

# 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"*



January 8, 2023

*"The Baptism of Jesus"*

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

PRELUDE ----- *"Wie Schon Leucht Uns Der Morgenstern"* / S. Karg-Elert  
*Dr. Jessica Scott, organ*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light "Day" and the Darkness, God called "Night".

People: We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.

Leader: God has blessed us and adopted us as God's own beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

People: The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and cleansing.

Leader: This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus' Baptism.

People: As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.

\*HYMN # 383 ----- *"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"*

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR - - - - - Pastor Atkinson

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 - - "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star" /arr. P. Manz  
*Brett Miller, clarinet Dr. Jessica Scott, organ*

SCRIPTURE LESSON - - - - -Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.

SERMON - - - - -"The Start of Something New" - - - - - Pastor Atkinson  
*(You are encouraged to use this space for notes.)*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires.

Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. AMEN.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM -----Sherri Shank

## REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

\*HYMN #611 -----"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

## \*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE -"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"/David Cherwien- -Dr. Scott

### 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 Patrick at [pjl0857@icloud.com](mailto:pjl0857@icloud.com) for details!



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!

Email [pjl0857@icloud.com](mailto: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

Sunday, January 8th -- Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.  
(Choir rehearsal schedule -- see below)

Tuesday, January 10th -- Vision Team meeting at 5:30 p.m.

#### Family Choir Rehearsal Schedule

January 8th -	9:45 a.m. rehearsal in the parlor	
January 15th -	9:45 a.m. rehearsal in the parlor;	10:45 a.m. sing in worship
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

#### Bell Choir Rehearsal Schedule

January 22nd -	9:30 a.m. rehearsal in bell room	
January 29th -	9:30 a.m. rehearsal in bell room	
February 5th -	9:30 a.m. rehearsal in bell room	10:45 a.m. play in worship
February 26th -	9:30 a.m. rehearsal in bell room	
March 5th -	9:30 a.m. rehearsal in bell room	10:45 a.m. play 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.

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

