

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 32
August 21, 2026

- Stewardship/Finance Ministry and Gathering to Grow – August 24, 6pm
- Bethany Class Lunch – August 25, noon @ Eat'n Park
- Dartball Practice – August 25, 7pm
- Stewardship/Finance Ministry and Trustess – August 26, 6pm
- Tri-County Men's Dinner – August 27 @ Mt Lebanon Christian Church

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



Sunday, September 13
1:04pm

Provided:
Chicken
Hot Dogs
Drinks

There will be BINGO!



Sign up in the Narthex to let us know if you'll be attending and if you're able to help in any way. We need lots of side dishes this year.



Dartball Practice
August 25
7pm
Everyone is welcome.

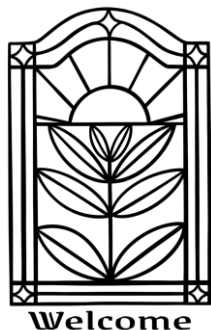
Church World Service School Kits!

Our goal this year is to make **100** school kits to donate to Church World Service for distribution to children who need them.

How you can help:

1. Purchase one or more items for the School Kits, we will assemble together. Choose one or more tags from the bulletin board in the Narthex. Be careful to purchase exactly what is listed on the tag. Remove all packaging from the items you have purchased and return the items to the containers in the Narthex with the tags.
2. Contribute \$15 to purchase items for a complete School Kit. Checks and cash may be placed in the offering plate; please make a note that your gift is for "school kits." You can also give on Fairhill's Givelify with the selection "CWS Kits."
3. Purchase items and assemble one or more School Kits yourself by following these instructions:

<https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits/>



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Diana Crowe, Bread
Jody Mullis, Cup

August 23, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Linda Reese

Leader: Come, walk in the light of faith.

People: We will walk humbly with our God.

Leader: Come, love in the light of faith.

People: We will love everything the light touches.

Leader: Come, sing in the light of faith.

People: We will sing praise to our God.

Leader: Come, live in the light of faith.

People: We will live as faithful followers of Christ.

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

Pastor Gena

Loving God, call us together this morning as your people; transform us with your love as we worship you.

O God, we remember how quickly things can change - how quickly our places of abundance and safety, of hope and nourishment, can turn into places of oppression and fear, despair and scarcity. And yet we know that you find ways to redeem and deliver us. You call the least likely among us to lead and to speak. You provide and repair, you build up and restore. You call each of us to act within our circumstances and with the abilities you have given us to bring forth new life around us. Make us willing and able midwives of your reign, calling forth love and light and life in places of hurt and chaos.

Caring God, you call us to be the body of Christ: to live in community, to care for one another, to use our different gifts for the good of all. Instead of working to sustain community, we often follow our own desires. Instead of trusting in your care, we think we can do it alone. Instead of recognizing and using the gifts you have given each of us, we claim we have nothing to offer.

Forgive our neglect of others. Give us obedient spirits, that we may care for one another, learn to depend on your love, and use our gifts for your purposes. We hear your words of forgiveness and celebrate that we are free, bound only by your love.

Thank you for the ways you are present with us. Thank you for our Elders and our Trustees, for those who steward our finances, for those who teach and guide us, for those who serve. Thank you for the Literacy Council and the NA groups that minister within our walls, bringing so many kinds of freedom. Thank you for those who are dreaming, those who are caring, and those who are praying.

Freeing God, we pray for those who find themselves in bondage: those forced into slavery or prostitution, those oppressed by governments or economic systems, those enslaved by addictions. We pray for those who struggle to raise their children in the midst of violence or poverty. We pray for those who refuse participate in violence or injustice. We also pray for those who oppress others, who are unable to break free from cycles of violence and anger and privilege, who are no longer able to empathize with those whom they crush.

We pray for all who suffer this day, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. May your presence surround and sustain each one that we have mentioned aloud and those we name now in the silence of our hearts.... May they know your love and life.

Break down the barriers that divide us from one another. Grant us compassion and humility in our relationships. Release the gifts you have given to each one, so that in us and through us, your will would be done here on earth. We pray this is in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray this way...

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

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Gene Sheller

Special Music

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Jim Cope

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

I wonder which one of these lumps of clay is easier to squish down to the floor. One is harder to squish down to the floor because there is something inside of it.

I wonder if there were two kids, one who had heard that God loves them and that they are a child of God, and one who had never heard that...I wonder which one would believe it if someone told them they were worthless and stupid and no one liked them. I wonder who would feel worse if someone told them they had to wear a certain kind of shoes or they wouldn’t be good enough, even if they really liked to wear other shoes. I wonder who would feel pressured to play 14 sports and 10 instruments and volunteer 2,000 at the animal shelter because they thought that was the only way they would be good enough – even if they really were interested in learning to sew and enjoyed reading and baking.

It is easy to squish us and change how we think about ourselves if there is nothing inside us to help us know who we are – that we are loved, we have certain gifts that God has given us that may or may not be like the ones other people have, we have talents and skills and interests that are ours.

