

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 20
May 15, 2026

- Tri-County Men's Dinner - May 21
 - No choir practice – May 21
- Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar

Tri-County Men's Dinner

May 21, 2026
\$15/per person
5:30pm Registration
6pm Dinner
7pm Entertainment by Sam Johnson
Sign-up sheet in Narthex
RSVP by May 17



June 5, 8am-5pm
June 6, 8am-2pm
Set Up dates: June 2 & 4, 9am-1pm
June 3, 1pm-5pm



Fairhill Manor will be celebrating **Graduate Sunday** on **June 7**. If you are graduating or you have a family member who is, please contact the Church Office to let us know. You can call the office (724) 225-8610 or send an e-mail to fairhillmanor@yahoo.com with the name of the graduate, school they are graduating from and their relationship to Fairhill member. Information is needed by **June 1**.



- May 24 – Pentecost Sunday & Baptism
- May 26 – Bethany Class Luncheon, noon at Eat'n Park
- June 5 & 6 – Rummage Sale
- June 7 – Graduate Sunday
- June 8 – Vitalant Mobile Blood Drive
The Blood Mobile will be set up in the FMCC parking lot.
- June 26 – Wild Things Game

FMCC is going to the Washington Wild Things game on **Friday, June 26!** This year we will have 25 tickets for the Community Room. Tickets are \$10 each. Sign-up in the Narthex or call the Church Office (724) 225-8610



Our **Administrative Assistant**, Karen Thomas, will be on vacation June 18 – July 5. There will not be an edition of the Manor Minutes published for June 26 & July 2.



Pentecost Sunday is May 24

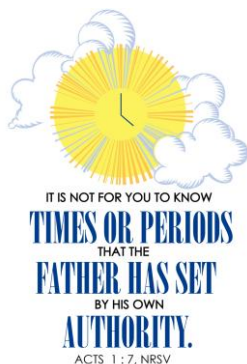
- Baptism
- Sunday School Teacher & CW&W Volunteer Recognition
- Wear **RED**

The last day for kid's Sunday School is May 31.
The last day for the BYKOTA class is June 14.

thanks!

A big thank you to the Literacy Council of Southwestern PA for bringing together EQT volunteers to weed and mulch the Memorial Garden. This year, the Qrew (Q crew) is dedicating over 30,000 volunteer hours to support the communities where they live and work. EQT also awarded FMCC, through the Literacy Council, a grant to air condition the Large Fellowship Hall. Thank you, Literacy Council and EQT!





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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Gene Sheller, Bread
Connie Sheller, Cup

May 17, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Isaac Mayen

Leader: The Alpha and Omega says, “Come.”

People: Let everyone who hears come into God’s presence.

Leader: The tree of life says, “Come.”

People: Let those who seek eternal life come to the root and the descendent of David, our bright morning star.

Leader: The true vine says, “Come.”

People: Let everyone who is thirsty come to the heavenly banquet and drink from the wine of our salvation.

All: Come! Let us worship God together.

Opening Hymn

“Gather Us In”

Sam Johnson, organist

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.

See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame.

Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

Lord Jesus, it seems like it would be so much easier if you were still right here with us, visible to our eyes, audible to our ears. Often we are stuck looking longingly at the sky or sitting on our hands as we await your return. Thank you for the promise of the Holy Spirit, given to us so that we might be about your work in the meantime, sharing your teachings and way of being, acting in love and seeing you in everyone we meet.

Forgive us when we misunderstand you, expecting you to set up nations for us, to rule from a wealthy palace, to crush others under your feet, conquering with force and violence. Give us the gift of your Holy Spirit again, that we might hear about the kingdom of God once more and perhaps catch your vision of love and peace more fully this time.

We are grateful that you do not call us to do your work all on our own. You tell us to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. Give us the patience to wait when it’s not time yet, give us the courage to go when it’s time to act. Open us to see the opportunities for ministry that are in front of us, using our gifts to meet a need in our midst. Help us to bear witness to your presence, your attention and acceptance, your comfort and repair.

