

First Presbyterian Church OF PARKERSBURG

GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING

1341 Juliana Street ♦ Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101
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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 26, 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, DEAR FAMILY IN CHRIST. MAY YOU SENSE THE CARE AND GUIDANCE OF FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT DURING WORSHIP, FAITH EDUCATION AND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TODAY.

Coffee - Coffee is available in the Harris Room between worship services. If you would like to host a Coffee Hour, sign up outside the Harris Room, or call Joyce Boso at 304-488-1205 for more details.

Book Study - Pastor Annie's book study of Eric Elnes's *Gifts of the Dark Wood* begins this **Wednesday, January 29**, in the Harris Room at **11:30 a.m.** and also at **6 p.m.** If you wish to attend, please sign up in the foyer or tell Pastor Annie. Unless you previously made arrangements with her to obtain a book, you will need to order one (\$13 on Amazon.com). Delivery is a little slow, so you may want to consider downloading the Kindle version (\$10) in order to have it by Wednesday, when you will be reading Chapter 1.

Souper Bowl of Caring - We are collecting cans of soup (with pull tabs only) for local hunger relief efforts through **February 9**. You may leave your donations at the collection point outside the church office.



Worship Changes Next Sunday, February 2
Join us as we combine Worship services at **9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**. We will come together for Communion and a service of Wholeness and Healing, and will also ordain/install new church officers.

Calendar Read-thru: Sunday, February 16
Immediately following 10:30 Worship that day there will be a meeting of staff and church committees in the Harris Room to plan church events and activities through August 2025. It is imperative that one representative from each committee or board of the church attend. That person will need to bring a list of proposed dates for their committee's events and meeting dates through August. This will assist in communication, scheduling and planning as we fulfill the ministry and mission of the church. If you have questions, see Pastor Annie or call the office at 304-422-5426.

(Another calendar read-thru will be scheduled during the summer to prepare for events through early next year. The date will be announced at a later time.)

Annual Meeting - The church's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 16**, in the Sanctuary immediately following 10:30 Worship. If you served as a committee chair or board moderator during 2024, you are asked to submit a year-end report, narrative and/or financial, to the church office no later than **Thursday, February 27**. Reports should be submitted electronically via email to: office@fpcburgwv.org. If you would like to have a previous report for reference, call the office (304-422-5426) or email, and one will be provided to you. Thank you for getting your reports to us on time so that the meeting packets may be prepared and ready for distribution on March 9. If you have any questions you may contact the church office.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

Preparation for Worship

Welcome

Sharing the Life of the Church

Prelude

Hear Me, O Lord

T. Dubois/arr. V. Vivenger

*Call to Worship

by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries

Children of God, we gather to worship,
to sing and proclaim with joy the good works God is doing in our midst.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world.
To name the challenges that press in around us,
to lament the suffering in our world,
to declare our trust in God in the midst of hardship.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive
the Word of God proclaimed among us.

To encounter the life-giving message of God's love
redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts.
God is here. Jesus has come among us.

The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you ready?

We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

***O wondrous God,
we have gathered together once again
to celebrate your presence among us,
to praise you, and to thank you for all you have given us.
May this time of worship strengthen and refresh us,
and fill us with such joy that we cannot help but share it
with everyone around us;
through Christ, your Word fulfilled. Amen.***

*Those who are able, please stand.

***Hymn 610**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

Children's Time

Cents-Ability Offering

Confession and PardonCall to ConfessionPrayer of Confession

*God our Redeemer, we confess
that our lives do not reflect your glory.
You offer us your living Word,
but we do not listen to your voice.
You call us to be one in your Spirit,
but we foster division in Christ's body.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Open our hearts again this day
to the liberating truth of your Word
and the life-giving power of your Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SILENCE for personal confession ...

Words of Assurance and Pardon

“Do not fear,” says the Lord, “for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.”

So listen to the sound of the waters and remember 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 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

A Song of Quiet Praise

Gregg Sewell

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

Psalm 19:1-9
 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

p. 390

Scripture

Luke 4:14-21
 The gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

p. 751

Sermon

“AS WAS HIS CUSTOM”

Rev. Annie McMillan

Affirmation of Faith

from “A Brief Statement of Faith”

*In life and in death we belong to God.
 Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.
 We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
 The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
 sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
 and binds us together with all believers
 in the one body of Christ, the Church.
 The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
 engages us through the Word proclaimed,
 claims us in the waters of baptism,
 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
 and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
 With believers in every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

CARING

The Offering Where He Leads Me John Norris/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 462** I Love to Tell the Story HANKEY

***Benediction**

The Postlude O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing C.G. Gläser/arr. L. Smith

Worship Participants

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

*Scripture readings for next week, February 2,
the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time:*

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today, Sunday, January 26 **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

Monday, January 27

- 7:00 p.m. Parkersburg Pride - Room 204
- 7:00 p.m. Mission Committee - Zoom meeting

Tuesday, January 28

- 1:00 p.m. PEO Meeting - Harris Room

Wednesday, January 29

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

Thursday, January 30

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

Saturday, February 1

- 8:30 a.m. Facilities Management / Saturday Stewards
 - Stevenson Hall
- 12:00 p.m. HA Meeting - Room 204

Sunday, February 2 *Communion*

- 9:30 a.m. COMBINED Worship Service - Sanctuary
 Ordination / Installation of Officers
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee - Harris Room

God in church or nature? Yes.

Church isn't designed to be an alternative to the real world. Worship is a time and space apart from the world in order for us to find our way out into the world. Worship isn't a man-made place distinct from the beauty of the natural world; at its best, church is a place where we realize God's glory in the world we find ourselves in. ... Do I find God in a church? or out in nature? Yes. ... In church I hope to sharpen my senses so I can discover the house of God everywhere.

—James C. Howell, *Everywhere Is Jerusalem*

Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom
for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



Prayer List – Please remember the following in your prayers:

Richard Hayhurst
Doug Anderson
Dan Sombeck
Harriet Litteral
Tyler Mackey
Derrick Sheppard
Fleming Family

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

Bobby Craig
Carl Gheen
Ken Stoller
Ed Ball
Kitty Brown
Brad Carter
Dan Ellis