



First United Methodist Church of Clarksburg, West Virginia

The Grapevine

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays (Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter"), which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *Lenten*, which means "spring." This period of forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Throughout time, many Christians began practicing the spiritual disciplines as a means to grow in their relationship with God. Today, Lent has become a time in the life of the church where the faithful embrace the spiritual disciplines of repentance and fasting in preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. This year, however, First United Methodist Church will join other United Methodist Churches in the parish for a combined worship service at North View UMC at 7:00PM. It is my hope that during this season we might refocus and realign ourselves in relationship to God and one another as we embrace a penitential spirit. What better way to accomplish this endeavor than to join with other Christians as we begin this Lenten Journey.

Our Lenten Journey— 2024

February 14—Parish Wide Ash Wednesday Service, North View UMC, 7:00 p.m.

February 21— Lenten Studies Begins, Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

THANK YOU

Candy and I wish to thank you for the beautiful expressions of love and grace offered to us through cards, gifts, and well-wishes during the Christmas season. Our hearts are filled with love for all of you and we are so blessed to be on this journey with you.

Love, Michael and Candy



F.U.M.C NEWS

& Announcements



Family Fun Day

Our church family came together on December 10th for our monthly Second Sunday event. After eating delicious pizza the children joined Shelley Spellman in a candy cane scavenger hunt around the church and a nativity art project (pictured). The adults and youth prepared bags of food for our backpack ministry. We bagged 140 weekend food packs in under 30 minutes!

Through the years I have worn different “hats” here at First Church. A new one for me, and one about which I am very humbled and excited, is that of Lay Leader.

I want to begin by thanking Judy Burns for filling this role previously...hers will be big shoes to fill! As she has demonstrated, your Lay Leader is that person who acts as a cheerleader for the laity of our church, and helps to be a bridge between the clergy and congregation.

Those of you who have known me for years know that I am not at all bashful in asking for help! So, I’m asking...

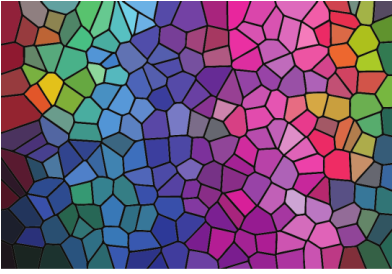
Join Pastor Mike and me for 20 minutes after church on February 4th, for a brief “Volunteer Orientation”. At the core of this group are those who have already signed-up and have been serving... in worship, in the kitchen, in folding newsletters, in the choirs... but any and all of you are encouraged to stay.

Questions? Leave a message with Leah in the church office (304-623-3397) during office hours or email me at dgardner55@yahoo.com

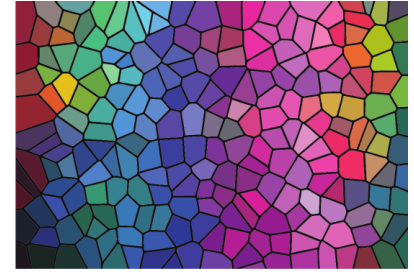
It is not too late to turn-in a 2024 Financial Pledge. See Don for assistance.

- Don (Gardner)

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." - **Matthew 6:33**



What is happening at our
..... **CHURCH**
this month



MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP

Monastic Meal

A simple weekly meal, eaten in silence as inspirational literature is read aloud. Join us at 12:15 p.m. each Tuesday in the parlor. Meal donation is \$4.00. To learn more, contact Don Gardner.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every Thursday from 5 to 6, a group gathers in the groom's room to knit or crochet shawls for those who may need the loving embrace of the church. Contact Nancy Ferber or Cheryl Moorhead for information.

Feed My Sheep

3rd Mondays of each month (Feb. 19) at 12:00 (noon)

This ministry welcomes to the table those who might be overlooked or rejected. Food donations are appreciated! Contact Anita Burns for more details.

**First United Methodist Church
Women's Luncheon**

3rd Thursday of each month
12:00 (noon) in the parlor.

Please contact Shirley Murphy for more information 513-600-8469
Will NOT Meet in Jan./Feb.

MEETINGS

SPRC will not meet in Feb.

Trustees will meet Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

Finance will meet Feb. 20 at 5 p.m.

Outreach will meet Feb. 20 at 5 p.m.

Council will meet Feb 20 at 6 p.m.

If you know of an upcoming meeting or event that you would like to have featured in next month's newsletters please email Leah at CFUMC@citynet.net or call the church office.

Parish Events

Parish-Wide Ash Wednesday Service

February 14 - - 7:00 p.m.
North View UMC

Youth Events

Youth Snow Tubing Trip— Sat. Jan 20,

No Youth Sunday Jan. 21st

Game Night— February 18

Youth will join Family Fun events on the Second Sunday of each month

connect with us



WWW.CFUMC.ORG



cfumc@citynet.net



Like us on Facebook:
First United Methodist
Church – Clarksburg



scan the QR Code with
your mobile phone for easy
access to our Facebook
and YouTube accounts



YouTube: First United
Methodist Church –
Clarksburg



WINTER DONATIONS

READ BEFORE YOU DONATE....

