

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia

May 17, 2026



Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension 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 Proclamation

The ascension of Christ forces us to contemplate powers of the Spirit that our minds cannot comprehend. But what the mind struggles to understand, the soul receives with joy.

Prelude

I Need Thee Every Hour

arr. Kim

Call to Worship

Liturgist, Kathryn Lamm

Look to the heavens, people of God.

See the power of the Most High God.

Christ ascends to heaven in glory.

Shout to God with cries of joy.

Clap your hand, children of Love incarnate.

Sing praises to God, who loves us all.

+Opening Hymn

Christ is Risen

No. 307

Opening Prayer

God, Most High, as Christ ascended into the heavens, may our hearts ascend to you. Open our eyes to the power of your Spirit, and open our lives to the fullness of your power, that we may be

clothed with power on high. Help us wait patiently for the power of your Holy Spirit that we may be found worthy of your great gifts. Amen.

First Gospel Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

A Time for All God's Children

Choral Anthem

Holy Manna

arr. Raney

Lord, shower us with holy manna. Lord, shower us from above. We gather here to sing hosanna. We gather to share your love. We have gathered here to worship and adore the Lord, our God. Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word? All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down. Christians, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around. Lord, shower us with holy manna. Lord, shower us from above. We gather here to sing hosanna. We gather to share your love. Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too. Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new. Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down. Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around. Lord, shower us with holy manna. Lord, shower us from above. We gather here to sing hosanna. We gather to share your love.

Second Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

Sermon

Up, Up, and Away!

Morning Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

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

O God, for your power and might, we praise you. For your love and mercy, we thank you. For giving us your Spirit and your every blessing, we honor you with our lives and gifts. Receive from our hand the fruit of our industry, and use it in ministry to a world in need of your glory. In the name of the one who ascended to heaven, that we might have fullness of life here on earth, we pray. Amen.

+Closing Hymn *Thine Be the Glory* No. 308

Blessing

Lift your eyes to the heavens.

We lift them to the one who ascended in glory.

Trust the power of God’s Holy Spirit.

We embrace the one who clothes us with power.

Go as witnesses of the risen Lord.

We celebrate the one who brings us eternal life.

Postlude *Marching to Zion* arr. Shackley
(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 24

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826)

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 7:37-39

Attendance last week 44 Online 11

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday (Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 5:30 pm)

Tuesday (JA Square Hist. District Officers Mtg., parlor, 7 pm)

Wednesday (Girl Scouts, 5-7 pm)

ZOOM Disciple Study, 7 pm

Thursday 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

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 05-10-26 \$ 2,982

Congregational Giving Y-T-D \$71,819

Actual expenses Y-T-D \$67,511

Other gifts: UMCOR \$50; Latrobe St. Mission – meals \$20

A bracelet was found in the parking lot last Sunday. If you lost a bracelet recently, please call the church office to identify it.

BLESSED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Susan Waters

May 21



NEXT SUNDAY IS PENTECOST.

Remember to wear red, gold or orange.

Alicia will not be in the office this week, as Grace and John are coming to help her pack. She will be in the office the following week, even though she was scheduled to be off that week.



Mark Gaston is in need of some assistance.

We are looking for volunteers to be with Mark in Morgantown, where he will be going for cancer treatment. Please let someone in the church office know if you are available to help. More details regarding this will follow.



Next week's Worship Service will be a joint service with Logan Memorial UMC (at Logan) at 10 am.

Communion will not be on the first Sunday in June. Instead we will have Communion on Alicia's last Sunday here, June 21.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are in honor of the May 11th birthday of Rylan Whitehair and the May 16th birthday of Jeran Lucas, the grandsons of Cindy Lucas.



After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 1:9

The Ascension of Jesus

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

ACTS ONE
CHRIST
CLOUD HIDES HIM
DISCIPLES
FATHER ALMIGHTY
FORTY DAYS
JESUS
RESURRECTION
TAKEN UP
TWO MEN IN WHITE

ASCENSIO IESU
CHRISTIAN ART
DEPARTURE
EARTH
FEAST OF THE ASCENSION
HEAVEN
PRESENCE OF GOD
RIGHTHAND OF GOD
THE ASCENSION



our website: <https://www.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 17, 2026



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE!

AMERICA

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

UKRAINE

Ada Franklin

Dina Andrews

Marie Butler

Amanda Rubenstein

Douglas Mitchell

Matt Taliaferro

Andy Cordonier

First UMC

Mike Brannock

Barrie Daniels

Gary Parsons

Nathan Corathers/family

Carol Power

Jan Davis

Pam Corathers

Cecil (Dina's brother)

Jim Rich

Ron Ferrell

Charlie & Marilyn Casto

Karen Gorrell

Scot Harper

Cindy Ferrell

Lee Carrico

Shane Simmons family

David Hennen

Lisa Doyle Parsons

Sharon Hennen

David Taliaferro

Logan Memorial UMC

Teresa Wade

Deborah Shaffer

Margaret Stemple

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.

