



First Family News

OCTOBER 2025

1001 Juliana Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101
www.firstumcparkersburg.org

email: fumcjuliana@wvdsi.net
facebook.com/fumcparkersburg

Phone: 304-428-0111

You Never Know For Whom You May Be Praying

Saturday, December 7 started as a normal Saturday for me. I had just signed on to the Saturday morning ladies' prayer meeting when I heard the WVU Medicine helicopter go over our house to the hospital. It had been and still is my practice to stop whatever I am doing and pray for the patient, medical crew, pilot, and family who are involved. I never know who is involved in the medical emergency but I know it is serious. So, since I was already in prayer, I included all who were involved in this early flight. I didn't think much more about it as our group spent time together. Approximately 10 minutes later my phone rang. It was my sister. She called to tell me her daughter, my niece had just been sent to Ruby to deliver her first child. The pregnancy had been somewhat difficult from the beginning but the doctors had thought she would be able to get to her due date in late February. But at this time, that was still three months away. Later that morning my sister called back to tell me little Callahan had arrived into this world. My niece was doing well but all were very concerned about the baby. Cal weighed only 3.1 lbs but was responding to care.

Many of you prayed for him. Prayer blankets were made and delivered for Mom and Dad. The annual Advent baby blanket was lovingly knitted throughout the services and presented to Baby Cal. By the way, that has become one of his favorite blankies!

Cal will be 10 months old on October 7. He has successfully breezed through heart and hernia surgeries. He just discovered how to crawl and now he is trying to walk! The doctors are amazed at his progress.

Thank you Church Family for loving our family's newest addition. And remember, you may never know the power of your prayer even when you do not know who it is or the circumstances. Keep on praying!

*Blessings,
Deborah*



AMERICA

Carol Power
Charlie & Marilyn Casto
CPS Staff
David Hennen
David Taliaferro
Douglas Mitchell

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

First UMC
Gary Parsons
Jan Davis
Law Enforcement
Lee Carrico
Logan Mem. UMC
Margaret Stemple

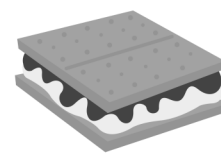
UKRAINE

Marie Butler
Mike Brannock
Nathan Corathers/family
Scot Harper
Sharon Hennen
Tish Oney

North Star Child Advocacy Center Staff
Texas and WV flood victims

S'MORES AND MORE

Join us on the church's front sidewalk **each Saturday evening** in October for an informal time together for fellowship and fun. Time will be 6:00 pm—8:00 pm each evening, weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair if you have one, and clothing or blanket to stay warm. S'mores fixins will be provided as well as warm drinks. You will never know who may be providing live music, a game, or lively discussion. The neighborhood is also invited. This is also a great way to introduce a friend or neighbor to our congregation. This is an approved Church Council event.



A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Ginny will be 105 years old on October 5.

Let's shower her with good wishes!

Her address is:

Mrs. Virginia Edwards
Love & Care Assisted Living
5368 Dupont Road
Parkersburg WV 26101



LATROBE ST. MISSION DINNER OCTOBER 27

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the elevator. Items are needed for donation and, of course, volunteers are needed for prep in the kitchen and for serving at the Mission.

OCTOBER IS



MONTH

Be sure to
thank
Alicia.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 5



Parkersburg Urban Ministries needs for October: spaghetti noodles (1 lb.); spaghetti sauce
Gustke Center needs for October: dish cloths

Laity Sunday is October 19

*Staff Parish Relations Committee
will meet with the District
Superintendent at 6 pm right
before CHARGE CONFERENCE
on November 10th.*

November 10th
First UMC at 7:00 pm
Please be sure to mark
your calendar.



UNDIE SUNDAY

is THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

It's that time again to bring NEW boxers, briefs, undies, t-shirts, long johns & janes, or socks. Items are needed for all genders, ages, and sizes. Baskets are by the parking lot door.



PARKERSBURG URBAN MINISTRIES



**FOOD BANK
FUNDRAISER
BAKE SALE**

@ 7th Street and Park Avenue

THURSDAY OCTOBER 16 3-7 PM

DONATIONS ACCEPTED



Community Rewards
17 households participating

From June 1 to August 30, 2025
the total money we earned was
\$36.29.

