

Manor Minutes
Volume 15 Issue 53
December 26, 2025

- New Year's Day – January 1, Church Office closed

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

December 28 – Lessons and Carols, 10:15am. We will have a time of singing and reading Scripture. There will be no Sunday School or Children Worship & Wonder.

January 7 – Board Reports and Annual Reports due to the office.

January 11 – Church Officer Installation

January 14 – Elders Meeting, 5:30pm
Board Meeting, 7pm

January 18 – Congregational Meeting following worship to review and approve 2025 Annual Report.





PUZZLE

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7						
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday _ _ _ _ _

The last Monday _ _

The 16th _ _ _ _ _

One day before the 20th _ _

The day before the first Friday _ _

The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _

The day after the 20th _ _

The day after 18th _ _

The first day of the second weekend _

The last Sunday _ _ _

The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _



Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



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
Chuck Riggle, Cup

December 28, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Carson Throckmorton

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Kevin Puskarich

Leader: Praise the Lord from the highest heavens.

People: Praise God, sun and the moon; sing for joy, you shining stars.

Leader: Praise the Lord from the deepest seas.

People: Praise God, fire and hail; dance in ecstasy, snow and frost.

Leader: Praise the Lord from the hearts of the faithful.

People: Praise God, young and old; laugh with mirth, wise and meek.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God.

People: Let us pay homage to the ruler of heaven and earth.

Opening Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

Eternal and Loving God, in this stillness, after the celebrations, we gather before you with hearts open to your presence. Perhaps the candles have burned low and the carols are quieting, but the truth of Christmas still shines brightly – the truth that you, the Creator of the universe, chose to come near, to take on our humanity, to walk among us in love.

We thank you for the gift of Jesus the Christ – the Child in the manger who is also the Lord of all, the Light that pierces every shadow, the Word that speaks life into our weary souls.

We thank you for the shepherds who have reminded us that your good news is for the humble, for the angels who have proclaimed peace to all people, and for Mary and Joseph, whose trust in you inspires our own faith.

Lord, we confess that we often rush past the wonder. Some years we are eager to pack away the decorations, to return to our routines, to let the holy moments slip into memory.

Forgive us when we fail to carry the message of Christmas into the days ahead. Teach us to live each day as those who have seen your glory. Show us how to keep the wonder of the manger alive in our hearts. Open our eyes to recognize your presence in the ordinary places of our lives.

We pray for those who find this time of year difficult – for those who are grieving with hearts aching with loss; for those who are lonely, longing for connection; for those who are sick, yearning for healing; for those who are weary, needing rest for body, mind and soul. Surround us with your comfort, we pray, and let the hope of Christ be a steady light in our darkness.

As we prepare to step into a new year, we ask for your guidance in all that lies ahead. Help us to be bearers of your light in every place we go – in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and beyond. And when the days ahead bring challenges, remind us that you are Emmanuel – God with us – yesterday, today, and forever.

We pray all of this in the name of the One who came to dwell among us, Jesus the Christ, who has taught us to pray with one voice, saying...

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:

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

First Scripture Lesson

Genesis 3:8-22

Chuck Riggle

Hymn of Joy

“How Great Our Joy”

While by the sheep we watched at night, lo, there appeared an angel bright:
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high! Glory to God who reigns on high!

Second Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Darla Lewis

Hymn of Hope

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth
and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born
in Bethlehem!” Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

Third Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

Isaac Mayen

Anthem

“Away In the Manger”

Choir

Fourth Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Ruth Campbell

Hymn of Love

“The First Noel”

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the king of Israel.

Hymn*“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.

Sixth Scripture Lesson**Luke 2:8-14**

Terry Allison

Call to Offering

Charlotte Stillwell

Through Jesus Christ, God has poured the Holy Spirit on us. Through the water of rebirth and renewal, we have been saved, not because of any works of righteousness we have done, but out of pure love. Let us respond to this love by offering our hearts and lives to God.

Offertory Hymn*“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold; “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King.” The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

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

Rev. Stillwell

God of glory, we thank you for your many blessings. You plant fruit trees to feed your creatures, and cause the sun and moon to provide warmth and light. Your steadfast love provides everything we need to walk in faithfulness, even amidst the trials and tribulations of life. In thankfulness and praise for the love that guides us and the hand that fills our lives with good things, we dedicate this offering as signs of our love and service. In the name of Christ, the pioneer of our salvation, all praise and glory be unto you. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

There are many signs and markers of this season that we love which make it different from all the other times of year, but eventually we get enough of them all. I'm not quite there yet, but I'm almost looking forward to watching something that isn't Christmas related. I'm almost done with Christmas music (and I have a high Christmas music tolerance) so I'm getting ready to listen to something that doesn't have a jingle bell in it. I'm actually at that point where the decorations in my house are starting to make it feel cluttered, and I'm looking forward to putting some of them away. I don't need any more presents, and I definitely don't need any more cookies, even though I love them.

The one thing that I will miss the most; the one that is hardest to put away; the one thing that if I could I would leave around all year; are the lights. More than anything else, the lights bring home to me the specialness of this season and what it is all about. The thing with winter is that you don't always get cold weather or snow, but we know it will be dark. That is a guarantee, and it has been dark, and the lights are so nice to help deal with the dankness to the point where you almost don't even notice the longest night of the year because we have these wonderful lights everywhere we go.

Every day after Christmas, it gets a little bit darker as one family after another takes their lights down. I don't want to be that person that has them up all year round, and I don't think my wife would let me be that person, but if I did, then they wouldn't be so special when Christmas comes back around.

So it is important to remember as the world gets darker as these lights get put away, that we become the light that they represent. Jesus Christ wasn't just a child born who became a man. He wasn't just a man who did really great things and taught very nice things that we still remember. He was the light of the world, and still is. And though our Christmas lights will get put away until next year, it is essential that we continue to shine forth the light that God brought forth into this world.

Let us remember this as we share in this meal. Let us remember this as we move forward from this table. Let us remember this as we leave this church so that wherever we go the world will be brighter because we carry the light of the world with us.

Communion Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Gracious God, as we move from Advent's waiting into Christmas's promise, we thank you for these gifts. Pour out your Spirit that this bread and cup may be the communion of Christ's body that was broken for us and Christ's blood that was shed for us. Make us one body. Sowing hope and peace, as we look for your coming. Send us out to be your presence in the world. Through Christ our lord, 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

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.

Seventh Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-14

Deb Knight

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Stillwell

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

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Now go and lift your voices. Break forth together into singing. Bring the good news, announcing God's salvation. Our God reigns! Thanks be to God.



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

Bo & Patty Pryor, Apt 102
Chuck Wiseman, Apt 214

Southmont Resident

835 S Main Street
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Doris Sorice, Rm 554

Transitions Healthcare Resident

90 Humbert Lane
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Doris Haniford, Rm 121

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Barb Bailey
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Vanessa & John Berezney
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Maci Caster
Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Ruth Cox
Carol Daniels
Dave Davis
Sue Donaldson
Craig Dotson
Benjamin Dube
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess
Danni Iams
Ed Jackman
Kari Johnson
Shelly Kubincanek
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David Leonard
Charlie McConnell
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
Mike Ryan
John Samida
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.