

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 16 Issue 25**  
**June 20, 2025**

- Stewardship/Finance Ministry – June 25, 5:30pm
- Choir Practice – June 26, 6:30pm

Stay up to date at [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)

On June 15, during the heavy rainstorms, water came into the church through the Small Fellowship Hall door and spread throughout the entire basement. Thanks to the immediate response from Terry Houston and Kevin Puskarich and later joined by Ed Palfreyman, they were able to remove as many wet items as possible and sweep, squeegee and shop-vac the standing water. The Trustees are in the process of determining the best solution to clean the basement and remove the remaining damaged items and may be reaching out to the congregation for help. Thank you to all of the FMCC leaders for collaborating during this time.

**Wild Things**

**FMCC Night at  
Washington Wild Things  
Friday, August 22, 7pm  
Fireworks Night**

**Tickets - \$10/person  
Parking Pass - \$2/car**

**Sign up in the Narthex for tickets and parking passes.**

**Please turn in cash or check  
(payable to FMCC) to the office by  
**August 3****

**THANK  
YOU!**

This year FMCC gave \$1,077.20 to **Church World Service's Blanket Sunday** offering. Thank you for helping to *"blanket the world with love."*



**GIFT CARD PROGRAM**

Gift cards available this week



Each gift card has \$25 loaded on it. The church earns an average of 10% on each card sold. Please see Pastor Gena after worship if you would like to purchase a card or 2 ☺.

AppleBee's (1)	Olive Garden (6)
Bob Evans (2)	Outback (2)
Cracker Barrel (2)	Panera Bread (2)
Dairy Queen (1)	Red Lobster (1)
Dick's (1)	Red Robin (1)
Eat'n Park (2)	Texas Roadhouse (8)
Kohl's (1)	



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

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

June 22, 2025 – 10:15am

**Prelude**

Sam Johnson, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Connie Sheller

Leader: From fire and storm, we come, O God.

**People: Gather us in, and make us whole.**

Leader: From suffering and pain, we come, Holy One.

**People: Gather us in, and make us one.**

Leader: From the highways of life, we come, Great Spirit.

**People: Gather us in, and make us your disciples.**

**Opening Hymn**

*“He Has Made Me Glad”*

Jody Mullis, pianist

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter his courts with praise. I will say  
"This is the day that the Lord has made." I will rejoice for he has made me glad.  
He has made me glad, oh he has made me glad, I will rejoice for he has made me glad.  
He has made me glad, oh he has made me glad, I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

**Recognition of New 50-Year Members**

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Stillwell

Transforming God, leader of life's journeys, teach us what we need to learn—  
the ways and graces, of creative, active waiting; the cry and the confidence of the psalmist;  
the honest testimony of the prophet; the clarion vision and the voice of the mystic.

Labor may sometimes seem in vain, yet surely you are present; surely you are here to deliver.  
Grant us eager hearts, that we may delight to do your will.

Gracious lord, we give you thanks as we journey together through this life, that you are with us. When we  
stumble you pick us up. When we tire you give us rest. When we go wayward you bring us back. Not  
only do you walk beside us, your spirit blows behind giving us energy and encouragement and you have  
sent your son to lead us to the place where you are.

As we thank you for these blessings help us to remember that you have given them to all people for  
our journey through life is long and hard. We cannot make this trip alone; we must walk together on the  
journey. You promised to lead us as a shepherd leads his flock. Help us to see your Spirit in those you  
send to journey with us.

Mighty God, your reign has come, and yet we wait for you to be more fully revealed.  
In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence, let us see your Spirit.  
In the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables, let us see your Spirit.  
In the asylum-seeker, seeking peace for their family, let us see your Spirit.  
In the child, separated from her family, let us see your Spirit.  
Teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other, You are present.  
Teach us to welcome not only the strangers in our midst but the gifts they bring  
Strengthen us in this, we pray, and help us to wait faithfully.  
Sharpen our knowledge, bless our spirits, deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts,  
that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and truth.

*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**

**Genesis 12:1-4**

Kevin Puskarich

**Anthem**

“When Memory Fades,” by Mary Louis Bringle

Choir

**Children’s Message**

Rev. Stillwell

Have you ever walked on the beach and picked up seashells? The best time to look for shells is early in the morning and after a storm. Do you know why? All those rough waves from the storms bring in lots and lots of shells.

When I went to the beach I picked up a lot of shells, but many of them were broken. Some people might not pick them up, but I thought they’re pretty. This one has a beautiful peach color in it that turns to pink. And this one has a pretty edge, except for that one broken part on the side. And this one changes colors in the sunshine. And this sand dollar still has the little dove inside it; and you couldn’t see the dove if the shell wasn’t broken! This starfish is almost perfect, except for that one tiny arm broken off.

