

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 13
March 27, 2026

- Doris Sorice Funeral – March 30, 12:30pm at Neal Funeral Home
- Disciples Women’s Ministry “Ruth” – April 1, 1pm
- Labyrinth Workshop – April 1, 6-9pm
- Maundy Thursday Service – April 2, 7pm
- Good Friday Service – April 3, noon @ First Christian Church

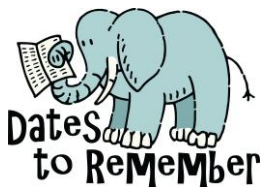
Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



THEY WON!!!

Congratulations to the Fairhill Manor Christian Church **Dartball Team**. They won Tuesday night and are the Washington Area Church Dartball League 2025-2026 Shaughnessy Champions!

The **Spaghetti Dinner** is April 25, 4:30-7. We have posters to advertise the dinner. If you know of a good place that allows posters, contact Kevin Puskarich or the Church Office for a flyer. Advance tickets will be sold. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex if you can help before, during or after the dinner as well as a sign-up sheet for desserts needed. More information on tickets to follow.



- April 5 – Sunrise Service, 7am
Breakfast following
Adult Sunday School only
- April 11 – Ladies Tea, 1pm
- April 25 – Spaghetti Dinner
4:30-7pm

The Rummage Sale has been rescheduled for June 5 & 6.

Online Church Directory

Download our new church directory!

To download the app to your Apple device, click here: [Apple - Instant Church Directory](#)

To download the app to your Android device, click here: [Android - Instant Church Directory](#)

Text or email Pastor Gena a photo of you/your family to be included in our new online church directory.

More information can be found at www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app.

Need help?? Ask Pastor Gena ☺



Thank You

“The family of **Chuck Wiseman** would like to thank all those who attended his Celebration of Life and for the love, cards, and expressions of sympathy we received. Also, many thanks to those who set up and served the luncheon. And a special thanks to Rev. Chris and Gary Ford for their many visits to our dad.”



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Gary Ford, Bread
Serena Dube, Cup
March 29, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Anthem

“Ride on, King Jesus,” arr. by Tom Fettke

Choir

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Serena Dube

Leader: With songs of thanksgiving,
People: We sing praise to God.
Leader: With shouts of Hosanna,
People: We welcome the presence of Christ.
Leader: With prayers of blessing,
People: We call out to the Spirit of God.
All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Opening Hymn

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Jody Mullis, pianist

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

“Hosanna! Save us! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” Come, come this way, Lord Jesus, into our city, into our church, into our homes, into our lives. Come and save us. We worship you, we welcome you, and we lay down what we have to prepare a path that is just a bit more special for you, for we are glad you are coming this way! We open our hearts again to receive you, this time a little more willingly than the last.

Holy Lord, forgive us for misunderstanding what your kingdom is about. Forgive us for relying on power and might, prestige and merit. Forgive us for admiring those who have the newest and biggest and best. Help us to see that without anything, without any achievement, without any accomplishment, we are enough. We are your children and in you we have everything we need. Give us the courage to be ourselves as you have created us, willing to be vulnerable, willing to depend on you, willing to show others love and mercy and grace, willing to lose and to serve in your name.

We give you thanks for inviting us to walk this journey with you this week, knowing how easily our thoughts and emotions, our loyalties and commitments change. You know this about us, and yet you still stretch out your hand to us and call us to come with you on the way. We want to do it right this time, but even if we could, that would not earn us your love any more. Your love is already here for us. And so we lift our voices in thanksgiving that this week shows us that nothing we can do can separate us from your

love or earn it for ourselves any more. Help us to rest in your endless love, to bask in it, to share it and live it, as we walk with you.

Lord Jesus, you humbled yourself, even to death, to show us the power of loving service.

Guide those holding positions of power, that their decisions might be those of a servant, helping the world you love to flourish together.

Lord Jesus, the violence you endured continues in our world each day. Raise us to a new and rightly ordered world through your reconciling love, where all victims of violence find healing and know your peace.

Lord Jesus, you consoled others in life and in death. We pray for all who are distressed, broken, or sorrowful, that they may be healed and raised up in you.

Lord Jesus, we know the comfort of your presence and strength in our lives, and we want others to experience that too. So please be with these we name now in your presence... You know what each one needs. Show us how to love and care for each other in your name.

Lord Jesus, in your passion and resurrection, you show us there is no place you have not been and no place you fear to go. Morning by morning, awaken us more deeply to this truth. And then send us into the world this day and every day with the courage and wisdom to be faithful witnesses to your coming reign of justice, mercy, and peace.

We ask all of this your name, Lord Jesus, and we pray as you teach us, 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:

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Donna Stenski

Anthem

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna,” by Gordon Young

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

Electric and electronic devices need power don’t they? There are two ways for them to get power. One is to have a battery. The other is to be plugged in. You can plug a device into an outlet and it will use the power in the outlet to power itself or it will use the power to charge its battery, and then it will be good to go for a while.

