

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 27
July 17, 2026

- Bible Study with Rev. Chris via Zoom – July 23, 2pm
 - Stewardship/Finance Ministry – July 23, 5:30pm
- Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar

Apostle Peter
BIBLE STUDY
with Rev. Chris
Thursdays @2pm

Via Zoom – Zoom invitation will be emailed to the Manor Minutes list on Thursday. If you do not receive the Manor Minutes or you know someone that would like to receive this invitation and they are not on the Manor Minutes list, please contact Karen in the Church Office.



The **Disciples Women's Ministry** is seeking monetary donations for pad pouches for McGuffey School District. The pouches will go to school nurses at all McGuffey school buildings.

Envelopes can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Take an envelope (or more), put your money in the envelope and place your envelope in the offering plate.

Each envelope asks for \$10. A \$10 donation will fund 4 pad pouches (\$2.50 each). DWM is hoping for 25 donations of \$10 each. That will make 100 pad pouches.

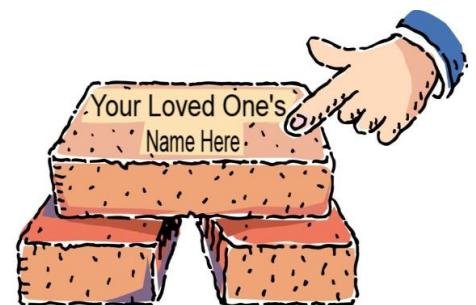
There is a sample pouch in the Narthex.

Memorial Brick Garden
Laser-Engraved Bricks

Orders are due by August 1. The attractive engraved pavers are specially made for Fairhill Manor and are hard-fired for years of enduring beauty. The paver stones are 4x8x2 1/4" and can be ordered with three lines of text with 20 characters per line including all punctuation and spacing with one clipart. Letters on the brick will be 15mm tall and in the font – Zapf Humnst.

The bricks are \$40 each.

Contact the Church Office (724) 225-8610 if you are interested. Bricks will be dedicated on All Saints Day, November 1, 2026. Order forms are in the Narthex.



Memorial Garden



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
Gary Ford, Cup

July 19, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Charlotte Stillwell

Leader: God scatters the seeds and calls us to grow.

People: We come to grow in Christ.

Leader: God scatters the seeds and calls us to love.

People: We come to love as Christ loves.

Leader: God scatters the seeds and calls us to hear.

People: We come to listen for the word of God.

Opening Hymn

"Savior; Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Sam Johnson, organist

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

O God, our Shepherd, in you we have everything we need. You guide us, showing us the way. You come searching for us when we go off on our own. Thank you for the independent spirit and spunk you have given each one of us, but thank you too for keeping us tied to you and to others who follow you. We are so grateful to have waiting and welcoming arms to come home to.

Thank you for times of quiet rest when you watch over us, when you stand guard. Thank you for those times when we feel so comfortable and at peace in your presence that it is like we are lying on a carpet of lush green grass. Thank you for those times when you revive us and bring life back into us with refreshment like that of a cool, clear pool of water.

Thank you for the ways your creation nourishes us in the food we eat, in the beauty we experience, in the co-creating work we do as we work in your world. What a gift this earth is to us. Thank you for the flowers that bloom in so many colors and scents; for the bees that buzz and pollinate, bringing forth a bounty of food; for water that runs and cascades and laps at our feet; for the sun, calling forth life and sustaining it, warming our skin and lifting our spirits. Right now, we give you thanks for all that you have made, imagining its beauty in our minds and recommitting ourselves to its care...

Shepherding God, especially when the way is difficult, when we feel completely alone and in despair, help us to know that you are right with us. Let us feel secure when everything is changing and the way is unfamiliar and unpredictable, knowing that you are the guide we can trust and count on.

Give us courage to share life with those we don't understand and those who don't understand us. Spread a table big enough for all of us, that we might learn to see you in each other as we feast on truth and light and love in your presence. Give us the courage to sit with our discomfort and vulnerability when you lead us into new pastures.

O God, our Shepherd, we so want others to know your comfort and grace, your welcome and your gentle course-correcting nudges. We pray that you might soften the hearts of those who hate and destroy. We pray that you might sustain those who work so that all have what they need. We pray for those who study your creation, care for it, and use it wisely for the good of all. We pray for caregivers and friends, for family and strangers who are walking with those who are suffering through their darkest valleys. We pray for those who are sick, those who are without hope, those who can't find what they need, those who feel trapped in harmful circumstances. Bring peace and wholeness, we pray.

