

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia  
7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026



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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

**Prelude**      *In the Garden*      arr. Hayes

**Call to Worship**      Liturgist, Jonnie Camp  
We gather today in the midst of busy lives and hectic schedules that mirror the chaotic pace of the world around us.

**We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.**

We gather as people inundated with constant information, fast-moving news cycles, and ever-present alerts vying for our attention.

**We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.**

We gather as people seeking to anchor ourselves in the faith as the world around us is blown to and fro by waves of fear, scarcity, and reactivity.

**We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.**

Beloved, come. Come to find rest, grounding, and guidance in the Spirit who dwells in you.

**We come to set our minds on the Spirit who guides us and draws us together toward life, peace, and flourishing. Amen.**

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

**+Opening Hymn**      *O Spirit of the Living God*      No. 539

## Opening Prayer

Loving God, you created life in us and all around us. Open us to receive your gifts of your world and your word that we may be not just hearers of the word, but doers also. Amen.

Written by Rev. Ruth Garwood and posted on the Worship Ways website at [https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost\\_6\\_july\\_12/](https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost_6_july_12/)

**Psalter**      Psalm 119:105-112

**Special Music**      *Prelude from Suite Bergamasque*      by Debussy

**Sermon Text**      Romans 8:1-11

**Sermon**      Pastor Shari

## Prayer

**Hymn**      *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*      No. 349  
(sing through twice)

## Invitation to the Offering

**Offertory**      *I Love to Tell the Story*      arr. Tornquist

## +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

**+Closing Hymn**      *To God Be the Glory*      No. 98

## Blessing/Benediction

**Postlude**      *Wonderful Words of Life*      arr. Raney  
(Please be seated during this time of personal reflection.)

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The flowers in the sanctuary today are given in honor of our July birthdays and the July birthdays of friends by Sarabeth and Bob Harris.

**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 19

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24 (UMH 854)

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Attendance last week 29      Online 9

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday Trustees Meeting, 2 pm

Friday (AA Meeting, F. Hall, 7-9 pm)

Sunday Sunday School, upstairs, 9:15 am

#### CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 07-05-26      \$ 3,486

Congregational Giving Y-T-D      \$ 100,327

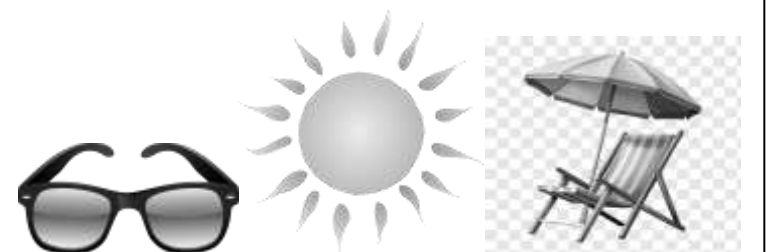
Actual expenses Y-T-D      \$ 104,650

Other gifts: Organ Repair Fund \$50

**Women's Saturday Zoom meetings** are on hold for the present time. They may resume in September.

**REMINDER :** Parkersburg Urban Ministries is closed for the month of July, so remember that if you are making donations before August 1, only bring food items that are in glass containers or in cans. Thank you.

**THE OFFICE WILL ONLY BE OPEN UNTIL 2 PM ALL THIS WEEK. WE DO HAVE VOICE MAIL; HOWEVER, THIS NEW SYSTEM TAKES SEVERAL RINGS UNTIL THE MACHINE ANSWERS.**



*July*

*July's sun so bright and bold,  
Turns each day to a story told.  
With laughter, warmth, and  
skies so blue,  
A month of joy and memories new.*



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: Shari Dawn Stilgenbauer (cell #304.210.6380)

email: [pastorsharidawn@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsharidawn@gmail.com)

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: Jonnie Camp Acolyte: Allison Poole

Greeters/Ushers: Dina Andrews & Kathryn Lamm

## 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

Charlie & Marilyn Casto

Cindy & Ron Ferrell

David Taliaferro

Gary Parsons family

Jan Davis

Karen Gorrell

Lee Carrico

Logan UMC

Margaret Stemple

Mike Brannock

Nathan Corathers/family

Pam Corathers

Scot Harper

Sharon Hennen

Tish Oney

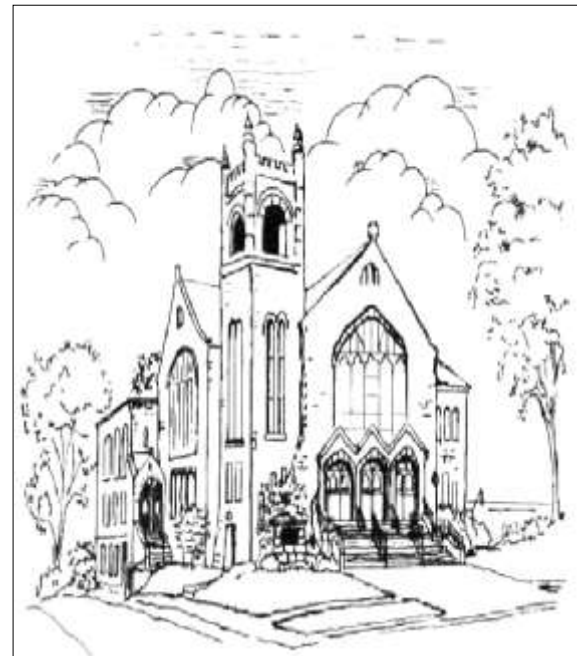
***Prayer Candles**—Lighting candles is a devotional practice in which many millions of Christians the world over have found inspiration. Everyone is encouraged to light a candle and offer a prayer as we gather for worship. The candle will not be a substitute for the prayer of your heart, but an accompaniment. They are located to the left of the pulpit.*

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Pastor Shari Stilgenbauer**

Parkersburg, WV

July 12, 2026



OPEN  
HEARTS

OPEN  
MINDS

OPEN  
DOORS

