



First Family News

SEPTEMBER 2026

1001 Juliana Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101

email: fumcjuliana@wvdsi.net

Two Months Together: A Journey of Faith and Gratitude

It is hard to believe that two months have already passed since I began serving as your pastor. In some ways, it feels like I just arrived, and in other ways, it feels as though God has been preparing us for this season for quite some time.

Over these past two months, I have been blessed by the opportunity to worship with you, pray with you, visit with you, listen to your stories, and begin to learn more about the life and ministry of this congregation. Every conversation, every handshake, every smile, and every prayer has helped me feel more at home among you.

One of the things I have quickly come to appreciate is that a church is much more than a building. **The church is the people of God gathered together to worship, serve, encourage one another, and share the love of Jesus Christ.** I have already seen that spirit alive in this congregation.

As we begin this new chapter together, I am reminded that none of us knows exactly what the future will hold. But we do know the One who holds the future. Our calling is not simply to maintain what has been, but to listen for God's leading and faithfully follow where the Holy Spirit directs us.

My prayer is that we will continue to grow together—not only in numbers, but more importantly, in our love for Christ and for one another. I pray that we will be a congregation that welcomes people, cares for those who are hurting, reaches beyond our walls, serves our community, and shares the good news of Jesus with those around us.

There will be joys and challenges along the way. There will be times when we celebrate and times when we need to lean on one another. Through all of it, we can trust God's promise that He is with us.

Thank you for welcoming me into your church family. Thank you for your kindness, your prayers, your encouragement, and your willingness to share this journey of ministry with me. I am grateful for these first two months and excited about what God has in store for us.

Let us continue to seek God together, love one another well, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

The best is not necessarily behind us. By God's grace, there is still much ministry ahead.

With gratitude and joy,

Pastor Shari



The annual **First Church picnic** is being planned at this time. The date is Oct. 4th at the Underwood Shelter of Fort Boreman Park. Bring a covered dish and enjoy good food and good company.



We will have our first fall meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9th in the parlor at 2 pm.

Come join us! All ladies are welcome!

HOMEBOUND BIRTHDAYS

this month

SEND THEM A CARD:

Thelma Badger
Sept. 4
1225 Juliana St.
Parkersburg WV
26101

Charlie Casto
Sept. 11
P O Box 4312
Parkersburg WV
26104

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- 6 Communion Sunday
- 7 Labor Day holiday, Church office closed
- 9 United Women in Faith, Parlor, 2 pm
- 22 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, 4 pm
- Bishop @Wayside UMC dinner, 5 pm
- 28 Latrobe St. Mission Dinner, prep-2:30 pm, kitchen, arrive to serve at the Mission-5:45 pm, serve dinner-6 pm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO

- 2-Rev. Dr. Don & Jacqueline Underwood
- 27-Dr. Bob & Melissa Herceg
- 28-Rev. Dr. Damon & Judy Rhodes
- 28-Eric & Anne Casto Poole
- 30-Larry & Charlotte Clinton



Y'all!
September
22

PUM needs for September:

- canned tomatoes
- tomato sauce
- white sugar
- corn bread or biscuit mix

Happy September birthday to:



- 4-Sheila Wiseman
- 7-Rocky Wiseman
- 7-Jan Davis
- 10-Mike DePue
- 19-Ty Ellenwood
- 23-Eric Poole

GUSTKE CENTER NEEDS FOR SEPT.

BLEACH

**MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 7**



CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED.

**SEPTEMBER
LECTIONARY READINGS**

September 6

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149 or Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13

Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 (UMH 135)
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, or Psalm 78 (UMH 799)
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (UMH 799)
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Weekly Opportunities

Sunday: Sunday School, 9:15 am
Worship, 10:45 am

Thursday: Handbell Choir Practice, 6 pm
Sanctuary Choir Practice, 7 pm

COMMUNITY FUN DAY

There is a flyer on the bulletin board by the elevator about an event First Presbyterian Church is doing by partnering with other area churches on September 19, Community Fun Day. They are in need of **volunteers** to help with this family-friendly gathering. If you would like to join in this day of fellowship, they can use your help.

WV CONFERENCE of the UM Church
2026 DISTRICT DAY w/the Bishop
Reverend Dr. Debra Wallace-Padgett

in our District September 9
Wayside UMC in Vienna at 5 pm
Reservations are required-this is a dinner.
RSVP wvumc.org/district-days



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

AMERICA FIRST UM CHURCH



David Taliaferro

Jan Davis

Karen Gorrell

Lee Carrico

Logan UMC

Margaret Stemple

Mark Gaston

Mike Brannock

Nathan Corathers/fam.

Pam Corathers

Scot Harper

Sharon Hennen

Tish Oney

Carol Power

Charlie & Marilyn Casto

Cindy & Ron Ferrell

Connie Twyman

Church Staff

Pastor: Shari Dawn Stilgenbauer
Administrative Asst.: Cindy Lucas
Financial Secretary: Rebecca Crooks
Music Director: Jimmy Sundquist
Organist/Pianist/Choir & Handbell Director:
Jimmy Sundquist
Volunteer: Deborah Shaffer, Certified Lay Minister
Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
Friday 9 a.m. to noon
Phone: 304-428-0111

Contact Information

Pastor Shari
pastorsharidawn@gmail.com

Administrative Asst.:
fumcjuliana@wvdsl.net
Financial Secretary:
finsecretary@wvdsl.net

facebook.com/fumcparkersburg
our website: <https://www.firstumcparkersburg.org>



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