

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*

April 14, 2024

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 TO WORSHIP IN THE NAME OF THE GOD OF LIFE, THE RISEN JESUS, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO EMPOWERS OUR DISCIPLESHIP. AMEN.

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

The Gathering - The Deacons are providing a Taco Bar for this week's meal. Ground beef, shredded chicken and toppings will be furnished, and we are asking folks to bring sides, salads, or desserts. Please sign up in the foyer.

StoryTrek - To commemorate Earth Day (April 22) we have placed a new book in the StoryTrek in our Prayer Garden. It is titled *Something, Someday* by Amanda Gorman, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author, and illustrated by Christian Robinson. We invite you to take a walk in the garden and labyrinth to enjoy it.

Valley Gem Cruise - On **Sunday, April 21, from 3:00-4:30 p.m.** we will join with other Presbyterian cluster churches for a cruise on the Valley Gem Sternwheeler. We will share a potluck meal and enjoy a spring day on the river. Cost per person is \$5, with a cap of \$25 per family. Signups and a drop box for your ticket money are located in the foyer. Boarding begins at 2:30. The Valley Gem is located at 601 Front Street. The boat is docked on the Muskingum River, under the Washington Street Bridge. Parking is available under the bridge and on the street.

Graduate Recognition - In May we will honor our 2024 high school and college graduates in the newsletter and during worship on May 26. If you or a family member will be graduating this spring, please send the name, school and type of degree to the church office no later than **April 23**. Call 304-422-5426, or send an email to office@fpcpburgwv.org.

2024 Bluestone Events - There are several upcoming activities at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, beginning April 26. Pick up a flyer outside the Sanctuary or visit <https://bluestonecamp.org>.

Church Directories - Updated church directories are available outside the Sanctuary. Please take as many as you need. Contact the church office if you'd like an electronic copy.

In rural Nebraska in the early 20th century, three of the four Koontz children died of diphtheria in one week. On the following Easter morning, the parents and surviving child attended church. Because Mr. Koontz was the Sunday school superintendent, he read aloud the Easter message. Although many people wept, he and his wife stayed calm.

Later, a boy walking home said, "The Koontzes must really believe the Easter story."

His father answered, "All Christians do."
The boy replied, "Not the way they do!"

—Homiletics

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

Preparation for Worship

Welcome

Prelude

And He Never Said a Word
The Juliana Ringers

Michael Ryan

***Call to Worship**

Open your hearts to Christ's love this day.

Christ is risen!

Love is victorious over death!

Come and see the love God has given to us.

We are called to be God's children.

Come and see what it means to be children of God.

God's love has been poured on us through Jesus Christ!

Come, let us raise our voices in song!

Let us offer our hearts and souls to God in prayer and praise.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

***God of the resurrection, we gather this morning
as a community of believers.***

***We give you thanks for the love poured into our world
through Christ Jesus.***

***Help us to believe in your abiding presence with us,
both in our darkness and in the light which you bring.***

***May our singing, praying, listening, and proclaiming
be a testimony to the power of your love***

to make us a new creation as a community of faith.

We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

***Hymn 634**

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Children's Time

*Those who are able, please stand.

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

*Holy and righteous one,
 we are stunned by the miracles
 of new life and forgiveness you offer.
 You call us to be people of courage and hope;
 and yet we run and hide, doubting and fearing.
 You challenge us to proclaim our faith;
 but we huddle in darkness
 whispering our words of discouragement.
 Over and over again we seem to need prodding.
 Forgive us, God of love,
 as we step out of our shadows into your light.
 Restore us, as we reveal our brokenness.
 Fill us with your healing love and help us to become
 the disciples that you need to serve in this world;
 through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.*

SILENCE for personal confession ...

Words of Assurance and Pardon

See what love the Father has given us,
 that we should be called children of God.
 So listen to the sound of the waters and remember
 you have been marked as a beloved child of God.
 As beloved children, we are made one with Christ
 and brought into the righteousness of God.
 Friends, believe the good news with great joy!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*Response

Hymn 248

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

*Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
 Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
 In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
 Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.*

***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.

*Those who are able, please stand.

Sharing the Life of the Church

Special Music

Low in the Grave

Robert Lowry/arr. Lani Smith

GROWING

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word.
Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 24:36-48

p. 749

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Scripture

1 John 3:1-7

p. 863

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“CHILDREN OF GOD”

Rev. Annie McMillan

Confession 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

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Giovanni da Palestrina
arr. Cindy Berry

*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 238**

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

***Benediction**

The Postlude

Song of Triumph

David E. Wion

Worship Participants

Beadles - *Connor Buchanan, Ellie Buchanan,
Audrey Hickman, Avalyn Meckley*

Liturgist - *Jessica Linville*

Sound Technician - *Matt Buchanan*



TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY THE LINVILLE FAMILY
IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAYS OF:

SUSAN DAUGHERTY NIDAY, BRONSON LINVILLE,
AND BRONSON'S BIRTHDAY BUDDY, ELSIE COLEMAN.

*Our families are praying for Elsie's complete recovery
and return to church!*

*Those who are able, please stand.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today, Sunday, April 14 **3rd Sunday of Easter**

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

Monday, April 15

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

Wednesday, April 17

- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Pastor's office
- 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Meal [Taco Bar] - Stevenson Hall

Thursday, April 18

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

Saturday, April 20

- 8:30 a.m. Saturday Stewards
- 12:00 p.m. HA Meeting - Stevenson Hall

Sunday, April 21 **4th Sunday of Easter / Cents-Ability Offering**

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer - Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Harris Room
- 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day - Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Valley Gem Cruise - boarding in Marietta

Prayer List – Please remember the following in your prayers:

Bill Elkins	Family of Bernice Lemley	Elsie Coleman
Jean Singer	Pat & Ann Patterson	Dennis Bolten
Bill Nolen	Melanie Thompson	Mary Withum
Pat Douglass	Trevor & Jayda Hinojosa	Juli Springer
Peace in Israel	Cunningham Family	Lynn Linville
Kathy Schlarb	Ruth Ann Huddle	Susan Miller
Butch Shepherd	Fleming Family	Peter Headlee
Harriet Litteral	Marianne Mason	Vince Eades
Karen Vanoster	Becky Holdren & Family	Dan Ellis
Wayne Sanders	Homebound Members	Brad Carter
	Troops – World Peace	

1 John 3:1-7

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.



⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

*Scripture Readings for next week: April 21
Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18