

First Presbyterian Church OF PARKERSBURG

GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING

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Rev. Annie McMillan - *Pastor*
Scott Rockhold - *Organist* ♦ Chris Alfred - *Financial Manager/Treasurer*
Judi Echard - *Office Secretary* ♦ Senta Goudy - *Clerk of Session*



March 9, 2025
10:30 a.m.



WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT CONGREGATION,
REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY
AND STANDING AS A BEACON OF CHRIST'S LOVE AND PROMISE.

Sharing the Life of the Church

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH THE SEASON OF LENT, SEEKING TO GROW IN FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

Coffee Hour - Join us at 10 a.m. in the Harris Room for light snacks and fellowship. Today's Coffee Hour is hosted by **Joyce Boso**. If you would like to host a Coffee Hour, sign up outside the Harris Room or call Joyce Boso @304-488-1205.

Prayer Partners Game Day - Following 10:30 Worship today, the kids and their prayer partners will gather in the Harris Room for lunch and a time of games and fellowship.

The Gathering - Be sure to attend The Gathering, this **Wednesday, March 12, at 6 p.m.** in the Harris Room, hosted by Saturday Stewards.

Book Study - Pastor Annie's book study of Eric Elnes's *Gifts of the Dark Wood* will resume this **Wednesday, March 12**, in the Harris Room at **11:30 a.m.** and at **7 p.m.** following The Gathering.

Annual Meeting - The church's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held next **Sunday, March 16**, in the Sanctuary immediately following 10:30 Worship.

Reports Packet - Copies of the Annual Meeting reports packet are available at the **NEW "FPC Happenings" BULLETIN BOARD** outside the Sanctuary. Pick up a copy for review, but bring it back with you when you attend worship next Sunday. Please plan to stay for the meeting following 10:30 Worship.

Community Meal - Our church will host the quarterly Community Meal on **Sunday**,

March 23, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. We are in need of volunteers to help with setup, serving and cleanup. If you would like to assist, sign up at the new bulletin board.

Choose-a-Hymn Sunday is **March 30**, when the congregation chooses the hymns that we sing during worship. Fill out the form in your bulletin if you would like to nominate your favorite. Then return it to the offering plate or to the office mailbox by next **Sunday, March 16**.

Friendship Park Easter Egg Hunt - In April (date TBA) the Mission Committee will host an egg hunt for the neighborhood children. We are asking for donations of either pre-filled eggs, or individually-wrapped candy to fill the eggs we already have. We do not need empty plastic eggs. Next week there will be a display outside the office where you may leave your donations. We also need volunteers, so please sign up at the new bulletin board.

Easter Flowers - If you would like to purchase a flower to adorn the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, fill out an order form and return it to the church office no later than **Sunday, April 6**. Forms are available outside the Sanctuary and in the March newsletter.

Spring Fling Luncheon - The Deacons will host their annual "Spring Fling" Luncheon on **Sunday, April 6**, following 10:30 worship. They are serving delicious baked steak, so please come and enjoy. If you plan to be here, please sign up at the new bulletin board to help them estimate how much food to prepare.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

Preparation for Worship

Welcome

Sharing the Life of the Church

Minute for Mission Friendship Park Easter egg hunt

Stacy Johnson

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

There's a path, though it winds its way through darkness.

We would choose to avoid it if we could.

We awake to an unexpected calling.

God says, "Come."

There are gifts in the Dark Wood.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

*Unexpected Love, enter our lives
and open us to the gifts residing deep within
the Holy Darkness of our lives.
Walk with us, speak to us, call to us.
In your many names, we pray. Amen.*

***Hymn 697**

Take My Life

HENDON

Children's Time

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

*Those who are able, please stand.

Prayer of Confession

*O God, how often we give fear too much face-time,
 we dig in rather than going with the flow,
 we hold on too tight when what we need to do is let go.
 Forgive and restore us, O God.
 Open us to the gifts residing deep within
 the Holy Darkness of our lives.
 Walk with us, speak to us, call to us.
 May we see how these uncomfortable times can help us let go
 of all we cannot know so that we can live more wholeheartedly;*

SILENCE for personal confession ...

Words of Assurance and Pardon

God dwells with us, no matter how sure or unsure we are.
 God is not uncertain about whether or not we are worthy of love.
 So listen to the sound of the waters and remember that
 in baptism you have been marked as a beloved child of God.
 God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness.
 Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Response

Hymn 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

***Ritual of Friendship**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Exchange words of peace and greetings with those around you.

Special Music**GROWING****Prayer for Illumination**

God of extravagant grace, your word is our way of truth and life.
 Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Spirit within us,
 so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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| Scripture | Matthew 5:31-44 The gospel of the Lord. <i>Praise be to you, O Christ!</i> | p. 684 |
| Scripture | 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 The word of the Lord. <i>Thanks be to God!</i> | p. 813 |
| Sermon | “THE GIFT OF UNCERTAINTY” | Rev. Annie McMillan |

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.*

CARING

The Offering

*The Doxology

Hymn 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

4.

GOING

***Hymn 834**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRECIOUS LORD

***Benediction**

The Postlude

Worship Participants

Acolytes - *Connor Buchanan, Emily Shuman*

Beadles - *Ellie Buchanan, Avalyn Meckley, Riley Shuman*

Liturgist - *Bill Niday*

Sound Technician - *Matt Buchanan*

Organist - *Scott Rockhold*

Next week, March 16, is the Second Sunday in Lent.

We continue in our Lenten Worship Series "Gifts of the Dark Wood".

The theme will be *The Gift of Emptiness* and

Scriptures will include Mark 15:22-39.

Prayer List – Please remember the following in your prayers:

Kenny Sumner

Marcia Oaklander

Mike Lewis

Richard Hayhurst

Autumn Vancamp

Bobby Craig

Doug Anderson

Alan & Jodi Earnest

Carl Gheen

Dan Sombeck

Mary Essenmacher

Ken Stoller

Harriet Litteral

Ruth Ann Huddle

Ed Ball

Tyler Mackey

Pat & Ann Patterson

Kitty Brown

Derrick Sheppard

Homebound Members

Brad Carter

Fleming Family

Troops – World Peace

Dan Ellis

*Those who are able, please stand.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today, Sunday, March 9 1st Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Harris Room
- 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners Game Day - Harris Room

Tuesday, March 11

- 6:00 p.m. Financial Management - C. Alfred's office

Wednesday, March 12

- 11:30 a.m. Book Study - Harris Room
- 6:00 p.m. *The Gathering* - Harris Room
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts - Room 124
- 7:00 p.m. Book Study - Harris Room



Thursday, March 13

- 1:00 p.m. PEO meeting - Harris Room
- 6:00 p.m. Women's Ensemble - Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Juliana Ringers - Bell Room
- 7:15 p.m. Troop 3 Boy Scouts - Scout House

Saturday, March 15

- 8:30 a.m. Session Retreat - Harris Room
- 11:30 a.m. HA Meeting - Room 204
- 5:00 p.m. Private party - Harris Room

Sunday, March 16 2nd Sunday in Lent

Cents-Ability Offering

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Harris Room
- 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary

Repentance is the process by which we see ourselves, day by day, as we really are: sinful, needy, dependent people. It is the process by which we see God as He is: awesome, majestic and holy.

—Charles Colson
in *From Against the Night: Living in the New Dark Ages*

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

