

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 36
September 5, 2025

- Dartball – September 9, 7pm @ Washington Alliance
 - Elders Meeting – September 10, 5:30pm
 - Board Meeting – September 10, 7pm
 - Choir Practice – September 11, 6:30pm
- Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



September 7
9am

Safe Conduct Orientation - all children and youth who participate in any Fairhill Manor program for the 2025-2026 year must attend the Orientation on **Sunday, September 7 at 9am**. We will meet in the Small Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be provided. Parents and/or guardians are required to attend this orientation along with the young people they will bring to church activities. All adults working with children and those who hold church offices are strongly encouraged to attend.



Annual Church Picnic
September 7
1:03pm

Washington Park Kiwanis Pavilion

Memorial Brick Garden

FMCC is taking orders for new bricks for the **Memorial Brick Garden**. All paid orders are due by September 7. New bricks will be dedicated on All Saints Sunday, November 2. Order forms are on the credenza in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact the Church Office.



September 28
4pm
Front Lawn



Gift cards available for purchase this week:

- Bath & Body Works (1)
- Dick's Sporting Goods (1)
- Eat'n Park (2)
- Jimmy John's (1)
- Old Navy (2)
- Olive Garden (2)
- Outback (1)
- Panera (2)
- Texas Roadhouse (4)

Each gift card has \$25 loaded on them. 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 ☺.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Jackie Nelson, Bread
Carol Daniels, Cup

September 7, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Chuck Riggle

Leader: The Lord our God is with us.

People: Stop and listen; turn and see!

Leader: The Lord our God is with us.

People: This place is holy ground.

Leader: The Lord our God is with us.

People: The God of our ancestors is here.

Opening Hymn

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God. One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly chose you now.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of our grandparents, and for all those who have come before us. You have blessed us with their wisdom and guidance. We are grateful for the grandparents who paved the roads that have led us here – to this place and to this faith. We thank you for grandparents who have helped us and made us strong, and for grandparents who loved us no matter what.

Bless the grandparents among us with health, strength, and joy in the days they live. May they feel the tenderness and encouragement of your presence, and may their lives continue to bear fruit as the years go by. May they continue to grow in wisdom, and may they find peace and rest. May they find healing and comfort in the midst of every sickness and pain, and may they see your love in the love of their children and grandchildren.

We give thanks that you have created each one of us in your image. Grant us the ability to rediscover ourselves even now and to recognize that, at every age, we are your children. Give us renewed energy to reach out and form connections, even across generations that seem to live in different worlds and speak different languages. May the Holy Spirit serve as our interpreter as we listen and learn from each other, patiently and with kindness. May each person’s experiences and gifts be valued and enjoyed.

Help each person who is a grandparent today to know that they are valued and cherished, and that their stories, their prayers, and their witness to your goodness continue to impact those around them. Give them inviting and meaningful ways to share your faithful love with their children and grandchildren.

Help those of us who are grandparents to remember the energy and vigor we had as young people, anxious to make our own way in the world, excited to discover what lay ahead. Give us the curiosity to learn along with our grandchildren, to see life through their eyes – not only through our eyes of judgment and fear.

Grant those of us who are children and grandchildren the patience and longing to hear from those who want to share what they have learned through all of the joys and struggles of life. Help us to find common ground with our elders and to witness their lives as they age. Help us to make the time to be present. Give us a heart that is thankful for all that we have received from those who have walked this journey before us.

Bless those we have named aloud this morning. We remember those whose names are on our prayer list and thank you for your activity in their lives wherever they may be. We lift to you now these dear ones who need your loving care...

Breathe into our hearts the consolation that we do leave traces of faith among those who are coming along after us. Even as we feel the limits of this life, assure us that beyond it lies your warm embrace in a life that never ends. We ask this through your Son, Jesus the Christ, who teaches 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:

“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.

Hymn

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord!”

Sam Johnson, organist

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after they will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 40

Rita Puskarich

Anthem

“Peace Be Unto This Congregation,” by Jay Althouse”

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

Good morning. We have some special guests today. You have come with your grandparents. That is because today is Grandparent’s Day and, much like Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, we take a moment to give thanks for the blessing of grandparents in our lives, and to be sure grandparents are a blessing. Could you tell me one thing you love about your grandparents? Grandparents could you tell me one thing you love about being a grandparent?

I am sure you know that grandparents are a special blessing. Let me share some quotes about grandparents that I have found.

1. “If nothing is going well, call your grandmother.”
2. “Something magical happens when parents turn into grandparents.”

3. "Being a grandparent means you can be as silly as you want to be."
4. "Grandparents are there to help the child get into mischief they haven't thought of yet."
5. "A grandparent is a little bit parent, a little bit teacher, and a little bit best friend."
6. "Everyone needs to have access both to grandparents and grandchildren in order to be a full human being." — Margaret Mead

This last one bothered me a bit when I first read it, because I did not have grandparents growing up and when I see how much joy my kids get from their grandparents I feel like I missed out a bit, but that is one of the advantages of the church.

You see not everyone has kids and not everyone has parents or grandparents passed a certain age, but in church we get to share them a bit. By that I mean I remember some nice men and women when I was kid at my church who were like kind grandparents to the kids at church, and some people who did not have children of their own age to see the joy and blessing you are when they come here. The church is a family and we have many generations. The older generations get to share their wisdom and experience, while the younger share the joy and enthusiasm, just like the choir share their singing, and the ministers their speaking.