And now we name those who are on our hearts and minds, knowing that you are with them just as surely as you are with us....

Lead us in right paths as we seek to love as you do. And may your love and beauty chase after us every day of our lives. We pray all of this in the name of our Good Shepherd, 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:

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 23

Linda Reese

Special Music

"I Shall Not Be Moved"

Jim Cope

Children's Message

Pastor Gena

Pastor Gena will tell a Children Worship & Wonder story based on Psalm 23 and John 10, our scriptures for today. This is a parable story called "The Good Shepherd and the Wolf," from *Young Children & Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman, ©1989, published by Westminster John Knox Press.

The Good Shepherd takes care of the sheep, walking in front of them to show them the way, leading them through good, green grass and beside cool, clear, still water, and showing them the way through places of danger until they reach the sheepfold again. Even if just one sheep is missing when the Good Shepherd counts the sheep, the Good Shepherd would go anywhere to look for the lost sheep, carrying it home – even if the Good Shepherd is very tired, even if the lost sheep is very heavy. In contrast, the Ordinary Shepherd does not walk in front of the sheep, nor does the Ordinary Shepherd know the names of the sheep, so the sheep wander and scatter. When the wolf comes, the ordinary shepherd runs away. But the Good Shepherd stands between the wolf and the sheep and even gives his life for the sheep so the sheep can return safely home.

I wonder if the wolf has even been close to you? I wonder if you have ever had to go through places of danger or were lost and someone found you? I wonder if you have ever heard the Good Shepherd say your name?

Second Scripture Reading

John 10:11-18

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“I Am the Good Shepherd”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

The 23rd Psalm might just be the most famous passage in the Bible. It is probably the one most read and the one most memorized. It is read at funerals to comfort families, read at hospital bedsides to bring peace to the ill. It is recited at bedtimes to guarantee a peaceful night's sleep. It might be the most commented on passage in the Bible, and it is not about Jesus. How could that be?

It was written about a thousand years before Jesus' birth, but the Old Testament has a way of taking on new meaning when we get to the New Testament. Tradition has it that David wrote this psalm, in part because he was a shepherd so he knows a thing or two about the subject.

In trying to find a metaphor, David goes back to his days as a lonely shepherd to describe not Jesus Christ, but God. He is speaking of God and surprisingly this is the first time this metaphor is used. We think of a shepherd as being one of the most prominent metaphors in the Bible, but this is its first appearance as a description of God's attributes. Afterwards the prophets will make great use of it, but then Jesus and the gospel writers make it their own.

When Jesus looks for ways to describe himself to the people of the time, he reaches back for the scripture references that he knows they will find familiar and says things like:

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.”

In addition to these passages of scripture Jesus also tells a parable in which he is a shepherd searching for a lost sheep. Through these verses and many more like them Jesus invokes the 23rd Psalm. Here he compares himself to God, he tells the people that he is God without being so blatant in what the religious leaders would certainly hear as blasphemy. The gospel writers do the same as well when they describe him as a shepherd and tell the stories that illustrate each point of the 23rd Psalm.

Hear the lines again of this familiar passage and think of how they might apply to Jesus.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

The people who came to him wanting so much were left satisfied. When their stomachs were satisfied with loaves and fish, or their eyes satisfied with sight, or their souls satisfied with forgiveness of sins, all who came to Jesus willingly were satisfied.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.”

This is like the woman at the well who learned that Jesus was the fount of living water, and like the disciples who were afraid in the boat on the stormy sea who were amazed when Jesus stilled them with just a word.

“He restores my soul.”

Who else can? Countless people came to him for healing. Sometimes he healed their body, but just as often he healed their soul.

“He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;”

This he expresses most clearly in John 10:11-15 when he describes laying down his life for his sheep saying:

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So, when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away.

“For you are with me;”

Indeed, when he was born, he was called, “Immanuel”, which meant “God with us”, and when we are in the valley of the shadow of death, we can recall his time in dark Gethsemane

“Your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;”

This table was believed to be the feeding table used for sheep but with Christ we think of the Lord’s table where,

“You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely* goodness and mercy* shall follow me

**all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.”**

What was before a picture about this life now becomes one of eternal life as we recall John 3:16. With this “I am” statement, Jesus portrays His great love and care. He is the one who willingly protects his flock even to the point of death. When Jesus called himself the good shepherd, he unmistakably took for himself one of God’s titles in the Old Testament found in the 23rd Psalm.

