect your boundless love. Bless Church World Service as they carry these blankets on our behalf. May their work be guided by compassion and purpose. And bless those who will receive these gifts. Let each person feel your presence and know—through this act of care—that they are not alone. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Rev. Stillwell

Imagine a single mother with a sick daughter. She works two jobs to pay her bills, and together they do not pay nearly enough to cover the medical bills that her daughter incurs. Her life is hectic, jumping each day from one job to the next, spending all her extra time taking care of her daughter, rushing back and forth from one doctor to another. Consequently, she doesn't really have any time for herself. She gets bills every day and she pays the ones that absolutely have to be paid, and the rest she puts off until next month.

In the midst of it all, she goes to church and hears about all the poor people throughout the world and in her own community. She wants to help them, but she feels like she can barely support herself and her daughter. She would like to do more to help others, but she barely has enough time, money, and energy as it is. She would like to be able to give more, but there simply isn't anything left.

Does this story sound like us? We can get so many bills that the first ones we pay are the ones that are due now, or last week. We can be so busy with the mundane but important aspects of our lives that we don't talk to friends until they are sick and in the hospital. We can go through life only dealing with something once it becomes a crisis and then demands our attention. The problem with this way of living is that our entire life seems like a crisis, and we find that we cannot give ourselves the spiritual nourishment that will allow us to truly live. Instead, we live on the crumbs that we can glean from a short prayer given in haste, or a religious email that we read at work.

Likewise, we get so many demands on our time and money that too often charities have little to no chance of getting our attention. When we put together our budget and it looks like things will be tight there is always that temptation to hold back on what we give to others including our church. At other times we hear of something so terrible like an earthquake across the world, tornados in our country, or a fire in our town, and we cannot ignore the pleas for help, so we give what we can, but that means that there are only crumbs left for anything else. Sometimes the demands from others can be so great that we give in and block out as many as possible only responding to those who scream the loudest or not hearing them at all.

I imagine that Jesus might have felt like this. Everywhere he went, everyone had a problem for him to solve. People needed to be fed; others needed to be healed. There were demons to exorcize and questions to be answered. As the Messiah, God's anointed sent to God's chosen people, the nation of Israel offered Jesus more than enough crises to deal with.

In the story that Matthew writes for us Jesus has just finished a long string of teaching and performing miracles, and then he leaves Israel to go to Tyre and Sidon. We do not know why he leaves the nation. At least one biblical scholar suggests that Jesus was overwhelmed by the demands put upon him in Israel and, just as he retreated at the beginning of his ministry when he heard that John the Baptist had been arrested, he retreated to this land to rest. Maybe he came to this land of Gentiles where no one knew about a Messiah in order to get a break and renew his Spirit, which was running dry.

Yet, now, even in the land of the Gentiles who sought no Messiah a Canaanite woman comes to him. She is in need, and although she was not a Jew, she recognizes him for who he is, and shouts:

Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon. ²³*But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.'* ²⁴*He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'*

Even though Jesus begins by ignoring her, nevertheless she persisted. Matthew says she knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' We might interpret her actions as being pushy. Certainly, the disciples thought so. Perhaps, we might see them as the bold actions brought on by a mother doing anything to help her daughter, but she is met with resistance that Jesus does not show others when he finally answered her saying, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'

That's the kind of statement that stops me in my tracks when I read it. Has Jesus ever spoken so harshly? Being a gentile, he is implying that the Jewish people are God's children and that the gentiles are dogs. Maybe she expected such resistance because still she persisted by retorting, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Prior to this, Jesus spent days teaching the Israelites who still seemed to not grasp his meaning, and now a Canaanite, an ancient enemy of God's chosen people, someone whom the Israelites would consider not much better than a dog, shows great and unshakable faith in him. How could he refuse a woman whose faith was greater than the Israelites? He could not.

He responded, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." The daughter of the Canaanite woman was healed because of the woman's faith. It was a faith that manifested itself in persistence because she would not take no for an answer. She shouted loud enough for Christ to hear her above all the others clamoring for his attention, and she would not take no for an answer responding to Christ's initial refusal with incredible wit and power.

Knowing that she was not an Israelite, and therefore, having no rightful claim on Christ's mercy, she came hoping for something, and so great was her faith, that she would have been satisfied with even crumbs from Christ, but he did not give her just crumbs. If casting demons out of Mary Magdalene can be considered the full banquet of Christ's mercy, then giving crumbs to the Canaanite woman might have meant simply making her daughter feel a little better.

Instead, she got the full meal. Her daughter was instantly healed. Many of the Israelites thought that they were guaranteed God's promise, and they considered the Canaanites to be like dogs because of they were not part of it, but when those who were invited to the meal that God had prepared refused to come or did not understand the invitation, the doors of God's mercy were thrown open and all, even the Gentiles, were invited in.

This is the mercy of God. He who said, "One cannot live on bread alone," also will not allow us to live on crumbs alone. This is important to us for we, like the Canaanite woman, are not Israelites. We are not the original inheritors of the promise, but God's grace has come to us all the same. Still there are so many people who are taught that because of who they are the best that they can hope for are the crumbs from God's table. They are told to beg for God's forgiveness and maybe, after God is finished rapturing the righteous, then maybe God will throw them a bone.

We must always be wary of those who are so sure of their salvation and so certain of other's damnation, for we who were once aliens to God's grace have not been turned away, but we have been welcomed. If God will hear the prayers of those who were treated like dogs by the self-righteous, who then will God turn away?

