

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

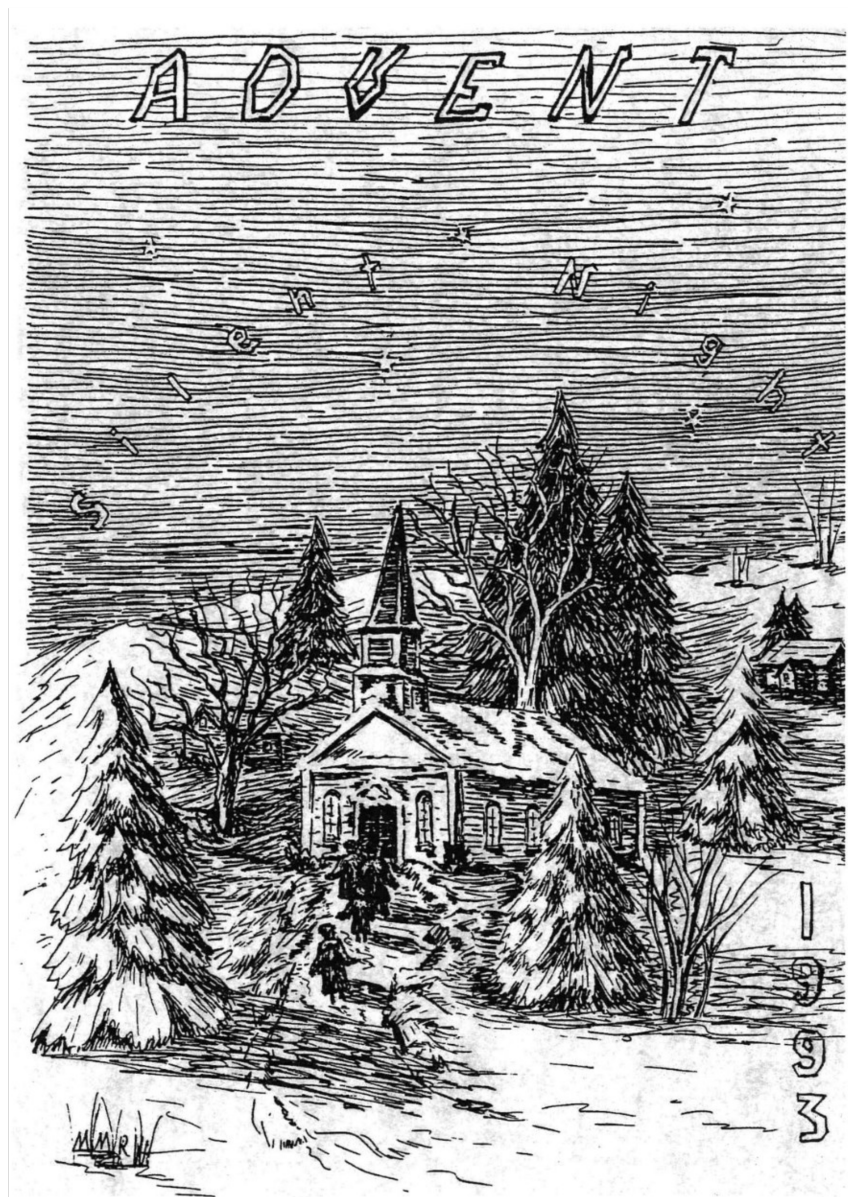
Phone: 304.623.3397      email: cfumc@citynet.net

*Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Pastor*

*Rev. Anna Troy, Deacon      Don Gardner, Director of Music*

*Dr. Jessica Scott, Organist*

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



## A CELEBRATION IN LESSONS AND CAROLS

**December 15, 2024 10:45 a.m.**

*(\*Denotes congregation standing; BOLD denotes congregation's response)*

The image above was created by Marge Reese

## WORDS OF WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ORGAN PRELUDE

#### **\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN -----"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.

(Refrain:) O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from light eternal,

Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;

Song of the Father, begotten, not created. (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing all ye citizens of heav'n above:

Glory to God, all glory in the highest: (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. (Refrain)

#### **\*THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Beloved in Christ, we come to this service to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and to see the loving-kindness of our God, and the Babe lying in a manger;

Let us therefore open the Holy Scriptures and read the earliest tale of that disobedience to God's holy will which is common to us all; and then read the story of the birth of Jesus Christ the Lord, to save us from our sin and make us pure and happy; and let us thank him with our carols and praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; and especially for peace and good will among all people; that we may learn to love one another, as children of the Father of all. And because this would most rejoice His heart, let us remember before Him the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, also the oppressed; the aged and the little ones; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by their sins do grieve His heart.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude no one can number, with whom in Jesus we evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself taught us . . .