This is true of phones, gaming devices, televisions and many more things but how do you get your energy? Do you have a chord to plug in? You don’t, but you can get energy by eating and drinking, and resting. There is one other way. Did you know you can get energy by unplugging?

Of course you do not have a chord to unplug, but what I mean is sometimes we spend so much time on electronic devices and looking at screens that we lose our energy. It makes us lethargic and anxious, so it helps from time to time to unplug which means put down the phone and be still.

That is what Sundays are meant to be for. It is a time of rest and a time of renewal, and the funny thing is it is also a time to plug in. We want to plug into Jesus and God's holy spirit which gives us energy.

Isaiah says that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

This is what happens when we plug into the energy that God offers, but how do we do that if we do not have chord? We pray and listen, and feel God around us. I know that you are all full of energy, but if you ever feel lie you are getting tired unplug from your devices and plug into God's spirit.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:35-39

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Unplug to Plug In”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

As human beings have questioned and wondered whether or not there truly is a God for as long as we can know, some have tried to prove that God does exist or that God does not. Theological arguments and logical arguments alike have been batted back and forth. Alexander Campbell participated in many of them saying:

As there is man and the spirit of man, so there is God and the spirit of God. The whole systems of creation, providence, and redemption, are founded upon these relations in the Deity. Destroy these, blend and confound these, and nature, providence, and grace, are blended, confounded, and destroyed.

Some people will say that science and religion cannot mix, but what I have learned is that one often helps reveal and explain the other. As I studied astronomy, I learned of the millions of variables that had to take place so that life on earth could exist. We talked about all the things that happened differently on another planet that prevented life from taking root there, and, in the end, we were left with what a staggering improbability it is that you and I are here today.

But I find that, sometimes, all the empirical evidence in the world cannot make up for the simple eloquence of beauty. The beauty that I am referring to today is that of the created world. To see a sunrise over a mountain, to float in the warm and clear waters of the sea, to drive into the bottom of the Grand Canyon, or to view the world from a high mountain top is the best argument for the existence of God that I know. Sometimes it is the stones and not the facts that speak most powerfully about God.

When people are asked where they feel God's presence far and away the most common answer is in nature; even for many people who attend church regularly. Because of this, I think Christians should have a particular interest in conserving nature, but how much time do we really spend in it? Some people are outdoors and love to ride their bikes or go fishing. Others only get into the woods during hunting season while some enjoy golf less for the game and more for the chance to be outside.

Most of us in this modern age spend more time looking at screens than sunsets. This is a problem as we all need to find time to rest and find renewal, which is the original reason for the sabbath. It isn't God demanding that we go to church to show we are good people it is God understanding the human propensity to fill their time with work commanding a time of rest for our own renewal.

Jesus, himself, modeled this when we read about how, after healing many people at Simon Peter's house int the early days of his ministry Mark writes that, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."

By the facts that Mark presents we are led to assume that this is the first time Jesus left the disciples in order to pray, and what a wonderful thing it is to see even Jesus pray. The day before the people marveled

at Christ's authority, and now we see that his closeness to God is the source of his authority. We learn that if even Christ needed quiet time alone to rest and pray, then so do we.

The sabbath is given so that we do not work ourselves to death, but these days it might be our entertainment that keeps us from resting the most. We spend a lot of time on screens, be they television, computer, or phone, and sometimes it is work related, but mostly it is leisure related. The problem is all that time actually prevents us from finding rest.

We are not meant to be so online and the temptation to always be on the phone not only gets in the way of personal connection but the things that used to bring joy, like keeping up with you friends and your grandkids on Facebook, has too often been replaced with targeted political content designed to infuriate and divide us. We need rest from our work, but we also need rest from our digital invasion.

That is where we get the term "unplug", but of course these days you could unplug and still use your device for hours. The point is that we need time away from the world. Some Christians have always believed that we are not of this world, and we should stay out of it, but most Christians have followed the model of being in the world but not of it. In other words, we do enjoy the same things as others do, but we remember that the gifts of this world pale in comparison to the gifts of the next. As a rule, we need to periodically take time to retreat from the world to rest and be renewed, and that means enjoying and reconnecting with nature, which most of us are able to do well, and rest and reconnect with our spirits, which most of us have trouble doing.

