

First Family News

OCTOBER 2026

1001 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

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Phone: 304-428-0111

A Note from Pastor Shari

It's hard to believe that we are about to enter our **fourth month together!** I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you, and I believe things are going well. I continue to be excited about what God is doing in and through our church family, and I look forward to all that is ahead.

Leadership Teams and Nominations

The Nominations Committee and I are hard at work inviting people to serve on our various leadership teams and committees for the coming year. If you are interested in being part of one of these teams, please let us know. There are many ways to serve, and your gifts, talents, and ideas are valuable to the life of our church.

We are hoping to have this work completed by the **first week of October**.

Our **Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, at noon**. Please mark your calendar and plan to be present.

October 11 — Joining Logan Memorial for Their Final Service

On **Sunday, October 11, 2026, we will not have worship at First UMC**. Instead, we will join our brothers and sisters at **Logan Memorial United Methodist Church** for their final worship service together at **10:00 a.m.**

Please be mindful of parking when you arrive.

- The parking lot across the street from Logan Memorial has numbered spaces. **Please park only in spaces without numbers.**
- Parking will also be available in the **Community Bank parking lot**. Please do not park in the spaces closest to the railroad, as those spaces are reserved for hospital employees.
- There is also a parking lot behind Logan that belongs to the hospital. You may park in spaces that are not marked "No Parking."
- Please be aware of where you park and respect the parking restrictions of surrounding businesses and organizations.

We want this to be a meaningful time of worship, fellowship, and support as we gather with the Logan Memorial congregation.

Blessings,

Pastor Shari

Saturday Morning Ladies' Study

Our **Saturday morning Ladies' Study** will begin in the first part of October. If you are interested in joining us, please make sure that you give your **name and email address** to either Pastor Shari or Deborah Shaffer so that we can make sure you receive the information you need.



**Sunday
October 4
4 pm**

Fort Boreman Park at the Underwood Shelter
In case of rain: PLAN B - We will have the "picnic" in the Fellowship Hall.

Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. You just need to bring a covered dish to share, such as a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert.

**PLEASE COME OUT AND BRING YOUR
FAMILY FOR THIS TIME
OF FELLOWSHIP!**



Ginny
will be 106 years old on
October 5. Let's shower her
with good wishes!

Her address is:
Virginia Edwards
Love & Care Assisted Living
5368 Dupont Road
Parkersburg WV 26101

Help Others Find First UMC Online

We have been talking about ways to make sure more people in our community know about First UMC. One simple way each of us can help is by **interacting with our church's online presence**.

When people search online for something—such as “churches near me”—search engines use a variety of factors to determine which results appear most prominently. The activity and engagement a website receives can be one of those factors.

So, here is a simple way you can help:

Search for “First UMC Parkersburg” online. When you see our church website, click on it and spend a few minutes looking around. Visit different pages, read about our church, and take a look at what is available. You can do the same with our **Facebook page and YouTube channel** by liking, sharing, watching, and interacting with our posts and videos.

These small actions may seem insignificant, but when many of us participate, they can help more people discover our church when they are searching for a church family in our community.

Thank you for all that you do to support and strengthen our church. I am grateful for each of you, and I look forward to continuing this journey together as we seek to **love God, love one another, and share the good news of Jesus Christ.**

Pastor Shari

**For the all the latest news
from the West Virginia
United Methodist Conference,
go to: wvumc.org/news.**

**WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY is
OCTOBER 4**

**LAITY SUNDAY is
October 18**

**Parkersburg Urban Ministries
needs for October:**

spaghetti (1 lb. box) , spaghetti sauce

Due to an influx of people needing help, their shelves are pretty empty at this time.

UNDIE SUNDAY
is THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

It's that time again to bring NEW boxers, briefs, undies, t-shirts, long johns & janes, or socks. Items are needed for all genders, ages, and sizes. Baskets are by the parking lot door.



ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

This is a program that The Memorial Church of The Good Shepherd sponsors that we have participated in in the past. They have begun the program for this year and are asking for help. If you would like to participate in the program at "The Pink Church", you can give them a call at 304.428.1525.

**OCTOBER 11 IS THE LAST SUNDAY
FOR LOGAN UM CHURCH. THEY ARE
CLOSING THEIR DOORS.**

THEY HAVE BEEN OUR SISTER CHURCH FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW. IN SUPPORT OF THEIR LAST SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 11, WE WILL HAVE CHURCH WITH THEM AT LOGAN..
THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE HERE AT FIRST CHURCH ON THAT DATE.
LET'S SHOW THEM OUR LOVE.

PLAN TO ATTEND



**CHARGE CONFERENCE will be on
Sunday, October 18 immediately
following Worship Service.
EVERYONE IS INVITED.**

(There will be light refreshments to prevent stomach growling at the meeting.)

Weekly Opportunities

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

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



**OCTOBER
LECTIONARY READINGS**

October 4

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19 (UMH 750)

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829)

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99 (UMH 819)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 809)

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

**DISTRICT LAY SERVANTS CLASS ON
BAPTISM AND COMMUNION**

Friday evening, October 16 @ 6 pm and
Saturday, October 17 @ 7:30 am-3:30 pm

It will be led by Rev. Neil Leftwich. He is a dynamic retired pastor and District Superintendent in the WV Annual Conference. This class is open to all who want to learn more about why we have these sacraments in our tradition. Snacks will be provided on Friday evening, and continental breakfast and lunch during the Saturday sessions.

Help is needed. Contact Deborah Shaffer at 304-482-8869 or dlynnshaffer@gmail.com if you can help prepare and serve food at different times. Also, contact our new District Office at 304-309-8862 to register for the class. There is no cost for this event.



