

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 16
April 17, 2026

- Choir Practice – April 23, 6:30pm
- Spaghetti Dinner – April 25, 4:30-7pm

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



April 25
4:30-7pm

Take out is available



- April 26 – Car Show, FMCC parking lot
4-7pm
- May 10 – Mother's Day
Blanket Sunday
- May 21 – Tri-County Men's Dinner
5:30-8pm
- May 24 – Pentecost Sunday
Baptism
- May 26 – Bethany Class Luncheon, noon
at Eat'n Park



Pastor Gena is reorganizing and reshelving the books in the **church library**. If you have any books that you have borrowed and want to return, please put them on the desk in the library. At this time, we are not taking any new books until we see how much room we have on the shelves. Thank you 😊



The **Bethany Class** will be meeting at Eat'n Park on Tuesday, May 26 at noon for lunch. Everyone is welcome.

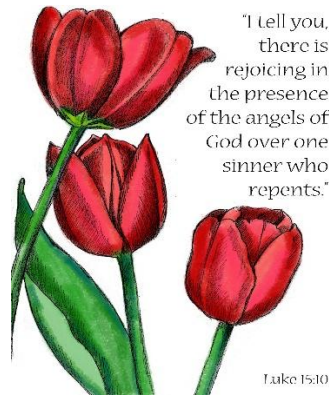
Bible Quiz

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables. Which of the following is not one of them?

- A. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- B. The Parable of the Lost Son
- C. The Parable of the Lost Pearl
- D. The Parable of the Lost Coin

A circular logo with a yellow background and a red palm tree. The text "THE Parables OF Jesus" is written in a mix of fonts and colors.

Answer: C (See Luke 15:1-32.)



Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Avenue
724-225-8610
Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Connie Sheller, Bread
Gene Sheller, Cup
April 19, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Charlotte Stillwell

Leader: We have traveled from the horror of Good Friday to the joy and celebration of Easter.

People: We will give thanks to you forever, O God.

Leader: The Lord has turned our sorrow and sadness into dancing and joy.

People: We will give thanks to you forever, O God.

Leader: We come now to worship the one who transforms fear into resurrection love.

People: We will give thanks to you forever, O God.

Opening Hymn

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

Sam Johnson, organist

That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light,
when, to their longing eyes restored, the glad apostles saw their Lord.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

Great Shepherding God, we gather as your flock, seeking comfort and nourishment within your fold. You know each one of us by name, and we are learning to know the sound of your voice so that when you call us forth, we can follow. We praise you, for you never leave us alone; you walk in front of us to show us the way.

We know that all of our ways are visible to you, that our life is an open book before you. Sometimes that makes us feel painfully vulnerable; sometimes that makes us feel greatly relieved. When we work hard to follow your ways, keep us from being too proud of ourselves and too quick to judge others. Keep us from believing that we deserve more of your love, that we can earn more of your favor. Increase our gratitude for your never-ending, more-than-enough love; increase our joy for even those who come late to your party of love.

We give thanks for the way you shepherd us. Teach us to yearn for your instruction, to love your guidance, to wait for your counsel. You are the beginning of every blessing; tune our hearts to sing of your ceaseless grace. Your mercy flows over us in a never-ending stream; may our songs lift our loudest praise to you.

We pause on our journey to recognize that we are here because you have helped us along the way. We are prone to wander, Lord, we know that. We are prone to leave you, the God we love. But whether lost or far from you, you know where we are and are always seeking us, calling us home. If only your

goodness could bind our wandering hearts to you. But choice is always ours, and in your mercy, nothing can ultimately keep us from returning to you.

What a blessing it is to know that our cries come right into your presence, O God. We are amazed that you give your attention to our requests. And so we ask for you to be with those who are lost to us. Assure us that you see them and care for them, even if we cannot right now. We pray for those who are watching and waiting for the return of loved ones. Be with us while we wait. We ask your mercy on those who are looking for someone who will love and welcome them, who are looking for a better way to live. Shepherd them into your arms, we pray. May our welcome be as warm and gracious as yours. Hear now our prayers for all those we have named aloud this morning, for those on our prayer list, and for these dear ones on our hearts and minds...

Shepherd us, dear God, beyond our wants, beyond our fears, from death into life. We pray this in the name of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, 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:

“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

Luke 15:1-10

Linda Reese

Anthem

“Every Valley,” by John Ness Beck

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

Our theme for this week and next is “Practice Joy.” Today we are practicing “sharing others’ joy.”

