

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 17 Issue 10**  
**March 6, 2026**

- Pastor's Cabinet Meeting – March 9, 5:30pm
- Elders Meeting – March 11, 5:30pm
- Board Meeting – March 11, 7pm
- Choir Practice – March 12, 6:30pm

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



Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday night.



Order forms for **Easter Flowers** can be found in the Narthex, bulletin and Manor Minutes. You can order tulips, hyacinths, mums, or Easter lilies in memory of or in honor of someone. All flowers are \$11 each. Orders with payment are due by March 15. Please turn in orders to Karen's mailbox (bottom right mail slot).



**April 11**  
**1pm**

**There is a list of items needed for the tea.**  
**Sign up in the Narthex.**



**RaiseRight™**

Pastor Gena has a few **gift cards** from RaiseRight available now. She has \$25 gift cards to:

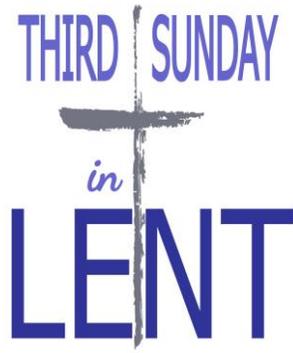
- **Applebee's**
- **Bath & Body Works**
- **Jimmy John's**
- **Old Navy/Athleta/Banana Republic/Gap**
- **Outback**
- **Red Robin**

Each gift card is \$25. If you would like one or more gift cards on Sunday, let Pastor Gena know.

If you would like to order gift cards to **Texas Roadhouse** for the March 29 Literacy Council fundraiser, you can sign up in the Narthex. Orders are due by **March 15<sup>th</sup>** so the physical cards can be received in time for the fundraiser.



- March 15 – Easter Flower orders due
- March 18 – Scam Alert Seminar, 2pm  
Large Fellowship Hall
- March 21 – Chuck Wiseman Memorial,  
11am
- March 27 – Drive-Thru Fish Fry
- March 29 – Palm Sunday
- March 29 – Texas Roadhouse fundraiser  
for the Literacy Council



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Sheila Harris, Bread  
Chuck Riggle, Cup

March 8, 2026 – 10:15am

**Prelude**

Sam Johnson, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Chuck Riggle

Leader: We are called to go to places that we don't know.

**People: We look to the hills for our strength.**

Leader: Our strength is in God, who always goes with us.

**People: We walk in faith.**

*All: Come, let us worship the God who calls us and who walks beside us throughout the journey.*

**Opening Hymn**

*"He Is Exalted"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him. He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name! He is the Lord; forever his truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name. He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

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

Rev. Stillwell

Loving God, as we gather for worship today, we are tired, weary, and seeking solace. Refresh us with your Holy Spirit, the living water, so we may hear your word and pledge ourselves to serve you.

O God, you have taught us not only to pray for ourselves but for others and for the world. Hear us now as we lift up our prayers.

We pray for peace . . . Inspire us to be peacemakers, as Christ taught us.

We pray for those in authority . . . Guide them through your Holy Spirit that they may discern your will for all people in their decisions.

We pray for those who are oppressed . . . Break the chains of bondage and set them free.

We pray for the lost . . . Direct them by the Holy Spirit to a place of rest and security.

We pray for the church . . . Empower us who claim to follow you that we will be your presence wherever we go.

Assure us, O Lord, that our prayers are not in vain. Strengthen us to abide in faith, and give us endurance until we witness the coming of your kingdom. As we walk the uncertain paths before us, anoint us with gladness and bless thou our vision. Show us the way through terror and shadow. Fill us with your light, that we may more fully be the body of Christ, bringing light to an aching, broken world. Amen

*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 95**

Rita Puskarich

**Anthem**

“Deep Waters,” by Pepper Chopin

Choir

**Children’s Message**

Pastor Gena

Today we are talking about ways we can talk with God, listen to God, and just be with God. We call this prayer.

There are many ways to pray and many types of prayer. That’s good news because we are all different, and we can try different ways of praying until we find one that works for us.

Sometimes when we pray, we talk out loud. Other times we just think our prayers. And sometimes we just sit in silence. We can pray together like we do here in worship, or we can pray by ourselves. We can make up our own prayers, or we can say a prayer that has already been written for us, like the Lord’s Prayer that we say together every week. We can pray lying down in our bed or at a table before a meal. We can pray with our eyes shut and our hands folded, or we can pray with our eyes open, giving thanks for all that we see around us. There are so many ways to talk with God, to listen to God, and to just be with God.

