

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

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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"



February 5, 2023
A SERVICE OF SACRAMENTS

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE ----- Dr. Jessica Scott

*CALL TO WORSHIP ----- Rev. Joy Butcher-Winfrey

Leader: God said, "Let there be light"

People: And there was light

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

People: And the light shone in the darkness

Leader: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

People: And the light shall not be quenched.

*HYMN #126 ----- "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM --- Hymnal pg. 39, Baptismal Covenant II

John and Erin Collins present Louchlyn Quinn Collins for Christian Baptism

Eric and Heather Lopez present Mateo Aaron Lopez for Christian Baptism

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS ----- Hymnal pg. 48

*Mat and Leah Wrey, along with their children Carson and Finley,
will be received into church membership.*

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME ----- Hymnal pg. 48

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR

GOSPEL LESSON ----- **Matthew 5:13-20**

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON----- **"Identity with Purpose"** ----- **Pastor Atkinson**

(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will...

We have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,

We have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

That proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thank to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth....

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. . .

...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: **Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS - - - -First Church Handbells
"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"/ arr. McChesney

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN #585 -----"This Little Light of Mine"

*SUNG BENEDICTION (*see insert*)

ORGAN POSTLUDE

We recently received two notes
that we thought you might appreciate reading.....



"Dear Church Staff,

Hope all is well as you've opened your home to the area homeless. Please put this modest donation towards the cost of this worthwhile endeavor." The Tuesday Night Basketball Crew

"Dear members of First UMC,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to our Backpack program. Your gift is a BLESSING." The Vincent Memorial United Women in Faith



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

Tuesday, February 7th -- Monastic Meal at 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7th -- Staff-Parish Relations Committee at 6:00 p.m.

Bell Choir Rehearsal Schedule

February 26th -	9:30 a.m. rehearsal in bell room	10:45 a.m. play in worship
March 5th -	9:30 a.m. rehearsal in bell room	10:45 a.m. play in worship

Family Choir Rehearsal Schedule

February 12th -	9:45 a.m. rehearsal in the parlor	
February 19th -	9:45 a.m. rehearsal in the parlor;	10:45 a.m. sing in worship

All are welcome to join! Contact Brett Miller for more details.



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

Winter Shelter -- nightly from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Easter Program Meeting



There will be a brief meeting after church today for all children and youth, preschool through high school, that would like to participate in an Easter program.

Details will be discussed at the meeting.

If you have any questions, contact Shelley Spellman.

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