The Apostle Paul wrote many letters to Christians in different places. When he wrote to the church in Rome, he said “Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15). He also wrote to Christians in Corinth, “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

I experience these things here at church more than any other place. When I am joyful about something that has happened, others seem to want to know about and share in my joy. When one of us is sick or disappointed or really sad, others feel their pain and want to be there for them with cards or food, visits and prayers. When one of us is going through something, it’s like we are all going through it together. That’s why we share our joys and our concerns during our prayer time. We are living out Paul’s words.

In his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul writes, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). We can sing this verse...

Let’s practice sharing each other’s joy. After each person shares something that has brought them joy recently, or something good that has happened to them recently, we will sing this verse. In our Scriptures today, we read about a woman who lost a coin and then found it. We read about a shepherd who lost a

sheep and then finally found it. We read about a father with two sons, one who went away and wasted his money and the other who stayed with him. Finally the son who went away came home.

Dear God, thank you for the joy we find in our lives. Thank you that we can share it with other people who will rejoice with us. Help us to practice listening to other people's joys and rejoicing with them too! Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 15:11-32

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Grace by Association”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

Our parents tried so hard to make sure we would grow up right. They taught us what to do and what not to do. They taught us the difference between right and wrong. And part and parcel to those attempts is that they tried to keep us from hanging out with the wrong people. Among their greatest fears was that we would fall into the wrong crowd, and all the manners and values that they taught us would be overcome by a group of kids whose parents hadn't done as much to teach their children well.

I'm sure we can all remember a kid or two in the neighborhood who was seen as a bad influence; a kid that every parent told us to stay away from, which only made him more interesting in our eyes. Of course, if you can't think of one, well, maybe you were that kid. We all knew by the time we got to junior high that we were often judged as much by the actions of who we were with as by our own actions. If Jimmy was known for getting detention from his teachers, we knew very well that we would be more likely to get it because we were friends with him.

This is something we know as guilt by association and, though we know that it isn't fair, this does not make it any less real.

Knowing the power of peer pressure and guilt by association better than we did, our parents wanted to keep us from being led astray. Now that we have a better appreciation for what our parents tried to tell us, and many of us have tried to tell our children the same things, we can empathize with another parent. We can put ourselves in the place of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and imagine how she must feel if she could see her son now.

Throughout the gospels we see him going to the homes of tax collectors. He eats with sinners. He is always seen with the most unpleasant people. To put it simply he is hanging out with the wrong crowd. She tried so hard to raise him right. She and Joseph gave him such love, they dedicated him in the temple, and raised him with good Jewish values, read to him from the Torah where the book of Proverbs warns against being enticed by sinners, and yet here he is welcoming sinners and eating with them.

Of course, we do not really know what Mary would say if she could see Jesus now. We are not told this, but if we can imagine her as a typical parent who has only her son's best interest at heart, she may sound something like this. Maybe she would sound like a Pharisee.

I say this because, in the story that we have heard, it is the Pharisees who witness Jesus entertaining the unpopular, the wrong crowd. They criticize Christ for his table fellowship, which was a very important thing in that time and culture. Who one ate with was very much a marker of how important and holy one was, and for Jesus, who many thought was God's messiah, his choice in companions reflected very poorly on him.

To these allegations Jesus responds with parables:

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it; he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and

neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

⁸ 'Or what woman having ten silver if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

He goes on to say much more including telling the parable of the Prodigal Son, but his responses do not satisfy. When he is finished speaking, they ridiculed him.

We all want to be like Jesus. We are taught to be like him, and we strive to be more like him in our everyday lives, so, when we read this story or others like it, we automatically see how selfless Jesus is in his acts and in the way he treats people. When we read this story, we are not surprised to see Jesus eating with tax collectors, reaching out to sinners, treating the undesirables with respect and kindness. We are so proud to read of what he did, and it is so easy to criticize the Pharisees. They seem so uncaring, so uncompassionate. They are portrayed so negatively in the gospel that we might think that they weren't even human. The gospel writers were so angry at them that their portrayal is often no more than a caricature.

But let's give them the benefit of the doubt. After all, they were simply following what the scriptures told them. They, like Jesus, studied the Torah and they knew that Proverbs told them to not follow sinners and do as they do. They were just doing God's will as best as they could discern it. They were just doing what they knew was best. We might even say they were just trying to keep their parents happy. They were fortunate not to have fallen in with the wrong crowd and they weren't about to now

The truth is I think that, were we in their shoes, we might feel the same. Let's think of it this way. What if Jesus was your son? Would we want to see him thieves, hoodlums, and drug addicts? Of course not. You would be grateful for the pharisees, those good boys who were always very religious, and you would hope they could talk some sense into Jesus. Those would probably be the people you hoped your son would run around with, not this other group. Oh, if Mary could see him now, I bet she would be distressed.

