

# First Family News

APRIL 2026

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Dear Beloved Congregation and Friends,

I have been pondering for a while what to say to you through the last months of my active ministry. The days are moving along fast. I have three more newsletter covers to write to you, including this one for April. I want to say something in each of these newsletters that means something to me and comes from my heart. So, for April, I begin by saying this to you:

We need Easter this year more than I can ever remember.

I say this to you as I have just finished my morning ritual of coffee, silence, and prayer. I find these days that what I think about and what I pray about more and more is the vast amount of suffering in this world. Living in an age when we can access the news, from all over the world, at any time of the day, we can hear about and even see the suffering from all over the world. It does us no good to take ourselves out of the picture. In all of his ministry events, Jesus told us and showed us that the suffering of this world is our concern, because all people belong to God, whether they know it or not, and really, it becomes part of our ministry—our calling from Christ—to do whatever we can to help people know God's love, mercy, and forgiveness, wherever God puts us. John Wesley gave us words to live by as we seek to follow Christ:

"Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can,  
to all the people you can,  
as long as ever you can."

These words of Wesley reflect one of my favorite sayings of Jesus—one that I ponder over and over, especially this year, when there is such chaos and violence, hunger and pain, fear and destruction in our world. The quote is recorded in John 10:10:

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Jesus did not mean that he came so that we can have everything that we want. What Jesus meant is that he came, he taught, he preached, he healed, he performed miracles, he told stories, he quoted scripture, he prayed, he lived, he died, he rose again, so that we—you and I and all—could live life to the fullest.

So, what does living life to the fullest mean? It means that we experience love and joy, forgiveness and grace, hope and peace, food and shelter, meaningful work, beautiful surroundings, and wonderful connections with all people.

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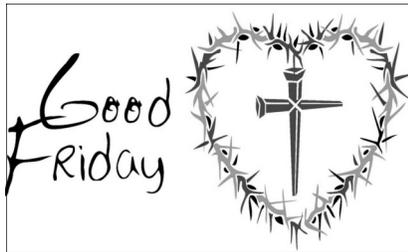
Jesus came as Emmanuel—God with us—to help us learn what abundant life is and can be. Abundant life is not what has become normal, for the world, in these days. And then Jesus sacrificed his life for us—for life, for love, for mercy, for salvation—to bring all people together in the Body of Christ.

And then on Resurrection Day, he came to us again, so that you and I and all could have life abundantly. He came again so that we could live life to the fullest and living life to the fullest is to see the world as Jesus sees it and to do whatever we can to bring fullness to each other, and to others, near and far. That is the ministry of the church. That is the calling of our lives.

Happy Easter!

May it be so.

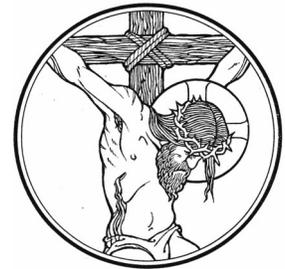
Pastor Alicia



JOIN US FOR THE  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Here at First Church

7 pm April 3



APRIL 2

@ Logan  
Memorial  
UMC

*Maunder*  
*Thursday*  
SERVICE

7 pm

### Weekly Opportunities

*Sunday: Sunday School, upstairs, 9:15 am*  
*Worship, 10:45 a.m.*

*Wednesday: Zoom Disciple Study, 7 pm*

*Thursday: Handbell Choir Practice, 6 pm*  
*Sanctuary Choir Practice, 7 pm*

*Saturday: Women's Zoom Meeting, 8 am*

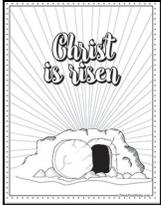


THIS IS PRETTY COOL—We received a post card from First Methodist Church in Bryan, TX. They are praying for churches around the world. They have 7 children in their 2025-2026 Confirmation class. They blindfold one of their confirmands, Henry, and he pressed a pushpin into a US map onto Parkersburg, WV. Using GOOGLE they found us, First Church! They prayed that God will bless our church, our members and our ministry. They asked to let them know if we have any specific prayer concerns. Please let Alicia or Cindy know if you have any special prayer needs so that we can get a thank you card to send them with our signatures. Their church was established in 1868, and they have about 1,500 members. Their city is home to about 85,000.