I wonder how we can build up a strong sense of who we are and how much God loves us and how Jesus wants us to act. We learn here at church, by studying the Bible, by praying, what is good, what God wants us to do and be. Our Scripture lesson today says that while we are important and loved by God as God's child, we do not think of ourselves as more important or better than anyone else. We are all children of God. When we love someone, we do things because we mean it. We learn to tell the difference between what is evil and what is good and we hold on tight to what is good. We celebrate with those who are celebrating and we pay attention and sit with those who are sad. Even when things are going very well for us, we remember that God is with us and we are patient. We try to help those who need something. We welcome those who are new and may not know anyone or have any friends. If someone is mean to us, we aren't mean back to them. We find another way to stand up for ourselves. We spend time with all kinds of people, even if they are weird or not popular. And the more we practice these things, the stronger our love becomes and the harder it is to squish us when things are difficult.

And sometimes, we become so strong in God's love that we start changing things around us to be more like God instead of the things around us squishing us and telling us we aren't worth anything.

Dear God, thank you for loving us. Help us to become stronger and stronger in your love so that we don't get squished when other people tell us we're not good enough. Help us to share your love so that the world can become more like you. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 12:1-8

Rev. Donahoo

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo

Rev. Donahoo will be giving the Sermon this Sunday while Rev. Chris is on vacation. This is a previous sermon of Rev. Chris' for printing purposes only.

"New and Improved"

We often think that new is better. Any time something has aged just a little and begun to show some wear we want to replace it with something new. New clothes are exciting, but wear them a few times and they begin to feel old. A new haircut lasts a few days, and then we often go back to styling it the same old way. Still this tendency for new to fade to old does not dampen our enthusiasm for the new any less.

So many commercials advertise products as being new and improved and we think, maybe we'll try that cleaner, even if it didn't work before. Maybe I'll buy that potato chip even though I hated the last time I ate it. After all, it is new. I once knew a used car salesman whose slogan was "everyone drives a used car" and that is true, because as soon as you drive it off the lot that new car becomes a used car. Still, it is hard to resist the new car smell.

So, new is a great motivator. Make something new and people will try it, but we all know too well, that new is not always better. Paradoxically the problem with new sometimes is the very thing that makes it appealing. It has no history. Many people would rather have a home with some history and some character rather than a brand-new home with cookie cutter architecture. Others would rather have older furniture complete with nicks and scratches that make it unique rather than something out of a catalogue. And some prefer the shoes that are worn to the point of perfect fit rather than a brand-new pair that need to be broken in.

I clearly remember the day I accompanied my good friend, Mike, to the mall to buy a new pair of tennis shoes. I remember this normally mundane event because of the abnormal event that took place after. I remember how we walked back to his car in the parking lot and he had me lay the box behind his car on the pavement so that he could run them over with his truck so that they would feel old and familiar.

The truth is, as exciting as new is, we also like the familiar. We like the memories that come with the familiar. We like the past that is evoked by the memories that come with the familiar. There is always a tension, therefore, between the old and the new. We get tired of the old and long for the new, but then we miss the old while getting frustrated at how quickly the new becomes the old. And so it goes.

This tension may be most evident when it comes to our thoughts on Heaven, however. Part of the allure of reaching Heaven is the hope of being reconnected with the familiar. One of the reasons we hope to attain it is because there we will be reunited with our lost loved ones. Our parents and grandparents who loved us, our children who left too soon, our pets whom we have not seen since childhood, and we expect, or at least hope, that when we do see them, they will not appear as they did at the end of their life, but they will look as we remember them. If all dogs really do go to Heaven I expect to see my old friend, Gidget, running and wagging her tail to greet me like she did all her life whenever my mother came home from work or when my dad had a sandwich to eat, and not as she was when she limped and whimpered hobbled by cancer.

Have you ever thought of what Heaven would look like? I bet that it looks something like some place that you spent in your life; some place you remember fondly. I usually think of a beautiful field with wonderful trees and flowers, and I notice that often Heaven to me looks a lot like the campus of Bethany College or the hills of Olgebay Park.

My preaching professor, Joey Jeter, once told a story of a man named Billy who was dying. When his last moments came, Dr. Jeter went to his bedside, and Billy told him that he saw heaven last night. Joey asked, "What did it look like?" to which Billy joyfully responded, "Well, I couldn't quite tell about all of it. But there was a building right in the middle that looked like the Capitol of Texas. It was marvelous." Joey wondered, why the state Capitol of Texas? But then he remembered that Billy had lived his life on a farm in south Texas and had never left the area except for one trip to Austin where he saw the Capitol. It must have been the most beautiful thing he ever saw, and so, when he saw Heaven, his brain reached back for the most beautiful thing he had ever seen to describe what was in front of him.

So the joy of heaven is seeing the old and familiar. Making sense out of what has passed, yet John's Revelation describes Heaven as being new. He writes: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'

So John's vision of Heaven, which has endured to inform our own idea of Heaven by being recorded in the Bible, describes a place where everything is new. This is understandable because, to John's audience, new was undoubtedly better. They were being persecuted. They had no power or money or respectability to hold onto. The world to which they went was better in every way than the one that they left behind so there was no reason for them to hold on to the old.