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*in unison*)

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, & the power, & the glory, forever. Amen

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - - - - The Walls Family**

**THE ADVENT LITANY**

Leader: The Advent/Christmas season continues.

Again, we light the candles of hope and peace, which are symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

**People: We are a people of hope, of peace, and of joy.**

Leader: So today, we light the candle of joy remembering the joy  
That the shepherds felt when told of the Jesus' birth.

**People: We rejoice in the "good news of great joy for all people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is the Messiah, the Lord."**

Leader: We are people of joy, blessed by the birth of our Lord  
and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**THE CELEBRATION OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1:1-2; 2:7, 18, 22-24- - - - - "The Creation of Adam & Eve"**

Reader: Shelley Spellman

The Carol: "Hymn to the Nativity" - - - - - D. M. Gardner

(Soprano Debra Dean Murphy, Alto Jessica Scott, Tenor Brett Miller, Baritone Don Gardner)

*Gloomy night embraced the place where the noble infant lay;  
The babe looked up and showed his face, in spite of darkness, it was day.  
It was thy day, Sweet, and did rise not from the east, but from thine eyes.*

*Winter chid the world and sent the angry north to wage his wars.  
The north forgot his fierce intent and left perfumes instead of scars.  
By those sweet eyes persuasive powers, where he meant frosts, He scattered flowers.*

*Welcome all wonders in one sight, Eternity shut in a span,  
Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth, and God in man.  
Great little one whose glorious birth lifts earth to heaven stoops heaven to earth.*

**THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-5** ----- The Future Hope of Israel

Reader: Tammy Matheny

**The Carol: "On That Holy Mountain"** -----Lloyd Larson

*(HeartSong)*

*The wolf is the guest of the lamb, on that holy mountain*

*And the calf and the lion shall lie down, on that holy mountain*

*Together they shall rest with the child, on that holy mountain, on that holy mountain of the Lord.*

*(Refrain) No harm nor pain on that holy mountain.*

*That sacred day shall be filled with knowledge.*

*There shall be peace led by all the children, on that holy mountain of the Lord.*

*The poor shall receive from the rich, on that holy mountain*

*And the sick and the lame shall be healed, on that holy mountain*

*The wicked shall be slain by God's hand, on that holy mountain, on that holy mountain of the Lord.*

*(Refrain)*

**THE THIRD LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-17** ----- The Lord Is in Our Midst

Reader: Zachary Angstadt

**The Carol: "Comfort, My People"** ----- Ian Callanan

*(Chancel Choir, cello Katie Shaver, guitar Mitchell Honaker)*

*Comfort, my people, and calm all your fear; the day of salvation is quickly drawing near.*

*The one you long to see will soon set you free. O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Silence the thunder, silence sounds of war; end all destruction and comfort those who mourn.*

*Your dream draws near; your vision is here. O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Be light in the darkness, be truth for our lives. Be strength for the helpless, the poor and lost who cry.*

*O saving voice, O living choice, O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

**THE FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7** ----- The Kingship of Christ Is Foretold

Reader: Stephanie Angstadt

**The Carol: Hymn #2091 "The King of Glory Comes** ----- Mid-East folk song

*(Jackson Walls, saxophone)*

***(Refrain) The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.***

***Open the gates before him, lift us your voices.***

***Who is this king of glory; how shall we call him?***

***He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. (Refrain)***

***In all of Galilee, in city or village,***

***He goes among his people curing their illness. (Refrain)***

***Sing then of David's son, our Savior and brother;***

***In all of Galilee was never another. (Refrain)***

**THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:1, 3-7** -----Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Reader: Rev. Harry Jenkins

**The Carol: "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"** -----**Christina Rossetti**

*Men's Ensemble*

*In the bleak mid-winter, frosty winds made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.*

*Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow; in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.*

*Angels & archangels may have gathered there, cherubim & seraphim thronged the air;*

*But his mother only, in her maiden bliss, Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am, if I were a shepherd, I would be a lamb.*

*If I were a wise man, I would do my part. What can I give him? Give him my heart.*

