

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 7
February 13, 2026

- Dartball – February 17 @ Home, 7pm
- Ash Wednesday – February 18, noon-1pm and 5-7pm
- Choir Practice – February 19, 6:30pm

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

And the winner of the 2026 SouperBowl Cornhole Tournament is...

1st place - Gene Sheller and Isaac Mayen

2nd Place - Rev. Chris and Charlotte Stillwell

Thank you to all of the teams and everyone that came out on a cold blustery day to support the Community Circle Food Pantry.

Check out the winning pictures at the end of the Manor Minutes.

Daffodil orders due February 17

Daffodils and tulips can be ordered to benefit the American Cancer Society. Flowers will be delivered the week of March 23rd. Order forms can be found at the end of the Manor Minutes and in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Karen Thomas in the Church Office, (724) 225-8610.

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.



February 24 – Bethany Class will meet at Eat'n Park at noon. Everyone is welcome.

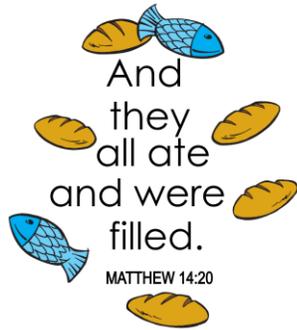


Mardi Gras
Concert
First Christian
Church
615 E Beau Street
February 17
6pm



FMCC Spaghetti Fundraiser
April 25 & October 3

Washington Wild Things Game
June 26



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
 Diana Crowe, Cup
 February 15, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome Rev. Stillwell

Call to Worship Rita Puskarich

Leader: In you, O Lord, we seek refuge.

People: Incline your ear to us.

Leader: Rescue us with haste.

People: You are our rock and our refuge.

Leader: Into your hand we commit our spirits, for you have redeemed us, faithful God.

People: We worship you now with praise and joy!

Opening Hymn *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”* Sam Johnson, organist

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer Rev. Stillwell

Faithful God, our parched spirits thirst for you. Gathered here in your sanctuary, may we witness again your power and glory. Feed our hungry souls with the food that truly satisfies. Quench our dry mouths and fill them with your praise. Be known to us here, as we seek you with our whole being.

Incline your ear to us, O God, for you are, indeed, our rock, our fortress, our salvation.

In the shelter of your presence, we seek rest from the cares of the world and the worries of our lives. We offer to you now our concerns that are too heavy to carry alone. Bring peace to troubled hearts, comfort to those who mourn, and give healing to wounded bodies, minds, and spirits. In you, O Lord, we seek refuge.

In a world beset by storms of violence, war, and greed, hear our prayers for people in the path of disaster, danger, or disease. May we build a world of shelter for all of your children and bring peace to your creation. In you, O Lord, we seek refuge.

Turn our hearts and spirits toward your Word, that we may anchor ourselves to a peace that will last and a hope that brings life. Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress to save us. Amen.

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

Exodus 24:12-18

Connie Sheller

Anthem

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

What would it feel like if you hadn't eaten for a long time? How would it feel like if you hadn't eaten for two days or 40 like Jesus did? What would it feel like in your stomach? I bet there'd be a groan in there and a pain that only food can satisfy. But what about this rock? If you're really hungry, and somebody offered you this rock, would that help your hunger? No. What about this duct tape here. Would that help you? No. What about a wrench or something? No, those things wouldn't satisfy the hunger. It would have to be food like this bread here, that would satisfy our need for physical food.

There's another type of hunger that everyone has. It's a hunger or a yearning for life, for purpose, for love, for all these things. Things don't seem to satisfy that hunger. They're nice for a while, the different things that we have, but they don't really satisfy that hunger. Even bread, even food, doesn't satisfy the spiritual hunger that we have for real life. That Jesus said that He was the bread of life, that He could actually satisfy that hunger that we have for life in all its fullness.

Let us pray,

Thank you, God, that you provide for our physical hunger that we have by providing food for us, but that you also provide for our spiritual life and our spiritual hunger for life by sending Jesus to us.

Second Scripture Reading

John 6:1-15, 25-35

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“What Are You Working For?”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

I am definitely a big eater. Ever since I was young it never ceased to amaze my brother that I could eat twice as much as him even though he was seven years older. I remember the first time I went off to camp. I couldn't eat snacks in between meals, so I spent most of the time being grumpy because I felt so hungry even though I had three meals a day. It took me a while to understand how good I had it.

Living today in a time when food is abundant for most people, it is easy to take food for granted. It comes so easy that we don't appreciate it the way a person who has to grow, hunt, or make it from scratch does. As a result, we find ourselves needing to eat more of it to get complete satisfaction as if it were a drug. The effects are that while so many people in the world are suffering from not having enough to eat, many others are suffering from eating disorders that result from eating too much.

