

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia

May 3, 2026



Fifth 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 Proclamation

Trusting God sounds so simple, but trust is a journey.

Join the journey toward trust, for Christ will show us the way.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Prelude *My Jesus, I Love Thee* arr. Hayes

Call to Worship Liturgist, Kathryn Lamm

Come to Christ, our cornerstone.

Christ has called us here.

Trust in God, our firm foundation.

God is with us here.

Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace.

May the Spirit guide our way.

+Opening Hymn *How Firm a Foundation* No. 529

Prayer of Yearning and Confession

Mighty God, we want to be brave, but it's tempting to be small and afraid. Lift us up when we fall down. Protect us from our own doubts and fears. Shine your face upon us with mercy and grace, that we might find the courage and strength to recognize and confess our sins before you, to be steadfast and faithful, loving and righteous. Be our strong foundation, so that we may

grow as your household, your family, your people of justice, love, and mercy. In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's faithful love is true, and God's strength is enough. Rest in God's love and trust in God's strength, for these gifts are all we need.

Lesson from the Epistle I Peter 2:2-10

A Time for All God's Children

Choral Anthem *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Schwoebel

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace. Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love. Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come. And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God. He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood. O to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be. Let thy grace, Lord, like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above. I am bound for the kingdom; will you go to glory with me? Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Gospel Lesson John 14:1-14

Sermon **Stumbling Blocks or Cornerstones**

Morning Prayer

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 *His Eye is On the Sparrow* arr. Raney

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

God of steadfast faithfulness and love, bless these gifts that they may bring your message of faith and love to the world. Bless us also, that we may be steadfast and true in our giving and in our living. Build our church, build us, and build your world into a household of love and justice—the household you’ve envisioned since the beginning of time. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion Setting C, page 20

+Closing Hymn *When We All Get to Heaven* No. 701

Blessing

Even as God sends us into the world, Christ has prepared the way.

Following Christ, we go to serve and love with faith and hope.

Postlude *When We All Get to Heaven* 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 MAY 10

Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 (UMH 790)
1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

Attendance last week 30 Online 13

Blessed birthday wishes to Jimmy Sundquist May 9

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

- Monday (Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 6 pm)
- Tuesday **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**, Assembly Room, 4 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
- Sunday Sunday School, upstairs, 9:15 am



The deadline for ordering geraniums is this Tuesday, May 5. If you need an order form, there is one in your newsletter or you can get one from Cindy.



MAY 14
Tips on Hiring Contractors and Handymen!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED *by noon this Thursday, May 7th*.
For more info, flyers are on the entrance tables to the church.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 7

WE NEED TO PRAY FOR PEACE!

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 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: Kathryn Lamm Acolyte: Allison Poole

Greeters/Ushers: Ed & Alease Goe

Communion Stewards: Dawn Sundquist, Steve Knopp & Kathryn Lamm

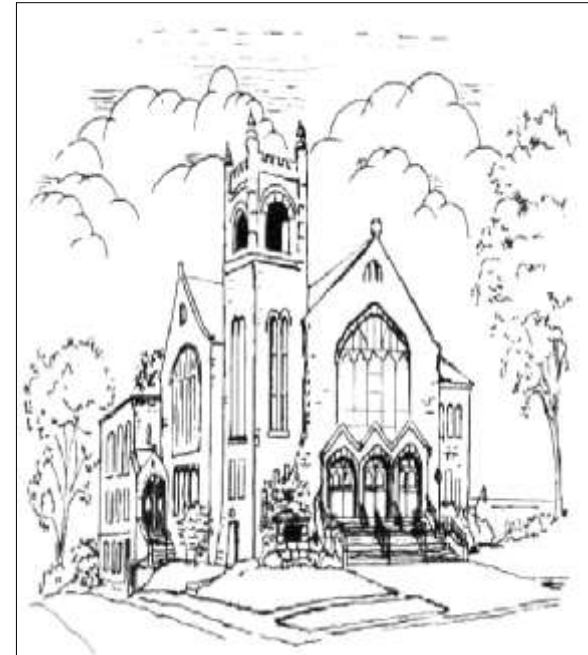
Communion Coordinator: Bev Brannock

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, WV

Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapping, Pastor

May 3, 2026



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE!

AMERICA

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

UKRAINE

Ada Franklin

Amanda Rubenstein

Andy Cordonier

Barrie Daniels

Carol Power

Cecil (Dina's brother)

Charlie & Marilyn Casto

David Hennen

David Taliaferro

Deborah Shaffer

Dina Andrews

Douglas Mitchell

First UMC

Gary Parsons

Jan Davis

Jaxson Harvey

Jim Rich

Karen Gorrell

Lee Carrico

Lisa Doyle Parsons

Logan Memorial UMC

Margaret Stemple

Marie Butler

Matt Taliaferro

Mike Brannock

Nathan Corathers/family

Pam Corathers

Ron Ferrell

Scot Harper

Sharon Hennen

Teresa Wade

Tish Oney

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.

