

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 6
February 6, 2026

- Dartball – February 10 @ Home, 7pm
- Elders Meeting – February 11, 5:30pm via Zoom
- Choir Practice – February 12, 6:30pm

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

Ash Wednesday – February 18

The **Seven Symbols of Ash** will be set up to represent the meaning and symbols of Lent. You're welcome to visit each station in the sanctuary at your own pace, reflecting on the question it presents. When you've finished, Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena will share communion and a blessing. You can come anytime between Noon–1 p.m. and 5–7 p.m. to receive the ashes of Lent and the mercy of Christ. If those times don't work, call the office to arrange another time that day.



Need a Blessing Box?

Contact
Connie Sheller

**Make plans for lunch
with the**

**BETHANY
CLASS**

Tuesday, February 24
Noon at Eat'n Park

**SouperBowl Lunch & 2-Person
Team Cornhole Tournament**

This Sunday!!!

February 8, 2026

**Large Fellowship Hall
following worship**

**Free-will offering will benefit the
Community Circle Food Pantry**

You do not have to bring soup OR enter the cornhole tournament to attend. Just join us for the fellowship!

Pre-printed Bulletins

If you're interested in sponsoring a **pre-printed bulletin** for a specific Sunday, reach out to Karen in the Church Office. We can order pre-printed bulletins for a variety of occasions at a cost of \$10 per Sunday. You can view available bulletin covers at www.concordiasupply.com. Please provide us with three weeks' notice to place your order.

Floral Arrangements

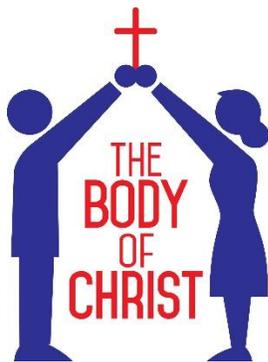
The baptistry floral arrangements need refreshing. If you have crafting skills and would like to help, please contact the Church Office.

Portable Communion Kits

Would any previous Elders have one of the portable communion kits or one of the juice bottles from inside the kits? We are missing a few.



tacklehunger.org



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Jody Mullis, Bread
Serena Dube, Cup

February 8, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Isaac Mayen

Leader: Holy, loving Creator of all, the heavens declare your goodness each day and night proclaims your love.

People: You call us to witness to your power and grace.

Leader: You give us mouths to sing your praises, hands and feet to do your will.

People: You call us to proclaim the good news of your reign.

Leader: We yearn to become your people, the body of Christ, living for the sake of the world.

People: Let us worship the God who calls us.

Opening Hymn

“Great Is the Lord”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just, by his power we trust in his love.

Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true, by his mercy he proves, he is love.

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord and worthy of praise. Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: great is the Lord, great is the Lord.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Holy One, you call us to live our lives as builders on the framework of justice and mercy you have constructed. Lead us not to build monuments to human vanity, but structures of care, compassion, and justice for the world you created in beauty and love. Guide us this day so we may build a house where all are welcome, all gifts are valued, and each person is seen as a gift given by you our God.

Mighty God, you have laid for us a foundation in Christ Jesus, and you invite us to participate in the work of building on that foundation. Show us your way and teach us your precepts, that we may build a solid foundation brick by brick, heart by heart.

We pray for the church. May we be a sign that points to you rather than to ourselves. May we be a community where people are fed to go and feed others.

We pray for the world. Lead us into your abundance, that we may share with gratitude, feed others without resentment, and trust in your goodness for all.

We pray for this community. Expand our understanding of who you intend us to love, to care for, to serve. Lead us into other people's stories, that we may build on our shared values rather than be divided by our differences.

We pray for people in need of healing, comfort, release, and wholeness. Comfort those who feel trapped under the rubble of disease, addiction, pain, poverty, and grief. Carry away the things that weigh them down, and lead them into your peace.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, our cornerstone and foundation who taught us to pray . . .

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 112:1-9

Serena Dube

Anthem

“The Gift of Love,” by Hal Hopson

Choir

Children's Message

Pastor Gena

This month we are talking about another practice that Jesus did and that he wants us to do also: “Live in Community.” Live with other people. We all need other people. We need community. We are always living with other people. We are living in community. Sometimes in the same house. Sometimes we live together in the same neighborhood. Sometimes we live together on the same continent. All of us are living together on this planet Earth.

Jesus knows that we live in community...we live with each other. What Jesus talks a lot about and shows us a lot of examples of is *how* we live in community. When someone asked him once what was the most important rule, he said “Love. Love God with everything you have and everything you are. And love your neighbor as yourself.”

Our church is a lot of people trying to “live in community” with each other. I like to think of church as a place to practice loving God and loving each other. Because here at church, everyone knows the most important rule. Love. So when we come here, we should be able to expect that we will be treated with love. And when someone else comes here, we expect that we will treat them with love. That sounds easy, but it's very difficult. We are all different, with different personalities, different skills, different ways of seeing things. But we all understand that we are practicing loving here so that when we are around other people who maybe don't know the most important rule, we can still be loving and live in community the way we do here.