We all work very hard to gain many things, but first and foremost we work for food. It doesn't matter how strong we are, how disciplined we are, or how smart we are, food has control over us. We can go without love or clothes, but we simply cannot go long without food. Because of this, they say that any society is only three meals away from revolution.

This is what happened to the Israelites as they were in the desert. Even though they had been given so much by a God who freed them from the yoke of slavery, helped them prosper into a nation of thousands, and saved their lives as they crossed the Red Sea, as soon as they got hungry, they forgot all that God had done for them. Rather than celebrate their new freedom they said, *“If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”*

Listen to how ungrateful they were. They would rather that God had killed them than to let them live hungry. They would rather have been back in Egypt as slaves who were fed rather than be free people who hungered. Worst of all, they actually believed that the God, who went through so much trouble delivering them from Pharaoh’s hand, would let them starve to death in the desert.

Well, God understands that we human beings are a “what have you done for me lately?” people, so God caused manna, a flaky bread, to fall from the heavens and gave the people instructions on how to gather it. But even though Moses specifically commanded that they leave none for the morning, still many did not trust God, and they saved some for the next day in case God would not provide. But God did, and the people ate their fill.

Now the people following Jesus had their own manna experience. As they followed him to the shores of the Galilean Sea, they were hungry, and they numbered about 5,000. When Jesus sensed their hunger, he gathered the food they had and distributed them to all with plenty left over. The crowd was so impressed with what Jesus could do for them that they decided to follow him. The disciples had fled in a boat and the crowd saw that Jesus was gone, so they took boats across the sea the next morning to find him.

When they found him, they said to him, *“Rabbi, when did you come here?”* You would think that Jesus would be pleased to have so many followers so devoted, especially after his own disciples left without him the day before, but he responds to their question with a rebuke. ²⁶Jesus answered them, *“Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.”*

Any minister of Christ would be thrilled to have a large crowd of about 5,000 come to hear their sermon even if they were mostly there for the bread, but Christ is not satisfied with followers in and of themselves. He would rather have less followers who follow for the right reason rather than more for the wrong reasons. As he criticizes them for working so hard for food that they would cross an entire sea to find the man who will give them bread, he implores his new followers to do the work of God which is that *“you believe in him whom he has sent.”*

When he finishes admonishing them, they ask for a sign as proof that they should listen to him. It is apparent that, only one day after receiving manna from Jesus, they had already forgotten what he had done for them.

We, like those 5,000 people who crossed the sea for more bread, are often guilty of following for our own gain. We pray to God for what we want. We pray for health and wealth, for peace of mind and peace of spirit, and it is perfectly alright to ask for these things. The problem is that we can become so ungrateful if we do not get what we want when we want it.

It is all too easy to get angry with God for not doing our bidding and ask, “Why don’t you do this?” “Why didn’t you take care of this when I asked you?” Like the crowd who followed Jesus we demand signs to prove to us that God is worth following.

We also are sometimes guilty of forgetting what God has done. We get mad when bad luck comes our way and, like the Israelites in the desert, we forget what God has already done for us. No matter that God has given us life. Ignore the sun and the rain and the sky and the birds that God brings us every day. Forget the health and the wealth that we do have. Conveniently neglect to remember all the times in which God did everything for us. This is the tendency of the human spirit.

Worst of all, however, when it comes to what God offers us, too often we feel that it is simply not enough. Jesus asks us to consider the sparrows saying that as God gives them all they need to live so will God give us, but we want much more than what the stupid sparrows have. As the Israelites wandered in the desert, God did not take away the heat, or give them something other than tiny booths in which to live. But God did take care of their immediate needs by giving them food and water.

Too often what God offers us does not satisfy us. It is like the man who was stuck on his rooftop in a flood praying to God for rescue. Soon a man in a rowboat came by and he shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you." The stranded man shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me." So, the rowboat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. "The guy in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you." To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." So, the motorboat went on.

Then a helicopter came by and the pilot yelled down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety." To this the stranded man once again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God to save me. I have faith." So, the man in the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned, and went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!" To this God replied, "I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"

God offered him much, but he wanted more, and when he did not get all that, he wanted he became disillusioned.

The great psychologist, Carl Jung, describes it like this:

In thirty years, I have treated many patients. Among all my patients in the second half of life, every one of them fell ill because he had lost that which the living religions of every age had given their followers, and none of them was really healed who did not regain his religious outlook.

This quote describes the great struggle we all face in the second half of our life. I'm not talking of losing hair, or agility, or youth. I'm speaking of losing faith. It seems like it was easier to have faith when we were young, when we were innocent, before some terrible event occurred, or before some long accumulation of small disappointments brought their weight to bear upon our soul.

