

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia
9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026



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

Prelude *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* arr. Shackley
Rocky and Sheila Wiseman

+Call to Worship

Liturgist, Jonnie Camp

Beloved, this is the core of our faith: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

God’s never-ending love surrounds us and calls us, assuring us that through God’s love, all things will work together for God’s good purposes.

Thanks be to God!

God’s never-breaking love empowers us in the face of temptation, distress, division, and scarcity to hold onto our faith and work together for the flourishing of all God’s good creation.

Thanks be to God!

Come, let us worship God who is Love, trusting that through joy and sorrow, happiness and despair, contentment and pain, Love will carry us through.

Thanks be to God who forms, connects, and guides us through love. Amen.

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

+Opening Hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* No. 127

Opening Prayer

God, Your extravagant love has called us together. Long before we even knew You, You already knew us, and had chosen us to be part of Your own family— sisters and brothers with our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. What amazing love You have shown toward us! And so we come before You with praise and thanksgiving, offering You the worship of our hearts and lives, and opening ourselves to the prompting and leading of Your Holy Spirit. Receive our worship—our praise and prayers and offerings— through the intercession of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. May the time we spend here in Your presence bring honour and glory to Your Name. Amen.

Posted on the re: Worship blog at

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/opening-prayer-romans-826-34.html>.

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-27, 31-39

Special Music

Bright and Beautiful

arr. Hayes

Children/Youth Time

Sermon Text

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-48

Sermon

Pastor Shari

Prayer

Hymn

Seek Ye First

No. 405

Offertory

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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

+Closing Hymn

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

No. 540

Blessing/Benediction

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Give thanks to God

105:1 O give thanks to the LORD;

call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

105:2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

105:3 **Glory in his holy name;**

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

105:4 Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually.

105:5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

105:45b Praise the LORD!

Postlude *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* 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 AUGUST 2

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 (UMH 749)

Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

Attendance last week 41 Online 7

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

- Monday Latrobe St. Mission Dinner, prep in the kitchen,
2:30 pm, serve at the mission, 6 pm
(Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 5:30 pm)
- Tuesday CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, Assb. Room, 4 pm
- Friday (AA Meeting, F. Hall, 7-9 pm)
- Sunday Sunday School, upstairs, 9:15 am
Luncheon for Pastor Shari, after worship



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning
are given to the glory of God and in loving
memory of her mother,
Rebecca Mae Hennen, by Rita Hennen.

LATROBE ST. MISSION DINNER is tomorrow. Please check the list on the bulletin board to see if you can help furnish needed items or to sign up to help with prep in the kitchen or serving at the mission. THANK YOU.



**NEXT SUNDAY AUGUST 2 AFTER WORSHIP
IN THE FELOWSHIP HALL**

WE WILL BE GIVING PASTOR SHARI A WELCOMING LUNCHEON TO CELEBRATE HER BECOMING OUR NEW PASTOR. You just need to bring a covered dish (salad, vegetable or dessert). As usual the meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. You don't want to miss this opportunity to fellowship with one another and to meet and welcome Shari if you haven't done so.



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.

Word Search

Name: _____



BLESSED ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO

Rich and Deborah Shaffer July 27



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Janet Ray July 28

Jeff Saulton July 31

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 07-19-26 \$ 1,773

Congregational Giving Y-T-D \$ 111,205

Actual expenses Y-T-D \$ 107,164

Other gifts: Latrobe St. Mission – meals \$130; Bell Tower – pledged \$100

There is a flyer on the bulletin board near the church office about the Parkersburg Knights of Columbus and their mission, UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY. Their goal is to pack 60,000 nourishing meals to fight the scourge of hunger in developing countries. The cost is just \$.33 a meal. If you would like to help pack the meals or make a monetary donation, please see the flyer. The event is on Sat., September 12, at Parkersburg Catholic High School.

Summer Time



Word list:

BARBECUE	LAKESIDE	RELAX	SUNSET
BASEBALL	LEMONADE	SAND	SUNGLASSES
BEACH	LIFEGUARD	SANDALS	SUNSCREEN
BIKINI	PARK	SEAGULLS	SUNSHINE
CAMP	PICNIC	SEASHELLS	SWIMSUIT
HAMMOCK	POOL	SHADE	VACATION
ICECREAM	POPSICLE	SUN	WATERMELON



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

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: Lakyn Ellenwood

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

Connie Twyman

David Taliaferro

Jan Davis

Karen Gorrell

Lee Carrico

Logan UMC

Margaret Stemple

Mike Brannock

Nathan Corathers/family

Pam Corathers

Scot Harper

Sharon Hennen

Tish Oney

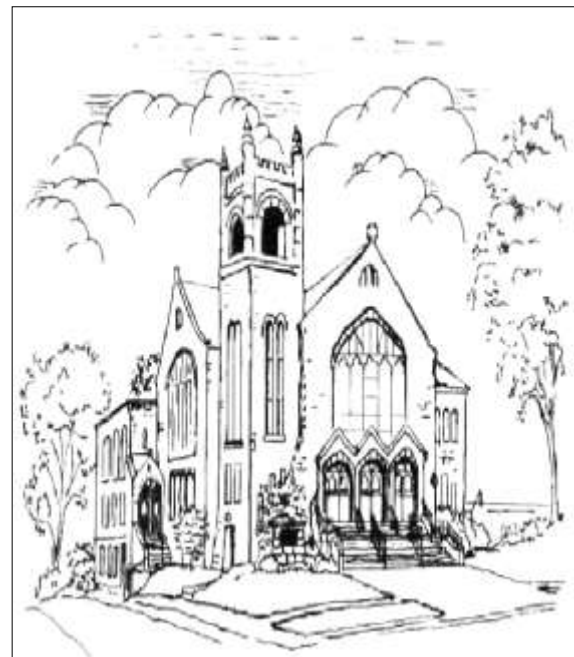
Prayer Candles—Lighting candles is a devotional practice in which many millions of Christians the world over have found inspiration. Everyone is encouraged to light a candle and offer a prayer as we gather for worship. The candle will not be a substitute for the prayer of your heart, but an accompaniment.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

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Pastor Shari Stilgenbauer

Parkersburg, WV

July 26, 2026



OPEN
HEARTS

OPEN
MINDS

OPEN
DOORS

