

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 41
October 23, 2026

- Trunk or Treat – October 25, 4pm
- Dartball – October 27, 7pm @ Washington Alliance
- Choir Practice – October 29, 6:30pm

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

IN LOVING ♥ Memory

All Saints' Sunday will be celebrated on November 1. If you have lost a loved one since last year's service, (November 2, 2025), and would like to include him or her in this special service, please send their name, relationship to you/your family, date of passing and any remarks to the church office. All information should be turned into the office by October 29th. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at (724) 225-8610.

Notes of Thanks

November 8, 6pm

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



November 22

We will have a special sit-down **Appreciation Dinner** following worship to celebrate the amazing people and generosity of our congregation. We will have chicken and biscuits with sides and dessert. We hope you can join us for great food, fun and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex; please RSVP by November 15.

DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY

December 12 & 13

6-8pm

Character

SIGN-UP sheets
are in the Narthex





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
 Jackie Nelson, Cup
 October 18, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Bryson Daniels

Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

People: God's blessings are sweeter than honey.

Leader: God keeps us from wandering down wrong paths.

People: God's precepts make us wiser than those who are accounted wise.

Leader: Let us worship the one who guides our lives.

People: Let us worship the one who leads us into life.

Opening Hymn

"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship "

Jody Mullis, pianist

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart. Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come. One day every tongue will confess You are God. One day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

Holy God, you are the Creator of all things, the sustainer of life and the source of true peace. You hold absolute authority over the universe, ruling with perfect justice, yet you hold our fragile lives securely in your hands. You intimately know each of our hearts. You are the God of infinite mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You heal what is broken and restore what has been discarded. We praise you for your perfect wisdom and for the grace you freely pour out upon us.

As we stand in the light of your holiness, we recognize that we too often reflect the brokenness of the world around us. You call us to be vessels in your great house, cleansed, set apart, and useful to you for every good work. But sometimes we slip into foolish and ignorant disputes that breed quarrels rather than living out your perfect goodness in right relationship with each other. Forgive us for the times we have used our words as weapons to defend our pride rather than heal a wound. Deliver us from a quarrelsome spirit, we pray. Remove the anxious need to always win the argument, prove ourselves right, or fight merely for the sake of our own egos. Guard our tongues, we pray, and calm our defensive hearts.

We lift up those among us who have been deeply harmed by conflict and left alone in their suffering. We pray for those who feel beaten down by the harsh words of others, stripped of their peace and ignored by those who find it too inconvenient to help. Draw near to the brokenhearted, we pray. Send your Holy Spirit to bind up wounds. Grant us the comforting assurance that you always see us and never forget us.

Thank you for the peacemakers among us. Thank you for those who do not pass by on the other side, but who consistently step into messy, painful spaces with the healing oil of your grace. Help us we to see the fruit of good, right-living that is sown in peace. Save us from a false peace that ignores suffering or sweeps truth under the rug.

We bring to you the heavy burdens we carry today. Grant patience to those recovering from surgery. Give them a steady awareness of your healing presence. Bring clarity and peace to those dealing with unexpected family crises. Grant them with wisdom for every decision they must make. Meet us in our grief of what is lost, what is changing. Provide the daily strength we need both to remember and to adapt to new realities. In the silence of our hearts, we pray for those we have named aloud, each person on our prayer list, and these dear ones who need your tender loving care...

May our life together in you reflect the active mercy of the Good Samaritan and the pure, peaceable wisdom of your Word. May your gentleness lead us to deep restoration and unity. In the name of the Prince of Peace, and the Lord of Mercy, Jesus the Christ, we pray together, 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

Luke 10:25-37

Donna Stenski

Special Music

Jody Mullis and Sam Johnson

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

Look at these two cups. Imagine you are super thirsty after recess or after a game and you need a cup to put some water in to drink. You look at this first cup. It looks okay on the outside, but what about the inside? It has mud and dirt in it. Would you drink from this cup?

So you look at this second cup. It is totally clean. It’s ready to do exactly what a cup is supposed to do: hold fresh water for someone who is thirsty.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2 that our hearts are kind of like these cups. If we keep our lives clean from mean choices and anger and drama, we are ready for Jesus to use us to do good and loving things for him.

Keeping our cups clean is hard because there are always ways for them to get dirty. Sometimes the dirt looks like fighting over toys or hearing someone say, “You can’t play with us!” Sometimes the dirt looks like whispering behind people’s backs or like when your friends force you to choose sides. Sometimes the dirt looks like the pressure to act “cool” by ignoring people who don’t fit into the popular group. Whenever we join in on the whispering, the fighting, the ignoring, it’s like we are dumping mud into our cups. We aren’t ready to help anyone.

Jesus showed us why we need clean cups in the story of the Good Samaritan. We just heard it read this morning and we hear it every year in Children Worship & Wonder, don’t we? The first two people who

passed by the injured man and didn't help him didn't have cups that were ready to do what Jesus wants us to do. But the Good Samaritan was ready. He didn't care about cliques or popularity or what group the man belonged to. He just saw someone hurting and helped him.