Some people find it helpful to use their bodies when they pray. Some people kneel down or even prostrate themselves when they pray. Some people like to pray while they are walking.

We can also pray while we are moving in one place. Let’s stand up and try a “moving prayer.”

*Take 3 deep breaths.*

God, you are above (*reach toward the sky*).

God, you are below (*touch your toes*).

God, you are inside (*bring your hands to your heart*).

God, you are all around (*make big arm circles*).

I worship you (*reach toward the sky*).

And I give my life to you (*touch your toes*).

I love you (*bring your hands to your heart*).

With all that I am (*make big arm circles*).

*Take 3 deep breaths.*

Dear God, thank you for listening to us. Thank you for hearing our prayers. Please teach us to listen to you and to love just being with you. Amen.

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 6:9-13**

Rev. Stillwell

## Sermon

## “Too Busy Not To Pray”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

I am in the middle of a really busy period in my life. So many things are pulling me in so many directions, that I often do not know which way I am going, and I often feel like I am not able to give my best to any one thing. It is said that if you want something done ask a busy person, but please do not ask me. I say this not to elicit sympathy, because I know that I am not alone, but to illustrate my need for rest, which rarely is able to come in large doses. I understand that it can be hard to find sabbath time.

The Sabbath is a command from God to rest and is the first such command given to God’s people even before the ten commandments and the rest of the law existed. It is given for our benefit, but it can just become another thing on the list to do. When we look at the law it often seems to be one burdensome requirement after another. It is like a cosmic to do list, and often we celebrate Jesus as freeing us from the yoke of the law, but the sabbath was not meant to be a burden to us, rather it was meant free us from our burdens.

The Sabbath commemorates the seventh day of creation after God had spent six periods of time making the heavens and the earth and all the creatures in them and, to honor this, God commands the people to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy, and as to the rest of the law, Christ came to remove the yoke of the law and replace it with his yoke when he said, “my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” So, on the one hand, we have a God who places commands and burdens upon the people, and, on the other hand, a son of God who asks for the burdens to be given to him. They are seemingly contradictory and yet they are two sides of the same coin, for what God gave as a blessing human beings turned into a burden so Christ came not to replace the law, but to fulfill it, and try another way to get people to seek God.

The command for us to rest was given there at the beginning of time, but at Mt. Sinai it is written down for preservation’s sake, and expanded. In addition to commanding every Jewish person to rest, God also commands that “your male or female slaves, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns” must observe the Sabbath as well. Later, the book of Leviticus further explains God’s law and includes the year of Jubilee, in which every 50 years there was to be a period of rest for the land.

The Sabbath is only one of the ten commandments, only one law among the more than 600 laws that make up the covenant between God and the Israelites, but is certainly one of the most important given to humankind. It also happens to be my favorite commandment of all, since all the other ones require that I do something. Honor this or that, sacrifice this or these, give away ten percent of everything. This commandment requires me to do nothing. In fact, it commands me to do nothing. I could get used to that.

I would like to get used to that, but I actually find it a hard command to follow. The other commandments are actually easier to keep. I haven’t bowed down to any idols recently, nor do I feel tempted to murder anyone, but sometimes I find that rest can be a hard thing to do. I know that I am not alone. It is hard for us to find time to rest, to find time to do nothing, because we are so full of all the things that we have to do on a daily basis.

Sometimes we have so much work to do just to make ends meet that Sabbath is not an option. Other times we make work for ourselves. We want to get ahead, get that promotion, earn that raise, and taking time off is counterproductive. Too often who we are is based on our productivity and resting is just seen as lazy.

The irony is that we are given this law all in order to make us free. For humans have a tendency to enslave themselves. We are slaves to the calendar, slaves to the phone or date book. We are slaves to our schedules and our work. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt where they were forced to work without rest, but we often work without ceasing freely and willingly. Even when we are away from our job it is easy to fill our day with so much to do so that it is not truly restful.

Because of all this there are millions of people throughout the world who have never murdered or committed adultery, people who have asked forgiveness for the times that they have coveted or not honored their parents or for using the Lord's name in vain, but have not kept the Sabbath, and they don't even realize that they are breaking a commandment. That is why keeping the Sabbath is, in many ways, the hardest commandment to follow.

We don't like being told what to do. Yet God did not give us the Sabbath to burden us, but to free us. The Sabbath frees us from working ourselves to death. It frees us from working so hard to make a living that we don't have a life. It frees us from compulsion and stress, from poor health and imbalanced lives. It forces us to take some time off, and calls that time sacred in order to protect itself from those who would use it for the gods of commerce and productivity. Above all, it gives us time to reconnect with God, because the worst thing about being so busy is that we focus on ourselves and forget God, and, when we forget God things go poorly for ourselves.