Some people would only pick up the perfect shells—throwing the broken ones back into the ocean; or not bother to pick them up at all. I wondered what Jesus would do if he went walking on the beach looking for shells. Would he just pick up the PERFECT SHELLS; or would he see something beautiful in each shell, even if it was broken.

I remember the stories from Sunday School when I was a kid... about how Jesus stopped what he was doing to help broken people.... The blind man he healed or the man who couldn’t walk or the man who had sores on his body. I think Jesus stops to pick up broken people.

I’m so glad because otherwise he’d never even stop to give me a chance. He’d walk right on by most of us because we sure don’t look perfect. Jesus sees something beautiful in each of us, and He knows just where He can use us. And He especially likes the broken ones, cause we’ve been stepped on and thrown back so many times, we’re just happy He could see something pretty in us.

**Second Scripture Reading**

**John 1:35-51**

Rev. Stillwell

I'm sure you have had that experience that I have had so many times of opening the refrigerator to find something to eat. I'm not talking about getting a meal, but a snack, just a little something to tide you over til bed time. Maybe you want something sweet, or salty, or perhaps it's a drink you need. You open it and stare and don't see anything that you want, but then again, after you open the refrigerator a second and third time you have to ask yourself "what are you looking for?" If you are like me you do not know but you hope that you will know it when you see it.

According to the Gospel of John, Jesus asked this same question in three different places. The first time was in the beginning of his ministry as today's scripture reading shows. The day after John the Baptist baptized Jesus, John was standing with a couple of his disciples. He saw Jesus walking by and told them, "Look! The Lamb of God!" Then, John's disciples left their teacher and began to follow Jesus, instead. When Jesus noticed John's disciples were following him, he turned around and asked them, "What are you looking for?"

The second time was on the night when a group of soldiers came to arrest him. Jesus asked them a variation of the same question: "Who are you looking for?" And the third time was on the morning of his resurrection. Jesus asked Mary, who was crying outside his tomb, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" What or who are you looking for? This can be either a very simple or significant question all depending on the context in which it is asked. For instance, when you are at a clothing store, and a clerk asks you, "What are you looking for?" Or when you walk into a medical building and the receptionist at the front desk asks you, "Who are you looking for?" in these circumstances, the what or who you are looking for is a simple question that you can easily answer.

From the lips of Jesus, however, this is not a simple question. When he asks us, "Who or What are you looking for?" it is a profound question that goes to the core of who we are. Do you know what you are looking for? For many of us, perhaps most of us, this is precisely the problem. We often do not know what it is that we are looking for. And it looks like this was the case for the two disciples of John the Baptist. They had the same problem. They did not give Jesus an answer to his question but asked him where he was staying. They did not know what they were looking for, though they were longing and searching for it. And by asking Jesus where he was staying, they were telling him that they were willing try to find their answer through him.

Knowing this Jesus makes his first converts by simply saying to Andrew and Peter when they want to know where he is staying, "come and see". In other words it is a no risk opportunity. They can come and if they don't see great things then they can leave, but Christ knows they will see great things so their satisfaction is guaranteed. It works so well that he tries it successfully with Phillip and then Phillip tries the same technique on a man named Nathaniel.

First, Phillip tries the hard sell when he tells Nathaniel, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." This is a significant claim, one that on the surface is too good to be true and Nathaniel cynically responds, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

It is obvious that Nathaniel cannot be talked into following, so Phillip tries the no risk approach. He doesn't argue or debate he simply does what Jesus did and says, "Come and See"

Come and see for yourself. Don't take my word for it. Try Jesus for yourself, and if you are not completely satisfied you can return. So Nathaniel takes Phillip up on his offer and meets Jesus who says,

“Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!”<sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.”<sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Now truth be told this is no great claim of Christ. It stands to reason that Nathaniel would have sat under a fig tree at some point in his life just as you and I are likely to have sat under an oak; in fact scholars believe that this means Nathaniel was studying Torah. Again, it could reasonably be assumed that anyone who decided to see if someone was the Messiah was a student of the scriptures. It is a common trick of psychics to make a general statement that is likely to be true and let the other person fill in the blank because they want to believe.

Jesus knew this and laughed that Nathaniel’s cynicism was so easily broken saying, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.”<sup>51</sup> And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Now we get to it. The claim that no one else can make. The promise that can only be experienced to be believed. If Nathaniel followed and all he ever saw Jesus do was fun parlor tricks guessing people’s names and what they were doing, would he have stayed? Not likely. He may not have known exactly what he was looking for but it had to be more than that. It is because what Jesus said was true and Nathaniel and all the disciples saw greater things, things that could not have been described or even imagined let alone believed, that he became a disciple of Christ.

