FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304.623.3397 email: cfumc@citynet.net

Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"



April 30 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter

ORGAN PRELUDE - - - - - - Dr. Jessica Scott

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Springtime changes are bursting forth around us.

People: The earth awakens from winter with a display of wondrous color.

Leader: The cycle of living and dying continues.

People: As it has for ages past and will for ages to come.

Leader: Lent has passed and the celebration of Easter Sunday is over.

People: But the message of new life, new awakenings, and new possibilities

remains with us. Glory to God! Alleluia!

*OPENING PRAYER

O living Christ, as the good news of Easter energized your first disciples to establish dynamic Christian communities, so energize us to dynamic life within our congregation.

As your Spirit gave them courage to stand tall before the powers of this world, so empower us to proclaim your gospel and struggle for justice and peace. By your presence with us now, make us one in love and mission. Amen.

*HYMN #138 - - - - - - - - - - . "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR - - - - - Pastor Atkinson

OFFERTORY- - - - "Concerto for Two Clarinets, Op. 35, Mvt. I / F. Krommer Geneva Brown and Brett Miller, clarinets; Dr. Jessica Scott, piano

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PSALTER LESSON -- Psalm 23 ------UM Hymnal #754, Response 2
GOSPEL LESSON -------John 10:1-16

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

SERMON	"What Are You Hearing?"	Rev. Jenkins
*HYMN #38I	"Savior, Like	e a Shepherd Lead Us"
BENEDICTION		
ORGAN POSTLUDE -		Dr. Scott



CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT (C.0.M.E.)

Here at First Church on Saturday, May 13, 2:00 p.m.

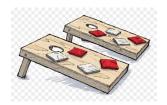
Donations this year will benefit:

The Ebenezer Community Outreach Center The Heart and Hand House Outreach Ministries

How can we help?

Come attend the event, learn more about these UM missions bring donations (see below)
Enjoy fellowship with other United Methodist churches in the Norther District There will be hot dogs and drinks, and a bake sale!





And there is a Corn-Hole Tournament to raise money for missions!
\$20 per team (2 persons) Can't find a partner?
Come and we'll pair you up with another person.
Also, the securing of sponsors is encouraged.
To register for the Tournament, contact Pastor Michael!

What donations are needed?

Ebenezer: copy paper, paint brushes, playdough, blocks, baby dolls, baby wipes, Lysol

<u>Heart and Hand</u>: adult hygiene items, kids' pull-ups size 4t-5t, size 4 diapers, cleaning supplies, soup, rice, pasta

If you know of someone who is in the hospital, nursing home, or has a need from the church, please let Pastor Atkinson or Rev. Jenkins know.

Please feel free to call or send a text to....

Pastor Michael Atkinson at 304-771-3309 or Reverend Harry Jenkins at 304-280-0592



Contact Tammy Matheny at 304-476-2015

If you would like information about our Prayer Chain.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 24 through May 5 -- Deep Cleaning of the Ground Floor We have contracted to have a "deep cleaning" of Level B rooms (kitchen, gym, dining hall, bathrooms).

Sing We, and Chant It

The Madrigal Singers in Concert --Monday, May 22nd, at 7:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a delightful evening of music in our majestic sanctuary! \$5.00 admission including refreshments Children 12 & under -- free





MOTHER/DAUGHTER + FATHER/SON + GRAND-AGERS = CHURCH FAMILY BANQUET!!

On Sunday, June 25th, following worship you are invited to a prepared lasagna dinner -- all for free!

This celebration is in lieu of the several other events that often occur in Spring ---a chance for all of us to gather together for this Church Family Banquet!

Watch for more details, but save the date.



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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