The Sabbath does not have to be on a Sunday, in fact, Jews celebrate it on Saturday which had been traditionally seen as the seventh day. Christians for a long time have chosen Sunday as their day. The Sabbath that you observe can be any day of the week and with work schedules being different it may be necessary for you to choose another day, but one thing that should be associated with the Sabbath is time to honor God. It is the one thing that you should accomplish on that day, and the best way to do this is to attend church.

The best argument for church isn't born out of guilt, shame, or the threat of damnation. Instead, the best way to promote church is to tell people what it can do for them. Even though the Sabbath is for rest and rest can be found outside the church, and although it is true that the Sabbath has been given as a time to reconnect with God and we can reconnect with God outside of the church, the Sabbath offers each person an opportunity to give every aspect of their life over to God, and the church is the place where we can best find rest for our souls.

Here we are reminded of Jesus' teachings in words and in actions. Here we hear the songs and the silence. Here we see one another and remember how we have helped one another and forgiven one another and been helped and forgiven by one another, and here we pray to the one who said:

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.  
<sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Our scripture for today is concerning the Lord's Prayer, and all I have done is talk about the sabbath. Why is that? Well, when Jesus needed rest he would take it, but he didn't just sleep, he also prayed. Sometimes, as in the Garden of Gethsemane he prayed while his disciples slept. Praying, you see, is sabbath. This is particularly important to me because I do not always have time for rest or a nap, but I always have time to pray.

In fact, we all do, though we often think we do not. Bill Hybels wrote a book which I consider to have a perfect title. It is called "Too Busy Not to Pray", and that title says it all and applies to everyone. We all have far too much to do to survive in this world not to pray. He writes;

What kind of Kingdom gains do you suppose would be made if each of us made pressing into God through prayer, a non-negotiable part of our everyday experience? I believe hearts would soften, habits would shift, faith would expand, love for the poor would increase, positive, purposeful legacies would be built, and a ravenous hunger would rumble through us all to get usable and to get used in significant ways by God.

I encourage you to read the book. In it he discusses the nature of prayer and different prayer methods, but if you are too busy to read "Too Busy Not to Pray", let me suggest this. Just pray the Lord's Prayer. It's

all there. All you need to do is acknowledge God, praise God, ask for help and for your needs, remember the needs of others, repent of your sins, and ask how God can use you. I find that when my mind is running with all that I need to do that by body has trouble finding sleep, saying the Lord's Prayer will bring rest to me in body, mind, and soul.

Of course we can pray anywhere at any time, but sometimes it is hard to find that time or that place when you can clear your mind and open your soul. Let's let people know they can do it best here. When you invite someone to come to church don't tell them to come to church because they have to, ask them to come because they need to. Don't make it seem as something they need to do for you but for themselves. Don't ask them to do it to help the church. Invite them to let the church help them if in no other way then giving them time to rest, clear their minds, and fill their souls

Help them do themselves a favor by taking time to relax, slow down. The Sabbath is God's holy time. A time to set aside to contemplate and worship the sacred, to recognize that all time is a gift from God, but if that is a hard concept for someone who has little or no connection with God to understand, so just say to your friend, "You need a break, and I know where you can rest your body, your mind, and even your soul." You are too busy not to pray, and so are the rest of God's children. Let's let people know that this is the best place of all to take that break.

### **Call to Offering**

Serena Dube

God's mercies are new every day. As we remember what God has done, is doing, and will do, let us return our gifts and talents back to God through the offering of our lives.

### **\*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**

Pastor Gena

O God, our Provider, we thank you for your abundant generosity, for your provision of our daily bread. May these gifts we offer be used in such a way that your kingdom becomes more visible among us – a kingdom of love, goodness, forgiveness and grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Gena

Today is International Women's Day. This is a day of great celebration, for to lift up and support women is a great joy. To lift up and support women, especially those who are invisible and undervalued is a great responsibility for us all.

Many women in the Bible go uncounted and unnamed. Many are used and abused. We remember them all as we come to this Table with a Savior who sees each of us, a Lord who did ministry alongside women, appeared as resurrected first to women, learned from as well as taught women, was supported by women, and often brought women into the center of the circle. We remember the many women of faith who have been a part of this congregation. Some who served at this Table, others who taught us the faith, others who modeled for us what it meant to serve in Christ's name.