So I wonder how we could love one another when one person likes one kind of music and someone else like a different kind. I wonder how we could love one another when one person likes visiting people in the hospital and another person doesn't. I wonder how we could love one another when everyone wants to work in the Desert Box, but only one person can.

What we do at church is important. But *how* we do things at church is even more important.

Dear God, you know that we are trying to live in community with each other here at church. Help us to love you and to love each other as Jesus taught us and showed us. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-31

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Your Gifts Are God’s Gifts”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

If you ever have tried to build something you know that it takes a great number of skills. The larger a project the more complicated, and the more complicated, the more skills it takes. Take building a house for instance, one of the most common and complex building projects one could undertake.

In order for a house to be built a mason lays blocks to secure the foundation. A carpenter builds the walls and the buttresses for the roof. A roofer puts on the shingles of that roof. A plumber lays the pipes to bring water into the house, and an electrician does the same with the wiring so that the owners can turn their appliances on and off. Painters, landscapers, and specialists who pave driveways, lay carpet and tile, and more all come together to make even the simplest of houses.

Each plays his or her part, and each is essential to the overall functioning of the house. It doesn’t matter how nice the yard looks, if there is no indoor plumbing, the house will not be worth much. The walls and ceiling may be firm and solid, but if the wiring is bad, it will all go up in smoke.

Many hands make light work, but each worker does not toil in isolation. The walls cannot be built if the foundation isn’t laid. The roof cannot go on if the walls aren’t in place. The fixtures cannot be installed until after the plumbing is done. Sometimes the jobs are done together, and always each person is dependent upon the skill of others. When they come together a house is built.

If it takes this much coordination to build a house then think how much it would take to build a skyscraper, an airplane, or a space shuttle. Everyone has their skills which can be helpful on their own, but when combined with the skills of another are able to accomplish much more together.

So, if it takes so many people to build one home, many more to build a tall building, then how many people and with what skills does it take to build a kingdom? That is the question that the Corinthians had for Paul. Some in the community had the gift for tongues, which meant that they spoke in a language that no one understood and claimed that it was evidence that God especially anointed them with the Holy Spirit. As you can imagine this caused tension in the early church community as some were claiming power for a gift that no one could either prove or deny.

So, the Corinthians write to Paul who was their minister in absentia, and he responds by saying:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

Paul then goes on to list some gifts in addition to tongues such as wisdom, knowledge, discernment, and faith. There is a lot that is instructive about this list including the distinction between knowledge and wisdom, and the fact that faith stands alone, implying that one may have the spiritual gift of healing, but not necessarily faith, but it is what Paul says about these gifts that I want to focus on.

He says that there are a variety of gifts, but they all come from God. Therefore, one is not more important than the other. To put it another way, a person who has one gift, is not necessarily a better Christian than a person who has a different gift.

Although the world sometimes values some gifts more than others, we all have different gifts, and each comes from God. Perhaps you sit in the pews and hear the beautiful singing of our choir and wish that you could be so gifted, but I'm sure that they have in turn noticed something about you and wished that they had such a gift. Perhaps one who can sing wishes that they knew more about the Bible, while those with knowledge often wish that they could comfort people better, while those who are comforters hear someone speak eloquently about the gospel and wish that they had such a tongue, while still others take care of the sick and needy but wish that they could relate to children as well as someone else who wishes that she could fix some of the things around the church and around and around it goes, this circle of covetous, where people get so enamored with the gifts of others that they actually begin to believe that they themselves have no gifts.

Make no mistake, each of us has been gifted in our own ways, and while some gifts are harder to discern than others all are necessary. In fact, notice what else Paul says about gifts. "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Gifts are to be used not only for our own benefit but for the common good. In other words, we are to share our gifts with others. In this way we get a complete set of gifts.

We come together as Christians and those who have the ability to teach do so, while those who can speak lead worship, and those who can fix improve the building, and those who can cook make our time more enjoyable, and each person after discovering his or her gift, finds a way to benefit the church by sharing it. This is God's way of making us come together.

There is one thing more; a different set of gifts. One of the great things of the church is that there are different types of people. The young share their enthusiasm with the old while the experienced share their wisdom with the innocent. Men and women come to together. People of differing opinions and backgrounds each bring a new perspective to the body that is the church.

We should be thankful that the Kingdom of God knows no nation or else it would not have spread much beyond Israel and the Middle East. The Kingdom is everywhere and Christians from Mexico, Germany, China, the United States all bring their traditions, their customs, and their experiences as bricks to be put in the foundation that God is laying.

One of the sad things of the church, is that we too rarely live up to this calling. Martin Luther King, Jr famously said that "11:00 on Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America." It is better today, but not much and there are forces that would love to make it like that again.

