

First Family News

JUNE/JULY 2026

1001 Juliana Street, Parkersburg WV 26101

304.428.0111

email: fumcjuliana@wvdsi.net

Dear Beloved Congregation and Friends,

The time has come for me to offer farewells. This is bittersweet for me because it is more than just saying goodbye to you, it is also acknowledging that the time has come for me to retire. My last Sunday with you will be June 21st. I hope that you will all be able to come that day so that I can say my goodbyes and mostly, so that I may pray a blessing over you all, the congregation, and your ministry.

We have been through some times together—COVID and the split that came later in our denomination. These have been the most difficult years of my 38 years in ministry, but your prayers and support have been a solid foundation for me and I am grateful. We have been in ministry together and there have been some important and profound moments that I will never forget.

As I search my heart today, for what I most want to say to you, I settle upon this: You are stronger than you think. Since I have been your pastor, we have lost 47 people due to death or leaving because of the denomination decisions. Losing that many people in 7 years takes a toll on a congregation, no matter the size. In addition, we have several people who can no longer come to church on a regular basis. In spite of this, I see your strength. I see your faithfulness. I see your love for God, for each other, for your community, and for the world beyond. You are strong and faithful witnesses for Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is alive and well among you. **DO NOT EVER FORGET THAT!**

You are loved. You are cherished. You will not be forgotten. You have more work to do for Christ in this world.

I will be moving to Buckhannon on or around the 23rd of June. I am moving into the house that I left when I came here, having bought the house at the tail end of COVID. It is not move-in ready, but it will do as we continue to make improvements and get it to the place where we love it again. It is located just across the street from WV Wesleyan, in a small town that is completely walker-friendly. Our house has a wonderful sunporch that opens up into a garden area with a patio. I intend to turn this area into a pollinator garden and make certain that birds are fed throughout the year. You can imagine me knitting and stitching in the garden and the sunporch, daily walking along the river walk, and drinking coffee in what will become my study, as I read and write. The address is:

65 Meade St.

Buckhannon, WV 26201

If you find that you are in the area, stop by for coffee. You know that the coffee pot can always be ready at a moment's notice.

In our Annual Conference, when pastors leave, they are expected to leave, making room for the new pastor to get settled and established. So, I cannot return for funerals and weddings etc. without an invitation from the new pastor. You can let me know about things that I can pray

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about, but as of June 30th you will have a new pastor, Rev. Shari Stilgenbauer. Pray for her as you have prayed for me. Love her as you have loved me. God will give you and her opportunities for ministry together. Good things are ahead. I believe that.

So I leave you with love in my heart and a prayer on my lips for all of you. I think the words of Jeremiah E. Rankin say best what I am feeling:

God be with you till we meet again;
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you
God be with you till we meet again.

Peace,

Pastor Alicia

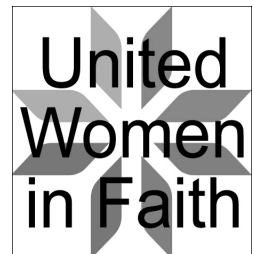
Parkersburg Urban Ministries needs:

For June: bar soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste; Jello or pudding

For July: hot cereal (oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, etc.), cold cereal (10-20 oz. boxes), breakfast bars

Have a wonderful
summer!

**MEETINGS WILL
RESUME IN
SEPTEMBER.**



Weekly Opportunities

Sunday:

Sunday School, 9:15 am

Worship, 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Zoom Disciple Study, 7 pm (JUNE)

Saturday:

Women's Zoom Prayer Group, 8 am

**CHOIR & BELLS REHEARSAL
WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.**



ON FRIDAY THE 3RD

HAVE A BLESSED 4TH!!



We will be having
Communion for
the month of June
on June 21 instead
of on the first Sunday in June.



**HAPPY
FATHERS
DAY**

To all
DADS !

JUNE 21

F amily fun planner
A dvisor of rules
T eacher of life skills
H omework helper
E verlasting friend
R enowned parent

Dedication

On June 7 we will honor Virginia (Ginny) Edwards and dedicate the beautiful Christmas artwork that she created for the church. We have used her art for the cover of our Advent Celebration programs throughout the years. Ginny is 105 years old and a remarkable lady. This dedication will be after the Morning Worship service. We thank God for Ginny and her very special talent. Be sure to come and see the framed pictures in the Assembly Room after Church.



