

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304.623.3397 email: cfumc@citynet.net web: www.cfumc.org

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 24, 2022
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME ----- Rev. Harry Jenkins

INTROIT ----- "A Place at the Table" / Murray & Mann

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When a woman gives birth, she has a hard time.

But when the baby is born, there is joy in the birth.

The new life in the world wipes out the memory of pain.

People: Are you trying to figure out what I'm saying?

In a day you won't see me, but in another day or two you will see me.

You will be in deep mourning while the godless world throws a party.

ALL: But your sadness will develop into gladness.

You may ask my Father about what I've told you.

Your joy will be overflowing its banks. *(from John 16:21-33)*

*OPENING HYMN #558-----"We Are the Church"

*MORNING PRAYER

Dear God, we have gone out on a limb; committed ourselves to love and trust in Jesus Christ. We finally believe. But some of us are about to make a run for it to save our skins and abandon him. But Jesus is not abandoned. His father is with him. In this godless world, you will continue to experience difficulties, but take heart. I am with you. Amen.

(Children's Church with Anita Burns)

GOSPEL LESSON -----John 17 (*from The Message*)

Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said: Father, it's time. Display the bright splendor of your Son, so the Son in turn may show your bright splendor. You put him in charge of everything human so he might give real and eternal life to all in his care. And this is the real and eternal life: that they know you, the one and only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do. And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor, the very splendor I had in your presence before there was a world.

I spelled out your character in detail to the men and women you gave me. They were yours in the first place; Then you gave them to me, and they have now done what you said. They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that everything you gave me is firsthand from you, for the message you gave me, I gave them; And they took it, and were convinced That I came from you. They believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world but for those you gave me, for they are yours by right. Everything mine is yours, and yours mine, and my life is on display in them. For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world; They'll continue in the world while I return to you. Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life that you conferred as a gift through me, so they can be one heart and mind as we are one heart and mind. As long as I was with them, I guarded them In the pursuit of the life you gave through me; I even posted a lookout. And not one of them got away, except for the rebel bent on destruction (the exception that proved the rule of Scripture).

Now I'm returning to you. I'm saying these things in the world's hearing so my people can experience my joy completed in them. I gave them your word; the godless world hated them because of it, because they didn't join the world's ways, just as I didn't join the world's ways. I'm not asking that you take them out of the world but that you guard them from the Evil One. They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world. Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth; Your word is consecrating truth. In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. I'm consecrating myself for their sakes so they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.

I'm praying not only for them but also for those who will believe in me because of them and their witness about me. The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind— Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, so they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me. The same glory you gave me, I gave them, so they'll be as unified and together as we are—I in them and you in me. Then they'll be mature in this oneness, and give the godless world evidence That you've sent me and loved them In the same way you've loved me.

Father, I want those you gave me to be with me, right where I am, so they can see my glory, the splendor you gave me, having loved me long before there ever was a world. Righteous Father, the world has never known you, but I have known you, and these disciples know That you sent me on this mission. I have made your very being known to them— who you are and what you do—and continue to make it known, so that your love for me might be in them exactly as I am in them.

OFFERTORY SOLO - - - - - "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Me"

Don Gardner and Jessica Scott

Currently, offering plates are not being passed during worship. If you wish to make an offering, you will find the offering plates at the front of the sanctuary, or in the narthex.

SERMON - - "Hard Times & Blessings, continued. . . ." - - Judy Burns, Lay Leader

PEOPLE'S 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.

*HYMN #2117 - - - - - "Spirit of God"

*BENEDICTION

Lord, make me a blessing to those that I meet.
Make me a blessing as I walk down the street.
Make me a blessing this day, e'en this hour.
Make me a blessing, it lies in your power.
Make me a blessing at work and at home.
Make me a blessing wherever I roam.

Make me a blessing that people may see I am a blessing, for you are with me.

--David Adam: *The Open Gate: Celtic Prayers for Growing Spiritually* (SPCK, 1994)

ORGAN POSTLUDE-----Dr. Scott

Our Prayers and Sympathy

to the family and friends of
LINDA BRANNON

November 24, 1950 -- July 18, 2022

Visitation on Tuesday, July 26, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Amos-Carvelli Funeral Home
Memorial Service on Wednesday, July 27, 11:00 a.m., at First United Methodist Church



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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If you know of someone who is in the hospital, nursing home, or has a need,
please let Rev. Jenkins know.

Reverend Harry Jenkins at 304-280-0592