by erian C 1341 JULIANA STREET PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

Dec. 2024 Jan. 2025

Fax: 304-428-0372 E-mail: office@fpcpburgwv.org Phone: 304-422-5426 Fax: 304-428-0372



We are a nurturing, vibrant CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND STANDING AS A BEACON OF CHRIST'S LOVE AND PROMISE.

Sunday Worship:

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. livestream on Facebook - 10:30 a.m. Children's Church & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.



15th of each month Article Deadline:

If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information: 304-422-5426 or office@fpcpburgwv.org.



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



1341 Juliana St. ■ Parkersburg, WV 26101 ■ 304-422-5426

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Type started listening to Christmas Carols, and was intrigued that being home for Christmas and holidays is such a big theme in multiple songs. We Home often think about going home for Christmas big holidays, whether that means hosting the holiday for family, or going back to see loved ones. I know that I always go back to my parents' house in Florida sometime between Christmas and the New Year. Home is often the place we want to be as we remember those family Christmases growing up.

Chis Advent season, our worship theme is "Come Home for Christmas." Christmas is such a special time of year. We see the lights and the tinsel everywhere. But for us as Christians, Christmas is about so much more than gifts or beautiful decorations. It's about celebrating the Incarnate One who comes to remind us that we are not alone; God is with us. We're about longing for the coming kingdom, where we will study war no more, where people will walk in the light, where joy will be found, and where love will be the tie that binds us together.

Advent is about the joy of longing for this home—the kind of home that will complete us and will transform the world.

So come home for Christmas this Advent season. Come home to FPC Parkersburg as we enjoy Appalachian

Christmas carols in worship.
Come learn about the history of other carols on Wednesday evenings. And let us long for the coming kingdom which is our true home—the home that will complete us and will transform the world.

Blessings and Peace!

Pastor annie

An earlier age gave us many carols of simple beauty. Once learned, they are unforgettable and a constant source of pleasure with each recurring Christmastide. The best material comes from a long way back. I think it comes by way of poetry, and more especially in song. I would provide a child with plenty of carols, the older the carols the better. If a family has sung them together, no member of it, singing alone at Christmas, ever sings a solo.

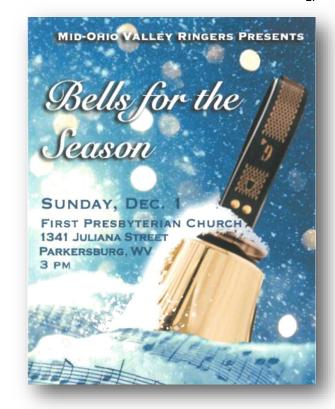
—Norman Cousins in Saturday Review

ADVENT STUDY

Wed., December 4 & 18
with Pastor Annie
Sign up in the foyer
(No Book Required)



CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Holiday Worship Schedule

December 22

10:30 a.m. - Children's Program "Starry Night, Noisy Night"

December 24 - Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship

December 29 - 1st Sunday of Christmas

Choose-a-Hymn Sunday



1



3.

Birthday & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

Dalton Cork Jim Houck 11th Stacy Johnson 13th Connor Buchanan 17th **Debbie Foley** 22nd 24th Jean Pearcy Lucian McMillan 27th 30th **Bob Tebay** Matt Buchanan 31st



Norm & Judy Smith 22nd Lloyd & Sandy Cowell 27th



Special Dates

- First Sunday of Advent 1st
- First day of Winter 21st
- Christmas Eve 24th
- Christmas Day 25th
- New Year's Eve 31st
- New Year's Day Ist
- Epiphany 6th
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day 20th



Happy Birthday!

Sloane Siers	3rd
Justin Bosley	13th
Mary Stoneking	15th
David Gibson	16th
Mike Bosley	17th
Amy Leach	20th
Norm Smith	22nd
Kathy Hinkley	24th
Cynthia Essenmacher	26th
Nancy Brooks	27th
Carolyn Miller	28th
Katie Buchanan	30th
Phil Essenmacher	30th
Connor Smith	31st

Happy Anniversary!

Dave & Becky Bell 1st





Robert P. Cutlip - November 11



Cookies with Santa

Sunday, December 15 2 - 3 p.m. at Friendship Park

Hosted by the Mission Committee

Volunteers are needed, as well as donations of cookies. Please sign up in the foyer if you can help. Cookies should be dropped off at the church by Thursday, December 12, or **before Worship** on Sunday, the 15th, in case we need to purchase more the day of the event.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN THE FUN!

Lydia Circle December 19 11 a.m. @Mary B's



Ladies, please join us for lunch at Mary B's Restaurant on Garfield Avenue, Thursday, December 19. We will share a meal, have a lesson and socialize. If you can attend, text or call **Barbara** Lucas at 304-580-1274 so we know how many seats to reserve.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!

