

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia

June 28, 2026

5th Sunday after Pentecost

John Wesley's Birthday



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

"For I am about to do something new. See I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create new rivers in the dry land." **Isaiah 43:19**

Prelude *How Can I Keep from Singing?* arr. Helvey

Call to Worship Liturgist, Dawn Sundquist
When our way seems unclear, and we are surrounded by loud and conflicting voices...

God will provide.

When we, like Abraham, are trying to be faithful and seem to have no good choices available to us...

God will provide.

When we, like Isaac, are led by those we trust into unjust and harmful situations...

God will provide.

Family in Christ, we gather today to worship God, who meets us in places of fear, confusion, and uncertainty.

We gather to worship God, who provides a way toward abundant life when no way can be found. Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026)

+Opening Hymn *There's A Spirit In The Air* No. 192

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we come to you this morning with many different feelings as we prepare for your servant, Pastor Shari. Be with us as we prepare a place in our hearts for both Shari and her family. Please provide her with peace as she prepares to welcome us into her family. Give us a sense of grateful anticipation of what you have planned for each of us in this congregation of believers. Open our hearts so we may more clearly hear your call to spread your good news. Amen

Psalter (Responsive Psalms) Page 834

Special Music *Barcarolle op. 44* by Fauré

Gospel Lesson Matthew 28: 16-20

Sermon **Change, Change Reaction!**
Deborah Shaffer

Morning Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

We now give a small portion of the great gifts you have given to each of us to continue your ministry here on Earth.

Offertory *Gavotte from French Suite no. 5* by Bach

+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

Faithful Father, we bring our gifts with trembling hands and trusting hearts. Like Abraham, Jonah, and the disciples, we don't always understand the path ahead, but we believe in your promise: that you will provide. We offer these gifts, not as a token of appreciation, but as signs of our trust in you. Use them, we pray, to bless others – to meet needs, to heal hurts, to build hope. May our giving be our "Here I am", ready and willing to serve. In your blessed name, Amen.

+Closing Hymn

Grace Alone

TFWS 2162

Blessing

In the coming and going of this week, may we feel the renewal of the Holy Spirit within us. Amen.

Postlude

To God Be the Glory

arr. Curry

(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 JULY 5

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45:10-17 or Psalm 72 (UMH 795)

Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Attendance last week 57 Online 10

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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

Friday **4th of July Holiday observed, OFFICE CLOSED**

(AA Meeting, parlor, 7-9 pm)

Saturday Women's ZOOM Meeting, 8 am

Sunday Sunday School, upstairs, 9:15 am

PASTOR SHARI's first Sunday

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 06-21 & 6-23-26 \$ 3,640

Congregational Giving Y-T-D \$ 94,136

Actual expenses Y-T-D \$ 98,601

Other gifts: Latrobe St. Mission – meals \$150; Bell Tower

Pledged \$100; Music Fund \$20

BLESSED BIRTHDAY WISHES to

Russ Montgomery June 30

Rebecca Crooks July 4

HOMEBOUND BIRTHDAY

Suzie King July 2

3305 Parrish Court

Parkersburg WV 26104

**BE SURE TO BE HERE NEXT SUNDAY WHEN WE
WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR
SHARI STILGENBAUER!**



*America's birthday
pray for peace*



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

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: Dawn Sundquist Acolyte: Lakyn Ellenwood

Greeters/Ushers: Steve and Barbara Knopp

Prayer Needs

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

***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.*

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Parkersburg, WV

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