FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia November 8, 2026
24th Sunday after Pentecost

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 Jane Irvine
Toccata on " Darwall's 148th" G. Young

+Call to Worship Liturgist, Susie Waters
Family of God, rejoice! The kingdom of God is all around us!
We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.
Sometimes we grow weary in the waiting, and we wonder if we are watching and working for nothing.
We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.
Sometimes God surprises, and we are overwhelmed by joy and wonder at all God is doing among us.
We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.
Family of God, whether you are weary or energized, worried or wonder-filled, rejoice! The kingdom of God is all around us!
We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand. Thanks be to God! Amen.
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2026.

+Opening Hymn *Rejoice, the Lord is King* No. 715

Opening Prayer
Holy God, You do not want us to be ignorant of your dreams and hopes for us, God of holiness, so you speak to us in parables, so we might pay careful attention to your words; you tell us stories about our grandparents in the faith, so we might become mentors to our grandchildren, and theirs. Filling us with the holy oil of generosity and grace, you make us ready to welcome Jesus Christ into our lives, and to open our hearts to those who are in need. On this day, we choose to serve you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.
Written by Thom Shuman and posted on his Lectionary Liturgies website.
Reposted on the re: Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/ 2011/10 /call-to-worship-prayer-proper-27a.html.

Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
The promise of the resurrection

Special Music *My Lord, What a Morning* C. Callahan

Childrens/ Youth Moments

Sermon Text Matthew 25:1-13
Wise and foolish bridesmaids

Sermon Pastor Shari

Prayer

+Hymn *Blessed Assurance* No. 369

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Pastorale on "Blessed Assurance"* R.Lau

+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 *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* No. 720

Blessing/Benediction

Postlude *Wachet Auf* R. Hobby

(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 NOVEMBER 15

Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 or Psalm 76 (UMH 797)
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 11-01-26	$ 3,190
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	$175,605
Actual expenses Y-T-D	$161,396

Attendance last week 44 Online 6

ATTENTION **IF ANYONE HAS NOT RECEIVED THEIR STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPE (OR CARD) IN THE MAIL, YOU CAN PICK ONE UP BY THE PARKING LOT DOOR. PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT NEXT SUNDAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY. BRING YOUR PLEDGE CARD.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday	(Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 5:30 pm)
Tuesday	(Community Service Council, 11 am)
	(JSHD Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6 pm)
Wednesday	United Women in Faith, Parlor, 2 pm
	(Girl Scouts, old Youth Room, 5-7 pm)
Thursday	Handbell Practice, 6 pm
	Choir Practice, 7 pm
Friday	(AA Meeting, F. Hall, 7-9 pm)
Saturday	Women's Zoom Meeting, 8 am
	(WV Solo & Ensemble Music Festival, all day)

ITEMS THAT ARE IN ( ) ARE NOT CHURCH EVENTS; THEY ARE FOR GROUPS USING OUR FACILITY.

BLESSED BIRTHDAY	Evan Whitacre	TODAY
WISHES TO	Harrison DePue	Nov. 11
	Randal Lamm	Nov. 11



Advent season will soon be here! The Worship Committee is reminding everyone to plan on staying after the church service on Sunday, November 22 and help decorate the sanctuary. There will be a light lunch after the service, then we'll get to work! Please join us and help prepare for the most wonderful time of the year!



The mum in the sanctuary today is to remember and honor Bertha Stone, Jimmy's grandma and Dawn's mom.

HOMEBOUND BIRTHDAY Sharon Hennen Nov. 14
1808 Foley Avenue
Parkersburg WV 26104



THANKS GIVING

CIRCLES OF THE MOV FUNDRAISER
BUY A (PAPER) TURKEY

Circles will be selling little paper turkeys during the month of November. Buy a turkey or two (or more). They are only $1 a piece. Share what you are grateful for while supporting a good cause.

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.*



THIS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 IS THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING FOR THE **YOUNG AT HEART** EVENT ON NOV. 19.

CHRISTMAS NOTE CARDS FOR SALE

Ginny Edwards' beautiful note cards with Christmas images are available for purchase again this year! They come in a pack of eleven images for $15/pack. The money will go to the general Music Fund. To buy a pack, just contact Joan McDonald or Dawn Sundquist. There are ten of the images framed and on display in the Assembly Room.



STEWARDSHIP WORD SCRAMBLE

iivggn	_____
elegdp	_____
ymnoe	_____
yylrea	_____
gbtdue	_____
kwleye	_____
nrugeeos	_____
ehitt	_____
nylhtom	_____
omttemcinm	_____
tnnavoec	_____

Phone 304.428.0111

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

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: Susie Waters Acolyte: Allison Poole

Greeters/Ushers: Ed and Alease Goe

Prayer Needs

AMERICA	FIRST UMC
Carol Power	Larry Clinton
Charlie & Marilyn Casto	Lee Carrico
Cierra Hammond	Margaret Stemple
Cindy & Ron Ferrell	Maria Hamlin
Connie Twyman	Mike Brannock
David Taliaferro	Nathan Corathers/family
Drue Farmer	Pam Corathers
Jan Davis	Raymond Myers
Jim Wright	Scot Harper
John Hathaway	Sharon Hennen
Judy Osbourne	Tish Oney
Karen Gorrell	

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Shari Stilgenbauer

Parkersburg, WV

November 8, 2026

REMEMBER NOVEMBER 11



OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS

LIGHTHOUSE
Congregation
West Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church