Did you know that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was one of the first denominations to ordain women when they ordained Clara Celestia Hale Babcock in 1888? Did you know that we made history again in 2017 when we elected Rev. Teresa Hord Owens as our General Minister and President, making her the first black woman to lead a mainline denomination as its chief executive.

In celebration and remembrance of all women of faith, we are going to sing a song called “God of the Women” together for our Communion hymn. The words of this hymn were written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and are set to the tune of “Be Thou My Vision.” Let’s look at the words for a moment...

As Carolyn notes, “this hymn celebrates women in ministry and mentions specific women in the Bible and faithful women of today... The second verse's reference to ‘Way’ is one of the earliest descriptions of Christians (Acts 9:2). ‘Mary, Joanna, Susanna and more’ comes from the story in Luke 8:1-3, a story of women who supported Jesus with their financial resources. ‘Learning to pray’ is a reminder that Jesus taught women as well as men, going against some customs of his day. The third verse recalls the painful history for women of faith. ‘Left out of stories’ refers to the way in which biblical writers often ignore women... The reference to the smiling at a girl's birth is a positive one, yet too few of the biblical stories celebrate girls' arrivals or list many women in genealogies. The fourth verse begins with the Easter story where women were the first witnesses to the resurrection. Acts 1:14 tells us that women joined the other followers before Pentecost and also were empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-21). The fifth verse refers to Phoebe. Paul's personal greetings in his Letter to the Romans has this statement: "I have good things to say about Phoebe, who is a leader in the church... she has proved to be a respected leader for many others, including me'..." (Excerpted from [www.carolynshymns.com/god\\_of\\_the\\_women](http://www.carolynshymns.com/god_of_the_women)).

### **Communion Hymn**

*“God of the Women”*  
(insert – to the tune of “Be Thou My Vision”)

Sam Johnson, organist

God of the women who answered your call, trusting your promises, giving their all,  
women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth — give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way, giving their resources, learning to pray,  
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more — may we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test, left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,  
quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" — in Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb, prayed with the others in that upper room,  
then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day — may we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all, may we be joyful in answering your call.  
give us the strength of your Spirit so near that we may share in your ministry here.

Tune: Traditional Irish melody ("Be Thou My Vision") Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000).  
Email: [carolynshymns@gmail.com](mailto:carolynshymns@gmail.com) New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com)

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

Sheila Harris

Our most gracious and heavenly Father, we come to Your table with grateful hearts, broken for our sins yet hopeful in Your mercy. Thank You for Your body, broken for us, and Your blood, poured out for our salvation. As we take this bread and cup, we remember Your sacrifice, the love that held You on the cross, and the victory of Your resurrection. In Jesus' name 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

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**

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Sam Johnson, organist

[Refrain:]

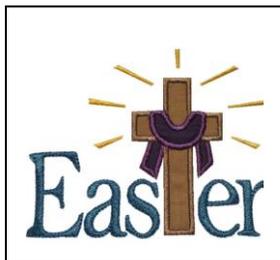
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart,  
I will pray. Yes, every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart,  
I will pray.

Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
All around me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine. [Refrain]

**Benediction**

Rev. Stillwell

Go now in the sure knowledge that God goes with you every step of your journey. Go to be a blessing to everyone you meet. Go, surrounded by the steadfast and strengthening love of God. Go in faith to love and to serve God’s people wherever you go. Amen.



Please fill out this order form and return to the Church Office with **payment** by March 15. Indicate the number of flowers you would like. Make checks payable to “**Fairhill Manor**” and indicate “Easter Flowers” in the memo.

# \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips (6” pot) @ \$11/each

# \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths (3 bloom) @ \$11/each

# \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily @ \$11/each

# \_\_\_\_\_ Mum (assorted colors) @ \$11/each

**Orders with payment are due by March 15, 2026.**

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

---

In Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

---



**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**

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

**Southmont Resident**

835 S Main Street  
Washington PA 15301

Doris Sorice, Room 554

**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

**Evergreen Personal Care**

336 N Main Street  
Washington PA 15301

Donna Bakaitis, Room 224

Mary Allison  
Barb Bailey  
Terry Bailey  
Donna Bakaitis  
Todd Barnhart  
Vanessa & John Berezney  
Jeff Caldwell  
Bryan Carter  
Macy Caster  
Wanda Chicone  
Angel Corbett  
Ruth Cox  
Carol Davis  
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  
Carmen Oliverio  
Peggy Oliverio  
Michelle Oneal  
Sandy Petry  
Dick Pilgun  
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

**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.