The fact of the matter is that there are many things in this world that divide us and in dividing us seek to conquer us, but our Kingdom is global, it is universal, it is in this world but not of this world. Therefore, we should celebrate each other's gifts and understand that our stories, our backgrounds, our culture all of these things are God's gifts. Your gifts are God's gifts, and they are not to be scorned, dismissed, or kept to yourself. It takes all of our gifts to be a body. It takes all of our gifts to build a kingdom.

Now, many people say that they do not need to go to church to be Christian, but if we all did this, then we would be impoverished Christians. None of us possess all the gifts that God provides. If we are Christian in the privacy of our own homes then we would not benefit from the gifts of others to illuminate our understanding of the gospel.

We would be like carpenters building model homes without any plumbing or heat. We would be roofers shingling trusses that have no supports. We would be like cabinet makers who build beautiful cabinets but who have no kitchen in which to place them.

The definition of a Christian isn't that he or she has certain gifts like preaching or evangelism, instead it is that one who use their gifts whatever they are in the service of God to the benefit of others. If we don't come together to benefit from the gifts of others, then we will never be able to develop our own gifts to

their greatest potential. I would be preaching to myself. They would be singing to themselves. You would be cooking meals that no one would enjoy.

Sharing one's gifts for the benefit for others could simply be defined as love, and I think we should note that as soon as our reading ends Paul goes into his most famous chapter often just called the love chapter where he says that three gifts remain, "faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." In it he lists all the gifts that we have just read about in chapter twelve, and he says that if he has these gifts but does not have love then he has nothing.

Love therefore is the nails, the cement, the mortar, the screws that hold the kingdom together. We each would each build on our individual gifts, but without sharing our gifts which are God's gifts we would never be able to build a Kingdom. In practice, love makes life in community possible. In practice, love overcomes all that tears us apart. And in practice, love is the key to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Call to Offering

Chuck Riggle

We may plant the seeds or water the garden, but it is God alone who gives the growth. We are God's servants, working together to sow seeds of peace on earth and build up the body of Christ. Trusting in what God is doing, let us offer our gifts to the Lord.

***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

We bring you our gifts this morning, O God, offerings of our time, our financial resources, our experiences and abilities, for the good of all. Knit us ever closer together as one body in Christ, that we may love each other here in this place and love others in your name as we venture forth. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

We are talking a lot about how to welcome people into our community of faith. The question that eventually comes up for me is, are we any different than any other community of people? What makes us different? We may do things that set us apart, like gathering to worship, sharing Communion around this Table every week, singing hymns and spiritual songs, greeting one another with the peace of Christ. But in the rest of our life together, in our activities, in our programs, in our meetings, in our service, in our work, in our fellowship, in our outreach, are we any different than any other community of people? Perhaps our difference is sometimes in what we do. But perhaps the main difference might be in *how* we do what we do and in *why* we do what we do.

Let us remind ourselves as we ponder the *how* and the *why*, that it is Jesus who invites us to this Table each week. This is a Table that reminds us just how far Jesus went in showing his love for us. That is a story worth sharing. This is a Table that reminds us of his commandment to love one another. Love is an action worth repeating. This is a Table that reminds us that we are a community, striving to live as he did and to love as he did. Come and be fed by the Holy Spirit as we commune with Jesus at this Table. You are always welcome here.

Communion Hymn

"One Bread, One Body"

Sam Johnson, organist

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Jody Mullis

Heavenly Father we want to first of all praise you and lift our voices with the sound of triumph. We are very grateful for the bread and the cup which you have presented for us today. We thank you Lord that we are one Lord, one body. Like it says in the hymn one bread, one body, one Lord of all. And I want to thank you Lord that we are members of this body of Christ. When one suffers we all suffer so lord may this bread and cup strengthen us in health and body. We ask this in Jesus' holy name 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

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

Sam Johnson, organist

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Go forth with confidence and hope, because God's love has been poured into your hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us through Christ Jesus our Lord.



Name: _____ American Cancer Society

Daffodil Sale

_____ Bunch of Daffodils \$15

_____ Bunch of Tulips \$15

_____ Mini Potted Daffodils \$20

_____ Gift of Hope \$25 (flowers donated to local cancer centers)

To order, please return this coupon to Karen Thomas or place in the Administrative Assistant mailbox. Orders must be prepaid and are due by February 17, 2026. Make checks payable to "American Cancer Society."



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

Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Bereznay
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Maci Caster
Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Ruth Cox
Sue Donaldson
Craig Dotson
Benjamin Dube
Steve Engle
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess
Judy Hanning
Danni Iams
Kari Johnson
Shelly Kubincanek
Marylee Lawrence

Southminster Residents

880 S Main St
Washington PA 15301
Bo & Patty Pryor, Apt 102

Southmont Resident

835 S Main Street
Washington PA 15301
Barb Bailey, Room 311
Doris Sorice, Room 554

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
John Samida
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Jan Stillwell
Beth Teagarden
Ginger Throckmorton
Cece Watson

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

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.