FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost Commitment Sunday

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 *Come, All Christians, Be Committed* arr. Larson

+Call to Worship Liturgist, Dawn Sundquist

+Opening Hymn *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* No. 581

+Call to Worship Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night.**

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. The days of our life are seventy years or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and Generous God, We come before You with grateful hearts, recognizing that all we have is a gift from You. As we hear the words of Jesus in Matthew 25, remind us that You have entrusted us with gifts, resources, and opportunities to serve Your kingdom. Give us courage to invest our gifts faithfully, wisdom to use what You have given us, and hearts that are generous in sharing Your love. Help us move beyond fear and embrace the joy of faithful stewardship. May our worship, our giving, and our living bring glory to Your name. Bless this Stewardship Sunday and guide us as we seek to be faithful servants of Christ. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Choral Anthem *Abide with Me* arr. Edwards

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide. When darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O, abide with me. I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me! Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies. Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee. In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Childrens/Youth Moments

Sermon Text Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon Pastor Shari

Prayer

+Hymn *Bless Thou the Gifts* No. 587

Invitation to the Offering and Stewardship

Offertory *Jesus Paid it All* 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 *Take My Life, and Let it Be* No. 399

Blessing/Benediction

Postlude *The Unclouded Day* arr. Raney
(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 22

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 (UMH 821)
Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 11-08-26	$ 1,668
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	$174,895
Actual expenses Y-T-D	$162,583

Other gifts: My Thanksgiving Gift $70; Latrobe St. Mission - pledged $100; Bell Tower - pledged $100; UMCOR $50

BLESSED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO
Lakyn Ellenwood TODAY
Arlene Parsons Nov. 16

Remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said,
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Acts 20:35

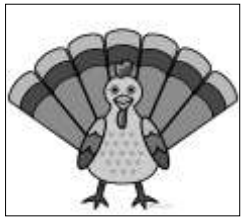
WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday	(Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 5:30 pm)
Tuesday	(Lectionary, Parlor, 9-11 am)
Wednesday	(Girl Scouts, old Youth Room, 5-7 pm)
Thursday	YOUNG AT HEART event, F. Hall, 11:30 am
	"What Do I Do Now?-Coping When Alone"
	Handbell Practice, 6 pm
	Choir Practice, 7 pm
Friday	(AA Meeting, F. Hall, 7-9 pm)
Saturday	Women's Zoom Meeting, 8 am
	MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARK GASTON,
	Visitation, here at First Church, 11 am,
	Service, noon

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



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in memory of David Taliaferro by his sons, Matt and Robert. David passed away this past week on Nov. 8.



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.

Attendance last week 36 Online 8



CHRISTMAS NOTE CARDS FOR SALE designs by 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.

The Latrobe St. Mission Dinner is next Monday on November 23.



Advent season begins on November 29. The Worship Committee reminds you to plan on staying after the Worship service **next Sunday, Nov. 22** to 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!

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.*



Our Stewardship theme this year is BLESSINGS. We are asking for you to write one of your blessings on the back of the leaf you were given with your bulletin and place it on the tree by the pulpit. THANK YOU.

Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord.

Psalm 33:12

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: Dawn Sundquist Acolyte: Dawn Sundquist

Greeters/Ushers: Ed and Alease Goe

Prayer Needs

AMERICA

Carol Power
Charlie & Marilyn Casto
Cierra Hammond
Cindy & Ron Ferrell
Connie Twyman
David Taliaferro family
Drue Farmer
Jan Davis
Jim Wright
John Hathaway
Judy Osbourne
Karen Gorrell

FIRST UMC

Larry Clinton family
Lee Carrico
Margaret Stemple
Maria Hamlin
Mike Brannock
Nathan Corathers/family
Pam Corathers
Raymond Myers
Scot Harper
Sharon Hennen
Tish Oney

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Shari Stilgenbauer

Parkersburg, WV

November 15, 2026



OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS

