

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 23, 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! WE DELIGHT IN YOUR PRESENCE AT WORSHIP. LET US OPEN OURSELVES TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD, OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER AND SUSTAINER.

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

Community Meal - Our church is hosting the quarterly Community Meal **today in Stevenson Hall, from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.** We can still use help with setup, serving and cleanup. Fee free to join us.

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.**

Choose-a-Hymn Sunday is **March 30**. To nominate your favorite hymn, pick up a form outside the Sanctuary, fill it out and return it to the offering plate or to the office mailbox **today**.

Easter Flowers - If you would like to purchase a flower to adorn the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, complete an order form (available outside the Sanctuary and in the March newsletter) and return it to the offering plate or to the church office no later than **Sunday, April 6**.

Spring Fling Luncheon - The Deacons invite you to the 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 in the basket in foyer. We also need volunteers, so please sign up at the new bulletin board.



Palm / Passion Sunday - April 13

8:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 Worship / Procession of the Palms

Maundy Thursday - April 17

7:00 p.m. Worship / Communion

Good Friday - April 18

7:30 p.m. Worship

at Westminster Presbyterian

Resurrection / Easter Sunday - April 20

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship (Prayer Garden)

(NO 8:30 a.m. Worship)

10:30 a.m. Worship

(Egg Hunt following Worship)

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

Preparation for Worship

Welcome

Sharing the Life of the Church

Prelude

Cross of Sorrow

Felix Mendelssohn
arr. George Blake

***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:

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

Form us as expectant people,

watching for your presence among us

that comes through quiet intuition or thunderous "a-ha's."

In your many names, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn 14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

Children's Time

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

*Those who are able, please stand.

Prayer of Confession

*Awesome God, how often we are too busy
to be wonder-struck by Your works.
We fill the holes in our spirit with things that cannot truly feed us.
We deny the world our best selves.
Forgive and restore us, O God.
Open us to the gifts residing deep within
the Holy Darkness of our lives.
May we see how these uncomfortable times can help us let go
of all we cannot know so that we can live more wholeheartedly;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SILENCE for personal confession ...

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Hear these words of assurance: God is already making a wonder of you.
You are a part of this awesome creation.
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**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
with He Leadeth Me

William Bradbury
arr. Cindy Berry

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 Exodus 19:7-11, 16-18 p. 54
 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Scripture Job 37:1-5, 14-18 p. 380
 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon "THE GIFT OF BEING THUNDERSTRUCK" 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 For the Beauty of the Earth Conrad Kocher
arr. Lari Goss

*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 22

God of the Sparrow

ROEDER

*Benediction

The Postlude

O How He Loves You and Me

Kurt Kaiser
arr. John M. Rasley

Worship Participants

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

Prayer List – Please remember the following in your prayers:

Brandon Davis	Lloyd & Sandy Cowell	Hudson Family
Barbara Perez	Autumn Vancamp	Wayne Dunn
Zach Mullinnex	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

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today, 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

Monday, March 24

- 7:00 p.m. Parkersburg Pride - Room 204

Tuesday, March 25

- 5:00 p.m. Called Presbytery meeting - ZOOM

Wednesday, March 26

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

Thursday, March 27

- 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 29

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

Sunday, March 30 4th Sunday in Lent

Choose-a-Hymn Sunday

- 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



Next week, March 30, is the Fourth Sunday in Lent.

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

The theme will be *The Gift of Getting Lost* and
Scriptures will include selections from 1 Samuel, Chapter 3.

Job 37:1-5, 14-18

“At this my heart pounds
and leaps from its place.

² Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice,
to the rumbling that comes from his mouth.

³ He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven
and sends it to the ends of the earth.

⁴ After that comes the sound of his roar;
he thunders with his majestic voice.

When his voice resounds,
he holds nothing back.

⁵ God’s voice thunders in marvelous ways;
he does great things beyond our understanding.



¹⁴ “Listen to this, Job;

stop and consider God’s wonders.

¹⁵ Do you know how God controls the clouds
and makes his lightning flash?

¹⁶ Do you know how the clouds hang poised,
those wonders of him who has perfect knowledge?

¹⁷ You who swelter in your clothes
when the land lies hushed under the south wind,

¹⁸ can you join him in spreading out the skies,
hard as a mirror of cast bronze?