#### 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 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent -- Love

WORDS OF WELCOME Pastor Michael Atkinson
ORGAN PRELUDEDr. Jessica Scott
*CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.
People: That sign is in the One to comethe One that God is sending.
Leader: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.
People: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard!
God isresponding in love and hope.
Leader: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!
People: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior.
*HYMN #250 "Once in Royal David's City"
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ADVENT HYMN #2090, v. 4 (Faith We Sing) - - - "Light the Advent Candle"

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR

## 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.

GOSPEL LESSON ------ Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. SERMON- - - - "Reclaiming Christmas: Hearts Full of Love" - - Pastor Atkinson (you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

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### \*BENEDICTION

#### ORGAN POSTLUDE ------ Dr. Scott



#### "BLUE CHRISTMAS" WORSHIP SERVICE

This evening at 7:00 p.m. The UM churches of the Clarksburg Parish North View United Methodist

Guest Preacher...Pastor Michael Atkinson Guest Soloist...Don Gardner

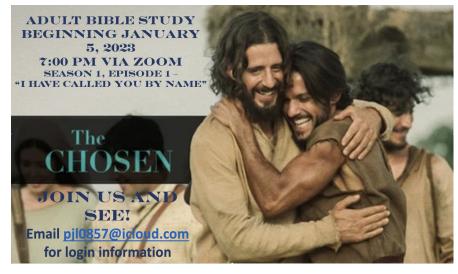
# Are You Interested in a New Bible Study?

Led by member Patrick Lonergan, this Zoom study would include a weekly viewing and a following discussion.

There would likely be 10 to 12 sessions.

Though a starting date is posted, that could easily be adjusted to suit the needs of the class.

Email Patirck at pjl0857@icloud.com for details!



#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- 304-623-3397

Pastor Michael Atkinson -- 304-771-3309

Pastor Harry Jenkins -- 304-280-0592



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### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH**

This Evening, Dec. 18th -- "A Blue Christmas" Parish Service. Pastor Atkinson is the preacher for this 7:00 p.m., at North View United Methodist

Mon., Dec. 19th -- Feed My Sheep Christmas Luncheon at noon



Wed., Dec. 21st -- Church Family Christmas Dinner (In place of an early Christmas Eve Service) The evening will conclude with our candles raised and our voices singing "Silent Night" at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Sat., Dec. 24th -- A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11:00 p.m., in our sanctuary

Sunday, Dec. 25th -- Christmas Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Twelve-Step Meetings (7 sessions each week) -- Monday through Thursday -- Library

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

