

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 30, 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

LIKE A LOVING FATHER WELCOMING A PRODIGAL CHILD HOME AND INVITING THE OTHER TO JOIN THE FEAST, GOD WELCOMES US ALL. LET US CELEBRATE SUCH AMAZING GRACE.

Coffee Hour - Join us at 10 a.m. in the Harris Room for light snacks and fellowship. If you would like to host a Coffee Hour, sign up outside the Harris Room or call Joyce Boso @304-488-1205.

Women's Ensemble will rehearse today, immediately following 10:30 Worship.

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 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.

VBS Planning - On **Tuesday, April 15, at 6 p.m.** in the Harris Room, there will be a planning meeting for our 2025 Vacation Bible School (August 1 & 2). Anyone who is interested in helping with VBS, either before or during, is welcome to attend. We can use your help, no matter what you are able to do. If you have any questions, please see or call Kelly Beckett, 304-991-3613.

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. You may leave your donations in the basket in foyer. We also need volunteers, so please sign up at the new bulletin board.

Bluestone Events - Check your bulletin insert today for information about two special upcoming weekend events at Bluestone Camp & Retreat.



Palm / Passion Sunday - April 13

8:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 Worship / Procession of the Palms

Mundy 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
Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

Preparation for Worship

Welcome

Sharing the Life of the Church

Prelude

A Lenten Prayer

Antonio Dvorak
arr. John Troutman

***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:

Permeating Love, enter and open us

to the gifts residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives.

When we feel overwhelmed by the twists and turns of life,

quiet us, open us, heighten our senses

to perceive your nudge toward life.

In your many names, we pray. Amen.

***Hymns** (vv. 1 & 2)

267 - Come, Christians, Join to Sing

611 - Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

MADRID
HYMN TO JOY

Children's Time

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

*Those who are able, please stand.

Prayer of Confession

*O God, how often we plunge ahead without listening to you.
 We don't recognize your still small voice within us.
 We forget to ask for assurance—your greatest gift.
 We have not listened.
 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:

Lost is not lost to God. You are not lost to God.
 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

Hymns (*sing one time*)
 (vv. 1 & 2)

626 - As the Deer
 215 - What Wondrous Love Is This

AS THE DEER
 WONDROUS LOVE

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 Psalm 42:1-8 p. 401
 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Scripture 1 Samuel 3:1-21 p. 192
 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon "THE GIFT OF GETTING LOST" 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 As the Deer Martin Nystrom
arr. Roger House

*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

*Hymns (vv. 1 & 2)	300 - We Are One in the Spirit	THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS
	835 - Just a Closer Walk with Thee	CLOSER WALK

*Benediction

The Postlude	Melodie Sacra	David Paxton
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Worship Participants

Acolytes - *Connor Buchanan, Emily Shuman*
Beadles - *Ellie Buchanan, Avalyn Meckley, Riley Shuman*
Liturgist - *Mikki 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

*Those who are able, please stand.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today, 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

Monday, March 31 *No school in Wood Co. through 4/4*

- 7:00 p.m. Mission Committee - Harris Room & ZOOM

Tuesday, April 2

- 6:00 p.m. Worship/Discipleship Committee - Harris Room

Wednesday, April 3

- 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, April 4

- 3:30 p.m. Personnel Meeting - Pastor's office
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Rooms 123
- 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, April 5

- 8:30 a.m. Facilities Management / Saturday Stewards
- 11:30 a.m. HA Meeting - Room 204

Sunday, April 6 5th Sunday in Lent / *Communion*

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. "Spring Fling" Luncheon - Stevenson Hall

Next week, April 6, is the Fifth Sunday in Lent.

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

The theme will be *The Gift of Temptation* and
Scriptures will include 2 Samuel 7:1-13 and Luke 4:1-13.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. ¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son."

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

¹⁷ "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."

¹⁹ The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. ²¹ The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