**THE SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-23** ----- Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

Reader: The Wray Family

**The Carol: "Away in a Manger"**

*(Children's Choir and Women's Ensemble)*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.*

*The stars in the sky look down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.*

*I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

**THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-14** -----The Angels appeared to the shepherds

Reader: Deacon Anna Troy

**The Carol: "Christ Is Born, Sing Glory to God"**-----Lloyd Larson

*(Combined Choirs, Handbells, Brass)*

*Christ is born, sing glory to God in the highest! Sing Gloria to God on high!*

*There were shepherds keeping watch one night when the sky was filled with heaven's light.*

*An angel of the Lord appeared and proclaimed good news for all to hear!*

*Christ is born, sing glory to God in the highest! Sing Gloria to God on high!*

*"*

*This shall be a sign," the angel said, "you will find the Child in a manger bed.*

*Go, worship Christ the newborn King.*

*Let the heav'ns and earth rejoice and sing: Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Christ is born, sing glory to God in the highest! Sing Gloria to God on high!*

**THE EIGHTH LESSON: John 1:1-14** - - - - John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Reader: Rev. Michael Atkinson

**\*The Carol: "Joy to the World"**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her king.  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY SONG** - - - - - "Carol of the Bells" / Ukranian Carol - - - - - FUMC Handbells

**\*DOXOLOGY #95** - - - "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" - - - - - Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN** - - - - - "Angels We Have Heard on High" - - - - - French Carol

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

**\*BENEDICTION** - - - - - Pastor Atkinson

**\*SUNG RESPONSE** : "Gloria, in Excelsis Deo! Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!" - - - - - French Carol

**\*CARRYING THE LIGHT AND CROSS INTO THE WORLD**

**\*ORGAN POSTLUDE** - - - - - Dr. Scott

Today's Worship Participants

Ushers: Teresa Gouer, Dolores Preston, Jeff Spellman, Sherri Shank

Altar: Carolyn Yost

Livestream: Mathew Wray

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR APPRECIATION TO....

Trumpet: Jason Burnside

Cello: Katie Shaver

Guitar: Mitchell Honaker

Saxophone: Jackson Walls

Guest choristers: Debra Dean Murphy, Brett Miller, Cathy and Garland Walker

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A special thank you to Jeanne & Mike Dyer for the **Door Wreaths** are in loving memory of Marjorie & Nigel Dyer and of Bill & Wanda Long.

To Frank McKinney for hanging the **Christmas Garlands**, decorating the balcony, in loving memory of David Young: given by his family.

And to Cyndi Jamison Shaver for **Garland and Candles** on the Advent Wreath in loving memory of Jay Jamison.



**Church Office Hours**

**Tuesday-Thursday, 9-1 p.m.**

**Winter Reminder: If Harrison County schools are closed, church offices will be closed & meetings will be canceled.**

Call to confirm 304-623-3397

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, nursing home, has a need from the church, or would like a visit, **Please feel free to call or send a text to Pastor Michael Atkinson at 304-771-3309**



**Beth Bryant-Barranco**  
**John & Charlene Cathell**  
**Frank & Leanna Murphy Dono**  
**Kyle Harris**  
**Harry & Joretta Lewis**  
**Molly Broadwater**  
**& The Family of**  
**Chris Broadwater**  
  
**Danielle Riley**  
  
**Brady**  
  
**Jaden Jaggie**  
  
**The Children of FUMC**  
  
**The Winter Shelter guests**  
**and workers.**

### **THIS WEEK AT FUMC**

- **After Worship**– Christmas Pageant rehearsal, in the Fellowship Hall
- **This evening** — Parish Blue Christmas Service at First United Methodist Church, 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, Dec. 16**— Feed My Sheep, Noon
  - **Tuesday, Dec. 17**— NO Bell Rehearsal
    - —Monastic Meal, 12:15 p.m.
    - —Finance meets at 5 p.m.
    - Council & Outreach will not meet.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 18**—Family Christmas Service, Christmas Pageant & Covered dish meal.
- **Thursday, Dec. 19**— Women’s Luncheon & Carol Sing, Noon in the parlor.
  - —Prayer Shawl group, 5-6 p.m.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve.

**Poinsettia dedication information is due to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 18th.**

**Flowers can be dropped off on Sunday, December 22nd or on Monday, December 23rd from 10-12.**

**connect with us**



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