Giving and receiving have become so complicated, Lord Jesus. How do we know when to ask for help? Are we worthy of others' time or skill or money? How do we know when to give? What if it's a scam, or our gifts are used for ill purposes? Did you face these dilemmas? Guide us, we pray, through the complications. Facilitate our receiving and our giving that we may honor each other and build solid relationships with each other, experiencing the rhythm of giving and receiving over time, sharing our advantages to build each other up.

We give thanks with those among us who are celebrating today. And we lift our prayers with those who need health and hope and comfort. Please be with each person we have named aloud this morning, each person on our prayer list, and those we name to you now... Show us how to love, we pray. Gathering our voices as one, we pray as you taught 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:

"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

Acts 1:1-11

Kevin Puskarich

Anthem

"Brother James's Air," arranged by Gordon Jacob

Choir

Children's Message

Rev. Stillwell

I enjoy taking walks in the neighborhood where I live. Sometimes on my walk, I will find a coin in the street. If it is a penny, I might not even bother to stop to pick it up. After all, a penny isn't worth much. If I find some other coin that is worth more than a penny, I will probably stop, pick it up and put it in my pocket. If I am lucky enough to find a dollar, do you think I would stop and pick it up? You know I would!

You and I sometimes look at other people and form an opinion about them by how much money they have. If there is a child in your class at school whose parents have a lot of money, is that child treated better than others in the class? If there is someone who doesn't have much and can't afford to wear nice clothes, are they treated the same as those who have a lot of money? When we see a homeless person on the street, do we look at that person the same way we look at someone who lives in a big, fancy house?

One day, a man who was wealthy asked Jesus how he could go to Heaven and Jesus told him, "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." He was sad at this and went away. Another time Jesus and his disciples saw a poor widow put a very small amount of money into the offering box of the temple. When Jesus saw her, he called his disciples together and said, "This poor widow has given more than all the others have given. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has."

When we give our offerings of money or time or talent to God, God doesn't compare our offerings to those of other people. Some of us have more time or more money than others to begin with. God looks at what we have to start with, and God looks at the attitude we have about giving. When we give with a generous and thankful heart, God is pleased with us and happy. I am glad that God doesn't judge us by how much money we have, aren't you?

Today I am going to give each of you a penny. That penny is to serve as a reminder to you that in Jesus' eyes, you are just as important as someone with a million dollars. I hope it will also serve as a reminder to you that we should look at others in the same way that Jesus looks at us.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 10:17-31

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Something Money Can’t Buy”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

There are few things in this world that interest everybody. Many people like politics and sports, but many do not, and may God help the person who tries to start a conversation on these things and finds themselves on the opposite side. We all eat food and watch TV, but again it doesn't mean we all eat or watch the same thing. I once met someone who said they didn't like music and I didn't know what to say. "What kind of music don't you like?" I would ask, and they said, "None of it. It just doesn't interest me." What do you say to that? I think music is the greatest gift God has given us, but to each to their own I suppose.

So, we are all different with different interests but we are all interested in money. That is one thing that gets everyone's attention. Some keep track of the stock reports and watch financial shows to know how to invest, while others are interested in sports precisely as a way to make money, but money is something we all like and would like more of in our life. It makes sense because money is something that we need. At the same time, it is interesting to me how much importance we prescribe to something that has no inherent value.

After all, when you think about it the paper it's printed on isn't worth anything by itself. There was a time you could take it to the bank and get gold or silver for it, but even that has no real worth. Now what do I mean by real worth? Ask yourself if you were stranded on a desert island what ten things would you want the most. We could all make this list and it would probably be different, but one thing I am certain of is no one would want money. What would you do with dollars and cents in a place where money made no sense?

Even in our own society money has no real value. If the government declared that the leaves of the trees were money so there would be enough for everybody, money would be worthless. It has worth only if there is not enough for everybody. It has worth only because the government declares that it has worth.

The value of money, like stocks and bonds, goes up and down for reasons not even the experts can explain and at moments nobody can predict, so you can be a millionaire one moment and a pauper the next without lifting a finger. Great fortunes can be made and lost completely on paper. There are people who use up their entire lives making money so they can enjoy the lives they have entirely used up which brings us to today's story of a rich man who wants to inherit eternal life.