Lydia Circle meets each month on the third Thursday, so save the date!

The Gathering / Retirement Celebration December 11



The December *Gathering* is on Wednesday, the 11th, at **6 p.m.** in the Harris Room. The Session is hosting a special Holiday Gathering and a **Retirement Celebration** for **Larry Wiseman**, our Sexton, who is retiring at the end of the year. Join us as we show our appreciation for Larry's many years of service and dedication to the church.

We need <u>volunteers</u> to host *The Gathering* in *February and April*. If you can help out, please contact Carl Gheen, 321-527-8859.

5.



Advent Worship Series

Each Sunday of Advent: December 1, 8, 15 and 22

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Advent Candle Righters

December 1

8:30 - Senta Goudy, Roy Schleicher

10:30 - Ann Leach, Amy Leach

December 8

8:30 - Sonny & Jean Pearcy

10:30 - Ken & Jackie Ogdin

December 15

8:30 - Dan & Judi White

10:30 - Becky McGinnis, Cate, **Emily & Riley Shuman**

December 22

8:30 - Nancy Cutlip

10:30 - Children of the church

December 24 / Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. - Mike & Mikki Bosley

Star Words January 5



On Sunday, January 5, we continue our annual tradition of Star Words, at 10:30 a.m. Worship. We will hear accounts of how using Star Words has been spiritually helpful or influential in the lives of some of our members.

If you would like to share a 3-minute about your use of a Star Word and its effect on your spiritual wellbeing during the year, contact Kelly Beckett at 304-991-3613 or kellybeckett@gmail.com.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

will begin Sunday, January 12, at 10:30 a.m., for youth, 6th **Grade and above. Classes** will be conducted by **Kristy Woodrow each Sunday** morning, through March 16.



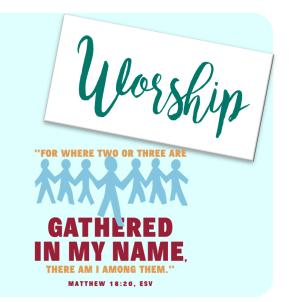
Please see Pastor Annie if your child is interested, and join us in the Harris Room on December 8 after worship for a brief meeting.

WORSHIP CHANGES

Beginning December 1st, we will ask the congregation to come forward to receive the elements for Communion. Those who feel more comfortable staying seated may remain in the pews and a server will bring the elements to you.



On Sunday, February 2, our worship services will be combined at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary to allow us to share the sacrament of Communion together.





December 1st

Mikki Bosley Kathy Hinkley Kristy Holliday Deb Karr



1 Mikki Bosley

22 Justin Bosley

8 Jess Linville

24 Kathy Hinkley

15 Bill Niday

29 Deb Karr



Music Rehearsal Schedule

Festival Choir

Sun. 12/8: 2 - 4 p.m. Sun. 12/15: 6 - 7 p.m. Sun. 12/22: 2 - 4 p.m. Tue. 12/24: 5:45 p.m.

*On Dec. 8 we will discuss the possibility of extra rehearsals.

Juliana Ringers

Thursdays 12/5, 12/12 & 12/19: 6 - 8 p.m. 4 - 6 p.m. Sun. 12/8: Sun. 12/15: 7 - 8 p.m. 4 - 6 p.m. Sun. 12/22: 6:15 p.m. Tue. 12/24:

Children's Musical

Sundays 12/8 & 12/15 (approx. 12:30 - after Women's Ensemble)

Children, bring your lunches Sat. 12/21: 10 a.m. - noon

Sun. 12/22: 9 a.m.



Here and on the next page is the latest update on church finances from our Treasurer. Keep in mind, reports are a month behind due to the publishing date of the newsletter. If you have any questions, you may contact Chris Alfred at finance@fpcpburgwv.org

Sound over all waters. reach out from all lands, The chorus of voices, the clasping of hands; Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn, Sing songs of the angels when lesus was born! With glad jubilations Bring hope to the nations! The dark night is ending and dawn has begun: Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun, All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one! ...

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace; East, west, north, and south let the long quarrel cease. Sing the song of great joy that the angels began, Sing of glory to God and of good-will to man! Hark! joining in chorus The heavens bend o'er us! The dark night is ending and dawn has begun; Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun, All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one!