**APRIL  
LECTIONARY READINGS**

**April 5  
EASTER**

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)  
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10



**April 12**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16 (UMH 748)  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

**April 19**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

**April 26**

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10

**GUSTKE CENTER NEEDS:**

paper towels, napkins

**PARKERSBURG URBAN**

**MINISTRIES NEEDS:**

beans (canned or dry) small bag; canned vegetables (peas, green beans, corn, carrots)



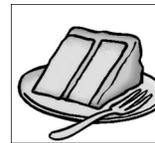
Rocky & Sheila  
Wiseman

April 1

**LENTEN LUNCH/SERVICE**

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 AT NOON @ STOUT MEM. UMC

**First Church along with Logan Memorial UMC and Stephenson UMC will be furnishing the food. Rocky & Sheila Wiseman and Marsha Parsons (from Logan) will be providing special music. Please join us for this Holy Week event.**



**CIRCLES OF THE MOV FUNDRAISER**

The Circles will be having a Sunday afternoon luncheon on April 12 immediately following Worship in the Fellowship Hall. Cost will be by donation. This is for them to operate their upcoming GIVE LOCAL on-line fundraiser. Bring your appetite.



*He is not here.*

*He is risen*

*just as he said!*



**EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERS**

We will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with an array of Easter flowers. You can help in one of two ways: If you have blooming Spring flowers in your garden on Easter Sunday, you may bring them. Or you may purchase a potted Spring flower to place on that Sunday. You can take them home after the service, or leave them to be planted in our flower beds here at the church. Thank you for your help.



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 1—Jon Mason**
- 13—Cindy Lucas**
- 16—Lois Morford**
- 24—Laura DePue**
- 29—DiAnne Carpenter**



**Homebound Birthday**

**Carol Power      April 10**  
**27897 Cincinnati Ridge**  
**Coolville OH 45723**



Easter is the love of Jesus  
and God, our father.  
Easter is a time to show love  
to those who mean the most  
to you.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**AMERICA      ISRAEL/PALESTINE      UKRAINE**



Ada Franklin  
Amanda Rubenstein  
Andy Cordonier  
Barrie Daniels  
Carol Power  
Cecil (Dina's brother)  
Charlie & Marilyn Casto  
Cindy Ferrell  
David Hennen  
David Taliaferro  
Deborah Shaffer

Douglas Mitchell  
First UMC  
Gary Parsons  
Jan Davis  
Jaxson Harvey  
Jim Rich  
Karen Gorrell  
Lee Carrico  
Lisa Parsons  
Logan Memorial UMC

Margaret Stemple  
Marie Butler  
Martha B. Williams  
Matt Taliaferro  
Mike Brannock  
Nathan Corathers & family  
Rachel Long  
Scot Harper  
Sharon Hennen  
Teresa Wade  
Tish Oney

**PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE!**



**KROGER REWARDS**

Inform us that from Dec. 1 thru Feb. 28 we received a total of \$38.51 with 17 households participating.



To John Chaney and family at the passing of his daughter, "Becki" Owens on March 5th.

*Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted."*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- 1 We serve lunch at **Lenten Luncheon** @ Stout Memorial UMC, noon
- 2 **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**, @ Logan UMC, 7 pm
- 3 Community Stations of the Cross walk, begins @ noon at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 609 Market St., Stations 7 & 8 are here
- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**, here, 7 pm
- 5 **EASTER SUNDAY**
- 6 YOUNG AT HEART planning meeting, parlor, 1 pm
- 8 United Women in Faith, Parlor, 2 pm
- 12 CIRCLES Luncheon, immediately following Worship
- 19 NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY
- 27 Latrobe St. Mission dinner



