

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

October 19, 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

ST. PAUL SPOKE OF CHRISTIANS AS BEING “MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD” (EPHESIANS 2:19, NRSV). REALIZING THAT WE ARE RELATED IN CHRIST, LET US JOIN TOGETHER IN SINCERE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER. WELCOME TO ALL WHO ARE PRESENT!

Coffee Hour - Join us in the Harris Room at 10:00 for coffee, light snacks and fellowship. Today's Coffee Hour is hosted by **Deb Karr**. If you would like to host a Coffee Hour, sign up at the “Happenings” bulletin board.

Heritage Sunday - Today we honor those folks who have been members for 50 years or longer. We thank them for their godly example and their service to the Lord and his church. We appreciate their wisdom, dedication and faithfulness, and pray that the Lord will continue to bless them all their days.

Thank You to everyone who made last Sunday, Pastor Appreciation Sunday, so special. Thank you for the flowers and all of the beautiful cards and gifts. It was a wonderful surprise, and I feel blessed and appreciated as your pastor.

~Pastor Annie

Stewardship - As we continue in our worship and Sunday School series, *The Serviceberry*, being reminded of God's good and perfect gifts for all, the Financial Management team is preparing work on the budget for the coming year. To help them stay on track, please return your pledge cards to us by **Sunday, November 2**, Stewardship Dedication Day. Cards are available at the “Happenings” bulletin board.

Adult Sunday School - Pastor Annie has begun a new class with a four-week study of *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. They are meeting in Room 204, **9:15 - 10:00 a.m.** All are welcome even if you don't have a book. - just see Pastor Annie. Books may be purchased at BookOutlet.com, or at Amazon.com.

Bible Study - All are welcome to join Pastor Annie each Wednesday in the Harris Room for a study of Revelation. Sessions will be held at **11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** Please advise Pastor Annie if you will join in on ZOOM so she can set up a session.

Mission Needs - As part of its community outreach, the Mission Committee is asking for donations of gently used shoes and men's clothing, as well as coffee and powdered coffee creamer, for *House to Home* homeless day shelter. You may leave your donations in the marked container outside the Sanctuary **through November 16**. Thanks for your generosity.

Veterans Day Observance - On **Sunday, November 9**, we will honor all (living) veterans during 10:30 Worship. If you would like to list the name of a veteran in that day's bulletin, pick up a form at the “Happenings” bulletin board, fill it out and return to the offering plate, or to the church office, no later than **October 30**.

Updated Church Directories are now available at the “Happenings” bulletin board. Feel free to take as many as you need for home, office, etc.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 19, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Welcome

Sharing the Life of the Church

Prelude

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth
arr. Lloyd Larson

***Call to Worship**

by Rev. Kelby Werner, adapted

When God's grace falls abundantly upon us,
may we embrace and share God's grace.
When God's abundant love overflows within us,
may we embrace and share God's love.
When we find God's blessings abundant in our lives,
may we embrace God's blessings
and share our blessings with all we meet.
We know that it is God who creates all things.
So let us receive and give God's grace and love.
Let us share the abundant blessings of our world with all people,
finding new ways to live and flourish.

***Prayer of the Day**

by Rev. Kelby Werner, adapted

Let us pray:

God of abundance, we come to you in praise and adoration,
our hearts thankful for the blessings that you have so freely given.
Remind us today, as we take a break
from navigating a world set on possessing,
that we are your people who live in your abundance.
It was you who told us that a life dedicated to
hoarding worldly possessions is a life wasted.
Let our lives instead reflect your generous Spirit.
May we accept the abundance of others
and share our own abundance
that all people may grow together in community
in the light of your love and peace. Amen.

***Hymn 250**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

PROMISE

Children's Time

Cents-Ability Offering

*Those who are able, please stand.