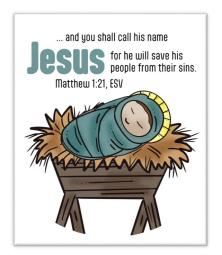
—John Greenleaf Whittier

Financial Statement as of October 31, 2024

2024 Budget	Budget		Actual		
Income					
Sunday Offerings					
Pledges	\$	126,175.00	\$	92,406.00	
Contributions	\$	44,624.00	\$	35,809.61	
Per Capita	\$	1,500.00	\$	674.20	
Sunday Offerings	\$	172,299.00	\$	128,889.81	
Facility Rentals	\$	41,000.00	\$	31,138.46	
Other Income	\$	175.00	\$	365.65	
Misc. Income	\$	-	\$	-	
Interest from F. Trust	\$	50,000.00		20,000.00	
Total Income	\$	263,474.00	\$	180,393.92	
Expenses					
Discipleship	\$	2,048.00	\$	853.26	
Mission	\$	500.00	\$	424.62	
Worship & Music	\$	7,100.00	\$	5,079.58	
Salaries	\$	149,698.00	\$	113,328.97	
Facilities	\$	81,630.00	\$	58,474.68	
Per Capita	\$	3,273.00	\$	510.42	
Communications	\$	1,225.00	\$	406.55	
Office Expenses	\$	18,000.00	\$	13,895.11	
Total Expenses	\$	263,474.00	\$	192,973.19	
Difference	\$	-	\$	(12,579.27)	

ASSETS

FPC CHECKING		
Operating Fund	\$	(9,565.61)
Restricted Funds	\$	46,907.84
Deacons Fund	\$ \$	2,764.29
Total Checking	\$	40,106.52
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDS		
Checking	\$	829.25
Savings	\$ \$	1,627.84
Total PW Funds	\$	2,457.09
INVESTMENTS		
Deacons CD	\$	6,058.01
Morgan Stanley Stocks	\$	1,257.94
United Bank Founders Trust	\$	52,793.98
Wesbanco Founders Trust	\$	1,465,631.56
Presbyterian Women Investments	\$	163,467.19
Total Investments	\$	1,689,208.68
TOTAL ASSETS	Ś	1,731,772.29



Session

In their effort to better communicate with the congregation, the Session has listed below the highlights from their **NOVEMBER meeting**:

- Our meeting included members of the Board of Deacons and Founders Trust Board of Governors to discuss our mission, supporting our church family and building community. Members will be reaching out to the congregation in the next month or two to continue the conversations and plan our work for 2025.
- Larry Wiseman will be retiring at the end of this year. Larry has worked for the church for 20 years, checking the building every evening to turn off lights, check for any problems and turn on the alarm. To celebrate, there will be a card shower for Larry Wiseman's Retirement Party-themed Gathering on December 11 at 6 p.m. Session invites the congregation to bring cards and drop them in a basket or bring with you on December 11. Then join us as we celebrate Larry's retirement after 20 years of serving as our sexton.

12





Dec. 1: First Sunday of Advent / Communion

Mid-Ohio Valley Ringers Concert - 3 p.m.

Dec. 4 & 18: Advent Study on Christmas Carols - 6 p.m., Harris Room

Dec. 6: Cluster Youth Event: Christmas Escape Room - 5 p.m., Stevenson Hall

Dec. 11: The Gathering - 6 p.m., Harris Room - Retirement Celebration

for Larry Wiseman, our Sexton

Dec. 15: Cookies with Santa - 2:00 p.m., Friendship Park

Dec. 19: Lydia Circle Lunch - 11 a.m., Mary B's Restaurant, Garfield Ave.

Dec. 22: Children's Program - 10:30 a.m. Worship

Christmas Joy Offering received (PCUSA)

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - 7 p.m.

Dec. 25: Christmas Day - Annual Community Christmas Dinner: 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 29: Choose-a-Hymn Sunday - fill out a form and submit by December 15!



Jan. 1: New Year's Day - Office closed

Jan. 5: NO 8:30 Worship - 10:30 a.m. Worship - Star Words / Communion

Jan. 12: Confirmation Classes begin at 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 16: Lydia Circle Lunch - 11 a.m., Mary B's Restaurant, Garfield Ave.

Jan. 25: Session Retreat - 8:30 a.m - 3:00 p.m., in the Harris Room

**Worship on February 2nd will be a combined service at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, when we will gather together at the Lord's Table.

When January comes along, we can continue that sense of comfort and warmth that comes at Christmas by returning to the Christmas story, which gives us two great promises: God understands you, and God can redeem you.

I encourage people to make it a point to reread the Christmas story every month, and allow Christmas to be Christmas every month. We need to keep coming back to it.

—Max Lucado, *Publishers Weekly* interview

35th Annual Christmas Day Dinner We Need Your Help!

* VOLUNTEERS: Hands-on workers are crucial to this event. If you can help with food prep, setup, cleanup, meal delivery, serving or greeting guests, PLEASE VOLUNTEER! It takes a lot of folks to make this work. You can sign up in the foyer, or call the church office, 304-422-5426 to be added to the list.



