

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026  
MOTHER'S DAY



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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 Proclamation

*Through fire and testing, God brings us to a place of blessing and promise.*

*The Holy Spirit leads us onto the great path of love.*

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

**Prelude** *Down in the River to Pray* arr. Page  
FUMC Bell Choir

**Call to Worship** Liturgist, Kathryn Lamm

Easter people, no matter the bends and curves in our path, Jesus does not leave us alone on this journey of faith.

**God gives us the Spirit, our Advocate and Helper.**

The Spirit lives in and among us, pointing us all toward the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus.

**God gives us the Spirit, our Guide and Guardian.**

The Spirit draws us into God's story, showing us how to cooperate in writing God's dream into reality.

**God gives us the Spirit, our Dream-Giver and Story-Keeper.**

Easter people, God's story abides in you, calling you to live as co-creators of love and abundant life.

We come to worship God and listen for the Spirit who inspires, guides, and helps us join in God's story, until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

**+Opening Hymn** *To God be the Glory* No. 98

## Opening Prayer

God of all time and space, you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation at a time before and beyond all knowing. Through the Word and the Spirit, you continue in eternal love for all beings. Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence, your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world. Shape us into the people you have made us to be – poured out in creative mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ in all creation. Amen.

**First Gospel Lesson** John 14:15-21

## A Time for All God's Children

**Choral Anthem** *Bless This House* arr. Ringwald

Bless this house, O Lord we pray; make it safe both night and day. Bless these walls so firm and stout, keeping want and trouble out. Bless the roof and chimneys tall; let Thy peace lie over all. Bless this door that it may prove ever open to joy and love. Bless these windows shining bright, letting in God's heavenly light; bless the hearth ablazing there, with smoke ascending like a prayer. Bless the folk who dwell within; keep them safe and free from sin. Bless us all that we may be fit, O Lord, to dwell with Thee. Bless us all that one day we may dwell, O Lord, with Thee.

**Second Gospel Lesson** Luke 1:46-55

**Sermon** Confessions of a New Mother from a Seasoned Mother

## Morning Prayer



## CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 05-03-26	\$ 2,412
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	\$68,748
Actual expenses Y-T-D	\$63,398

Other gifts: Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$300; Latrobe St. Mission - meals \$200

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## BLESSED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

JOHN CHANEY MAY 12



## GERANIUMS FOR MOTHERS AND OTHERS

In Appreciation "To all women who are mothers to others"

Anna Jarvis, Founder of Mother's Day  
by Deborah & Rich Shaffer

In honor of our grandchildren's mothers, Stephanie Wiseman and Rachel Long

In memory of our mothers, Betty Wiseman and Marion Oney  
by Sheila & Rocky Wiseman

In honor of Hannah Waters and Margaret Stemple  
In memory of Judy Waters and Winifred Harper  
by Susan & Dean Waters

In honor of my daughter, Harmony Whitehair, my sister, Sheila Belcher, and my best friend's mom, Ada Franklin, who is 94 and has beat cancer twice  
by Cindy Lucas

## GERANIUMS FOR MOTHERS AND OTHERS (Continued)

In memory of my mom, Juanita Hill, my 2<sup>nd</sup> mom, Aunt Em Ellis, and my niece, Erica Belcher  
by Cindy Lucas

In honor of Chelsea Hettinger, niece and Dee Dee Helmick, sister  
In memory of Eva Jean Haught Willis, mother and Merle Lipscomb Shaffer, mother  
by Deborah & Rich Shaffer

In memory of Karen Hupp and Nina Wojcik by Jim & Julie Wojcik

In honor of my mother, Virginia Edwards  
by Joanie Edwards McDonald

In honor of Gail Hutchinson and Jane Presseau by Sue Presseau

In honor of family and friends  
In memory of parents by Sarabeth & Bob Harris

In honor of Grace Langenstein  
In memory of Hazel Randolph, Jean Rapking, and Grace Hudgins  
by Alicia Randolph Rapking

In honor of Alicia Randolph Rapking, Cindy Lucas, Rebecca Crooks, Jimmy Sundquist, and Rob Bauer  
In memory of Wesley Ray by Janet Ray

In honor our granddaughter, Katie, new mom to Cooper James Lindamood  
by Charlotte & Larry Clinton

In memory of Ruth Drew by Karen Whitacre

In memory of my mother and grandmothers by Jonnie Camp

In honor of the Music Department by Jane Couch

In honor of our daughters and granddaughters, who bless us by continuing the generations

In memory of our mothers, Marjorie and Sue  
by Randal and Kathryn Lamm

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: Kathryn Lamm    Acolyte: Allison Poole  
Greeters/Ushers: Rebecca Crooks & Julie Wojcik

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Parkersburg, WV  
Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapking, Pastor  
May 10, 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)	Jim Rich	Pam Corathers
Charlie & Marilyn Casto	Karen Gorrell	Ron Ferrell
Cindy Ferrell	Lee Carrico	Scot Harper
David Hennen	Lisa Doyle Parsons	Sharon Hennen
David Taliaferro	Logan Memorial UMC	Teresa Wade
Deborah Shaffer		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.*