She shouldn't be. It is important that Jesus be with these people for that is how the Kingdom is built. How can anyone improve themselves if someone like Jesus did not talk to them? Guilt by association goes both ways. Our parents wanted us to not fall in with the wrong crowd because they were afraid that they would rub off on us, but what if we rubbed off on them? I do not know how Mary would feel seeing Jesus with these people, but I can certainly know that the parents of the tax collectors and the sinners would be thrilled to see Jesus with their children.

If Jesus treated these people with the same disdain that the Pharisees and other reputable people showed them, they would simply go on in their ways. They would have no desire to repent or change. Jesus said at an earlier time that he came to heal the sick for the well had no need of a doctor. Imagine if a doctor refused to go near the unhealthy for fear of catching their sickness.

Fortunately, Jesus was not afraid to catch the sins of others. He was not afraid to be with the outcasts and supposed sinners. I say supposed because while many of the people with whom he dealt were indeed sinful and in need of forgiveness there were many who were simply unfortunate in life and the others who the, more fortunate interpreted their circumstance as being the result of sin. There were many who came to Jesus who were sick or poor, through no fault of their own, and they were avoided like the plague by others because it was believed that they were being punished by God for their iniquities.

We have all known someone who was considered to be the bad kid in the neighborhood or the school. Sometimes these kids earned their reputation and sometimes it was thrust upon them through no fault of

their own. If Jesus had accepted other people's judgements about someone's character than what hope would they have?

What hope would we have? We have all become who we are because some good person who was better than we were spent time with us. Thank God their parents did not tell them to stay away from us. We all fear guilt by association, but if we let that rule our lives, we would never receive grace by association, for if God told Jesus Christ never to go anywhere near sinners, to never hang out in the homes of unrespectable people, if God told Jesus that he could not be friends with people who break laws for fear of what the neighbors would think, then none of us would receive grace by association.

Like the man who went after his lost sheep and the woman who sought her lost coin. Jesus had the ability to seek the lost without becoming lost himself, and because of this we have learned how to get to the Kingdom. The Kingdom is not a place where everyone is well, respected, looked up to, and found. The Kingdom comes when those who are found seek those who are lost. The Kingdom is made manifest when the righteous eat with the sinners. The Kingdom exists when no one is afraid to show kindness and mercy to another for fear of what others would think. If Christ had not set the example none of us would be able to find the Kingdom.

Call to Offering

Serena Dube

What shall we return to God for all the goodness we have received? We offer our vows, our gifts, our sacrifices to God.

***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

Rev. Stillwell

Compassionate Shepherd, accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude for the generous gifts you give us—gifts flowing from the eternal stream of your grace. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

Well now that we have officially entered spring the time has come for bloom watching. You know how it seems that every day the trees are there and they are bare, but one day their buds have blossomed and their leaves are visible.

Or how one day the grass is brown and the next it is green and tall, or how one day the only flowers on the ground are the plastic ones we use for decoration in our yards and then one day, viola! An array of color and beauty for us to see.

The resurrection of the earth is much like the resurrection of Christ. One minute the disciples were in despair and the next their hearts were lifted. One minute Mary and Mary and Salome were upset because his body was gone and the next, their tears of sadness became tears of joy. One moment we are feeling low and forlorn and the next our hearts are filled with gladness as Christ comes and fills it up with his love and his hope.

As you come to this table remember to keep your eyes open. For we all know that a resurrection is happening all round us. It is only a matter of time before it happens for us

Communion Hymn

“A Woman and a Coin”

Sam Johnson, organist

A woman and a coin--the coin is lost! How much it means to her, what time and toil, what part it was to play in her bright dreams! Am I that treasured coin worth searching for? I'm found, and you rejoice! What love! What love!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Connie Sheller

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, we remember your sacrifice for us on the cross, your love that held you there, and the victory of your resurrection. As we again take this bread representing your broken body, and this cup representing your shed blood, cleanse our hearts, renew our spirits, and draw us closer to you for we belong to you now and forever, 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

“Spirit Song”

Sam Johnson, organist

O let the Son of God enfold you with his spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Follow the voice of Jesus wherever he leads. Trust that he will nourish and protect you, and fill you with the goodness of God’s love. In the name of the one who calls and guides us, let us go out to love and serve the world. Amen





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

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Patty Pryor, Apt 102

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Donna Bakaitis, Room 224

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Carol Brown, Room 213

Transitions Healthcare Resident

90 Humbert Lane
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Mary Allison
Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
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Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezney
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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
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Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Mike Ryan
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Spowls
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.