Of all the things a shepherd does, a shepherd leads which is where our hymn for today takes its name. This hymn is based somewhat on Psalm 23, but more on John 10:11-15 when Jesus takes the mantle of the good shepherd. For Jesus is a savior who leads like a shepherd. The many and varied attributes of the savior are detailed in the verses,

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care . . .
We are Thine; do Thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:

These words describe the basics of Christ’s life and what he means to us in our life and by saying “I am the good shepherd” Jesus tells us that these qualities are also qualities of God. If Jesus is the gate and he opens the gate to go through, we know that once through we will probably get lost. Therefore, once you have accepted his invitation to enter through the gate, do not think you no longer need him, for it’s a great big world out there, and we all could use a guide. Let God, through Christ, shepherd us through all the moments of our life so that in the end we will get to the place that God wants us to be.

Call to Offering

Serena Dube

The Good Shepherd provides for our needs; we lack nothing. We come now to share from the abundance that we have received.

*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

Holy One, we offer these gifts with gratitude for the many ways you care for us. Use these gifts, and our very lives, O God, that all might have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her grade school class memorize Psalm 23. She gave the children a month to learn the chapter. One little boy was excited about the task, but he just couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation. The little boy was nervous. When his turn came, he looked at his teacher and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

If we know what a shepherd does, then that is all we need to know too. A good shepherd leads, guides, encourages, cares, tends and watches his flock. A good shepherd feeds, waters, defends, and protects her flock. In our case our good shepherd laid down his life for the flock, so we come to this table each week, which, like a way station, provides sustenance for our soul as we go along our journey. Like a good shepherd Christ has set this table here and called us to it. Like a good shepherd Christ leads us away from the table to take on whatever the week has in store for us.

Let us share in this meal together knowing that, whatever the days ahead may bring, we face them not alone, for we have one another, and we have a shepherd who will lead us to pastures green and waters still.

Communion Hymn

"I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table"

Sam Johnson, organist

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Allelu.

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Allelu.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Heavenly Father, as we come to this table and partake in these elements that symbolize your broken body and shed blood, we are reminded of the sacrifice you made for us. So, as we break this bread, we remember that Jesus is the bread of Life. Thank you for the great price you paid on the cross to make us whole. We take this bread in remembrance of your body, beaten and broken for our salvation and Lord, we lift this cup, acknowledging the new covenant in your blood. Thank you for the grace and forgiveness we receive through your sacrifice. As we eat this bread and drink from this cup, may we be reminded of your unfailing love and eternal life we share in you. In your 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

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Sam Johnson, organist

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak,
but thou are mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand; bread of heaven,
bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

As you go out into the world, practice being sheep . . . and slow down. Chew on things. Stay close together. And listen for the voice of the shepherd calling to you. Amen.

Psalm 23 Word Search

W	P	Q	D	G	S	T	K	S	E	I	G	N	D	C
O	P	Y	U	A	C	D	H	I	N	G	O	J	A	R
J	V	I	S	E	V	E	A	P	N	U	O	X	H	E
C	D	E	T	E	P	I	E	E	E	G	D	P	F	V
E	C	O	R	H	I	E	D	V	L	G	N	A	M	E
X	R	M	E	F	H	M	F	E	A	R	E	T	L	R
P	D	R	L	S	L	D	E	U	K	A	S	H	A	O
Y	D	S	D	A	N	O	I	N	T	S	S	L	S	F
T	E	U	Q	N	A	B	W	Y	E	S	N	M	P	O
Q	W	I	L	T	K	L	E	S	U	O	H	H	X	Z

ANOINT
BANQUET
DAVID
ENEMIES
FEAR
FOREVER
GOODNESS
GRASS
GUIDE



HOUSE
KING
LEADS
OVERFLOWS
PATH
PROTECT
PSALM
SHEEP
SHEPHERD



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

North Strabane Rehab

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Donna Bakaitis, Room 202

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Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown, Room 213

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Mary Allison
Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezney
Jacquie Best
Jeff Caldwell
Macy Caster
Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Jane Correll
Ruth Cox
Mickey Cunningham
Benjamin Dube
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Raymond Fraley
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Judy Hanning
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess

Danni Iams
Dave Kania
Chris Lewis
Charlie McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Barb Moninger
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Mike Ryan
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Kristie Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
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.