It is also easier to keep our faith when we are young because when we were younger we didn't want so much. Our material hunger was filled easily enough. All we wanted was maybe some nice clothes, a cool car or any car really, a fun place to go on Friday nights, and a few good friends to go with. Now we hunger for so much. We want houses and jewelry, appliances and furniture, plus the clothes, cars, and places to go of our youth. We hunger so much we are willing to spend all we have and all that the credit companies will extend us, and still we find ourselves hungry.

Our spiritual hunger was filled when we were young by God helping us to get through a hard test at school, granting us strength to ask a girl out, and keeping our family safe. Of course, we still need help passing life's tests, meeting that special someone, and we want our family to be safe, but we also want fulfillment, a sense of calling, a family of our own, and, if God's not too busy, it would be nice if we could get happiness, contentment, prosperity, and peace on earth in our time. If all of these items on our faith menu do not come to us in a timely manner, we can grow hungry.

But we cannot let our material hunger cause our spiritual hunger to grow as Christ's followers did when they followed him more for what he could do for them immediately. For when Christ refused to give them

bread, they went in search of another provider. Christ will not leave us hungry, but that is not because he will give us all that our souls and stomachs desire.

Christ will give everyone the basics that they need to live and quiet the hunger pangs in our soul that come from wanting more than we need. Christ will teach us to want what we have and be thankful for all that God *has* given us rather than be disillusioned because of what God *hasn't* given us. And it means that while we work for the food that perishes, we should live for the bread that endures for eternal life.

Call to Offering

Linda Reese

Let us be people who build on solid ground rather than shifting sand. Let us give of our time, treasure, and talents to build a community of justice, peace, and hope. As our offering is received this day, let us give generously, with thankful hearts.

***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

Rev. Stillwell

As we cast our bread upon the waters, we trust that you, O God, will return it in ways that we could hardly expect. Take our offerings today and turn them into blessing tomorrow, not only for us but for your whole world.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

I once found a raccoon in a dumpster. He must have gotten in overnight searching for food, but what he found was an empty, smelly dumpster. What he also found was that it is much easier getting into a dumpster than it is getting out. Had there been garbage in there he would not only have had dinner but he would have had an escape route as the bags piled one on another would have provided a staircase of sorts for him. Well, he made a lot of noise, and even though I knew he was a wild animal, I couldn't help but feel sorry for him.

I didn't want to get in the dumpster myself, nor did I want to try to pick him up, so I grabbed a ladder and placed it in the dumpster, then I left hoping that he would eventually figure it out. Well after a few minutes passed, I looked out the window to see him scratching against the side of the dumpster completely oblivious to the ladder. Later I looked out to see him digging in the few pieces of trash for food completely oblivious to the ladder. Finally, I looked out to see him sound asleep in the dumpster, completely oblivious to the ladder.

It was amazing how hard he was willing to work for food, but how unwilling or uncomprehending he was to work for his deliverance from the empty dumpster. We can laugh at the raccoon and pity his small brain until we realize that we are not much better than he. For we spend so much of our time in an empty, smelly world digging for any type of spiritual nourishment that we can salvage from the trash of culture that we don't even notice the ladder that God has placed in this world for us.

That ladder is Jesus Christ placed in this world for our deliverance. No matter how smart we are, we are no better than that raccoon unless we grab hold of the ladder, and begin that climb. If you have not found that ladder may this meal open your eyes. If you have not grabbed that ladder may this meal give you the strength to do so. If you are unsure if you can trust that ladder may this meal give you courage as you climb. If you have reached the top of this ladder and left the dumpster behind may this meal inspire you to help someone else in their climb.

Communion Hymn

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

Sam Johnson, organist

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wand’ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Lord Jesus, we come to Your table with grateful hearts, mindful of Your sacrifice. We take this bread, remembering Your body broken for us, and this cup, representing Your blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins. As we partake, cleanse our hearts, renew our spirits, and strengthen us to live as reflections of Your love. May this union with You and each other fill us with Your peace and resurrection power. Amen.

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

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

Rev. Stillwell

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

“Shout to the Lord”

Jody Mullis, pianist

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like you. All of my days, I want to praise, the wonders of your might love. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength. Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

If you have found some of the good bread of Christ here this day, then don’t hesitate to share it with others. For this is the bread that increases the more it is given away and nourishes us best when it is shared with others. Filled with the Bread of Life and the power of the Holy Spirit, go now in peace to serve God in all that you think, do and say.



Name: _____ American Cancer Society

_____ 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
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.

SouperBowl Luncheon and Cornhole Tournament - February 8, 2026



1st Place – Gene Sheller and Isaac Mayen

2nd Place – Rev. Chris and Charlotte Stillwell

1st Place Trophy



Thanks to Carmen and Peggy Oliverio for donating the corn salt and pepper shakers for the first-place trophy. The decal on one of the trophies is upside down (Karen and her helper were not on the same page). Karen offered to make a new one but luckily Isaac said he's fine with it and actually likes it just the way it is.