June 3-Darlene Tenney
10-Gary Davis
17-Judy Osbourne
30-Russ Montgomery

July 4-Rebecca Crooks
10-Sarabeth Harris
11-Burr Crichton
25-Julie Wojcik
28-Janet Ray

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

JUNE

16 Gary & Jan Davis
20 Bill & Sandy Martin
22 David & Lois Morford
29 Ken & Joanna Morford Kozel

JULY

11 Dean & Susie Waters
24 Arlene & Gary Parsons
27 Rich & Deborah Shaffer

Homebound Birthdays

Suzie King-July 2
3305 Parrish Court
Parkersburg WV 26104

Betsy Albright-July 11
7 Crestview Drive
Vienna WV 26105

Lee Carrico-July 27
The Willows
723 Summers Street
Parkersburg WV 26101

JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS

June 7

Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12 (UMH 767)
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

June 14

Genesis 18:1-15
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (UMH 837)
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35--10:8 (9-23)

June 21

Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or
Psalm 17 (UMH 749)
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13 (UMH 746)
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

JULY LECTIONARY READINGS

July 5

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72 (UMH 795)
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25 (UMH 756)
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (UMH 854)
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b (UMH 828)
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

TO ALICIA



JOIN US FOR THE RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR ALICIA ON JUNE 21 AFTER WORSHIP. BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE. EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE PROVIDED.

How do you say good bye to someone who has guided you through both the good and the bad times? We are very grateful for all you've done for First Church; we will miss you, and pray for many blessings for you in your retirement.

best wishes

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

AMERICA

FIRST UMC

IN THE INTEREST OF KEEPING THE PRAYER LIST **CURRENT**, I HAVE REMOVED SOME NAMES THAT I DO NOT KNOW THE STATUS OF THE PERSON. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LET ME KNOW IF ANY NAMES NEED TO BE ADDED BACK THAT ARE NO LONGER ON THE LIST. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. Cindy

Carol Power

Gary Parsons

Mike Brannock

Cecil (Dina's brother)

Jan Davis

Nathan Corathers/family

Charlie & Marilyn Casto

Karen Gorrell

Pam Corathers

Cindy & Ron Ferrell

Lee Carrico

Scot Harper

David Taliaferro

Logan UMC

Sharon Hennen

Deborah Shaffer

Margaret Stemple

Tish Oney

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, 4 pm

7 Dedication of Ginny Edwards' Artwork, after Worship
Music by the Family Band

10-13 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Buckhannon, WV

19 JUNETEENTH

20 West Virginia's Birthday

21 **PASTOR ALICIA'S LAST DAY, RETIREMENT CELEBRATION** Covered dish
luncheon after Worship

FATHER'S DAY

22 Latrobe St. Mission Dinner, prep starts at 2:30 pm in the kitchen, serving at the
Mission, 6 pm

3 OFFICE CLOSED for the 4th of July holiday

27 Latrobe St. Mission Dinner, prep starts at 2:30 pm in the kitchen,
serving at the Mission, 6 pm

28 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, 4 pm



On July 1 we will receive our new pastor, Shari Dawn Stilgenbauer. She is coming to us from the Lost Creek Charge in the Northern District. Her husband, David, will be the pastor at First UMC Williamstown and Summit Valley UMC

near Boaz. They will be residing in the parsonage in Williamstown. They have three grown children: Kayla, Whitney and Joe, plus five granddaughters and a new great grandson. She grew up in Parkersburg. Be sure to be here on Sunday, July 5th to meet and greet Pastor Shari. **We welcome her to our church.** Be sure to introduce yourself. Her address beginning the latter part of June is:

409 Park Avenue
Williamstown WV 26187

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alicia Randolph Rapping

Administrative Asst.: Cindy Lucas

Music Director: Jimmy Sundquist

Financial Secretary: Rebecca Crooks

Organist/Pianist/Handbell & Choir Director:

Jimmy Sundquist

Volunteer Staff: Deborah Shaffer, Certified Lay Minister

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues. thru Thurs.

Friday 9 a.m. to noon Phone: 304-428-0111

JULY 1: Rev. Shari Stilgenbauer, new pastor

Contact Information

Administrative Asst.:

fumcjuliana@wvdsi.net

Financial Secretary:

finsecretary@wvdsi.net

facebook.com/fumcparkersburg

our website:

<https://www.firstumcparkersburg.org>

**MAY YOUR
BLESSINGS BE
MANY!**

FIRST FAMILY NEWS
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First United Methodist Church
1001 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101