I hope you will cherish your grandparents and if you have one who you don't see as much I hope you will call, visit, or write them a letter to let them know that you are thinking of them, That will be a great blessing to them.

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.

Second Scripture Reading **Acts 16:16-34** Rev. Stillwell

Hymn *"Amazing Grace!"* Sam Johnson, organist
Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Hymn *"Softly and Tenderly"* Jody Mullis, pianist
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; patient and loving, he's
waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, come home, ye who are
weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling—calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Hymn *"I Would Be True"* Sam Johnson, organist
I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be pure, for there are
those who care; I would be strong, for there is much to suffer; I would be brave,
for there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

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.

Hymn

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Sam Johnson, organist

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God.

Communion Hymn

“Fill My Cup, Lord”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Like the woman at the well I was seeking for things that could not satisfy; and then I heard my Savior speaking: “Draw from my well that never shall run dry.” Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord! Come and quench this thirsting of my soul; Bread of Heaven, feed me ‘til I want no more—fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

Once, I was asked to write something for a journal that the TCU religion Department was compiling about something I believed. I wrote that I believed in music. Of course I don't simply mean that I believe music exists, rather I believe that the existence of music is the greatest gift we have in this world. While the stomach needs food, and the lungs need air, the heart and soul need music above all else. I believe that the reason that the cage bird sings is because that is the only time when it is free, and when I sing, my spirit is free to soar to places that my body can never know. I believe that when I listen to music, I am transported and moved in no other way, and when I play music I feel a holy communion, but the true gift of music is that I don't have to be gifted in music to receive music's gift.

A person who cannot paint can appreciate a masterpiece, and someone with no athletic skill can marvel at an athlete, but even someone who sings like I do can not only like music but actually and actively participate in it. This I have believed from a very young age when I learned to play my Walk-man. I sang along to every note of every cassette I owned blissfully unaware that when I sang I sang loudly, and I sang poorly. It didn't matter. The ability to sing united me with the song, its structure and movement, its meaning and feeling. It lifted my spirit and exercised my soul.

Even more amazing is the experience of experiencing music together. At a U2 concert surrounded by 60,000 people, most of whom I imagine sing as poorly as I do, we all united in singing the words of the 40th Psalm. “I will sing, sing a new song,” we sang, and together we sounded much better than we ever would have sounded alone. The transcendence of that moment was a striking lesson, and ever since then music has been my daily devotional.

I believe in music to inspire and uplift, to sooth and comfort, to release and build emotion. But more than anything, I believe music is the greatest gift because it is the most enduring gift. As a minister I have often gone into nursing homes to see people who have lived long lives full of loved ones and events that they no longer remember. I have set with people who cannot remember my name or why I am there, but sing or play a few notes of an old cherished song, and they remember. I won't say it comes back to them because it never left them, and in that way I believe that music is our surest sign of God's steadfast presence in this world.

I believe . . . I know, that when the day comes, and I am in their place whatever else I have lost, music will still be with me. My hope is that anyone who visits me in the nursing home will know the first line to “Where the Streets Have No Name.” I believe that I will be able to take it from there.

I bet you could all say the same just with the song titles changed, and one of the greatest gifts of the church is that we can come together and lift our voices and whatever we sound like alone, together we are a pleasing sound to God's ear. That is what I like to be in communion together. Each of our strengths coming together to help overcome our weaknesses. As we share in this meal let us remember how much better we are together than we are apart, and let us in our voices together to sing our communion hymn.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Jackie Nelson

Holy God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we gather at this sacred altar to remember Your amazing love, down through the centuries, today, continuing on till Jesus comes at last and forever more! We thank you for the Holy Bible and especially the Book of Acts which shows the power of the Holy Spirit in the early Christians' lives, their struggles, their strength, their unwavering faith under persecution, even to death. By faith we know when we accept Jesus, the Holy spirit is with us as with them. What do we fear? With this bread and wine we remember and commit to continue as devoted disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.. Holy Spirit, be with us now as we partake. In the holy name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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

All are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward down the center aisle, as you are able, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Place your offering in the trays as you return to your seats by the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward, the meal will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers & individual servings are available in the Narthex.

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Stillwell

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

"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

May the God whose hands have made us, whose grace has saved us, and whose Son walks with us, lead us forward to sing a new song with the world, in the name of the Creator, the Savior, and the Comforter. Amen.



Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to the family of Linda Martin who passed away on Sunday, August 31. 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 McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

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

Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezny
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Ruth Cox
Dave Davis
Sue Donaldson
Craig Dotson
Benjamin Dube
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Barb Graff
Doris Haniford
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Alberta Haught

Southminster Residents

880 S Main St
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Bo & Patty Pryor, Apt 102
Doris Sorice, Apt 336
Chuck Wiseman, Apt 214

Aryn Hess
Danni Iams
Ed Jackman
Kari Johnson
Brandon Keenan
Von Lacock
Marylee Lawrence
David Leonard
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Dick Pilgun
Nyka Rash
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Dee Ryan
Mike Ryan

Premier Residents

36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd
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Carol Brown, Rm 213

John Samida
Gene Sheller
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Jan Stillwell
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden
Ginger Throckmorton
Candy Wasalasky
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.