This trouble often stems from the fact that we are so connected to the world, so I want to share with you a digital wellness plan that the organization Flourishing in Ministry has created. It has seven points which are:

- Limit your exposure (delete notifications, turn screens off)
- Be intentional with your digital use
- Face your feelings (what painful emotion are you scrolling to avoid?)
- Create space from technology (sacred spaces where phones can't follow)
- Reclaim face-to-face conversations
- Go deep in a shallow world (let yourself be bored; boredom creates creativity)
- Model digital wellness to your family
(www.flourishinginministry.org)

I think it is safe to say that this was not a problem in Jesus' time, but let us be inspired by the fact that, at the beginning of his ministry, even he needed times of quiet and peace to renew his spirit, so let us be inspired by what he said near the end of his ministry when he triumphantly rode into Jerusalem.

On the day that we have come to call Palm Sunday he entered into the city of Jerusalem where, at first, it is the people who cry out welcoming him into the city, announcing his arrival, lavishing him with praise and adoration.

In Jerusalem the whole multitude of disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!'

Here is the culmination of Jesus' long journey to Jerusalem. In a normal story this would be the happy ending for which we have all been waiting is here. Jesus has ridden into the capital of God's country and was received warmly by the people. The king has come into his kingdom, but not everyone was pleased.

The pharisees, fearing Rome, tell him to silence the crowd, to which Jesus says, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.’ Why would they do this? Because the stones that were created by the majesty of God cannot but declare God’s majesty. Perhaps not with words, but by their very existence.

The stones cry out God’s glory and majesty. The stone’s cry out God’s presence and Christ’s passion. And not just the stones, but the plants, the flowers, the birds and the beasts, indeed all of creation exemplifies the wonderful and loving hand of God. This is why we love nature so much and so often find God in it and need to be in it when we can.

I think it might be a good idea this week to pay particular attention to the stones that you see. If you look, you’ll notice that they are everywhere, the street, the yard, on your floor. Whenever you see one stop what you are doing for just a moment and think to yourself, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven”, for each and every stone was created by the one who was so powerful and wise that he could design every stone in the universe while at the same time caring so much about us, that he sent his son to suffer the slings and arrows of daily life that we might know of God’s love for us.

Everything we see in nature is so intricately designed and lovingly created, and if God cares so much about the sparrows and the grass, so much about the rocks and stones, then how much does God care about us? This is a great week for watching the flowers bloom, the grass grow, hearing the birds sing and noticing the ways in which the stones and all things in creation shout of God’s goodness, but to do that we need to take a break from our work, and we need to take our eyes off our screens. We need to unplug so that we can plug in to what God is doing all around us.

Go out into this big wide, wired world and be connected, both physically and virtually, but remember to take time to unplug, to be still or to engage, and pay attention to God in your midst, and the signs of resurrection which are happening all around and then let us all say, “blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Call to Offering

Gary Ford

This is the Lord’s house. This is God’s world. All that we have and all that we are comes from God and belongs to God. May we share of these gifts generously, so that others may know God’s presence in the world.

***The Doxology**

#46

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

With these gifts, we give you thanks, O God. We bless your generous, humble spirit, and ask that you bless these gifts with this same generous, humble spirit, so that all who receive these gifts may also receive your love, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

The Phoenix of ancient myth is a creature that dies and then is reborn as it rises from its own ashes. It is a bird whose life came out of death and is now a symbol for any type of rebirth or renewal. In fact the city of Phoenix got its name from the fact that it was built upon an old Native American city, so out of the ashes of a dead city arose a new one.

There are no birds in this sanctuary, but there is something that has risen from the ashes, for on Ash Wednesday ashes from last year's Palms were used to remind us of what becomes of our physical body after death. Today ashes that we spread on our foreheads have turned back into the palms that we wave as we shout "Hosanna" for the King of Kings.

We do this all at the time that our world is being reborn physically with the springtime and at a time that we pray that it will be reborn spiritually. Jesus Christ brought renewal to his people, and he brings it to us as well. He has the power to bring life even out death, and because of this we, like the phoenix, may rise out of the ashes in our lives. The people on Palm Sunday experienced this renewal for a day and then fell away. Let us learn from their mistake as we ask Jesus to renew us not just today but for the rest of our lives.

Communion Hymn *"Come and Find the Quiet Center"* Sam Johnson, organist
Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup Gary Ford
Lord, this is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, a day of rejoicing. But, just as Jesus knew what was to come, with this communion, we must commit ourselves to bring God's love and justice into a world that has too much violence, hate and fear. Christ died so that we may live, may this communion remind us of His constant love, grace and power. Now, Jesus calls us to come and share the bread and wine as we remember His sacrifice, 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.

Call to Discipleship Rev. Stillwell
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 *"On Eagle's Wings"* Sam Johnson, organist
You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in God's shadow for life, say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!" "And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

As darkness descends, may we ever look for the light. As Holy Week begins, may we ever look for the resurrection. Go in quiet contemplation. Go in quiet hope. Go in the love of God.

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to the family of Doris Sorice who passed away on March 25. Please keep her 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 Lou McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

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

Mary Allison
Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Bereznyay
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

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

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

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

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.