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

*Creator God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not acted as the stewards you intended us to be.
We waste the bounty you provide, including food and grain,
and don't notice whether our neighbors have enough.
Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to be good stewards.
Make us rich in good works,
generous, and eager to share
all the blessings of abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SILENCE for personal confession ...

Words of Assurance and Pardon

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, you are set free.
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.

Special Music

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

arr. David Neff

Prayer for Illumination

Slow us down, Lord, and remind us that only one thing is needed right now:
that we be still before you and know that you are God.
Lift every shutter within our mind and open every door within our soul,
that we may embrace what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 12:13-21
 The gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to You, O Christ!

p. 737

Scripture

John 15:1-17
 The gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to You, O Christ!

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Sermon**“RECIPROCITY”**

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.*

The Offering

Elegy

Franklin Ritter

*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.*

*Hymn 700	I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me	I'M GONNA LIVE
*Benediction and Sending Forth		
The Postlude	Trumpet Air	Henry Purcell/arr. Lani Smith

Worship Participants

Acolytes - *Connor Buchanan, Emily Shuman, Lincoln Springer*
 Beadles - *Ellie Buchanan, Riley Shuman*
 Liturgist - *Kristy Woodrow*
 Sound Technician - *Chris Alfred*
 Organist - *Scott Rockhold*



Next week, October 26,
 we continue with the sermon series based on *The Serviceberry*.
 The theme will be "Interdependence" and Scripture Readings will be:
 Genesis 1:26–31
 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Prayer List – Please remember the following in your prayers:

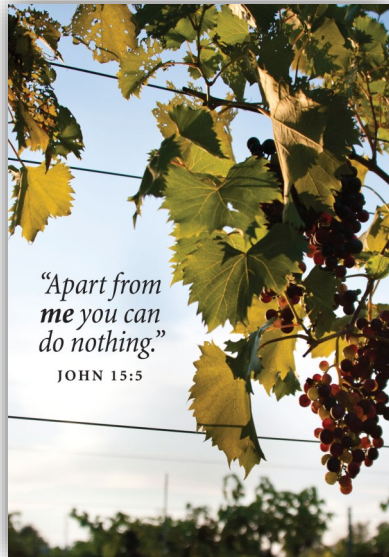
Harriet Litteral	Ruth Ann Huddle	Randall Siers
Thomas Graves	Rose Logston	Pat Hess
Rachel Davies	Herman Triphaus	Illikai Beer
Barbara Lucas	Danny Clevenger	Ann Feters
Angie Harkness	Zach Mullinnex	Ted Beckey
Brandon Davis	Pam Lauderman	Denny Nelson
Barbara Perez	Derrick Sheppard	Vicki Shuman
Robert Forinash	Pat & Ann Patterson	Dan Sombeck
Fleming Family	Troops/World Peace	Brad Carter
The Homebound		Dan Ellis

JOHN 15:1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.



THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today - Sunday, October 19 *Cents-Ability Offering*

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer - Chapel
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School - Room 204
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee - Harris Room
- 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Women's Ensemble - Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Juliana Ringers rehearsal - Bell Room

Monday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 22

- 11:30 a.m. Bible Study - Harris Room
- 3:30 p.m. Nominating Committee - Harris Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study - Harris Room
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts - Room 124

Thursday, October 23

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

Saturday, October 25

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

Sunday, October 26 *Reformation Sunday*

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer - Chapel
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School - Room 204
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee - Harris Room
- 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Women's Ensemble - Sanctuary
- 12:30 p.m. Riverview Cemetery meeting - Harris Room
- 6:00 p.m. Juliana Ringers rehearsal - Bell Room



In Christianity, a vine symbolizes Christ, the foundation of life and nourishment of all people, who, in turn, are like branches. When separate from the vine, we branches can't survive — at least not spiritually. "Apart from me," says Jesus, "you can do nothing" (John 15:5, NIV). But as God the gardener tends this relationship, we branches grow stronger and more mature in Jesus and alongside one another.