

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

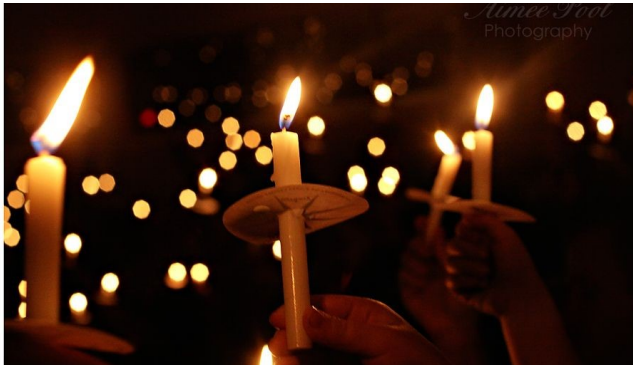
Phone: 304.623.3397 email: cfumc@citynet.net

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"



December 24, 2022

11:00 p.m.

A CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

PRELUDE - - "Le Sommeil de l'Enfant Jesus (Sleep of the Infant Jesus) / H. Busser
Robert Skidmore, violin; Dr. Jessica Scott, piano; Brett Miller, organ

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

Leader: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

People: **This is the night of the Holy Birth!**

Leader: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

People: **Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.**

Leader: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

People: **Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! AMEN!**

***CAROL #234, v. 1,2,3 & 6** ----- **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Jane Lynn and Rick Squires and family

The Candle of Hope

Leader: We gather to celebrate the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

People: **We are here to worship God – and his Son Jesus –
born this night in Bethlehem of Judea.**

Leader: Tonight, we relight the candle of Hope to remind us of the promises
made by all the prophets that God would raise up a savior for his
people Israel.

People: **Christ is our hope and our salvation.**

He calls us to share our hope in him with each other.

The Candle of Peace

Leader: We light the candle of Peace to remind us that it is only with God and by following in his path that true peace can be found.

People: Christ brings the peace of God to us.
He calls us to share the peace he gives with each other.

The Candle of Joy

Leader: We light the candle of Joy to remind us that God gives joy to every heart that abides in him.

People: As Mary rejoiced in the birth of Jesus –so his birth in us brings us joy.
God calls us to share the joy he gives with each other.

The Candle of Love

Leader: We light the candle of Love to remind us that Jesus is God's gift of love to us—and that in him, the light of love triumphs over darkness.

People: Love never fails – it transforms all those who give it and receive it.
God calls us to share his love with each other.

The Candle of Light

Leader: We light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of the world was born this night.

People: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness – on them, light has shined.

Leader: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

Leader: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

*CAROL #2090, v. 5 (The Faith We Sing)- - - - - "Light the Advent Candle"

PRAYER----- -Rev. Jenkins

Lord, we can't quite imagine what it must have been like for Mary, to hear God's request and to respond, unconditionally with "Yes!" We have a tendency to put conditions on everything. We want to know what we have to do, how long this will take, what's in it for us, what are the projected outcomes.

Forgive us for our faithlessness, Lord. Slow us down, and cause us to take time to really consider the wonderful ways you have always worked in our lives. As we have come before you with concerns on our hearts for our families, friends, and world, remind us that your presence is with us and your healing love comforts and restores us. Open our hearts and our ears to the cries of those in need. Let us use our talents and resources to help others. Give us courage, energy, and enthusiasm as we work for you in this world. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON - - - - - Luke 2:1-20 - - - - - Pastor Atkinson

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

***CAROL #238** - - - - - "Angels We Have Heard on High"

MEDITATION - - - - - "Don't Miss Christmas" - - - - - Pastor Atkinson

MUSICAL OFFERING - - - - - "O Holy Night" / Adolphe Adam
Brett Miller, tenor; Cyndi Shaver, signer; Jessica Scott, organ

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til He appeared and the soul felt it's worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born. O night divine! O night, o night divine!
Christ is the Lord! Praise, praise His name forever.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

CONSECRATION OF ELEMENTS

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 OF HOLY COMMUNION

CANDLE LIGHTING

*HYMN #239 - - - - - "Silent Night"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - - - - - "Vieux Noel" / Cesar Franck - - - - - Dr. Scott