This week, Jesus is asking us to have clean cups and be ready to help like the Good Samaritan. Here's your mission – say “Come play with us!” to someone standing alone. Walk away from people who are gossiping and whispering. Have the courage to sit with someone who is lonely at lunch, even if it isn't cool. Let's keep our cups clean and ready this week.

Dear God, wash our hearts clean. Help us run away from gossip and drama. Give us the courage to be a friend to someone who is lonely this week. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 2:20-25

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Be Kindly Before Winter”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

When I was young, we lived in a small house on Stone and Shannon Rd with no garage. I had learned that a garage was something that people put cars in, but we had cars and we didn't seem to need a garage. My neighbors, the Cupps, had a large garage on the end of their house and they never seemed to park their cars in it as well. In fact, as many cars as they had, they would never have been able to get them all in. What they used their garage for I discovered was as a place to put their tools. I remember Mickey Cupp had a wall lined up with every tool imaginable each with its own hook or shelf or jar or drawer. Hammers and wrenches in all sizes and shapes, nails and screws of all kinds were placed alongside the long wall with saws, screwdrivers, and other larger tools like rakes and tractors. In this large house there were tools for special use and some for ordinary.

Since we didn't have enough tools at my house to need a garage to put them in, I began to associate garages more as a place to keep tools than a place to house cars. Later, Mickey needed to build a shed to hold the overflow of tools that wouldn't fit in the garage. I began to believe that he had a tool for every job. He built and fixed many things, he made furniture, sheds, assembled playground furniture, he even turned an old ambulance into a clubhouse. Mickey believed that with the right tool, there was no job he could not do.

As Paul was facing the end of his ministry and of his life, there were many jobs that his young apprentice, Timothy, needed to do, and Paul continued to exhort him on how to do the job of maintaining the faith. Like any job this one required tools and Paul tells Timothy that this job demanded special tools.

Before we define what a special tool is we should look at what an ordinary tools is. Webster has many definitions of the word tool, but one is particularly appropriate to Paul's situation. It says a tool is “The cutting part on various machines driven by power.”

Very often tools are used to cut. The axe splinters the log, and the saw cuts the board. These tools are meant to break and destroy, to tear up into small pieces. These are ordinary tools that require no precision or care. Too often human beings can be ordinary tools like these.

Paul was well aware of this for, as he wrote to Timothy, there was much division and disagreement within the church young as it was. Paul was not so naive as to expect everyone to agree, rather he gave Timothy instructions on how to deal with disagreements. He wrote, “²⁴And the Lord's servants must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, ²⁵correcting opponents with gentleness.”

In this letter Paul was concerned with different teachers coming in and teaching different beliefs. Timothy was charged with defending the gospel according to Paul, yet he was not to be like an axe, attacking and

swinging at his opponents, cutting them off from the body of Christ. Instead, he was to be “kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient,²⁵ correcting opponents with gentleness.”

Paul knew then, as we know now, that men and women will often disagree about important matters such as the right way to follow Christ, but how much more do followers quarrel over small matters like who gets what job at a dinner, or what changes to make to improve the church service and church building?

These quarrels are to be avoided as much as possible for they do not build up the Kingdom, but rather tear it down. Too often, driven by some sort of power, we act as ordinary tools and cut and hew instead of building and fixing. This doesn't mean that we should stifle our opinions and feelings fearing to disagree, but, when we do, we must be kindly and gentle with one another for we are all members of the body of Christ..

If cutting and slicing is the method of an ordinary tool, what then does it mean to be, as Paul put it, a “special” tool? For this definition we will consult Paul's letter to Timothy. In order to be a special tool, Paul tells Timothy, he must be cleansed “of the things I have mentioned.” These things Paul mentioned in verse 16 are “Godless chatter”. Paul knows that there are many disputes and arguments in the church, and he knows that there is much gossip being spread by teachers and followers alike. Not only does this not help to build the Kingdom, it works to destroy its foundation.

Of course no heated argument or juicy gossip can overcome the gospel by itself, but a series of arguments, or a litany of gossip, working together wear at the foundation of the Kingdom just as termites slowly destroy the interior of a large house.

If we cleanse ourselves of unnecessary arguments and gossip, and if we learn to solve unavoidable disagreements with love, kindness, and gentleness, then we can become special tools of God used for the purpose of building the kingdom.

Being a special tool “of gold and silver” then means being a tool for construction rather than a tool of destruction. It means to be for God a tool of building and fixing.

When two pieces of wood are to be put together in order to build furniture each one has a different size and shape. In order for the two to work together as a chair they do not need to be exactly alike, but each piece must be changed somewhat to fit with the other. Whereas correcting each piece of wood with the axe and the saw is rough and leaves the wood splintered, the lave gently trims their size and the sandpaper kindly smooths off the rough edges so that the two may be joined together by glue and nail forming the legs that support the chair and keep it solid. With care, and gentleness, and kindly effort, different materials are changed, formed, and molded, into a cohesive product with each part giving up some of its own character to strength the character of the whole.