*The beauty of the earth
shines through the
autumn sunlight and
all around us.*

**LATROBE ST. MISSION
DINNER OCTOBER 26**

Be sure to check the sign-up sheet when it goes up on the bulletin board. As usual, items are needed for donation, and of course, volunteers are needed for prep in the kitchen, starting at 2 pm, and for serving at the Mission. Food is taken to the Mission at 5:45 pm for serving at 6 pm. Thank you.

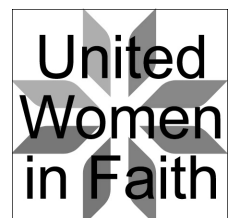


OLDER ADULT MINISTRY RECEIVES GRANT

Our new Young At Heart Ministry will expand its programs and services thanks to a \$6,400 grant from the United Methodist Foundation of WV. More info will follow so watch for it in the bulletin, on our Facebook page, and in future newsletters. AND THANK YOU WVUM Foundation!

United Women in Faith

We will have our October meeting
on Wednesday, October 14
in the Parlor at 2 pm.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



4-World Communion Sunday

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC, 4 pm

11-our Worship Service is at LOGAN UMC, 10 am

Alexa Barker bridal shower, Fellowship Hall, 1:30 pm

14-Young at Heart Planning Meeting, parlor, 10 am

United Women in Faith Meeting, 2 pm

16-17 District Lay Servant Class, Friday, 6 pm, and all day Saturday

18-Laity Sunday

CHARGE CONFERENCE, immediately following Worship Service

23-United Women in Faith meal

25-Reformation Sunday

26-Latrobe St. Mission Dinner, prep in kitchen, 2 pm, serve meal at the Mission, 6 pm

27-CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, 4 pm

31-Wedding of Alexa Barker and Braden Hubler, 12 noon

Reception following in the Fellowship Hall

OCTOBER IS



Remember to thank
Pastor Shari!



OUR PRAYER LIST

AMERICA FIRST UMC



IN THE INTEREST OF KEEPING THE PRAYER LIST **CURRENT**, please let Cindy know of any changes or additions that need to be made. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Carol Power

Charlie & Marilyn Casto

Cierra Hammond

Cindy & Ron Ferrell

Connie Twyman

David Taliaferro

Drue Farmer

Jan Davis

Karen Gorrell

Larry Clinton

Lee Carrico

Margaret Stemple

Maria Hamlin

Mark Gaston

Mike Brannock

Nathan Corathers & family

Pam Corathers

Scot Harper

Sharon Hennen

Tish Oney

Happy Birthday

OCTOBER

4-Phil Nicholas

5-Bob Harris

5-Virginia Edwards 106!!

13-Kathryn Lamm

17-Allison Poole

18-Jane Couch

18-Ed Goe

19-David Morford





Alexa Barker

and

Braden Hubler

*Invite you to their wedding here at First Church
on Saturday, October 31st at 12 noon*

RSVP 304.440.0243

To Alexa

Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

(Black dress or cocktail attire, no denim please)



INVITATION
for ALEXA
BARKER

Sunday, Oct. 11
1:30 to 3:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

RSVP to Alexa
@304.440.0243

She is registered at Amazon.

On Friday, October 23 @ 5 pm our **United Women in Faith**, along with the ladies at Lubeck UMC, will provide the evening meal for the WV Conference UWIF. The meal will be served here at First Church. The annual UWIF will convene later at Wayside UMC and on Saturday. Approximately 20-25 are expected. **Again contact Deborah if you can assist with this meal.**

YOUNG AT HEART

is having a planning
meeting on October 14
at 10 am in the parlor.

They could use more
people on their committee. Here is your
chance to join in to help.



REMINDER: With cold weather just around the bend, we will probably be getting lots of requests for utility assistance. Please keep in mind that usually just as soon as we receive funds for PDF, they are used for providing needed assistance. There are so many households requiring help at this time.



For a person to
volunteer to be

KITCHEN
COORDINATOR

to take care of keeping the kitchen
stocked with needed items, keeping
the kitchen organized, etc.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND used for

July 2026:

\$483.53 for utilities, helping 5 households

August 2026:

\$300 for utilities, \$73.55 for personal items, and \$50 for a rent deposit, helping 7 households

September 2026:

\$648 for utilities, helping 8 households



FALL WORD SEARCH

H J N I F I P J K R F H R E T
A D M B Z O R U E T F J E Y H
L I U F T W O B M V R F W R A
L Y T N B R O T E P A J O E N
O Y U A Z T N Y B C K S L B K
W J A T C J D R S A E I F M S
E G L O F N D S O E L Q N E G
E S W E A T E R E C V L U V I
N C C C I D E R H L A A S O V
S I E D I R Y A H P P T E N I
O W O R C E R A C S U P M L N
W I Y C G V Y A F R G T A W G
N L D T E Y Y K K P I E I X E
J Q R S L X R E B M E T P E S
Y E T E V G Y T H W I C K U J

ACORN
FOOTBALL
NOVEMBER
SEPTEMBER

APPLES
HALLOWEEN
OCTOBER
SUNFLOWER

AUTUMN
HARVEST
PUMPKIN
SWEATER

CANDY
HAYRIDE
RAKE
THANKSGIVING

CIDER
LEAVES
SCARECROW
TURKEY

FIRST FAMILY NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

First United Methodist Church
1001 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101



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

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pastorsharidawn@gmail.com
Administrative Asst.:
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Financial Secretary:
finsecretary@wvdsi.net

facebook.com/fumcparkersburg

our website: <https://www.firstumcparkersburg.org>