

# 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 16, 2025**  
**10:30 a.m.**



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

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# Sharing the Life of the Church

**BLESSINGS AND GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL. IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, YOU ARE WELCOME TODAY AND EVERY DAY!**

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

**Book Study** - Pastor Annie's book study of Eric Elnes's *Gifts of the Dark Wood* continues each **Wednesday** in the Harris Room at **11:30 a.m.** and at **6 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting** - The church's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held **today** in the Sanctuary immediately following 10:30 Worship. Report packets are available outside the Sanctuary.

**Community Meal** - Our church is hosting 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 sung during worship. Pick up a form outside the Sanctuary and fill it out to nominate your favorite hymn. Then return it to the offering plate or to the office mailbox by next **Sunday, March 16**.

**Easter Flowers** - If you would like to purchase a flower to adorn the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, fill out the order form in your bulletin and return it to the offering plate, or to the church office no later than **Sunday, April 6**.

**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 quantities for food preparation.

**Friendship Park Easter Egg Hunt** - On **Saturday, April 19, at 1 p.m.**, 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. Please leave donations outside the church office at the display. We also need volunteers, so please sign up at the new bulletin board.



It's countercultural, unnatural even — this Lenten call to deny oneself and resist temptation, to put aside comfort for a time in reflection of Jesus' sacrifice for us. It's downright uncomfortable.

Lent is a most unwelcome experience because human nature seeks pleasure and avoids pain at all costs. But those who dare to follow Jesus into the desert will find a rich reward.

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
*Second Sunday in Lent*

***March 16, 2025***

***10:30 a.m.***

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**GATHERING**

**Preparation for Worship**

**Welcome**

**Sharing the Life of the Church**

**Prelude**

Praeludium

Francois Dandrieu  
arr. John Troutman

**\*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:

***Trusted Love, enter our lives and open us to  
the gifts residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives.***

***Help us to empty ourselves with every breath.***

***Make room in us so that you might take up residence  
in the very marrow of our bones.***

***In your many names, we pray. Amen.***

**\*Hymn 218**

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

**Children's Time**

Cents-Ability Offering

**Confession and Pardon**

Call to Confession

\*Those who are able, please stand.

Prayer of Confession

*O God, how often we fill up our lives with little room for you.  
Our worry outlasts trust.*

*We choose being right over being in relationship.*

*In our desire to make the darkness disappear,  
we have not been fully open and honest,  
with ourselves or with you.*

*Forgive and restore us, O God.*

*Open us to the gifts residing deep within  
the Holy Darkness of our lives.*

*Help us to empty ourselves with every breath.*

*Make room in us so that you might take up residence  
in the very marrow of our bones;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*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.*

**GROWING**

**Special Music**

Partita on "Ah, Holy Jesus"

Russell Schulz-Widmar

### 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.

**Scripture** 1 Samuel 16:1-13 p. 202  
 The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God!*

**Scripture** Mark 15:22-39 p. 721  
 The gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise be to you, O Christ!*

**Sermon** “THE GIFT OF EMPTINESS” 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** Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross W.H. Doane, I.D. Conkey  
*with In the Cross of Christ I Glory* arr. C. Berry

\*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.*

## GOING

\*Hymn 451                                      Open My Eyes, That I May See                                      OPEN MY EYES

### \*Benediction

The Postlude                                      Open My Eyes                                      Clara H. Scott, Robert J. Hughes

### Congregational Meeting

## Worship Participants

Acolytes - *Connor Buchanan, Emily Shuman*  
Beadles - *Ellie Buchanan, Avalyn Meckley, Riley Shuman*  
Liturgist - *Jess Linville*  
Sound Technician - *Matt Buchanan*  
Organist - *Scott Rockhold*

### Prayer List – Please remember the following in your prayers:

|                  |                      |               |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Sandy Cowell     | Zach Mullinnex       | Hudson Family |
| Brandon Davis    | Autumn Vancamp       | Wayne Dunn    |
| Barbara Perez    | Alan & Jodi Earnest  | Mike Lewis    |
| Kenny Sumner     | Richard Hayhurst     | Bobby Craig   |
| Doug Anderson    | Mary Essenmacher     | Carl Gheen    |
| Dan Sombeck      | Ruth Ann Huddle      | Ken Stoller   |
| Harriet Litteral | Pat & Ann Patterson  | Ed Ball       |
| Tyler Mackey     | Homebound Members    | Kitty Brown   |
| Derrick Sheppard | Troops – World Peace | Brad Carter   |
| Fleming Family   |                      | Dan Ellis     |

\*Those who are able, please stand.

## THIS WEEK AT FPC

### Today, 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

### Monday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day

- 6:00 p.m. Session meets - Room 204

### Wednesday, March 19

- 11:30 a.m. Book Study - Harris Room
- 2:30 p.m. Staff meeting - Pastor's office
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts - Room 124
- 6:00 p.m. Book Study - Harris Room

### Thursday, March 20

- 11:00 a.m. Lydia Circle - Mary B's Restaurant
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Room 123
- 6:00 p.m. Women's Ensemble - Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Wood Co. Women's Alliance - Harris Room
- 7:00 p.m. Juliana Ringers - Bell Room
- 7:15 p.m. Troop 3 Boy Scouts - Scout House



### Saturday, March 22

- 11:30 a.m. HA Meeting - Room 204

### Sunday, March 23 3rd 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
- 2:00 p.m. Community Meal - Stevenson Hall

*Next week, March 23, is the Third Sunday in Lent.*

We continue in our Lenten Worship Series "Gifts of the Dark Wood".  
The theme will be *The Gift of Being Thunderstruck* and  
Scriptures will include selections from Job 37.

## Mark 15:22-39

<sup>22</sup> They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). <sup>23</sup> Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

<sup>24</sup> And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

<sup>25</sup> It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>27</sup> They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup> come down from the cross and save yourself!” <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! <sup>32</sup> Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

<sup>33</sup> At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup> And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

“Truly this man  
was the Son  
of God!”



Mark 15:39

<sup>35</sup> When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

<sup>36</sup> Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

<sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

<sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, <sup>[c]</sup> he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”