Today's gospel lesson is another of many Scripture texts about wealth and possessions. A rich young man accosts Jesus and questions him. Jesus immediately picks up on his flattery, and directs his attention towards God's goodness. Then the man starts talking about himself, evidently hoping for Jesus' approval. "What a wonderful, moral character I've been, kept all the commandments and so on (the implication being: "I must therefore, be saved— in tight with God). Jesus replies:

You lack one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. The man was shocked at Jesus' words, and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Jesus saw that this rich man did not possess wealth; his wealth possessed him. It seems that one can become addicted to almost anything, even to money. Money so easily gets hold of us, captures us, binds us, and enslaves us. This is why Jesus said money can become the god, Mammon, and we can easily worship the gift and forget about the Giver. Instead of keeping the First Commandment in which God

says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," we are tempted and seduced to fear, love, and trust money above all things, but we are not what we own rather we are what owns us.

Martin Luther said, if you want to know who your God really is, just ask yourself what you love and trust most of all. Where do you find your security, your status, your feeling of freedom, your comfort, your peace of mind? From your financial cushion? Or from the eternal of God, who came to earth as Jesus the Christ, and died for you to prove that his love is total?

We're human, and therefore, we're tempted to trust the dollar that we can see, rather than the God we cannot, but it's a foolish choice. The rich young man would have had far more security in laying up treasures in heaven than on earth, in trusting in God's riches, generosity and mercy and power to save.

How do we lay up treasures in heaven? According to Jesus, by giving away earthly treasures to please him; by spending what we have on those who don't have; by sacrificing house or property or even family in order to receive back a hundred times more, even in this life, and in the age to come; eternal life.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that money is evil. God showered wealth on Abraham and Joseph and David and Solomon and many others as a blessing. Our generation and our country has also been blessed with great wealth, and it has enriched our lives immensely, but it has also impoverished our lives, spiritually and in other ways. It has led to the illusion that we don't need others because we have money. It has led to narcissism and greed and shallow, distrustful relationships. It has led to a callous and careless attitude toward the environment, and the fragmentation of community life.

North Americans who visit much poorer areas of the world are often amazed at the happiness and joy the poor people have there, and the rich family and community life they have. It seems that many who are last have become first, and the first last. This is a saying from Jesus that offended the ears of so many who would have heard it. As Christians today, we would like to think that the beliefs and practices of Jesus that proved to be the most challenging to his contemporaries have now become the well-worn path we walk in Christ's name, but I believe that many, if not most, of us still cringe when we are confronted with the challenge posed by this saying.

This is an extremely difficult calling for the rich man, because he has great wealth; of course, it is also unsettling for any of us who are comfortable today. Mark explains the inherent difficulty in the rich man accepting this calling as the reason for why the first will be last and the last will be first. By challenging the rich man to redistribute his wealth among the poor, Jesus critiques the systemic injustice that was commonplace in his society. But Jesus, like the prophets of the Hebrew Bible, did not predict doom in order to showcase skill at forecasting the future. The goal of such biblical rhetoric has always been to bring about change for all who have ears to hear.

If this were the test for entering the kingdom we would all fail, myself included. There is a reason we sing of the amazing grace of Jesus Christ so much, because we know that we need it so do not beat yourself up if you are unable to give up all for Christ. The worst part of this story isn't that the rich man was unable to give up all his wealth, but that his shame led him to walk away from Christ.

If perfection is required to follow Jesus none of his disciples would have been able to do so. So let us remember that we are not what we own. Money you give away has no hold over you. One of the best ways to become free of the power money has over you is to give it away. Give enough away that you are no longer bound by the money you have and can instead respond to God's will for you and your money. That's why Jesus tells the young man to sell all he has and give it away.

At the same time, I believe it is possible to have wealth and to serve God. Jesus depends upon some wealthy women to support him in his ministry, for instance. The difference comes from learning to use money without serving it. It's a matter of having possessions without being possessed by them. Money is only a tool; it is not our master.

This story makes me think of an interesting story that I came across recently, with this catchy title: “Jeff Bezos is hoping piles of money can buy never-ending life.” Jeff Bezos, of course, is the founder of Amazon, and one of the world’s richest people. He has more money than he will ever be able to spend. He has everything in this world that money can buy. He has even flown to space, but Jeff Bezos also knows what we all know: that he is eventually going to die. So, he is investing in a secret startup company that is researching anti-aging technologies.