But in this vision, the final vision recorded in the Bible, John describes Heaven as being new and yet also familiar. It was a new city, but it was new version of the old familiar city of Jerusalem. The difference was that it had been purified of all that defiled it and made it less than glorious so that it shown like a jewel. It still had its walls as before only now they were made of sapphires, emeralds, and pearls.

In Heaven what is old is not lost or discarded for something new, rather it is restored to the glory it was always meant to have. One ancient doctrine of the church, apokotastasis, argues that all things will remain and be made perfect. The earth, the people, even the devil. So Heaven is a place where the old and familiar things will live in eternity and never decay or age or suffer. It is a place where the old and familiar faces of our lives will receive the freshness and beauty of being new while retaining the charm and comfort of being old.

Just as Jesus Christ is referred to as being the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, all at once, so too is everything in heaven as new as a newborn baby and as familiar as an old pair of shoes.

This is how Paul describes it in 2 Corinthians. We will be new, but not simply looking new. In Christ we will be a new creation. To be a “new creation” is to see others, and even ourselves, with a new sense of what truly matters. It is to see others and yourself in accordance with the truth. How much of our struggle in this life is because we fail to see our friend, our spouse, our child, our boss, or brother or sister in light of the truth, instead of worldly lies about who they should be or who we think we need them to be? How much of your struggle in this life flows from judging yourself according to the flesh and not the love, acceptance, and grace of God; of seeing yourself as God sees you, and not who you think you need to be according to your parents, spouse, friends, or even the media.

Although he does not use the word the implication is clear. We will be new and improved. “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” Think of it like the Six Million Dollar Man except we do not have the technology, and we do not have the capability to make a new and improved person. Only Christ does, and only Christ has the power to combine the old and new into something better than has ever been known.

You think antiques are nice? You think the newest electronic gadget is great? Just wait. You haven’t seen anything yet. For only Christ who is called the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, has the ability to make all things new and yet familiar, new and improved.

Call to Offering

Von Lacock

Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, our bodies rest secure—for God has been exceptionally generous. So be generous, and let your gratitude be sincere, overflowing in gifts for God’s work, as we receive the morning offering today.

***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

Bountiful God, your kingdom is like seed that is scattered on the ground. How it grows, we know not, but there is abundance in the harvest. Your kingdom is like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a shrub, where the birds of the air build their nests. May the gifts we bring before you this day bear the fruit of your kingdom, where all may be fed, and all may be blessed. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

It is hard to believe children will be getting on buses soon. It always seems that the summer goes so fast. One of the things I remember about going back to school, was seeing my friends, and trying to remember the things I learned last year.

We may all be too old for school, but we do have a similar experience when we come to this table. First we come to church and see our friends, some we may not have seen since last week or before, and I hope the prospect of seeing friends is one of the enticing aspects of coming to church, but we also come back to this table because we need to be reminded of Christ’s love, and mercy, and his instructions for our life that we love others as he loves us. It can be so easy to forget that when we are out in the world in our jobs. The lessons we learn at this table are lessons that we must spend a lifetime leaning and practicing until we get them right.

So let us share this meal with our friends in Christ, and let us share in God's grace and never forget that at this table we learned forgiveness and mercy for ourselves and indeed the whole world. Let us forever be schooled in the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Sam Johnson, organist

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Diana Crowe

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

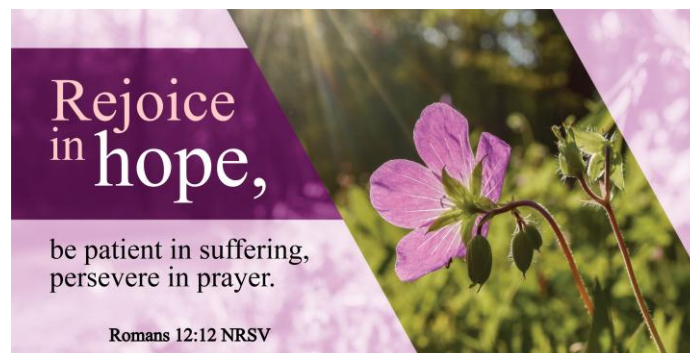
"Celebrate Jesus"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Celebrate, Jesus celebrate, celebrate, Jesus celebrate. (repeat)
He is risen, he is risen and he lives forevermore.
He is risen, he is risen. Come on and celebrate.
The resurrection of our Lord.

Benediction

Go forth to proclaim the good news that we are new creations in Christ Jesus. Go forth to live the good news that we live in a time of new beginnings.





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 Berezney
Jacquie Best
Gary Blackhurst
Jeff Caldwell
Macy Caster
Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Jane Correll
Ruth Cox
Mickey Cunningham
Benjamin Dube
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Raymond Fraley
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Judy Hanning
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess

Danni Iams
Dave Kania
Chris Lewis
Charlie McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Barb Moninger
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Mike Ryan
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Kristie Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
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.