FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia November 22, 2026
Christ the King 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 *Meditation on "Thaxted"* arr. Meyer
First UMC Handbell Choir

+Call to Worship Liturgist, Susie Waters

+Opening Hymn *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* No. 66

+Call to Worship Psalm 95:1-7a

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we gather today with grateful hearts, celebrating Christ our King, whose kingdom is founded on love, grace, mercy, and peace. Lord Jesus, reign in our hearts and guide our lives so that we may reflect Your love to the world. As we approach Thanksgiving, we pause to give thanks for Your abundant blessings—for family and friends, for the gift of community, for the food we share, and for Your faithfulness in every season of life. May our worship today be an offering of gratitude and praise. Open our hearts to Your presence, fill us with Your Spirit, and help us live as faithful servants of our King. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our King and Savior. Amen.

Scripture Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

Choral Anthem *We Gather Together* arr. McDonald

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name: he forgets not his own. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine. So from the beginning, the fight we were winning. The Lord at our side: all glory be thine! Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home! All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin. God, our maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied. Come to God's own temple, come: raise the song of harvest home. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender will be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation: thy name ever praised! O Lord, make us free! Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine. So from the beginning, the fight we were winning. The Lord at our side: all glory be thine!

Childrens/Youth Moments

Sermon Text Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon Pastor Shari

Prayer

+Hymn *Together We Serve* TFWS 2175

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. Chung

+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 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* No. 694

Blessing/Benediction

Postlude *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* arr. Shackley
(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 29

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801)
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 11-15-26	$ 8,219
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	$183,146
Actual expenses Y-T-D	$164,811

Other gifts: My Thanksgiving Gift $20; Latrobe St. Mission - pledged $80; Prayer Blanket Ministry $50

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Alease and Ed Goe
November 22



REMINDER: THERE IS A SHORT SPRC MEETING ON THE 29TH, **next Sunday** after Worship Service.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

TODAY	Lunch downstairs after Worship, Decorate for Christmas, HANGING OF THE GREENS
Monday	Latrobe St. Mission Dinner, prep at 2:30 pm in the kitchen, serve and clean up at the Mission, 6 pm
	(Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 5:30 pm)
Tuesday	(Lectionary, Parlor, 9-11 am)
Thursday	OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY
Friday	OFFICE CLOSED
	(Prof. Council Mtg., F. Hall, 9 am)
	(AA Meeting, F. Hall, 7-9 pm)
Saturday	Women's Zoom Meeting, 8 am

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

YOU MAY BUY YOUR TURKEY(S) TODAY

CIRCLES OF THE MOV FUNDRAISER

Circles is selling paper turkeys to remind you that you are blessed. Buy a turkey or two (or more). They are only $1/each. Share what you are grateful for while supporting a good cause.

Attendance last week 34 Online 10



CHRISTMAS NOTE CARDS FOR SALE Beautiful note cards with Christmas images (by Ginny Edwards) are now available for purchase. They come in a pack of eleven images for $15/pack. The money will go to the general Music Fund. To buy yours, just contact Joan McDonald or Dawn Sundquist. There are ten of the eleven images framed and on display in the Assembly Room.



TODAY

PLEASE STAY after WORSHIP service today to help decorate the church. There will be a light lunch, then we will get to work! Please help us 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.*

PLEASE HELP

PARKERSBURG URBAN MINISTRIES is currently in dire need of items for their food pantry. There is nothing specific they are asking for – any food items are much appreciated. The shelves are bare.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

PLEASE email any items/articles you want in the next newsletter to me by the deadline of **November 24**. This one will cover both December and January. If I receive the info at the last minute, then I often have to rearrange one or several pages to get the info in. Please don't make me any more crazy than I already am at this time of year. ☺

THANK YOU, *Cindy*

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

is next Sunday. There are offering envelopes at the tables near the entrances, if you'd like one. Contributions on this day provide **scholarships** that empower students that are preparing for careers in ministry, service, and leadership.



HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT IS TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!!

BOB'S MARKET WILL DELIVER THEM TO US ON DECEMBER 18TH. **THE ORDERS NEED TO BE TO BOB'S BY DECEMBER 11TH, SO OUR DEADLINE TO HAVE YOUR ORDER AND MONEY IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE IS DECEMBER 10TH. ORDER FORM IS AN INSERT.**

LATROBE ST. MISSION DINNER IS TOMORROW. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR HELPING WITH THE FOOD ITEMS AND FOR HELPING WITH PREP IN THE KITCHEN AND SERVING AT THE MISSION. THANK YOU.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MULTIPLE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH UTILITY BILLS, RENT, RENT DEPOSITS, CLOTHING, ETC. EVERY DAY.

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: Dawn Sundquist

Greeters/Ushers: Ed and Alease Goe

Prayer Needs

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

THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE CURRENTLY UNABLE TO MEET THEIR OWN FINANCIAL (OR OTHER) NEEDS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Shari Stilgenbauer

Parkersburg, WV

November 22, 2026



OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS

LIGHTHOUSE Congregation
West Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church