

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 40
October 16, 2026

- Bethany Class Lunch – October 20, Noon @ W. Chestnut Bob Evans
- Dartball – October 20, 7pm @ Home
- Disciples Women's Ministry – October 21, 1pm
- Stewardship/Finance Ministry – October 21, 5:15pm
- Choir Practice – October 22, 6:30pm

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



FMCC parking lot
October 25
4pm

Sign up in the Narthex if you can donate cookies and/or candy and also if you will be decorating a car.



The bricks in our Memorial Garden celebrate those who mean so much to us and serve as a heartfelt tribute to loved ones who have passed. New bricks will be added to the Memorial Brick Garden soon and will be dedicated after the worship service on All Saints' Sunday, **November 1, 2026**. We welcome you to join us that day as we honor and remember our loved ones.

Notes of Thanks

November 8, 6pm

Featuring:
Ambassadors for Christ
Dan Baker
Sam Johnson
Pastor Betty Riecks

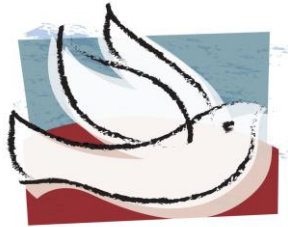


DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY

December 12 & 13
6-8pm

Character
SIGN-UP sheets
are in the Narthex





A spiritual gift
is **given** to each
of us so **we** can
help each other.

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

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

October 18, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Grayson Daniels

Leader: Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

People: We come today into the house of the Lord, thankful that its true foundation stands secure.

Leader: God has built this community with many different parts, giving to some the gift of immediate action, and to others the gift of long-term vision.

People: No single part can stand alone; we need each other to be whole.

Leader: In days of quiet routine and in moments of sudden chaos, God is our shelter and our strength.

People: Walls may fracture and structures may shake, but the love of God holds fast.

Leader: Let us worship the One who protects our lives, heals our brokenness, and gathers us together as one body.

People: Come, let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation"

Jody Mullis, pianist

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!

What more can be said than to you God has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Stewardship Campaign Minute

Melanie Wolfe
Community Circle Food Pantry

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

Gracious and Almighty God, you are our rock, our fortress, and our ever-present help in times of trouble. We gather in this Sanctuary with hearts full of emotions. We live in a world where sudden chaos can disrupt our routines, and where the things we take for granted can be shaken in an instant. In all things, we are reminded of how fragile our physical world can be, and how deeply we rely on your constant presence.

Lord, we look around this church community, and we thank you for the incredible miracle of the body of Christ. You have not called us to be identical; you have uniquely wired each one of us with different eyes to see different needs.

We pray today for all the different parts of our church body. Grant patience and grace to those among us who carry the gift of immediate action — those who look at a problem, see a need, and want to roll up their sleeves to fix it right away because they love this house. And grant wisdom, clarity, and discernment to those who carry the gift of stewardship — those who handle the paperwork, steady our finances, manage policies, and plan for our long-term safety and survival.

Help us to see that we are not obstacles to one another, but partners. Guard us against the creeping edges of resentment or frustration when our ideas and ways of doing things do not match. Teach us that accountability is a form of deep care, and that action is the fruit of deep love. Remind us that we are all working toward the same goal. Help us to find meaning and purpose in our work together, showing through our words and actions your great love.

We pray today for the continued recovery of those injured in the recent crash on our property. We give thanks for the clean-up of the front lawn and steps. Now please hear our prayers for those who are hurting, those who are grieving, those who are fighting for a new life in you, those who are lonely, and those who feel they have lost their purpose. Hold these dear ones in your arms as we speak their names now in the silence of our hearts...

Knit us together as one body, Lord. Remind us that when one part suffers, every part suffers; and when one part is celebrated, we all rejoice. In the name of Jesus the Christ, who holds all things together, we pray the prayer he 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:

“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

2 Kings 12:4-15

Linda Reese

Anthem

“Give Us a Vision”

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

Good morning, everybody! I brought two very different things with me today. In this hand, I have a big, heavy hammer. What do we use a hammer for? A hammer is all about action. It’s loud, it’s strong, and it gets things done.

In my other hand, I have a clipboard with a piece of paper on it. What do people use clipboards for? A clipboard is for planning, keeping records, and making sure we have a good plan before we start hammering.

