

# 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"*



July 2, 2023

10:45 a.m.

Celebration of Holy Communion

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

PRELUDE -"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" / arr. W. Held - Dr. Jessica Scott

\*CALL TO WORSHIP ----- Rick Squires, Liturgist

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Today, let us worship with great joy the Lord who greets us.

People: Let us praise God who lifts our hearts and spirits.

Leader: Today, may we all open your hearts to the Lord.

People: Thank you, Lord, for welcoming us here!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, as we walked through the doors to this place of worship, we brought with us our cares and concerns, our joys and our sorrows. Touch our hearts and heal us, Lord. Make us ready to become your faithful disciples. AMEN.

\*HYMN #435 ----- "O God of Every Nation"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** ----- Genesis 22:1-14

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

**SERMON**-----“The Divine Call”----- Pastor Atkinson

*(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)*

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient Lord, we want to extend the hand of welcome and friendship to all whom we meet, but you know that sometimes we shy away from reaching out. We make judgments about others based on their appearance and other surface factors, and we neglect your mandate to be a welcoming presence. That lack of welcome extends further when we see needs that must be addressed and choose to turn our backs. We turn away from the pain and suffering, protecting our own lives. Yet you remind us that as we welcome others, we are also welcoming you. Heal us and give us strength and courage to always welcome others in your name.

*(Silent Prayers of Confession Offered)*

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

How wonderful it is to be welcomed by our Lord through God's church. Rejoice in God's welcoming love for you. **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 - - - Mr. Miller and Dr. Scott

*"Symphony of Spirituals" / Joel Raney*  
*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me; Let Us Break Breath Together; Great Day!*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN #437- - - - - "This Is My Song"

ORGAN POSTLUDE - - - - - "Postlude" / Arnold Cooke- - - - - Dr. Scott

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Communion Steward -- Janie Jenkins

Communion Assistants -- Carla and John Chipps; Sarah Winters

### Grab and Go Lunches



The "Grab and Go" ministry began on Monday, June 12th, and occurs at 2:30 p.m. in our parking lot!

Our church is committed to providing the Grab and Go meals every Friday through November 24th.

If you are interested in taking a Friday, please let Anita Burns know. 304-203-1279 (Or call the church office at 304- 623-3397)



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### UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

Sundays -- Youth (6th-12th) at 6:00 p.m., 3rd floor youth room

**OFFICES CLOSED on Tuesday. Happy July 4th!**

Thursdays -- Prayer Shawl at 5 p.m.

Monday, July 17th -- Feed My Sheep at noon

Tuesday, July 18th -- Outreach and Finance at 5 p.m.;

Church Council at 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 20th -- Women of First Church Luncheon Meeting

Twelve-Step Meetings (7 sessions each week)

Monday through Thursday -- Library



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023!

### "Gone Fishing"

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Wednesday, August 9th at 6:00 p.m.**

**Contact Shelley Spellman for more details!**

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