What were the disciples looking for? I don’t think even they knew until it was all over and Christ had ascended into Heaven. Now we must ask ourselves the same question, “What is it we are looking for in our lives? What is it we want?” The truth is that, like the two of John’s disciples who followed Jesus, we do not always know what we are looking for, though we know there is a deep longing in our hearts.

As you go through this week, would you allow Jesus to ask you the question he asked his first followers? As we begin this sermon series would you dwell with this fundamental question, the question which goes to the very heart of who we are and perhaps where we are? “What is it that I am looking for at this point in my life?” “What do I truly desire?”

If the answer does not arise, if you still do not know what you are looking for, know that you are in good company, because this was the case with Jesus’ first followers. And like them, maybe it's enough that we're willing to sit with the question, willing to live with it ringing in our ears and in our hearts, and, as we live in the question, carefully paying attention, examining our lives and everyday living, maybe we will begin to see some gaps appearing. Space between what you spend your hours looking for and what actually satisfies your heart. Perhaps we can even invite people in, people closest to you - your family, friends, and coworkers you feel comfortable with - and ask them what they are looking for.

If we can sit with this question a while we might discover that we are not looking for money, power, fame, or control. We are really looking for love, goodness, truth, peace, happiness, justice, mercy and joy. We are looking for meaning. We are looking for God. We are looking for Jesus.

If so then hear the good news. The question that we are asked to sit with, “What are you looking for?” are not words of rebuke or condemnation. They are an invitation. They are an invitation to come to make our home in Jesus Christ, to find our refuge in him. For he is the Prince of Peace and he will give us rest for our weary souls. And as much as we are seeking after him, he is seeking after us.

All we need to say is what Phillip said and what Christ said, “come and see”. Come and see if following Christ won’t cause you to see greater things in your life. Come and see if he cannot transform your heart and being. Come and see if he cannot fill the void in your life and fulfill the promise of your heart. We may not know exactly what it is we are looking for, but we should know it when we begin to see it in our lives.

### **Call to Offering**

Gary Ford

We who love God are led by the Helper and Advocate to be more than hearers of the word, but doers of the word as well. Let us open ourselves now to the joy of sharing God’s love and concern with the world.

### **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

Inviting God, thank you for the invitation to “come and see” what a life lived with you in it is all about. May our offering this morning lead to ministry that extends an invitation to “come and see” to those who most need to hear it. Open our hearts to what you are revealing to us, and give us the courage to follow. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Gena

In his last meal with his disciples, Jesus gave them bread and cup and told them that whenever they gathered for this meal again, they were to eat it to remember him (Luke 22:17-20). Two thousand years later, we still come to share this meal. We come and remember.

It helps to have a tradition to help us remember. It helps to have something tangible to help us remember. Passing the bread and cup reminds us that we are one in Christ, serving one another as he served his friends. Holding the bread, we remember the ways that Jesus sustains and nourishes us, even when we are self-absorbed and choosing to go our own way instead of his. Gripping the cup, we remember that loving isn’t always the easy thing to do, but Jesus calls us to love anyway, just as he did.

Come and join our Lord at this Table. It is his Table and you are welcome here. Come and see the grace he has to offer, the freedom he brings, the security only he can ensure. Come, eat and drink. Come and remember.

### **Communion Hymn**

*“Open My Eyes, That I May See”*

Sam Johnson, organist

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands  
the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

### **Prayer for the Bread & Cup**

Gary Ford

(written by Gene Sheller)

Dear God, the great being who has directed many biblical giants throughout recent history, please also direct us and our leaders. We need your direction and help. Your son, Jesus, fulfilled your prophecies and became the sacrifice for our sins. We come here to remember that sacrifice by taking together with each other the bread, representing Jesus’ body, and the cup, representing Jesus’ blood.

We thank you for your grace in saving us from our sins. We love all three, you Father, your son, Jesus, and our helper, the Holy Spirit. Honoring and thanking all three, we pray, 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

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

Sam Johnson, organist

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.

## Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Once we searched and groped for God in darkness. Now we reside with Christ in glorious light. Once we worried that God was far from us. Now we rejoice that God is closer to us than our very breath. Once we yearned for God's love and acceptance. Now we dwell in communion with God and with one another. Go forth, therefore, to share what you have found so that others may see it for themselves.

### Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)

# THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS

**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](http://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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Darci Sprowls  
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.