

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia
Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026
Aldersgate 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

*Would that all the LORD's people were prophets
and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!
(Numbers 11:29 NRSV)*

Prelude

Spirit Medley

arr. Hayes

Call to Worship

Liturgist, Kathryn Lamm

Beloved, the Spirit of Truth gathers us here to receive and discern God's good news working among us.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Spirit of Love draws us together to receive and restore life-giving relationships with God and one another.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Spirit of Freedom knits us together to receive and renew the bonds of empathy, justice, and peace that bind us together in the work for liberation and wholeness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Beloved, the Holy Spirit is here, moving and working among us. Will you come and receive all the Spirit has to give?

We come to receive the Spirit's abundant and gracious gifts that

we may be a people who live out God's truth, love, and freedom in our neighborhood, community, and throughout all creation. Amen.

+Opening Hymn

Spirit of God

TFWS 2117

Opening Prayer

Send forth your Spirit, O God, and renew the face of the earth. Dwell among us, even though your presence will startle and unsettle us. Grant us your peace, we pray, as justice and love pour down upon the yearning earth. Amen.*

Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

Numbers 11:24-30

A Time for All God's Children

Choral Anthem

I Will Sing with the Spirit

by Rutter

I will sing with the spirit: Alleluia! And I will sing with the understanding also: Alleluia! I will sing with the spirit: Alleluia!

Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:1-21

Sermon

Bright Wings and Pentecost

Morning Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Minuet from Three Sketches

by Barber

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.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Empowering God, you are the one who pours out your Spirit on sons and daughters, on young and old, on leaders and servants alike. You have not withheld your gifts, but have shared them freely: truth, empathy, vision, and power. As your Spirit-filled people, we now offer our gifts—not out of fear or obligation, but in response to your boundless generosity. Use these offerings to fuel the prophetic witness of your church, to bless those still yearning for hope, and to build a community where all are seen, heard, and loved. May our giving, like your Spirit, be poured out without limit. Amen.

+Closing Hymn *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* TFWS 2120

Blessing

Family of God, go now in the blessing of the Spirit who inspires you to seek God’s truth, empowers you to share God’s love with empathy and compassion, and emboldens you to live in the freedom of the Spirit who binds us to God and one another that we may be truly free.

Amen.

Postlude *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* arr. Turner
(Please be seated during this time of personal reflection.)

Liturgy for this Pentecost Sunday is from Discipleship Resources.

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 31

Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8 (UMH 743)
2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20

Attendance last week 40 Online 11

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

- Monday (Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 5:30 pm)
Latrobe St. Mission feed (we will order pizza to be delivered)
- Wednesday (Girl Scouts, 5-7 pm)
ZOOM Disciple Study, 7 pm
- Thursday Sanctuary Choir Practice, 7 pm
- Friday SEW-IN, begins at 9 am and ends when the last person goes home
(AA Meeting, parlor, 7-9 pm)
- Saturday Women’s ZOOM Meeting, 8 am
SEW-IN, 9 am, continues until 3 pm
- Sunday Sunday School, upstairs, 9:15 am

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 05-17-26	\$ 8,479
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	\$ 80,313
Actual expenses Y-T-D	\$ 73,328

Other gifts: Latrobe St. Mission – meals \$65

BLESSED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO	Dean Waters	May 29
	Mary Neal Christian	May 30

HOMEBOUND BIRTHDAY	Bev Brannock	May 30
	1901 Niagara Street	
	Parkersburg WV 26101	

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. Mark isn’t sure of the details yet, but believes it would be an overnight stay.



Next week's Worship Service will be a joint service with Logan Memorial UMC (at Logan) at 10 am. It is in celebration of their 160th anniversary!

TODAY IS HERITAGE SUNDAY What is Heritage Sunday?

Heritage Sunday is one of five Awareness Special Sundays that highlight ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this day, we celebrate the rich history and legacy of the Church, remembering the faith and sacrifices of those who came before us. Heritage Sunday matters because it invites us to reflect on the faithfulness of those who came before us and to consider how we continue their work today.

ALDRSGATE SUNDAY is the **United Methodist Church's annual commemoration of John Wesley's transformative spiritual experience in 1738**, which is central to the foundation of the Methodist movement. It recalls the day in 1738 when Church of England priest John Wesley attended a group meeting in Aldersgate, London, where he received an experience of assurance of his new birth. This was the pivotal event in Wesley's life that ultimately led to the development of the Methodist movement in Britain and America.

On Sunday, June 7th, we will be dedicating the beautiful artwork of Ginny Edwards, which we have used on our Advent Celebration programs over the years. It will be hung in the Assb. Rm.



SEW-IN



This Friday and Saturday starting at 9 am both days. Friday lunch will be pizza. Our Friday evening meal will be baked spaghetti, bread, and vegetable salad. Spouses are welcome to join in for Friday evening dinner. Saturday lunch will be leftovers or you may bring a brown bag. Please consider bringing a salad, snack or dessert for all to enjoy at lunch and/or dinner. Bring whatever project you are working/ sewing on or quilting and enjoy the fellowship.



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 24, 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.

