

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

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*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"*

December 22, 2024  
4th Sunday of Advent  
Morning Worship  
10:45 a.m.



WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE

"On Christmas Night" by K. Kosche

Kaleb Willison

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

People: We wait as people of God's promise.

Leader: The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

People: We listen as people of God's promise.

Leader: Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

People: We follow as people of God's promise.

Leader: This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

People: God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024.*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #202

“People Look East”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Thrush Family

Reader: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O First United Methodist Church, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

People: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

*Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.*

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.

\*PASSING OF GOD’S PEACE

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

ANTHEM

“Prepare Ye the Way”

Chancel Choir

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Why Me?"

Rev. Michael Atkinson

OFFERTORY

"Wachet auf, uns ruft die stimme" J.S. Bach

Dr. Scott

\*DOXOLOGY

U.M.H #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts;  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts;  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*HYMN #240

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

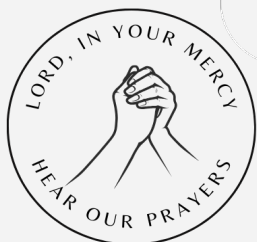
"Comfort, Comfort These My People" by Michael Burkhardt

Dr. Scott

Today's Worship Participants

Liturgist: Mary Kay Lawrence      Acolyte: Carson Wray  
Ushers: Mary Seti, Mathew Wray, Sherri Shank, Chloe Ann Chipps  
Altar: Carolyn Yost      Livestream: Bob Skidmore  
Advent Reading: The Thrush Family

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**  
**Kyle Harris**  
**Harry & Joretta Lewis**  
**The Family of**  
**Chris Broadwater**  
**Brady**  
**Jaden Jaggie**

**The Children of FUMC**

**The Winter Shelter guests  
and workers.**

**THIS WEEK AT FUMC**

- Monday, Dec. 23 — Poinsettia drop off, 10-12
- Tuesday, Dec. 24— No Bell Practice nor Monastic Meal —Christmas Eve Service, 11 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 25 — Christmas Day, Office Closed
  - Thursday, Dec. 26 — Office Closed
- Sunday, Dec. 29 — 5th Sunday Brunch at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (Basement level), service following.

December 31-January 1st — Office Closed  
Office hours resume January 2nd.

**5th Sunday— December 29th 10:30 a.m.**  
Brunch & Service, In the Fellowship Hall

Bring a dish to share!



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