

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia
12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026



The United Methodist Church's vision statement is: 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 *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* arr. Helvey

+Call to Worship Liturgist, Barbara Knopp
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

ALL: God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile

LEADER: 11:1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 11:2a God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

11:30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 11:31 so also, they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. 11:32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

ALL: Thank you for your ever-loving mercies.

+Opening Hymn *O Church of God, United* No. 547

Opening Prayer

God of mercy and grace, thank you for calling us yours. Thank you for loving us and making a way for us to be in your presence. Please don't give up on us, open our eyes to see and our ears to

hear. Forgive us when we don't recognize your love for us. This we ask in your mighty and gracious name, Amen.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Special Music *The Prayer* by Foster & Sager
Rick and Sophie Boothby

Sermon Text Matthew 15: 21-28

Sermon Pastor Shari

Prayer

+Hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* No. 121

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Where Charity and Love Prevail* arr. Hayes

+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 *In Christ There Is No East or West* No. 548

Blessing/Benediction

Postlude *There Shall Be Showers of Blessing* arr. Raney
(Please be seated during this time of personal reflection.)



We want to thank Rick and Sophie Boothby for sharing their musical talents with us this morning.

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!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO Deborah Shaffer Aug. 19
 Charlotte Clinton Aug. 20

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST 23

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 (UMH 846)
Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

Attendance last week 31 Online 6

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday (Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 5:30 pm)
Thursday **YOUNG AT HEART**, begins at 11:30, F. Hall
Friday SEW-IN, starts at 9 am, Fellowship Hall
 (AA Meeting, parlor, 7-9 pm)
Saturday SEW-IN continues, ending at 4 pm
 (LE Council Meeting, F. Hall, 5 pm)
Sunday Sunday School, upstairs, 9:15 am

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 08-09-26	\$ 1,973
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	\$119,710
Actual expenses Y-T-D	\$116,320
Other gifts: Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$400
United Methodist Committee on Relief	\$100

SEW-IN this Friday and Saturday starts at 9 am both days ends at 4 pm on Saturday Dinner on Friday evening
JOIN THE FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP
Bring your favorite sewing, crafting or quilting project.



IF YOU ARE REGISTERED FOR THE **YOUNG AT HEART** event, it is this Thursday, August 20th. Program starts at 11:30. Lunch will be provided.

Wednesday, September 9 Bishop Reverend Dr. Debra Wallace-Padgett will be in our district at Wayside UMC in Vienna @ 5 pm. Reservations are required since dinner will be served. SEE THE FLYER in this bulletin for how to make reservations.

REMEMBER to drop your favorite hymn selections in the offering plate today. Tear-off form is below.

PASTOR SHARI WANTS TO KNOW YOUR
FAVORITE HYMNS.

ATTACHMENT

GOES

HERE



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Bob and Sarabeth Harris.

LATROBE ST. MISSION DINNER NEXT WEEK

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for adding your name to the list to help with bringing needed ingredients, prep in the kitchen, or serving at the mission. Thanks for your help.



*The Lord will stand with you
and give you strength.*

2 Timothy 4:17



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Dr. Bob and Sarabeth Harris
August 19

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: Barbara Knopp Acolyte: Allison Poole

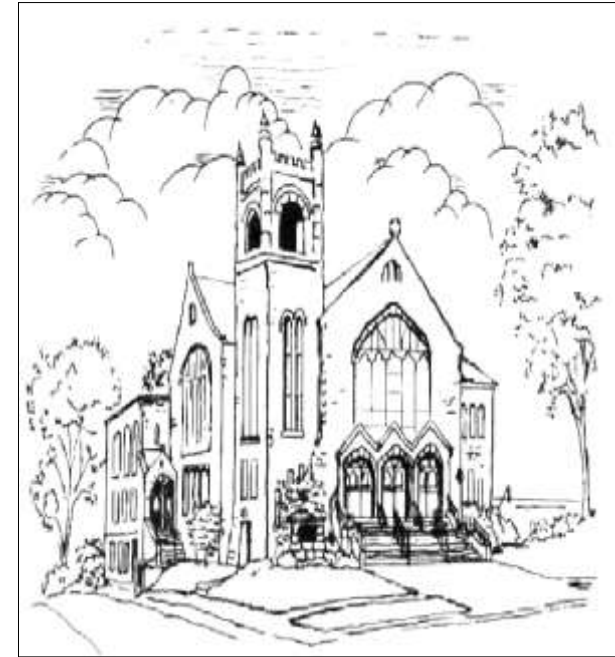
Greeters/Ushers: Bob & Sarabeth Harris

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Shari Stilgenbauer

Parkersburg, WV

August 16, 2026



OPEN
HEARTS

OPEN
MINDS

OPEN
DOORS

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.