At this time, we are ONLY receiving the following items for our shelter guests:

❄️ HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, TALL SOCKS

❄️ COATS, WINTER BOOTS & LONG JOHNS

❄️ TOILETRIES, CHAPSTICK & HOT HANDS

All other clothing items can be taken to:

MUSTARD SEED

GOODWILL

SALVATION ARMY

SHEPHERD'S CORNER



Date: 12/22/23

The Ecumenical Board of MS, Inc.
dba The Mustard Seed - Clarksburg
gratefully acknowledges your gift of

*a large food donation collected
on "White Gifts Sunday." This food
will help feed many families.*

Thank you!

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.

February is Open Heart Ministry Month

Join us on **February 11, 2024** as First United Methodist Church takes the opportunity to “remember and honor those we have served and those that make it possible” through our Parish and Community wide ministry, Open Heart Ministries.

A story shared by Diana Higginbotham, OHM Volunteer

Can you imagine, being a young mother with two active toddlers, and experiencing a bad fall resulting in a fractured patella? And then your husband gets laid off the same week. This young couple was referred to us needing help with a water bill and rent. The mother shared her story, telling me she had been hobbling around in a long-leg brace for about a month' the doctor had restricted her activity, so she could not work either. The only income was \$400 unemployment her husband was drawing & food stamps. The day we talked, the mother cried telling me that she had been to see the doctor and learned she would need surgery. Their water was shut off, and they were unable to pay the full months rent. Quickly we were able, with two partner churches, to get the water bill paid. No one can manage small children without water. One of our member churches took up a Sunday “love offering” to pay their rent. At OHM we are encountering many situations in which the requester is facing a utility shut off or eviction. We thank God, and thank you when you step up to help us, help those in such situations.

Open Heart has been serving Harrison County since 2007.

How to help? Pray, Support, Volunteer

Anna Troy, Director, Open Heart Ministries

Church and Community Worker

THE PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS



Narrators: Rowan Chipps and Audra Skidmore
 Mary, Joseph and Infant Jesus: Madison, Alex and Oliver Stout

Donkey: Carson Wray (reader)

Shepherds: Emerson Collins, Sammi Mikolon*

Cow: Demetrius Seibert-Payne (reader)

Sheep: Jackson Rexroad (reader) , Emma Mikolon,

Camel: Robert Chipps (reader)

Dove: Creed Collins (reader)

Angels: Lily Caruso (reader), Meadow Caruso, Cailin Preston, Delilah Seibert-Payne, Rosalina Faris, Meredith Seibert*, Catherine Preston*

Star: Finley Wray

Directors: Shelley Spellman, Don Gardner and pianist Dr. Jessica Scott

❄️ January Birthdays ❄️

Mark Wilfong	1/01	Tonya Zedak	1/17	Alex Stout	1/24
Marcia Broughton	1/03	Lauren Spitzer	1/18	Melanie Sprenger	1/25
Will Kirk	1/03	Greg Alonso	1/19	Roberta Moscar	1/26
Meadow Caruso	1/04	Kaleb Grega	1/19	Karen Thomason	1/27
Ann Bailey	1/09	David Rowe	1/19	Jeanne Warner	1/27
John Cathell	1/10	Victoria Stingo	1/19	Debbie Cunningham	1/29
Sarah Davisson	1/11	Brad Hall	1/20	John Skidmore	1/30
Matthew Lear	1/11	Haden Kersting	1/23	David Preston	1/31
Kim Walls	1/15	Carl Lantz	1/24	Todd Warner	1/31
Colin Rogers	1/16	Jessica Miles	1/24		

💖 February Birthdays 💖

Benjamin Rogers	2/01	Matthew Rogers	2/05	A.J. Carver	2/16
Tom Baratt	2/02	Boyd Warner	2/08	Patty Wilson	2/16
Bruce Rogers	2/02	Cora Whaley	2/08	Diane Logue	2/17
Cathy Rogers	2/02	John Collins	2/09	Evangeline Samples	2/17
Meade Winters	2/02	Jackson Walls	2/11	Anna Rodriguez	2/18
Ben Carver	2/03	Donna Mills	2/12	Rachel Harpold	2/19
Bradley Kersting	2/03	Charles Marshall	2/13	Creed Collins	2/20
Keith Murphy	2/03	Paul Williams	2/14	Chuck Kersting	2/21
Lauren Warner	2/03	Charles Marshall	2/13	Erin Collins	2/22
Shirley Lightner	2/04	Paul Williams	2/14	Brian Yost	2/26

Church Office Hours

Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 9-1, Thursday 9-1

Winter Reminder: If Harrison County schools are closed, church offices will be closed & meetings will be canceled.
if you aren't sure, give us a call at 304-623-3397



Community Rewards



Did you know FUMC is part of the Kroger Community Rewards Program? Linking your shoppers card to our organization is an easy way to donate to the church while doing your every day shopping. After creating a digital account (if you don't have one)

1. Sign in to your digital account.
2. Search for your First United Methodist Church.
3. Enter the name or NPO number of the organization you wish to support.
4. Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".



Scan the QR Code or go to www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards for step by step instructions. If you need assistance setting this up contact Leah Wray during office hours.



Children's Church every Sunday
after children's moments during the 10:45 worship service

Infant Care Available



Newsletter Deadline for March is Feb. 20th - Please see Leah Wray