

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 PRELUDE ----- -Dr. 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 come--the 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 is responding 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"

THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE ----- Chad and Mischa Matheny

Leader: Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah who offers us hope:

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

Leader: Today we light the candle of love. No other word so beautifully captures the birth of the Christ child. No other word so completely describes God. For God is love!

People: **Yes, God is love! And God so loved the world!**

Leader: God so love the world that a child was given, a savior born.

People: **We give thanks to God for the gift of love through Jesus Christ.**

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.

OFFERTORY MUSIC ----- "Lully, Lulla" / Philip W.J. Stopford

Rosie Wilson, soprano; Dr. Jessica Scott, alto; Brett Miller, tenor; Don Gardner, baritone

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)

*HYMN #204 ----- "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

*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!

An advertisement for a Bible study. The background is a photograph of three men in historical attire, with one man embracing another. Text overlaid on the image includes: "ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING JANUARY 5, 2023", "7:00 PM VIA ZOOM", "SEASON 1, EPISODE 1 - 'I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME'", "The CHOSEN", "JOIN US AND SEE!", and "Email pjl0857@icloud.com for login information".

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.**

