

Manor Talk

**A Publication of
Fairhill Manor
Christian Church**

Rev. Chris Stillwell
Senior Minister

Rev. Gena Sheller
Associate Pastor

Karen Thomas
Administrative Assistant

Gene Sheller
Congregational Moderator

Brian Shaw
Financial Secretary

Jim Cope
Choir Director

Sam Johnson
Organist

Jody Mullis
Pianist

Wray Adams
Custodian

Stacy Thomas
Wedding Coordinator

351 Montgomery Avenue
Washington, PA 15301
724-225-8610

fairhillmanor@yahoo.com



DECEMBER

2024



In the middle of the night, when stark night was darkest, then you chose to come. God's resplendent first-born sent to make us one. The voices of doom protest: "All these words about justice, love and peace— All these naive words will buckle beneath the weight of a reality which is brutal and bitter, ever more bitter." It is true, Lord, it is midnight upon the earth, moonless night and starved of stars. But can we forget that You, the son of God chose to be born precisely at Midnight? —Dom Helder Camara

This year our Advent services will continue to kindle the flame of hope that Christ brings as usual, and we will bring hope to the community through our Drive-Thru Nativity, and our hope will reach its culmination on Christmas Eve with our annual candlelight service.

This year, however, we will also have a new service of hope and comfort. If, for you, Christmas brings along with the joy and majesty of the season the pain of a loved one lost or if Christmas brings with the fun of parties and celebrations a feeling that, after the last present is opened, something is still missing, or if Christmas brings along with its excitement stress and strain, then come to Fairhill Manor Christian Church on Wednesday, December 18 at 7pm for "Blue Christmas: A Service of Hope and Comfort."

This is a service that takes place near the winter solstice, which is the longest night of the year, in order to remind us that Jesus Christ came as a light in the darkness. This will be a simple, low-key service, with candle lighting, a sermon, communion, and a prayer that acknowledges whatever pain you are feeling amidst the celebration. Above all, however, it will give you a time to grieve your loss, lift your cares from your soul, and rest in God a while.

The world celebrates Christmas with happiness and fun, but the church celebrates it with hope. Hope is not as immediate as fun, because it is not fulfilled, but it yearns for something greater. That is why hope is the key theme of advent. We remember that even when Christ was born the world was not filled with happiness— the shepherds were still scared, the wise men still wandered; Herod still killed many in his fear. We remember, instead, that when Christ was born the world was filled with hope, and we live with that hope still. Real hope doesn't ebb and flow with our circumstances. It's a state of being, transcendent of any suffering, disappointment or unfulfilled expectations. That's a gift that keeps on giving so give yourself a gift this year - the gift of hope.

Rev. Chris



- 1 Cadence Shetler
- 3 Beverly Lane
Tammie Wallace
- 5 Ed Palfreyman
- 7 Chris Crowe
- 8 Von Lacock, Jr.
Linda Martin
- 10 Joshua Hatfield
- 11 Kristin Ramirez
- 12 Lauren Kunkle
- 13 Chuck Riggle
- 17 Lela Davidson
Rita Puskarich
- 18 Elizabeth Herrnberger
Ty Lacock
Owen Stillwell
- 19 Avery Allen
Linda Dallatore
- 20 Carol Daniels
- 21 Waylon Newman
- 26 Hollan Martinek
- 29 Lisa Shriver
- 31 Elinor Newman
Carmen Oliverio

Happy ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Zach & Laura Houston
- 6 Kirk & Debbie McDonough
- 8 Charles & Patty McConnell
- 28 Kevin & Sharel O'Connell
- 31 Justin & Courtney Gatten

Thank You

We hope that you felt "appreciated" for your generosity and commitment to Fairhill Manor at our Appreciation Dinner after worship on November 24. Our Stewardship/Finance Ministry members put in hours of washing "real" tableware before and after the dinner. We give thanks to Brian Shaw, Ruth Campbell, Gene and Connie Sheller, and Jerry Puskarich for their labor. We enjoyed each other's company at tables set for 10, complete with fall centerpieces and sample jars of honey. Thank you to all who helped set the tables, especially Rita and Kevin Puskarich. Our feast of stuffed chicken breast, green beans, pasta and rolls was served family-style by Becca Caldwell, Misty Caldwell and Jared Waligura. Thank you to Amy Caldwell and her family for catering this delicious meal, complete with brownie sundaes for dessert! They really put in extra time and effort to make every detail special. Thank you to Dan Baker for accompanying our dinner with lovely music and to Rev. Chris for coordinating a Fairhill Manor memorabilia display. It was lovely to reminisce as we also look forward to what God has planned for our church. You won't want to miss next year's Appreciation Dinner; mark Thanksgiving Sunday 2025 on your calendar now!

Spread the word to your friends, neighbors and family.

The **DRIVE-THRU** Nativity will be Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15 from 6-8pm.



5TH Sunday Funeral Dinner Fund

A 5th Sunday of the month offering for the **Funeral Dinner Fund** will be collected on December 29. Envelopes will be included in the bulletin or you can give on Givelify. Please give as you can.

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24
7pm



Blue
Christmas
Service
December 18
7pm

If you have any non-perishable food items you would like to donate to the **Community Circle Food Pantry**, you can continue to bring them in and place them on the table by the coffee station in the front entrance of the church. Rev. Chris will take them to the pantry at the beginning of each month. **Items needed most at this time are: Gravy (Jar or Packets), Canned Vegetables (specifically corn and green beans), Corn Bread Mix, Pie Crust, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing (boxed), Canned Pumpkin, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Cranberries (canned), Jello/Pudding Mixes, Evaporated Milk, Cake Mixes, Frosting.** If you or someone you know would like to volunteer or are in need of the Food Pantry's services, they distribute the food every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9-12. The Community Circle Food Pantry is located at **65 E Cherry Ave** in Washington, and they can be reached at 724-225-1540.




Altar flowers are a beautiful way to honor your loved ones: as a memorial for those departed, on a special occasion for those who are near and dear, or even "just because." If you would like to order altar flowers, contact Karen in the Church Office at (724) 225-8610. The cost is **\$25** for a vase arrangement. Flowers need to be ordered on the Monday of the week you would like them on the Altar. Order forms are also available in the Narthex.



Advent Season begins on Sunday, December 1. Our **Advent Devotional, Abide With Us**, is available on the table in the Narthex. Please take one per family.

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	No Dartball	Stewardship/ Finance Ministry 5:30pm Grief Support Group 6-8pm Small Hall NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	Grief Support Group 6-8pm Small Hall Dartball @ Bethlehem Lutheran	Elders via Zoom 5:30pm NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		Drive-Thru Nativity 6-8pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am Drive-Thru Nativity 6-8pm	NA 7pm	Dartball 7pm @ Home	NA 6:45pm Blue Christmas Service 7pm	Personnel Committee 3:30pm Library Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm	Bethany Class Christmas Party Small Fellowship Hall Noon	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Breakfast at the Manger 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	Christmas Eve Service 7pm		NA 7:30pm		Large Fellowship Hall Reserved Noon-6pm
29	30	31				
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		