Now, let me ask you a trick question: If we wanted to fix a broken wall, which one of these is the "good" tool, and which one is the "bad" tool?

Actually, they are both very important, and they need each other! Imagine if someone took this hammer and just started smashing nails into wood without looking at a drawing or planning ahead. They might

build a house with no doors, or a roof that caves in! The hammer needs a plan, a clipboard to show it where to build safely. But what if someone just sat around with the clipboard all day, making beautiful drawings and checking boxes, but never picked up a hammer? The house would never get built! The clipboard needs the hammer to make the plan real.

The Apostle Paul tells us in the Bible that a church is exactly like this. God didn't make all of us to be hammers, and God didn't make all of us to be clipboards. God made some of you really good at jumping into action, and God made some of you really good at planning and staying organized.

Next time you see someone in our church or in your family who does things differently than you do, or thinks in a different way that you do, try to remember: we are all part of the same team. We need the planners, we need the builders, and we need so many other types of people, all working together to take care of God's house.

Dear God, thank you for making us all different. Help us to value each other's gifts and work together like a team, like one body in Christ. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Pastor Gena

Sermon

“The Clipboard and the Hammer”

Rev. Gena Sheller

Our second scripture reading today comes from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, beginning at verse 12. Earlier in the service, we heard the Old Testament story of King Jehoash (you may also hear him called Joash) trying to repair a broken Temple. Here, Paul reminds us that the true house of God isn't made of stone — it is made of people. But just like a building, this human body requires very different parts, with very different wirings, to work together if it's going to survive. Let us listen to the Word of God.

(As a Temple worker) Look at this. It's part of the outer wall of the Temple. It's been chipped, the mortar is washing away from years of weather, and if we don't fix it before the winter rains hit, we're going to have a massive structural failure on our hands.

I'm a mason by trade. I don't like doing public speaking. I like doing physical work. And for years, a group of us have been the ones showing up early, climbing the scaffolding, and keeping this place from falling down around everyone's ears. We love this building. Every single stone of it.

And the Temple has been through it. If you look closely at its walls, you can still see the deep scars. A generation ago, when Queen Athaliah illegally seized the throne, she didn't just ignore the Temple — she actively pillaged it. Her sons literally broke through our masonry, defaced the sacred carvings, and stole dedicated gold and silver vessels to use them in the shrines of a false god named Baal. For decades, this holy place was treated like a target for state-sponsored vandalism, often using its contents to pay debts to other countries. Not only was it not kept up, but it was structurally compromised, stripped, and deeply neglected.

Then came our King Jehoash. When Queen Athaliah was purging everyone related to the great King David, little baby Jehoash survived by being hidden right here in these very Temple chambers. He was crowned king when he was just seven years old. When he finally grew up and looked around at the broken beams and the breached walls, he said, "We have to repair the house of the Lord."

And at that time, about 23 years ago, our King Jehoshaphat said to the priests here in the Temple – we heard it with our own ears – that they were to use all of the silver coming into the house of the Lord to repair the house of the Lord wherever any need of repairs was discovered. Since then, we’ve been hearing about this fund, marked "For Stone and Timber Only," that’s in the Temple treasury. So, you may ask, why is the roof still leaking today? We hear about this fund but, if it even exists, we’ve never seen a shekel of it. Our priests have what they need to live on, and the Temple operations are continuing on, all while the Temple is crumbling around us.

King Jehoshaphat is thirty years old now. He’s been on the throne for over two decades, and he’s finally lost his patience. He called the priests on the carpet again. He asked them why they aren’t repairing the house of the Lord. He told them not to accept any more silver unless they hand it over for the repair of the house of the Lord. We were encouraged until the priests said, ok, we won’t accept any more silver from the people, but we aren’t going to use what we have to repair the house of the Lord either. At least this time they told us straight out. For twenty-three years they were saying yes, yes in meetings and then no, no in their actions. “For Stone and Timber Only.” Did that fund ever even exist?

Now there’s a new wooden chest by the altar – the High Priest bored a hole right in the lid. They’re calling it the Jehoshaphat Box. Every shekel dropped in there is legally earmarked for the property.