All that is required is that we stand up and call on Christ with perseverance and humility just as the Canaanite woman did. There are so many needs in the world. There are so many people in far worse circumstances than any of us, and yet God in Christ still hears our prayers. We may fall into the trap of thinking that God hears only the prayers of the truly holy and saintly or the truly poor and desperate, and all that is left for us are the crumbs from God's table. We may also fear that God operates as we do, only responding to those who shout the loudest leaving us with the scraps of what remains when the assertive have had their fill, but where the grace of God is concerned there is plenty to go around, plenty of seats at the banquet, even enough for us.

As we go through life, we may begin to feel drained from all that life demands of us and all that others ask of us. If we are feeling spiritually empty it may be because we are only feeding ourselves crumbs even though God offers a meal. Part of faithful living is to listen for those people calling out in pain or hunger or torment, to be attuned to their needs, and sometimes they may seem as strange and foreign as that Canaanite woman. What she has to say to us today may sound as jarring as her words to Jesus. They may

even shake our worldview and challenge our assumptions, and if you, listening today, are the Canaanite woman--if you're the one crying out in the streets to seemingly no avail--don't be afraid. Take heart. Don't apologize for your persistence. God hears you and even in times of struggle and doubt, God proclaims your faith to be great.

It's no coincidence that after this encounter with the Canaanite woman, the next thing that Jesus does in Matthew's story is to go down to the sea and meet with a crowd of 4,000 hungry people. You see, God has this amazing ability to bring about change in the most astonishing ways, through the most unexpected people. God's work in our lives is always surprising us, always jarring us, always shaking up our worldview. God makes abundance out of scarcity. God is constantly taking the scraps from our table, the crumbs that we discard, and turning them into a feast. A feast to which we are all invited.

I'm grateful for the Canaanite woman, because through her persistence we catch a glimpse of God's vision for our world: It's a world where grace comes to us in the most unexpected ways, where the smallest speak with the loudest voices, and the powerful act with humility. It's a world where soup kitchens become lavish banquet halls, where sick beds languish unused and graveyards lie empty. It's a world where God's mercy and love are for all people--for those with little faith and those with great faith, for those who are hungry and those who are full, for the disciples and the Canaanite woman, for me and for you.

Call to Offering

Chuck Riggle

God gave us Christ. Should we hold back anything from God? Christ gave us the Holy Spirit. Should we hold back anything from God? Let us give generously, even giving our own lives, as God has given us everything already.

***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

God of great gifts, we give you these gifts today, knowing that, like a good mother, you constantly care for us and provide for us. So now we give as we can to the work that you give us to do, the work of your son Jesus, the work of your church, the care of those who need it most. Accept these gifts in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

We often balk at using female names and images for God. But God created all of us in God's image. So surely all of us reflect parts of who God is. We describe God in the only ways that are available to us, in human terms. Restricting our descriptions of God to only some human terms leaves us with a very small image of God indeed, for even if we use all of the words and all of the images we can conjure up, God is still so much more.

In Psalm 23 we hear about a Good Shepherd who leads us and guides us in times of rest and through times of trial and deep suffering. I know many people who have shown me this kind of love. I experience God's love through them. We also hear about a Good Shepherd who prepares a Feast before us. I don't know about you, but many of the feasts that have been laid before me have been prepared by my mother, my grandmother, my aunt. Not exclusively, of course, but in my life, that has been a consistent and reliable experience. God is like a mother or a grandmother or an aunt who always make sure you have enough good food to eat and encourages you to take another helping. This is the way God loves – abundantly, lavishly, providing comfort and welcome.

As we come to this Feast, this Table set before us this morning, let us give thanks for Jesus, the one we remember and commune with today. And let us give thanks for those in our lives who set Feasts before us, for they are showing us the love of God. One piece of who God is that God is one who sets the Table, prepares a great Feast, and welcomes all to gather round.

Communion Hymn

“Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race”

Sam Johnson, organist

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.

God, let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Most Gracious and Heavenly Father, we come before you today with grateful hearts, remembering the depth of your love, the love that led you to the cross. Thank you for willingly laying down your life so that we could be forgiven, so that we could be made right with God. As we hold this bread and this cup, we recognize what that they represent. Your body, broken for us and your blood poured out. These aren't just symbols. They are sacred reminders of your sacrifice and the new covenant you made with us. Lord, we ask that you would consecrate these elements that this moment would be set apart and filled with your presence. Help us to walk in your ways and follow your example. Holy Spirit, we invite you in. Fill this moment. Fill our hearts. As we take this bread and drink from this cup, we do so in remembrance of you, Jesus. Until the day you come again. In your precious name, Amen.

Words of Institution

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

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

“Precious Name”

Sam Johnson, organist

Take the name of Jesus with you, child of sorrow and of woe; it will joy and comfort give you; take it then, where'er you go. Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven. Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

The one who invited us to come now sends us forth to share the light of the bright morning star with the world. May the grace of the Lord be with you, as you seek to fulfill Christ’s hope that we may all be one.



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

Evergreen Personal Care

336 N Main Street
Washington PA 15301

Donna Bakaitis, Room 224

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 Berezny
Jacquie Best
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Maci Caster
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
Aryn Hess

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.



A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" 3 1 m r 2 m 3 nd 2 d 4 f
 y 4 5 r s 3 nc 2 r 2 f 1 3 th, wh 3 ch
 f 3 rst l 3 v 2 d 3 n y 4 5 r gr 1 ndm 4 th 2 r
 L 4 3 s 1 nd 3 n y 4 5 r m 4 th 2 r
2 5 n 3 c 2 1 nd, 3 1 m p 2 rs 5 1 d 2 d,
 n 4 w l 3 v 2 s 3 n y 4 5 1 ls 4 ."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

