

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia

April 19, 2026



A Celebration of the Third Sunday of Easter

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

Easter invites us to be ready to meet Christ,
Anywhere, at any time, in anyone.

Proclamation

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Prelude

I Am Thine, O Lord

arr. McDonald

Call to Worship

Liturgist, Jonnie Camp

Even if we feel abandoned and alone,

Christ meets us here.

Even when we become lost and disoriented,

Christ rescues us in our need.

Even when our hearts are touched by frost,

Christ warms our spirits.

Even when all light has faded to black,

Christ illumines our way.

Here in this house of worship enter, rejoice, and come home.

+Opening Hymn

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

No. 304

Opening Prayer

Lover of our souls, you meet us on the road of life and lift us from our pain and grief. Heal our hardness of heart and open our minds to the subtleness of your ways and the grandeur of your kingdom. During times of suffering and doubt, help us grow strong and true, through your enduring word. Reveal your presence to us, as we show hospitality to strangers and break bread in your name. Amen.

Choral Anthem

My Eyes for Beauty Pine by Howells

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God's grace. No other care nor hope is mine; to heaven I turn my face. One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above: 'tis named when God's name is said, 'tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love. And every gentle heart that burns with true desire is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

Children's Time with the Pastor

Easter People Let us Sing

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:13-55

Sermon

Are You Okay?

Morning Prayer and 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

What shall we return to the Lord for God's many gifts? What praises shall we sing to honor God's manifold blessings? In the presence of God's people, let us pay our vows to the Lord with heartfelt gratitude.

Offertory

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Shackley

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

Loving God, you come to us in moments of grief when we have lost our ability to perceive your presence. Receive our thanks for meeting us on the road and for quickening our spirits. Receive our praise for opening your word to us and for enlightening our minds. May the gifts we bring before you now reflect the stirring of our hearts, as you heal the broken places in our lives. May the offering we bring forth stir the hearts of those in need of your mercy and your grace. Amen.

+Closing Hymn *Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna* No. 307

Blessing

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

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Postlude *Jesus is All the World to Me* arr. Hayes
(Please be seated during this time of personal reflection.)

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!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 26

Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 04-12-26	\$ 2,779
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	\$ 60,103
Actual expenses Y-T-D	\$ 52,524

Other gifts: Church Utilities \$90; Circles Campaign of the MOV \$100

Attendance last week 31 Online 10

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

TODAY Native American Ministries Sunday

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

Wednesday (Girl Scouts, 5-7 pm)

ZOOM Disciple Study, 7 pm

Thursday 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

(Wilson Wedding/Reception, 2 pm)

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



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 INVITES EVERYONE to:

Warren's spring musical, Curtains! It's a murder mystery - but also a comedy, and it's going to be a very fun show! Last performance is today, **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 the performance.

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

TODAY is NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES 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: Laura DePue Apr. 24



The Latrobe St. Dinner is next Monday, April 27. The list of things that are needed to prepare the dinner is on the bulletin board near the elevator. Lots of items are needed. There is also a sign-up sheet for helping with the prep in the kitchen and serving at the Mission. Your help is much appreciated.



SATURDAY MAY 2

We will be working on cleaning & decluttering all the rooms upstairs. Please come out to help starting at 9 am.

L *is patient*
O *is kind*
V *it does not envy*
E *it does not boast*
it is not proud
it is not rude
it is not self-seeking
it is not easily angered
keeps no record of wrongs
does not delight in evil
Rejoices with the truth
always protects
always trusts
always hopes
always perseveres
Never Fails



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: Jonnie Camp Acolyte: Allison Poole

Greeters/Ushers: Ed & Alease Goe

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Parkersburg, WV

Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapking, Pastor

April 19, 2026



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE!

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

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.