According to this article, other famous billionaires are doing the same thing – investing in anti-aging research. The article says:

The fascination with anti-aging is an interesting one, perhaps because death is one of the few things that money hasn’t been able to overcome — at least, not yet.

Money can buy many things, but it cannot buy never-ending life. Not yet, and I hope, not ever. Eternal life remains out of reach for everyone, no matter how much money they might have. If Jeff Bezos can’t buy it, then neither can we, or anyone else.

The best way to use money to receive eternal life would be to give it away. Give it to those whose lives could be transformed and in doing so store up treasures in heaven. However, much wealth you have in this world, it can only help you in the next if you spend it now to help build community, strengthen relationships, and connect ourselves and others to God.

As long as we serve other gods – including the god of money – we cannot experience the grace of God which we all need. Some of you have heard it said before in other contexts, but it really fits in this one. It’s the simple saying about trust: Let go and let God. As long as we cling to our wealth, God cannot enter our lives. The kingdom of God cannot be purchased. No matter how much money we have, but it can be entered by everyone. All we have to do is take Jesus’ hand. And let him lead us.

This is why Jesus invites us to let go of that one thing that we are keeping a tight grip on, so that we can take the hand of Jesus, and be led into the kingdom of God. It’s what Jesus wants for us all. He wants to heal us. He wants to save us. From death, from evil, and from whatever it is that might be keeping us from opening our hearts fully to his love. What must we do to inherit eternal life? Take the hand of our Savior. And follow him. It is an invitation that Jesus makes to us all, with love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Call to Offering

Linda Reese

Gifted with the grace of God, and clothed with power from on high, let us now offer ourselves to the building of God’s kingdom.

***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

Bless these gifts, O Lord of all, that we might worship you with great joy, and serve your people with great love. In Christ’s name, amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

Texas songwriter, Guy Clark, famously sang that there are only two things in this world that money can’t buy and that’s true love and home-grown tomatoes, and to that list I would add eternal life. We cannot buy our way into Heaven. Even if we did give it all away our salvation is in God’s love for us that is so great he gave us Jesus Christ to show us the way.

Even if it were possible to live forever in this world would you want to when Christ promises an eternity in a much better place? Our obsession with or wealth is a symptom of attachment to this world, and it is good for all of us to let go of the things that keep our souls tethered.

But we all know that is easier said than done. We do not despise our life nor should we retreat from the world and wait for Christ to take us. Rather we are called to live in such a way that others may know Christ in our lives.

There was once one some prospectors who had looked for gold all of their life, and, on the way to a village they had wandered into a cave where they noticed a vein of gold. They chipped away at it until it was too dark to see, then they decided to put the dust in a bag and go to the town to rest for the night and go back the next day. They saw some people on their way into the town and spoke to them, but did not tell them what they had found.

They sat out early the next morning back to the cave where they had found the gold, and as they were chipping away at it, they heard a commotion outside. Many people from the town had followed them back to the cave for it seems that what they had discovered showed up in their faces even though they tried to keep it a secret.

If you spend your life searching for money you will not be truly happy even if you find it, for you will spend much of your time worrying that others will want it, and you will also find that it cannot buy happiness. But if you seek first the Kingdom of God you will find it, and you will not fear that it shows in your face, because the Kingdom is something that does not diminish the more it is shared.

That is why we come to this table. We come to receive the love and salvation that fills our hearts and to share it with each other, because this meal is a gift that cannot be bought. It is a gift that has been given.

Communion Hymn

“Seek Ye First”

Sam Johnson, organist

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Gene Sheller

Holy Father and Mother of us all, thank you for your son, our savior who saved us from our sins. Thank you for blessing us with the presence of the Holy Spirit who inspires us and guides us. At this feast we honor you and the Holy Spirit, and we remember and honor the sacrifice of Jesus, the Christ who endured so much to ensure that we can live eternally in heaven with you, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Please bless the bread and cup which represent Jesus’ body and blood and please bless us as together we take. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Words of Institution

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

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

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

Sam Johnson, organist


I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere

I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.







PUZZLE



A lasting promise


Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.



Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

“But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer: power



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

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

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

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

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

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.