* DONATE COOKIES & PIES:



COOKIES freeze well and can be delivered to the church any week Mon.-Thurs., 10 - 3. To drop off, call the church office (304-422-5426) and deliver at the **front** entrance, *or* bring them to church on any Sunday. To save valuable prep time, place your cookies in small zipper bags [4 per bag] before delivering.

PIES can be delivered on Sunday, December 22, when you arrive for worship, or to the office, Monday, December 23, 10-3.



(If you can donate baked goods, please sign up in the foyer NOW so we can plan our last-minute purchases.)

* LOAN US YOUR ELECTRIC ROASTERS for serving. They will be returned to you after Christmas. (Please clearly mark your names on them.)

If you can't help with physical tasks, and don't like to bake, cash donations are always welcome. Make checks payable to the church, with a notation "Christmas Dinner." If you have questions, call the church office, 304-422-5426, or contact Chris Alfred at

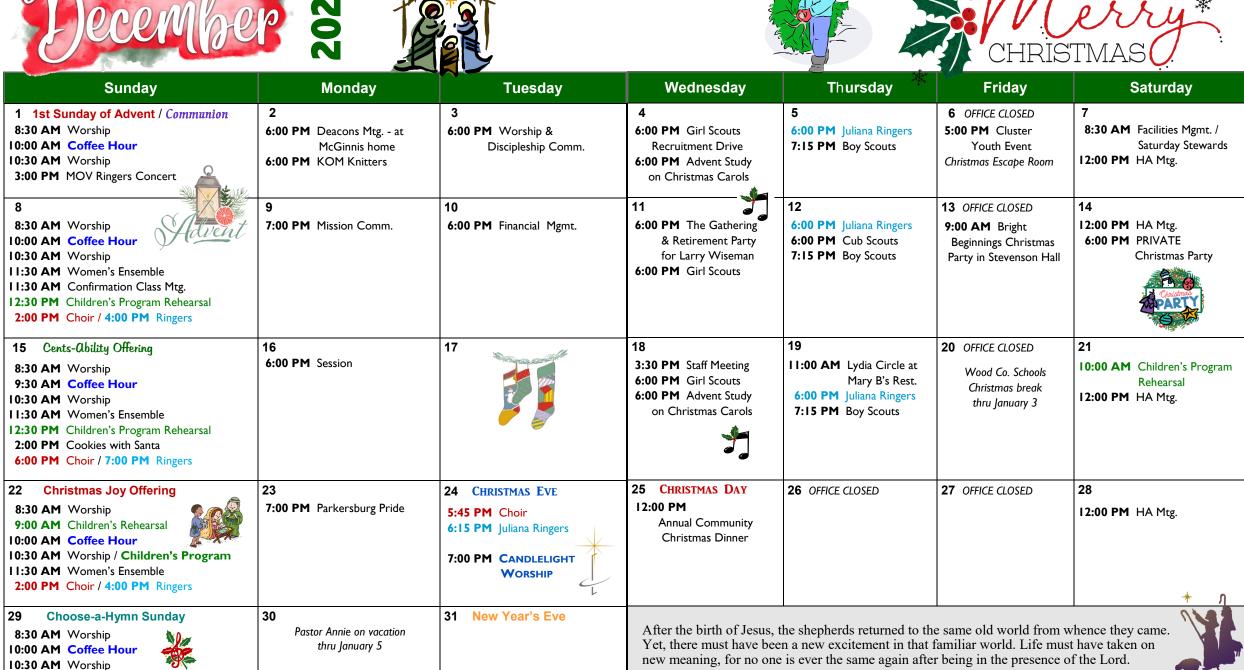
finance@fpcpburgwv.org

Thanks for helping!











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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
In Christ he has disposed unprepared. He can face his turned his feet into the ways		n God. The man who has	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED Year!	* * *	3 OFFICE CLOSED	8:30 AM Facilities Mgmt. / Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.
5 Communion NO 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship - Star Words	6 6:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 6:00 PM KOM Knitters	7 6:00 PM Worship & Discipleship Committees	8 6:00 PM The Gathering 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	9 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 12:00 PM HA Mtg.
12 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Confirmation Classes begin	13	14 6:00 PM Financial Mgmt.	15 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	16 II:00 AM Lydia Circle 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 12:00 PM HA Mtg.
19 Cents-Obility Offering 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Confirmation Class	20 Martin L. King, Jr. Day No School Pastor away - COM Retreat 6:00 PM Session	Pastor away - COM Retreat	6:00 PM Girl Scouts	6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 8:30 AM Session Retreat 12:00 PM HA Mtg.
26 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Confirmation Class	7:00 PM Parkersburg Pride	28	29 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	30 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	31 OFFICE CLOSED	February 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28