

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Pastor

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



August 6, 2023
Celebration of Holy Communion
10:45 a.m.

WORDS OF WELCOME -----Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE ----- Dr. Jessica Scott

*CALL TO WORSHIP -----Susan Wilmerink, Liturgist

Leader: Good Morning! Welcome to a celebration of God's love for us!

People: We surely need to see that love; stresses weigh us down.

Leader: You've come to the right place. This is a place where all of us can seek God's presence and share our deepest inmost concerns with God.

People: We are glad to hear that, for we wrestle with our faith far too often.

Leader: Don't fear! God is with you always, loving and transforming your lives.

People: Lord of mercy and compassion, be in our hearts this day.

Help us to reach out with love to others.

*OPENING PRAYER

In the darkness of night and the brightness of day, you, O Lord, are present to us. As we wrestle with situations which seem to drain us of our energy; as we struggle to find out who you call us to be, you reach out to us with reassurance of empowerment and courage for the days ahead. Calm our spirits and prepare our hearts and lives to receive your awesome grace. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. AMEN.

*HYMN #599 -----"Break, Thou, the Bread of Life"

*PASSING OF GOD'S PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON----- Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

“Bring them here to me,” he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SERMON ----- “Living into God’s Abundance” ----- Pastor Atkinson

(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of mercy and hope, we come before you with fear. We know that we have fallen short of being the kind of disciples that you have called us to be. We have turned our backs on people in need; we have closed our ears to the cries of the voiceless. And so we hesitate to come before you because we believe that you are disappointed in us.

Remind us again that you are merciful and your love transforms and changes our lives. When we falter and slide off the path of hope which you place before us, you “pick us up and dust us off” and put us again on the trail, confident of your faithful presence with us. Forgive us our weakness. Strengthen us and give us courage; help us to be bearers of your good news of peace. We pray this in Christ’s name. AMEN.

(Silent Prayers of Confession offered)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Feel God’s healing love pouring over you and into your lives. Know that God delights in each one of you and will always be present to you. This is indeed the Good News of the Gospel. AMEN.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth....

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the names of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith...

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast as his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. AMEN.

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

"How Can I Keep From Singing" arr. John Dixon

Dr. Scott, piano; Brett Miller, organ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN #2260 (The Faith We Sing)- - - - -“Let Us Be Bread”

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG RESPONSE #2190, v. I - - - - -“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

ORGAN POSTLUDE - - - - - Dr. Scott

Communion Steward -- Jane Jenkins

Communion Servers --- Chloe Ann Chipps, Diana Higginbotham, Renae Payne

**Contact Tammy Matheny at 304-476-2015
If you would like information about our Prayer Chain.**



If you or someone you know is in the hospital, nursing home, has a need from the church, or would like a visit, please contact Pastor Atkinson.

**Please feel free to call or send a text to
Pastor Michael Atkinson at 304-771-3309**



GRAB AND “STAY” LUNCHES!

The “Grab and Go” Lunch ministry is now “Grab and Stay” as we continue to heed Christ’s words:
“If you love me, feed my sheep”,
while addressing the community concerns about trash.

Those receiving sack lunches are to stay and eat in our parking lot.
We join many other groups and individuals
in providing these meals.

If you would like to help, contact Anita Burns at 304-203-1279.



Greater Clarksburg United Methodist Churches
PICNIC to CELEBRATE PARISH CLERGY!

Today! 1:30 p.m.

Freedom Shelter at the Riverbend (VA) Park
We are to bring desserts to share---all else will be provided!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023!

“Gone Fishing”

This Wednesday, August 9th at 6:00 p.m.
Nutter Fort (Clarksburg) City Park

Contact Shelley Spellman at 304-669-8461 for more details!



JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR



“JESUS CHRIST, SUPERSTAR”

WVU Creative Arts Center in Morgantown
Tuesday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m. \$59.00 (plus tax)

Interested?

Call the church office at 304-623-3397 by August 21

IN CONCERT AT FIRST CHURCH

Maestri Vocale

Saturday, August 26 at 7:30 p.m.
“An Evening of Sacred Choral Music”

(Don and Brett are singing,
and Jess is organist for this performance!)



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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