

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Parkersburg, West Virginia

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR MARCH 29, 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PALM SUNDAY

The United Methodist Church has a new vision statement: The UM Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections. Our mission remains *“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”*.

+Please stand, as able. **Congregational responses are in bold print.**

Welcome/Announcements

Karen Whitacre

Centering Words

*Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
Spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.
There, in the distance, they begin to see,
Riding on a donkey, comes the Son of God.
(from the hymn Mantos y Palmas)*

Prelude *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* arr. Hayes

Call to Worship

Liturgist, Jim Wojcik

The story of faith is a story of courage.

It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.

It took courage for Mary, mother of Jesus to say, “Here I am. Use me.”

It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.

It took courage for the paralyzed man’s friends to lower him through the roof.

It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.

It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

Again and again, we need courage. Again and again, God shows us the way.

Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

+Opening Hymn

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

No. 278

Call to Confession

Life and faith require courage. Vulnerability requires courage. Relationships require courage. Advocacy and justice require courage. Facing sin requires courage. Confession requires courage. Let us do the hard things. Let us confess together, trusting that God is always there, cheering us on, in every courageous act.

Prayer of Confession

God, palm branches and hallelujahs: we confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration. We love the sound of a joyful parade. We love shouting “Hosanna!” We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.

However, if we slow down and pay attention, we know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you. There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence. And the whole world knew it.

Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took. Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage, and even we can do hard things. With hope we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, even when we gloss over the truth, even when our courage fails us, even when we doubt that we can do hard things, God believes in us. God loves us. God forgives us. Hear and believe this truth: We are known. We are loved. We are forgiven. Again and again and again. Amen.

Lesson from the Old Testament

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Choral Anthem *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* arr. French
All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son. Who in the Lord's name cometh, the Blessed Anointed One. Lift up your heads, O gates! Swing ye wide, eternal doors! Who is the King for Glory? The strong and mighty Lord! O daughters of Jerusalem, rejoice and joyful be; upon a donkey rides your King in great humility. The people of the city with palms before Thee went; our praise and prayers and anthems before Thee we present. To Thee, before Thy Passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Their praises Thou accepted, accept the praise we bring, delight in what we offer, our good and gracious King! The company of angels are praising Thee on high, and we with all creation sing out the glad reply!

Good News for All God's Children

Gospel Lesson

Mark 11:1-11

Sermon *Again and Again, We Draw on Courage*

Morning Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

May Christ's courage settle upon us this day and always. May we have the courage to walk in the path of Christ and be generous in our giving of our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Offertory *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* arr. Larson

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we offer to you our offerings, our hearts, our lives. May we always sing hosannas to the Christ, our King, to the living Savior who still calls today, asking us to follow him with love and faith. Amen.

+Closing Hymn *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* No. 277

Benediction

As we leave this moment, this space,
May our mouths speak of God's goodness.
May our arms hold those in need.
May our heart trust its worth.
May our souls dance in God's grace.
And may this be our rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of Jesus, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.
Amen.

Postlude *Tuba Tune* by Lang

(Please be seated during this time of personal reflection.)

SCRIPTURE FOR HOLY WEEK

VISITORS: PLEASE FILL OUT A VISITOR CARD AND DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE. THEY ARE LOCATED ON THE BACK OF THE PEWS. **THANK YOU AND WELCOME!**

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 03-22-26	\$ 1,800
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	\$ 42,898
Actual expenses Y-T-D	\$ 40,460
Other gifts: Latrobe St. Mission—meals \$30;	
Easter Offering \$30	

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 5 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

THERE WILL BE NO SUNRISE SERVICE ON EASTER MORNING.

Attendance last week 42 Online 11

Community GOOD FRIDAY Walk - Stations of the Cross

Begins at noon April 3 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church on Market Street. The walk will once again take participants through downtown Parkersburg as witnesses of our ecumenical faith in Christ and will continue up the street to additional stops. There'll be a brief reading in regard to that dark day that led to Christ's crucifixion at each stop. **First Church** will be one of the many stops on the walk.