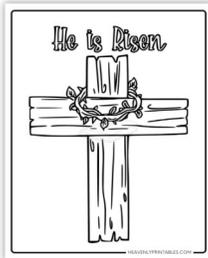
*April is the sweetest month of the year.*

*The mellow season of rebirth and renewal.*

## THE GREATEST LOVE

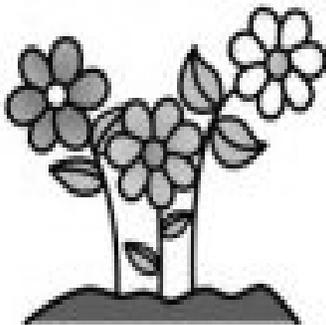
Upon a cross, His life was spent  
A perfect love, heaven-sent  
Three days passed in silent tomb  
Before he conquered death and  
gloom

Easter morn, the stone rolled away  
Bringing light to darkest day  
Jesus rose that we might see  
The path to life eternally



## April

April is a rainbow month,  
Of sudden springtime showers.  
Bright with golden daffodils,  
And lots of pretty flowers.



## SCRIPTURE FOR HOLY WEEK

### Monday

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 36:5-11 (UMH 771)  
Hebrews 9:11-15  
John 12:1-11

### Tuesday

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 71:1-14 (UMH 794)  
Corinthians 1:18-31  
John 12:20-36

### Wednesday

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 70 (UMH 793)  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:21-32

### Holy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 (UMH 764)  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
John 18:1-19:42

### Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14  
Psalm 22 (UMH 752)  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42



If you haven't gone and helped with serving dinner at the Latrobe St. Mission, it is always the fourth Monday. Come out and help the homeless of our community.



## Tips on Hiring Contractors and Handymen!

Sponsored by local "Young at Heart"  
Senior Citizens Ministry



Join us for a free lunch and hear  
advice from these local professionals:

- **Dan Harrison:** President of Harrison Construction, Inc.
- **Jodie Bonnette:** President of Moran Construction, Inc.
- **Andy Nestor:** Chief Code Official, Code Enforcement Division, City of Parkersburg

**Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - 11:30 AM**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED *no later than noon*, Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**First United Methodist Church**

1001 Juliana Street, Parkersburg

In our Fellowship Hall

To Make Reservations Call 304-428-0111 or email [fumcjuliana@wvdsi.net](mailto:fumcjuliana@wvdsi.net)

Office hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9 am - 4 pm Friday 9 am - noon

**You are invited to join  
fellow Christians for the**

### *COMMUNITY STATIONS OF THE CROSS*

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the  
place of the Skull, called Golgotha. John 19:17



On Good Friday, April 3, 2026, the fourteen Stations of the Cross will be offered during a walk among seven churches in downtown Parkersburg. These Stations depict the events of Christ's last day on earth. Join us as we walk together, remembering Christ's path to His crucifixion through scriptures and prayers.

This event begins at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at 12:00 noon. It will conclude when the pilgrims return to St. Francis Xavier for the final Stations at around 1:30pm. Parking is available at St. X and Trinity Episcopal.

**FIRST CHURCH WILL BE HOSTING STATIONS 7 and 8.**

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapping

Financial Secretary: Rebecca Crooks

Director of Music: Jimmy Sundquist

Administrative Assistant: Cindy Lucas

Handbell & Choir Director/Organist/Pianist:

Jimmy Sundquist

Custodian: Rob Bauer

Volunteer Staff: Deborah Shaffer, Certified Lay Minister

**Office Hours**

Tuesday-Thursday—9 am to 4 pm Friday—9 am to noon

Phone: 304-428-0111

**Contact Information**

Administrative Asst.:

fumcjuliana@wvdsl.net

Financial Secretary:

finsecretary@wvdsl.net

Pastor Alicia:

aliciarapking@gmail.com

facebook.com/fumcparkersburg

Website - firstumcparkersburg.org



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**APRIL 2026**

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