

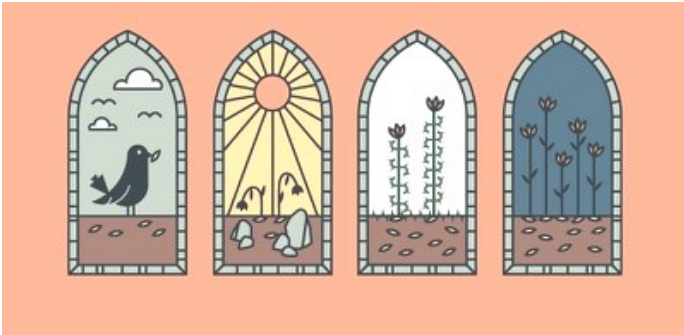
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304.623.3397 email: cfumc@citynet.net

Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Pastor

"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"



July 16, 2023
Sunday Worship
10:45 a.m.

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE ----- -Dr. Jessica Scott

*CALL TO WORSHIP ----- -Karla Smith, Liturgist

Leader: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits...

People: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root...

Leader: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits...

People: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.

Leader: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits...

People: These are the places of deep growth
 where the seed will cast down strong roots.

Leader: Welcome this day to a seed-scattering station!

People: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root.

*OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. This day we have gathered, coming from a week of unexpected happenings and events which have surprised us. Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. AMEN.

*HYMN #109-----"Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"/ tune: Tallis Canon

*PASSING OF GOD'S PEACE

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

CHORAL OFFERTORY- - - "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (Text #462, v. 1,2 & 4)
First Church Chancel Choir

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON - - - - - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

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

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SERMON -----“Does It Really Matter?” -----Pastor Atkinson
(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*HYMN #2190 (The Faith We Sing) ----- “Bring Forth the Kingdom”

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG RESPONSE #2190, v. 3 -----“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

ORGAN POSTLUDE ----- Dr. Scott

Administrative Assistant Position at First Church

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is receiving applications for the Administrative Assistant position at FUMC.

Candidates should provide a resume and cover letter expressing interest in the position to cfumc@citynet.net no later than Thursday, August 3, 2023.



New First Church Men’s Group!

On Tuesday, July 25, at either 8:00AM or 6:00PM, all men are invited to join Pastor Mike for a meal, fellowship, conversation and devotion.

Our group will meet at the FOP Restaurant in Nutter Fort.

You can help us with reserving a room by letting us know which time (8:00 AM or 6:00 PM) you plan to join Pastor Mike. Please call the church office at 304-623-3397 by Thursday, July 20.

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, nursing home, has a need from the church, or would like a visit, please contact Pastor Atkinson.

**Please feel free to call or send a text to
Pastor Michael Atkinson at 304-771-3309**

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



2023

JULY

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JULY EVENTS

July 16 -- Youth here at FUMC at 6:00 p.m.

July 17 -- Vision Team at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor

July 18 -- Monastic Meal at 12:15 p.m. in the parlor

July 18 -- Outreach Committee at 5:00 p.m. in the Grooms Room

July 18 -- Finance Committee at 5:00 p.m. in the Parlor

July 18 -- Church Council at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor

July 20-- First Church Women Luncheon Meeting at noon in the Parlor

July 20 -- Prayer Shawl at 5:00 p.m. in the Parlor

July 30 -- Fifth Sunday Fellowship Worship in the Dining Hall

Covered-dish Brunch at 10:30 a.m. Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Twelve-Step Meetings (7 sessions each week)

Greater Clarksburg United Methodist Churches
PICNIC to CELEBRATE PARISH CLERGY!

Sunday, August 6, 1:30 p.m.

Freedom Shelter at the Riverbend (VA) Park

We are to bring desserts to share---all else will be provided!



A head-count is needed, so be prepared next week to raise you hand if you plan to attend!



WWW.CFUMC.ORG



cfumc@citynet.net



First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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