

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

September 21, 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 TO WORSHIP AS WE ENTER A NEW SEASON. AUTUMN'S TURNING LEAVES REMIND US OF GOD'S CREATIVE POWER AND FAITHFUL RHYTHM OF CHANGE. MAY THIS HOUR BE ONE OF REFLECTION, GRATITUDE, AND RENEWAL.

Coffee Hour - Please join us in the Harris Room at 10:00 for coffee, light snacks and fellowship. Today's Coffee Hour is hosted by **Melanie Thompson**. If you would like to host a Coffee Hour, sign up at the "Happenings" bulletin board, or see Joyce Boso for more information.

October 5th / Combined Worship - Don't forget that on World Communion Sunday we are joining together **in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.** for worship and Communion.

Also, on that day at **2:00 p.m.** we will hold a Memorial Service for David Kanalz.

Trunk-or-Treat - Sign-ups are outside the Sanctuary, and we can use your help. Join us for some fun on **Sunday, October 12, 3 - 4:30 p.m.** You may leave candy donations in the tote under the table.

Adult Sunday School Class - An Adult Sunday School class, led by Pastor Annie, begins **October 12**, with a four-week study of *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. They will meet 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. in Room 204. Sign up at the table outside the Sanctuary if you wish to attend and if you'd like us to order a book for you. Books may be purchased at BookOutlet.com (best price) or at Amazon.com.

Plans are also underway for a Bible study in the book of Revelation, to be held at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. More details will be announced soon.

Women's Ensemble - We are reviving the Women's Ensemble in preparation for Advent. They will begin rehearsals on **Sunday, October 12, 11:30 a.m.**, immediately following worship, directed by organist Scott Rockhold. If you would like to lend your voice to praise the Lord in song, see Scott before or after church to let him know. All ladies are welcome!

Plants Available - The Presbyterian Women are offering cuttings of various house plants in the foyer. If you would like to take one or more, please leave a donation in the jar on the window ledge.

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A PRAYER FOR AUTUMN'S ARRIVAL

Lord of all seasons,

As the leaves change and the days
grow cooler,
help me embrace the rhythm
of your creation.

Teach me to let go of what
I no longer need
and to trust your timing in every
part of life.

Thank you for the beauty of autumn—
for crisp mornings, golden trees,
and the promise of harvest.

May this season deepen my gratitude,
renew my spirit,
and draw me closer to your heart.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



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

September 21, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Welcome

Sharing the Life of the Church

Minute for Mission

Trunk-or-Treat

Stacy Johnson

Prelude

How Great Thou Art
with How Great Is Our God

arr. Anna Laura Page

***Call to Worship**

by Dr. Lisa Hancock

When we are surrounded on every side,
wondering which way is up and which way is down...

Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

When we question which way to go and how to follow God's path for us...

Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

When we find our rest in God and long for others to know
the sweet peace of God's embrace...

Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

Today, as we gather for worship, may we come ready to listen
and discern God's help that meets us right where we are.

***Help us, God, to receive your help
and to extend your help to our neighbors,
all for the glory of your name.***

***Prayer of the Day**

by Rebecca Gaudino

Let us pray:

***God of our salvation,
you see your world laid waste
with false worship, injustice, and indifference,
and we tremble at your anger.***

***Only in your tears,
born out of vast love, do we find hope.***

***Open to us the way of your tears—
the way that leads us back to your love.***

***Teach us to serve you and you alone,
that you may deliver, forgive,
and renew our world at last. Amen.***

***Hymn 625**

How Great Thou Art

HOW GREAT THOU ART

*Those who are able, please stand.

Children's Time

Cents-Ability Offering

Confession and PardonCall to ConfessionPrayer of Confession*by Rebecca Gaudino*

*We confess that we find your medicine hard to swallow.
 The quick fixes of this world are so much more pleasant,
 leaving us free to go back to our usual routines.
 But your medicine is powerful.
 And if we take it, it will remake and renew our lives.
 It will reorient us to you and to you alone.
 Turn us toward your love for justice and true worship.
 Forgive our sins, for which you weep.
 Forgive our hesitation.
 Grant us courage to choose you as our physician,
 and to serve you and you alone. 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.****Hymn 756**

O God of Every Nation

LLANGLOFFAN

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.

*Those who are able, please stand.

Scripture Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 p. 541
 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Scripture Luke 16:1-13 p. 740
 The gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to You, O Christ!

Sermon “RELATIONSHIP RICHES” 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 true God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

*In sovereign love God created the world good
 and makes everyone equally in God’s image,
 male and female, of every race and people,
 to live as one community.*

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God
 in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
 and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God’s condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
 like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
 God is faithful still.

*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.*

The Offering Seek Ye First arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*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 697

Take My Life

HENDON

*Benediction and Sending Forth

The Postlude

Crown Him

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram



Worship Participants

Acolytes - *Connor Buchanan, Emily Shuman, Lincoln Springer*

Beadles - *Ellie Buchanan, Avalyn Meckley, Riley Shuman*

Liturgist - *Eric Johnson*

Sound Technician - *Chris Alfred*

Organist - *Scott Rockhold*

*Scripture Readings for next week: September 28
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

LUKE 16:1-13

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶ “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

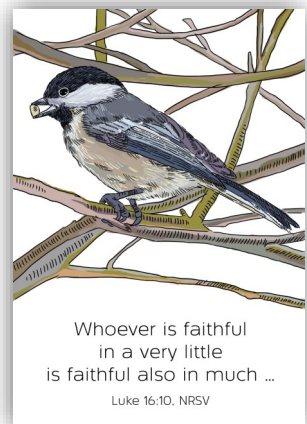
“‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”



Whoever is faithful
in a very little
is faithful also in much ...

Luke 16:10, NRSV

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today - Sunday, September 21 *Cents-Ability Offering*

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

Monday, September 22

- 6:30 p.m. Parkersburg Pride - Room 204

Wednesday, September 24

- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts - Room 124



Thursday, September 25

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

Saturday, September 27

- 11:30 a.m. HA Meeting - Stevenson Hall

Sunday, September 28

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

Prayer List – Please remember the following in your prayers:

Harriet Litteral
Thomas Graves
Rachel Davies
Barbara Lucas
Angie Harkness
Brandon Davis
Barbara Perez
Robert Forinash
Fleming Family
Flood victims

Ruth Ann Huddle
Rose Logston
Herman Triphaus
Danny Clevenger
Alan & Jodi Earnest
Zach Mullinnex
Pam Lauderman
Derrick Sheppard
Pat & Ann Patterson
The Homebound
Troops/World Peace

Randall Siers
Pat Hess
Illikai Beer
Ann Feters
Ted Beckey
Denny Nelson
Vicki Shuman
Dan Sombeck
Brad Carter
Dan Ellis