Weekly Opportunities

Sunday: Sunday School, 9:15 am
Morning Worship, 10:45 am
Wednesday: Disciple Bible Study, 7 pm
Thursday: Handbell Practice, 6 pm
Choir Practice, 7 pm
Saturday: Women's Prayer Zoom
Meeting, 8 am
S'mores and More, 6 pm

**OCTOBER
LECTIONARY READINGS**

October 5

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 137 (UMH 852)
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 12

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12 (UMH 790)
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 19

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 119:97-104 or
Psalm 19 (UMH 750)
2 Timothy 3:14--4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 26

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65 (UMH 789)
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-1

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4-Phil Nicholas
5-Bob Harris
5-Virginia Edwards 105!!
13-Kathryn Lamm
17-Allison Poole
18-Jane Couch
18-Ed Goe
19-David Morford



COMING UP
ON NOVEMBER 2



THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and expressions of love when Mom/Grandma passed. We appreciate the caring people of First Church.

Dawn & Jimmy Sundquist

**ADOPT A FAMILY FOR
CHRISTMAS**

This is a program that The Memorial Church of The Good Shepherd sponsors that we have participated in in the past. **This year we are going to do 20 Christmas food baskets ourselves here at First Church.** If you would like to also participate in the program at "The Pink Church", you can give them a call at 304.428.1525. They are actively seeking sponsors now.

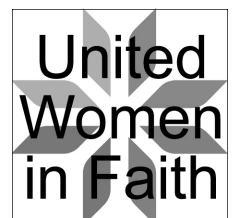
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY Oct. 19

If you'd like to submit the name of a child dear to you for prayer, please let Cindy know by Oct. 12, and they will be added to the list of names of children we will be praying for.



United Women in Faith

We will have our October meeting
on Wednesday, October 8th
in the Parlor at 2 pm.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- 1-Disciple Bible Study begins, 7 pm
- 5-World Communion Sunday/Blessing of the Animals, 3 pm
- 7-Nominating Committee Meeting, 2 pm
- 8-United Women in Faith Meeting, 2 pm
- 11-District Lay Academy, Lubeck UM Church
- 12-Pastor Appreciation Sunday/Undie Sunday
 - Trunk or Treat with 1st Presbyterian Church in their parking lot, 3 pm
- 19-Laity Sunday/Children's Sunday
- 26-Reformation Sunday/ Beginning of the Stewardship Campaign/Day of Remembrance
- 27-Latrobe St. Mission dinner
- 28-CHURCH COUNCIL, 4 pm

OCTOBER

In her book, *Somewhere in Heaven, My Mother is Smiling*, WV author, Peggy Toney Horton pens this sentence: "'My beloved October has returned—with its brilliant colors, cool temperatures and sunny, cloudless, azure skies, and I must enjoy it before it escapes for another year." This year I am feeling the same. Already, I feel the rush of the passing October days and it is just the first day.

In my deepest memories October reminds me of my mother. Hazel Pauline Oliphant Randolph, who was born in October. That year it was Friday the 13th and my mother always claimed that Friday the 13ths were great days. She loved the colors of October, but did not like Halloween. The woods called to her, even during the years when she was unable to see clearly, she knew that October was full of color and soft breezes and bright blue skies, and a very special day that would often include her favorite meal—hot dogs and German chocolate cake. No matter what day October 13th fell on, my father would make sure there were hot-dogs, and he would bake the cake for her. We would try to get her to tell stories as we ate and celebrated her birthday. I cherish those memories and the warm glow that I feel when I think about them.

I hope that October brings memories and a warm glow for you. I hope that you remember what it is like to smell the crisp air and feel the morning chill waking you up. I hope that you remember jumping in a pile of leaves and discovering piles of acorns. I hope that you watch the squirrels preparing for winter, and that the colors are more brilliant this year than any other time that you remember. Buy pumpkins and mums and set them out where your neighborhood can enjoy them as well as you.

October is beautiful, inviting, and a time for reflection.

October is a gift from God.

Pastor Alicia

FIRST FAMILY NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

First United Methodist Church
1001 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101



Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapking

Administrative Asst.: Cindy Lucas

Music Director: Jimmy Sundquist

Financial Secretary: Rebecca Crooks

Organist/Pianist/Handbell Director: Jimmy Sundquist

Volunteer: Deborah Shaffer, Certified Lay Minister

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues.-Thurs.

Friday 9 a.m. to noon

Phone: 304-428-0111

Contact Information

Administrative Asst.:

funccjuliana@wvdsi.net

Financial Secretary:

finsecretary@wvdsi.net

Pastor Alicia:

aliciarapking@gmail.com

website: firstumcparakersburg.org

facebook.com/fumcparakersburg