Monday

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

Wednesday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70 (UMH 793)
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22 (UMH 752)
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

Tuesday

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

Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Saturday

Job 14:1-14
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 (UMH 764)
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 OR
John 19:38-42

LENTEN LUNCH/SERVICE

THIS WEDNESDAY AT NOON @ STOUT MEMORIAL UMC



First Church along with Logan Mem. UMC and Stephenson UMC will be furnishing the food. Rocky & Sheila Wiseman and Marsha Parsons (from Logan) will be providing special music.





There is a white laundry basket in the sanctuary for collecting the following items for **FAITH LINK** (A Volunteer Caregiving Program) for their Senior Hygiene Drive, now through May 1:

Soap (bar or liquid) Shampoo Hand Soap
 Toothbrush Deodorant Lotion
 Nail Clippers Other items not listed

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK HOLY WEEK

- Monday (Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 6 pm)
- Tuesday **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**, 4 pm
- Wednesday Lenten Lunch/Service, Stout Memorial UMC, 12 noon, FUMC is doing the food
LENTEN STUDY, Assembly Room, 3 pm
 (Girl Scouts, 5-7 pm)
- Thursday **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE @ Logan Memorial UMC**, 7 pm
- Friday **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**, here, 7 pm
- Saturday Women's Zoom Meeting, 8 am
- Sunday Sunday School, upstairs, 9:15 am



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
 ROCKY & SHEILA WISEMAN



Name: _____ Date: _____

Palm Sunday!

E E I L O T K L J D B F B X P W O
 X T S Z A C H Q G Y R C T J V N F
 E H I W F L B W I Z A M O U N T P
 S T A P Q O Y I Z V N Y D G D V S
 X L W F H A R V S H C Z W O P M T
 E Q G K T K Y I E M H Z N L T F B
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 T K J E S U S E B L E S S I N G F
 X J T C P X A V O P R O P H E T D
 Y L F A H O S A N N A C L N J Y K
 E K R A P A L M S T S L P Y Q P G
 A Z A O I F U Y P M N I J B E M N
 V J W D O N K E Y A Y D K H X O Z
 W A F S Q K L U W R U Z P O U N V

Blessing	Branches	Village	Prophet
Hosanna	Cloaks	Donkey	Olives
Jesus	Palms	Crowd	Mount
Colt	Son		

Website: firstumcparkersburg.org
Phone 304.428.0111

Office Hours

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

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapking (cell# 1.304.677.9376)
Administrative Assistant: Cindy Lucas
Financial Secretary: Rebecca Crooks
Director of Music/Organist/Pianist/Handbell & Choir Director:
Jimmy Sundquist
Custodian: Rob Bauer
Volunteer Staff: Deborah Shaffer, Certified Lay Minister

Those Serving Us Today

Liturgist: Jim Wojcik Acolyte: Allison Poole
Greeters/Ushers: Lisa Parsons & Janet Ray

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, WV

Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapking, Pastor

March 29, 2026



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

AMERICA	ISRAEL/PALESTINE	UKRAINE
Ada Franklin		Margaret Stemple
Amanda Rubenstein	Douglas Mitchell	Marie Butler
Andy Cordonier	First UMC	Martha B. Williams
Barrie Daniels	Gary Parsons	Matt Taliaferro
Carol Power	Jan Davis	Mike Brannock
Cecil (Dina's brother)	Jaxson Harvey	Nathan Corathers/family
Charlie & Marilyn Casto	Jim Rich	Rachel Long
Cindy Ferrell	Karen Gorrell	Scot Harper
David Hennen	Lee Carrico	Sharon Hennen
David Taliaferro	Lisa Parsons	Teresa Wade
Deborah Shaffer	Logan Memorial UMC	Tish Oney

PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE!

Prayer Candles—Lighting candles is a devotional practice in which many millions of Christians the world over have found inspiration. Everyone is encouraged to light a candle and offer a prayer as we gather for worship. The candle will not be a substitute for the prayer of your heart, but an accompaniment. They are located to the left of the pulpit.

