

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

Brett Miller, Director of Music

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



August 7, 2022

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

PRELUDE ---- "Sweet Is the Peace", Scarlatti/arr. Hazelle ---- Dr. Jessica Scott

*CALL TO WORSHIP ----- Rev. Harry Jenkins

Leader: The Lord comes to us this day. Are you ready?

People: We are ready!

Leader: The Lord challenges us to be in ministries of peace and hope.
Are you ready?

People: We are ready!

Leader: Let us praise God who calls us to serve God by helping others.

People: Praise be to God who has given us hope and peace.

*OPENING PRAYER

Surprising God of mercy and love, thank you for calling to us this day.
We praise you that you challenge us to show our faith in ministries of peace and justice, offering compassion to all in need. Open our hearts and minds today to hear your words of encouragement and challenge.

We offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN #577----- "God of Grace and God of Glory"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR

SCRIPTURE LESSON-----Luke 12:32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak.

But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

SERMON-----"Ready or Not"----- Pastor Atkinson *(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)*

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, you know how easy it is for us to celebrate with joy the wonders of your love. We create wonderful art to represent the joy we feel. Our music soars to the heavens in praise of you. Yet how often we have left our service to you as mere thoughts and intentions without fulfillment.

You ask us to be ready to serve you at any time, but we place our commitment on the "to do" list of life; we will do these things when we get to them. Forgive our hesitancy and our self-serving ways, O Lord. Heal us of the disease of seeking first our own comfort before we engage in acts of justice and mercy.

Open our eyes and ears to the cries of those in need. Help us to give and also to receive ministries of love and reconciliation as we serve you with our whole hearts. Then our music, our art, our worship will truly reflect your awesome and abundant love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(You are invited to offer your silent prayers of confession at this time.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

It is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. It is our joy to serve God by helping each other and all those in need. Be assured of God's tender mercy toward you and continue that love in all that you do. 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 thank 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:

**ALL: 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 name 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:

ALL: 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...

...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

(All bread used for communion is gluten-free)

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION - - - - - "What Wondrous Love Is This"
Bell Choir of First Church

*HYMN #438 - - - - - "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - - - - - "Festival Recessional", Scarlatti/arr. Hazelle - - - - Dr. Scott

Today's Communion Stewards: Janie Jenkins and Dinah Hannah

Our Prayers and Sympathy
to the family and friends of
KAY WINTERS

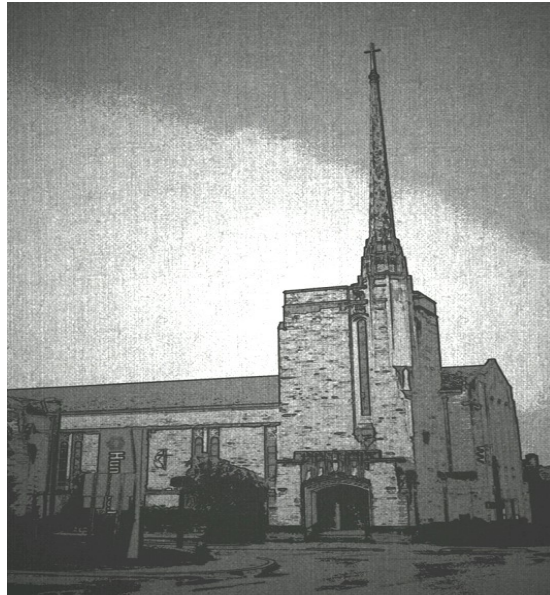
January 6, 1923 ~ July 25, 2022

Visitation will be held on today from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
here in our sanctuary.

The Memorial Service will follow at 4:00 p.m.

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

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



**CHURCH
COOKOUT**



CHURCH PICNIC -- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Hilltop Shelter at Riverbend Park Hot Dogs and all the fixin's will be provided!

More details to come.



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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FALL BIBLE STUDY WITH THE PASTORS

“The Book of Genesis” -- a Seven-Week Study
Free and open to all members and guests

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Atkinson
Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. with Pastor Jenkins

Sign-up sheet will be in next Sunday's bulletin!