But we still can’t touch a single coin until the king’s accountants from the palace and someone from the High Priest’s office together count the money, bag it, record it, and sign off on it. And, on top of that, instead of just giving us the money and letting us do our jobs, now the palace has set up a nightmare of paperwork. I have to go to the courtyard, wait in line, and fill out three different pieces of parchment just to get enough silver for cedar beams. That palace accountant from the king came down here yesterday with his inkwell and his ledger, asking me for a "multi-year structural assessment." I told him, "My assessment is that if you don't give me the silver, the ceiling is going to cave in on your ledger!"

When you're just trying to heal a building that has been broken for a generation, all that oversight feels like a lack of trust. It feels like red tape meant to slow you down when there's an urgent, historical need right in front of you that you’ve been looking at for twenty-three years.

But... if I’m being completely honest with you, I have to admit something. Before the King turned thirty, stepped in, and brought in the palace accountants, things were a complete mess when the priests were “managing” the money. For twenty-three years, my fellow masons and I were stuck doing desperate patchwork – slapping mortar into cracks, moving buckets to catch leaks, and tying off loose beams just to keep the building safe for daily prayer. We knew the building needed real, lasting repairs but we never had enough money all at once to buy heavy beams and the large hewn stones we needed. The silver just kept getting absorbed into the daily, operating expenses of the priests. The building stayed broken because disorganized energy and scrap materials can’t fuel a real restoration. Intentions were good, but the lack of a system meant nothing ever got finished.

When the King brought in the royal palace accountant, I thought it was just bureaucracy. Same old story. But I was wrong. Once the people saw that there was a strict, transparent system — that the money in that chest was audited, protected, and used only for what it was promised for — the community's confidence changed. The giving exploded. People could finally see exactly where their sacrifices were going.

The silver didn't run out anymore. For the first time in two decades, we actually had enough to pay the workers fairly and buy top-tier materials that will last for generations. I realized that the palace

accountant wasn't my enemy. His clipboard wasn't trying to break my hammer; his clipboard was making sure my hammer actually had nails.

We don't live in ancient Jerusalem, and we aren't managing physical silver bags. But human nature hasn't changed much, and this ancient story holds up a profound mirror to how we live, serve, and work together. As a builder, the mason's instinct is always immediate: if a wall is breached, grab a trowel and fix it. It's hard to wait for the palace accountant to review the ledger. It's hard to wait, do some research, listen to each other and find the best solution.

We know exactly what property damage feels like because we've lived through it in our own building – and we're living through it again as a result of the crash two weeks ago. In the dark of night, sudden, terrifying chaos drove right onto our lawn. A car traveling at very high speed plowed straight through our brick and cement sign, snapped a lamp post, drove up on our front steps, and crashed through a metal railing. When you see photos of the wreckage, you sit in disbelief. When you hear the sounds of the crash – even if you can't see it – it shakes you. You look up at the beautiful stained glass window right above the doors, realizing that by some miracle, it is still there. You look at the wooden door and wonder how the car didn't go right through it and into the Narthex. You think about the people inside that vehicle—two life-flighted, others facing immense crises—and your immediate prayer is for their lives, hoping they will be restored to full health and meaningful life, while feeling a profound wave of gratitude that this tragedy wasn't so much worse.

But once the initial shock clears, the "mason" inside all of us wants to react. We look at the steps and the broken sign, and our immediate instinct is: Let's clean this all up. It's been hard to look at for a couple weeks.

And yet, the situation demanded that we pause. We had to wait for the insurance adjuster. We still have await their report. We haven't received official police reports yet. We have to meet and decide what's best way forward for our front steps and for the sign with our church's name on it that's been here since our building was built over 60 years ago. We all have our opinions about what should happen, and it's hard to take time to work as one body, listening to each other, knowing that this place is shared and loved by all of us.

When there are wounds to the front of a church you love, needing to meet to discuss plans and perspectives and money can feel incredibly frustrating. It can feel like bureaucracy slowing down recovery. But this is exactly where the ancient story of the Temple meets our modern reality.

In the life of a church, there is always a natural, holy friction between two deeply necessary gifts.

There is the gift of immediacy and action. It's the perspective that looks at a problem right now and says, "This is broken, let's roll up our sleeves and take care of it." It is born out of deep care, intense ownership, and love for this house. Without this energy, needs are ignored, and the actual work of ministry stalls.

