

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia

April 12, 2026



A Celebration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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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*”.

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

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## Welcome/Announcements

Karen Whitacre

## Centering Words

*Sunday evening:*

*The doors where the disciples were, were shut tight  
because of fear...*

## Proclamation

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

## Prelude

*The Love of God*

arr. Shackley

## Call to Worship

Liturgist, Dawn Sundquist

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. While they were still cowering in fear, Christ announced peace to his disciples and sent them as the God had sent them in the power of the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Christ announces peace to us and sends us, in our fear and despite our sins, as agents of forgiveness, healing, and peace. The resurrection awakens us to ministry. Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

And so, the peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Hallelujah! Christ is risen

**He is risen indeed!**

## +Opening Hymn

*Alleluia, Alleluia*

No. 162

## Opening Prayer

**Author of faith, to you we lift our weary, longing eyes. Our fear would close us down to your love and your call on our lives. Even now, send your Spirit among us. Break into our shut-up hearts, unparalyze our fear-filled minds, and unclasp our clenched hands, that we may hear your words of life and truly live. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Choral Anthem      *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*      arr. Harmon

I know that my Redeemer lives: glory, hallelujah! What joy and peace this sentence gives: glory, hallelujah! Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground: glory, hallelujah! The dead's alive, the lost is found: glory, hallelujah!

He lives to bless me with his love: glory, hallelujah! He lives to plead for me above: glory, hallelujah! He lives, my hungry soul to feed: glory, hallelujah! He lives to help in time of need: glory, hallelujah!

He lives, all glory to his name: glory, hallelujah! He lives, my savior still the same: glory, hallelujah! What joy the blest assurance gives: glory, hallelujah! I know that my Redeemer lives: glory, hallelujah!

## Good News for all God's Children

## Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-23

## Sermon

**Awakening...to Ministry**

## Morning Prayer

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Let us pray with and for the church and the world, saying, “Lord, have mercy.” With all who are afraid this day because of health, or lack of resources, or threats to their lives or the lives of those they love, we stretch our hands to you:

**Lord, have mercy.**

With all who need you to enter their situation at this moment and speak "Peace," we stretch our hands to you:

**Lord, have mercy.**

With all who have been wounded by others in this world, justly or unjustly, we stretch our hands to you:

**Lord, have mercy.**

With all who rejoice in your resurrection, and with all who mourn those who have died, we stretch our hands to you:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who bring peace or work for peace and justice in the world, we stretch our hands to you:

**Lord, have mercy.**

With all whom you have sent into the world, in every land and nation, we stretch our hands to you:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Breathe afresh on us, that we may receive of the Holy Spirit as we stretch our hands to you.

**Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.**

### Invitation to the Offering

Friends, God has opened the gates of righteousness. Let us accept God's invitation and offer gifts of thanksgiving in Christ's name.

**Offertory**            *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*    arr. Purifoy

### 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 in Song**    *My Tribute*            No. 99

**+Closing Hymn**            *Dona Nobis Pacem*            No. 376

### Blessing

Go in peace, filled with the Holy Spirit and the mercy of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Postlude**                    *I'll Fly Away*                    arr. Hayes  
(Please be seated during this time of personal reflection.)

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**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!**

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### CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 04-05-26            \$ 4,467

Congregational Giving Y-T-D                    \$ 51,452

Actual expenses Y-T-D                            \$ 50,768

Other gifts: Easter Offering \$155; Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$15

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### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 19

Acts 2:14a, 36-41    Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

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### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**TODAY**    **Circles** sponsored **LUNCHEON** in the Fellowship Hall, after Worship

Tuesday (Community Service Council, 11 am)

Monday (Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 6 pm)

Wednesday (Girl Scouts, 5-7 pm)

**ZOOM Disciple Study, 7 pm**

Thursday (Circles, Fellowship Hall, (9-11 am)

Handbell Choir Practice, 6 pm

Sanctuary Choir Practice, 7 pm

Friday (AA Meeting, F. Hall, 7-9 pm)

Saturday Women's ZOOM Meeting, 8 am

Sunday **Sunday School**, upstairs, 9:15 am



**TODAY after Worship**

Circles of the MOV is sponsoring a luncheon to raise money for their on-line fundraiser, GIVE LOCAL. Cost will be

by donation and the donations will be matched by The Parkersburg Area Community Foundation.

*Circles* goal is \$10,000 for the year.

The menu is as follows: Italian Parmesan Noodles with Chicken, green beans, cottage cheese, applesauce, rolls  
Desserts: Banana Bread and Strawberry Butter Cake

Drinks are: tea coffee lemonade water

It should be noted that Lisa and Brenda are excellent cooks!



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

Jimmy would like to remind everyone of **Warren's spring musical, Curtains!** It's a murder mystery, but also a comedy, and it's going to be a very fun show! It's playing **April 17 and 18** at 7 pm, and **April 19** at 2:30 pm in the auditorium at Warren High School. You can get tickets online in advance (link address is below), or at the door one hour before each performance. There's also a poster just inside the parking lot entrance with more details.

<https://events.hometownticketing.com/boxoffice/warren/entity/schools/4>

Attendance last week 57    Online 12

Next Sunday is **NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS SUNDAY**. This is one of the Special Sundays of the WV United Methodist Conference. Your contribution supports ministries with Native Americans and provides scholarships for Native Americans attending seminary. Offering envelopes are on the tables near the entrances.

Blessed Birthdays wishes to:

Cindy Lucas    April 13

Lois Morford    April 16

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are in honor of the April 9<sup>th</sup> birthday of Karmen Whitehair, granddaughter of Cindy Lucas.

**APRIL IS "NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH" FOR:**

- POETRY
- STRESS AWARENESS
- EARTH
- ALCOHOL AWARENESS
- AUTISM ACCEPTANCE
- ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE
- SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION
- VOLUNTEER
- KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL
- CANINE FITNESS
- STRAW HAT

Website: [firstumcparkersburg.org](http://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 Rapping (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: Dawn Sundquist      Acolyte: Dawn Sundquist

Greeters/Ushers: Ed & Alease Goe

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Parkersburg, WV

Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapping, Pastor

April 12, 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.*