This is what it means to be a special tool for God's kingdom. We do not cut and slice one another when we see a mistake or something that needs to be corrected in someone else. We would not want to be treated that way by others. Instead, we must correct with love and gentleness being kindly to everyone.

When the fall came to Stone and Shannon Rd, you could always find Mickey Cupp out in the garage furiously working on some project that he began in the summer. He knew that when the winter came, he would not be able to build or fix much of anything. His tools would be scattered all over the place and often we would be enlisted to help him get everything done. Just before the snow came, he would bring out his special tools. These were the tools that he used to put the finishing touches on his projects. A golden handled paintbrush brought color to a bird house. A velvet cloth polished the silver of his lamp post. Bronze finishing nails held his shelves in place. Nothing was left unfinished before the winter came.

Before this winter, let us too become the special tools that God can use. Let us fix the arguments we have with people by being a tool of gentleness, a tool of love, and a tool of kindliness. If we do this, then we will see, by the time Christmas comes, we will have built another house for the kingdom.

Call to Offering

Isaac Mayen

God's steadfast love endures forever. As recipients of God's love and grace, let us show our gratitude for the many blessings we have received from God's hand by giving of our tithes and offering.

***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

God of steadfast love, your bounty knows no bounds. For the abundant gifts in our lives, we thank you. For the peace that passes all understanding, we praise you. For keeping our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, we honor you. Receive the gifts we bring you this day and help us stay focused on things that are excellent and admirable, holy and just, righteous and pure. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

Around this time of year many things are made out of pumpkins. Pie, cakes, roll, my favorite bagel place has pumpkin bagels, pumpkin cream cheese and of course pumpkin flavored coffee. Who knew that pumpkin could be turned into something so good? Bite into an apple and you know it is sweet. Smell an orange and you know it is good, but pumpkins are large and strangely shaped and colored, they don't smell great. I would never recommend that you bite into one, and their insides are gross, yet, upon its death, it is turned into something truly great for all to enjoy.

Sometimes Jesus Christ is compared with grapes and figs and olives but take a moment to think of the way that a pumpkin is like Jesus. For not too many people expected that he could be much. Can anything good come from Nazareth, they asked? Certainly, he could not be the savior, since he was not a mighty warrior or a powerful king. He died and was forgotten, but when he came back, he was transformed. Greater than before his true glory was revealed as he ascended to be with God and his love has caused a faith to spread throughout the world, and his grace can be enjoyed by all.

At this table we celebrate that one who was despised by the world became the savior of the world, and we remember that God so often does things and chooses people in surprising ways. As you remember the event that led to Christ's transformation ask yourself, "What ways can God use you that would surprise those who don't truly know you? What ways could God be using others that would surprise you?" Remember the teachings of the gospel and remember the lesson that God has given us in the pumpkin and don't be surprised the next time you experience God's grace in places and persons that you never expected.

Communion Hymn

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Sam Johnson, organist

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, as we come to this communion table we remember the sacrifice you made for us. As we partake of these elements; the bread representing your broken body and the cup representing your shed blood. So Lord, as we hold this bread and this cup, our hearts overflow with gratitude. Thank you for willingly giving your body and shedding your blood for us.

Before we partake of these elements, we pause to search our hearts and repent of any sin. Wash us clean, renew a right spirit within us, and lead us away from everything that strays from your ways. We stand in awe of your sacrifice that you took our shame and gave us your righteousness, took our brokenness and offered us your wholeness and eternal life.

As we receive this bread, we remember your broken body and declare your health, strength, and grace in our lives. As we drink from this cup, we celebrate the new covenant sealed by your blood, knowing our past, present, and future sins are fully forgiven. Fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit. Help us to leave this table not just remembering what you have done, but living differently loved, forgive, and empowered to serve. In Jesus' precious and holy name, 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

"Standing on the Promises"

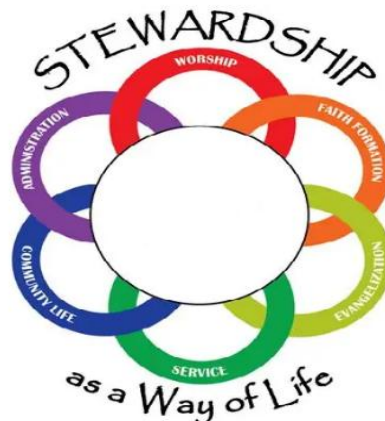
Sam Johnson, organist

Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God. Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, from this day forward and forevermore. 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

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949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
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Patty Pryor, Apt 102

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Donna Bakaitis, Room 224

Premier Resident

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Washington PA 15301
Carol Brown, Room 213

Transitions Healthcare Resident

90 Humbert Lane
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Doris Haniford, Room 121

Mary Allison
Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
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Vanessa & John Berezney
Jacquie Best
Gary Blackhurst
Jeff Caldwell
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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
Thomas Lagon
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.