And there is the gift of stewardship and sustainability. It's the perspective that looks at our resources — our endowment funds, our property reserves, our insurance policies, our governing documents — and asks, "How do we handle this orderly and legally so that this ministry is protected for the next sixty years?" Without this energy, even the largest blessings can be scattered by chaos, and the future is compromised.

What King Jehoshaphat realized thirty centuries ago is what we are seeing in real-time today: good structure is not the enemy of vital ministry — it is the very scaffolding that allows it to endure.

Accountability is how we honor the gifts we've been given. The clipboard needs the hammer to build something real, and the hammer needs the clipboard to make sure the foundation lasts.

As we stand on those steps in the coming weeks, let's remember the greatest wonder of this chaos: life was preserved. The front doors held. The stained glass is intact. And while steps, railings, and signs can be counted, budgeted, audited, and rebuilt — human lives cannot. We continue to pray for the healing of those involved in that crash, and we give thanks that the God who protects this house is the very same God who guides us through the steady, orderly work of rebuilding *together*. Amen.

Call to Offering

Serena Dube

In the ancient world, King Joash placed a wooden chest with a hole in the lid right by the altar. It was a clear, transparent invitation for the community to invest directly in the physical restoration and future of God's house.

Today, we carry on that exact same sacred tradition. When we give to the church, we aren't just funding a budget or maintaining a property; we are providing the tangible resources that allow ministry to endure for generations. We give out of deep gratitude for the physical spaces that shelter us, the ministries that feed us, and the structural integrity that protects us.

Whether you give to our general operations, or whether your heart is fixed on the long-term stewardship of our funds and facilities, know that every gift is handled with accountability and deep respect for your sacrifice. Let us bring our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

***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

Pastor Gena

Gracious God, we thank you for the abundance of your blessings and for the privilege of partnering in your work. Please bless these gifts we bring before you today. May our silver, our dollars, our electronic transactions, and our volunteered hours be transformed into active ministries of love and life. Grant wisdom and integrity to those who manage these resources, so that every dollar is stewarded with the utmost care. Use these funds to maintain this physical Sanctuary as a safe harbor for all people, to fuel our outreach, and to secure the future of this congregation as a place of welcome and transformation for generations to come. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

As we come to this Table, we leave behind our divisions, our clipboards, and our hammers. We come together as one single body. This Table is the ultimate place of restoration. It is where our brokenness is met with grace, where our fragility is covered by a love that holds fast, and where we are nourished to go back out into the world as agents of healing. No matter how you are wired, how you have served this week, or how heavy your heart is, you belong here. This is the Lord's Table, and it is ready for you. Let us come together as one body, sharing this meal with our one Lord.

Communion Hymn

“One Bread, One Body” vs. 2

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. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Chuck Riggle

Dear Heavenly Father, we humbly bow down before you on this October morning as your humble servants. We are grateful to be in your presence as one body in Christ. We are especially thankful to be able to celebrate holy communion today. Once again, partaking of the bread and the cup remind us of Jesus’ broken body and shed blood on the cross so long ago. Now, we ask for your blessing as we partake of these elements. Let us never forget his sacrifice and try to pattern our lives as he would desire us to do, with love, duty, and care for others. 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

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Sam Johnson, organist

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord; we are his new creation
by water and the Word; from heaven he came and sought us to be his
holy bride; with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.

Benediction

Pastor Gena

As we go forth from this place, let us remember that we are not isolated pieces. We are parts of one magnificent, living body. May God grant us the courage of the hammer to step out in bold, immediate action to love our neighbors. And may God grant us the wisdom of the clipboard to build foundations of trust, order, and integrity that endure.

When the unexpected winds blow and the sudden chaos of the world shakes the walls around us, do not be afraid. The front doors of God’s grace hold secure, the light of Christ shines still, and you are held fast in the palm of God’s hand. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, Amen.



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
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Southminster Residents

880 S Main St
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Patty Pryor, Apt 102

Evergreen Personal Care

336 N Main Street
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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
Gary Blackhurst
Jeff Caldwell
Maci Caster
Wanda Chicone
Jim Cope
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
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
Perry 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
Darren Knight	Brandon Lipscomb
Sarah Lipscomb	Travis Ringer
Emily Chase	Dylan Demain

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.