

# First Presbyterian Church OF PARKERSBURG

GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING

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1341 Juliana Street ♦ Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101  
304-422-5426 ♦ [office@fpcpborgwv.org](mailto:office@fpcpborgwv.org)  
[www.fpcpborgwv.org](http://www.fpcpborgwv.org) ♦ [facebook.com/fpcpborg](https://facebook.com/fpcpborg)

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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*



**January 12, 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

**ON THIS SECOND SUNDAY OF JANUARY, WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM OF JESUS. ALTHOUGH JESUS WAS WITHOUT SIN, HIS BAPTISM AFFIRMS THAT HE WANTED TO IDENTIFY WITH ALL WHO DESIRE A NEW LIFE UNDER GOD. WHILE BAPTISM IS A HOLY SACRAMENT TO CHRISTIANS, WE WELCOME ALL — THE BAPTIZED AND NON-BAPTIZED — TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP.**

**Coffee** - Coffee is available in the Harris Room between worship services. We need volunteers to host our Coffee Hour. If you can help, please sign up outside the Harris Room.

**“Pic a Prayer Partner”** - There is still time to sign up for our new inter-generational ministry involving adults and children. We are planning group events four times a year when adults and their youth Prayer Partners will gather for a meal and/or fun activities. The first such event is next **Sunday, January 19**, following 10:30 Worship. Partners will have lunch, play board or other games and become acquainted.

If you want to participate, sign up at the table display outside the office, or contact Kelly Beckett at [kellybeckett@gmail.com](mailto:kellybeckett@gmail.com) or 304-991-3613. Then, take the child's photo from the board, where you will find their name and other basic information.

**Book Study** - Beginning this month, and running through Lent, Pastor Annie will begin a study of Eric Eines's *Gifts of the Dark Wood*. If you are interested, please attend an introduction to the series this **Wednesday, January 15, at 6 p.m. in the Harris Room**. All are welcome.

**Worship Change** - On **Sunday, February 2**, we will combine our Worship services at **9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**, so that we may gather as one body to share the Sacrament of Communion. Please mark your calendars and join us for worship.

**Prayer List** - Our prayer list is growing, and we are always happy to add your requests. However, we are not always familiar with everyone on the list, or their current status. Going forward, any names on the list will be removed after one year unless you advise us otherwise. If a name has been removed, but needs to remain on the list, contact the church office and we will gladly relist it. Thank you for helping us to keep our prayer list relevant.

**Session Retreat** - Our Session members will participate in an all-day retreat on **Saturday, January 25**. In preparation for discussion, planning and goal-setting, they will be reaching out to you, the congregation, to gather your thoughts about our church's mission, outreach, and opportunities for greater fellowship and congregational care. Soon, you may expect a call from a member of Session or the Board of Deacons seeking your opinions and input regarding how we may meet our mission and fulfill Christ's great commission to us (Matthew 22:36-40 and 28:16-20). We would greatly appreciate your willing involvement in this process as we work to make plans for the coming year and beyond.

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
*Baptism of the Lord*

*January 12, 2025*

*10:30 a.m.*

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**GATHERING**

**Preparation for Worship**

**Welcome**

**Sharing the Life of the Church**

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship**

*by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries*

When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism  
and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

***I will be with you.***

When we go through the fires that refine us  
and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

***I will be with you.***

Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth  
or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

***I will be with you.***

So come, let us worship God whose love never fails,  
whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

***Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus,  
waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us!***

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

***Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan  
the heavens opened, the Spirit descended,  
and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus  
for the healing of the human race and all creation.***

***By water and word you lovingly invite us  
into this same life-giving mission.***

***May your Spirit,  
moving like a stream of water flowing from its source,  
work in us this day to realize your vision  
of a world made new in Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.***

\*Those who are able, please stand.

**Children's Time****Confession and Pardon**Call to ConfessionPrayer of Confession

*God our Redeemer, we confess that our lives do not reflect your glory.*

*We are eager to worship you and offer our praise,*

*but we are often reluctant to answer*

*when we hear you calling our name.*

*We sing our praise in the sanctuary but shy away from the river,*

*lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit.*

*You walk with us in times of trial, but we abandon others in trouble.*

*Forgive us, God of grace.*

*Renew us with the power of your ever-present love,*

*and send us your Holy Spirit to cleanse and recreate us*

*so that we may honor your name;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*SILENCE for personal confession ...*

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“I have called you by name. You are mine.

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

So listen to the sound of the waters and know that

in baptism you have been marked as a beloved child of God.

Whatever you have done, whatever you have failed to do,

you are accepted, you are washed clean.

In the love of Jesus Christ, you are loved forever.

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 light 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

#### Prayer for Illumination

Creator of all that is in the heavens and on the earth,  
 quiet the chatter of our minds  
 and still the anxiety of our hearts  
 so we can hear your wisdom in all its rich variety,  
 and in hearing, let that deep wisdom sink into our lives,  
 so that we may joyfully bear your light in all we do and say;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture	Isaiah 43:1-7	<i>p. 514</i>
	The word of the Lord. <b><i>Thanks be to God!</i></b>	

Scripture	Luke 3:15-22	<i>p. 726</i>
	The gospel of the Lord. <b><i>Praise be to you, O Christ!</i></b>	

Sermon	<b>"I WILL BE WITH YOU"</b>	Rev. Annie McMillan
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Affirmation of Faith		<i>The Apostles' Creed</i>
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***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

4.

## 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 463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

\*Benediction

The Postlude



## Worship Participants

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

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*Scripture readings for next week, January 19,  
the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time:*

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

\*Those who are able, please stand.

## THIS WEEK AT FPC

### Today, Sunday, January 12      **Baptism of the Lord**

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

### Monday, January 13

- 6:00 p.m.    Worship / Discipleship Comm. - Harris Room

### Tuesday, January 14

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

### Wednesday, January 15

- 11:00 a.m.    Lydia Circle - Mary B's Restaurant, Garfield Ave.
- 3:30 p.m.    Staff meeting - Pastor's office
- 6:00 p.m.    Book Study Introduction: *Gifts of the Dark Wood*  
- Harris Room
- 6:00 p.m.    Girl Scouts - Room 124

### Thursday, January 16

- 7:15 p.m.    Troop 3 Boy Scouts - Scout House

### Friday, January 17

- 6:00 p.m.    Girl Scouts Recruitment Drive - Stevenson Hall

### Saturday, January 18

- 12:00 p.m.    HA Meeting - Room 204

### Sunday, January 19      **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.    Prayer Partner Event - Harris Room

## PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE IN THE NEW YEAR

On the edge of a new year, Lord, teach us again  
to order our priorities and number our days and hours.  
And teach us to trust — life, history, one another, You.  
So that even in the gray and gloomy days, when the  
ceiling is low, we may trust the star  
that enabled wise men of old  
to live in hope and proclaim the divine promises  
which call us on in Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Deryl Fleming

## Luke 3:15-22

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

<sup>19</sup> But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, <sup>20</sup> Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

<sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”



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

Bobby Craig  
Doug Anderson  
Tyler Mackey  
Sophie Boothby  
Dan Sombeck  
Butch Shepherd  
Harriet Litteral  
Mary Withum  
Fleming Family

California fire victims  
Hurricane victims  
Mary Essenmacher  
Pat & Ann Patterson  
Derrick Sheppard  
Ruth Ann Huddle  
Cunningham Family  
Homebound Members  
Troops – World Peace

Carl Gheen  
Ken Stoller  
Ed Ball  
Kitty Brown  
Fred Jackson  
Susan Miller  
Peter Headlee  
Brad Carter  
Dan Ellis