

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

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Rev. Michael O. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

Brett Miller, Director of Music

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



December 11, 2022  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
Lessons and Carols

**CALL TO WORSHIP** - - - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - First Church Men's Ensemble

**WORDS OF WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS** - - - - - Pastor Michael Atkinson

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE** - - - - - **JOY**  
Mary and Patrick Lonergan

**Leader:** The Advent season continues. Again, we light the candles of hope and peace, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

**People:** **We are a people of hope, a people of peace, and a people of joy.**

**Leader:** So today, we light the candle of joy, remembering the joy the shepherds felt when told of the birth Jesus Christ.

**People:** **We rejoice in the "good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."**

**Leader:** Let us pray. . .

**All:** **Loving God, thank you for the joy you bring to us.  
Help us prepare our heads and our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship.  
Help us to hear and to do your word as we journey through this advent season. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

## THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ,  
this Christmas Season it is our duty and delight  
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,  
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,  
and see this thing which is come to pass,  
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture  
the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin  
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;  
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,  
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;  
for peace upon the earth he came to save;  
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;  
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember  
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;  
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;  
the aged and the little children;  
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,  
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us,  
but upon another shore and in a greater light,  
that multitude which no one can number,  
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,  
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,  
in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

## 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.**

**FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3: 8-19 ----- Adam and Eve rebel against God**

Liturgist: Carla Chipps

*The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."*

*Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."*

*And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

**The Carol ----- "Come, O Redeemer, Come" / Fernando Ortega**

First Church Family Choir

*Father enthroned on high, holy, holy; ancient eternal Light, hear our prayer.*

*Lord, save us from the dark of our striving, faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.*

*Come, O Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.*

*Come, O Redeemer, come, grant us peace.*

*Look now upon our need, Lord, be with us. Heal us and make us free from our sin.*

*Come, O Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.*

*Come, O Redeemer, come, grant us peace.*

**SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-4a, 5-10----- Zion restored:**

all creation will see God's glory

Liturgist: Kate Thrush

*The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come."*

*Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.*

*And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away*

**The Carol-----"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Michael Larkin**

First Church Family Choir

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.*

*Of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old hath sung.*

*It came a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,*

*With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.*

*To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.*

**THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 -----** The prophet announces the birth of a king  
to a people in darkness

Liturgist: Anita Burns

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

**The Carol-----"Carol of the Bells"**

arr. Douglas Mears

First Church Handbells

**THE FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 -----** -God's kingdom of Peace and Justice  
comes to all creation

Liturgist: Evangeline Samples

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;*

*The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

**The Carol-----"We Shall Be Known"**

Karisha Longaker/MaMuse; translated by Bill Henderson

Dr. Debra Dean Murphy, Dr. Jessica Scott, Brett Miller -- vocals

*We shall be known by the company we keep, by the ones who circle round to tend these fires.*

*We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap  
the seeds of change, alive from deep within the earth*

*It is time, now, it is time now that we thrive.*

*It is time we lead ourselves into the well.*

*It is time now, and what a time to be alive.*

*In this Great Turning we shall learn to lead in love.*

**THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38 - - - The Angel of God appears to the Virgin Mary**

Liturgist: Sarah Winters

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The LORD is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.*

*The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the LORD God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"*

*The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the LORD; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

**The Carol #240-----"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

Congregation, organ, and bells

**THE SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1 - 7 -----Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus**

Liturgist: Teresa Gouer

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.*

*While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

**The Carol -----"Love Came Down at Christmas"**

Arr. by Sam Batt Owens

First Church Family Choir and Handbells

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?  
Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign.*

*Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine;  
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.  
Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign.*

**THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2: 8-16** -----The Angels appeared to the shepherd  
Liturgist: Brett Miller

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the LORD stood before them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified.*

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see -- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the LORD. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the LORD has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.*

**The Carol-----"Still, Still, Still"**

Arr. By David Naylor

Robert Skidmore, violin; Dr. Jessica Scott, piano

**THE EIGHTH LESSON: Mathew 2: 1 -12** ----- The wise men follow a star  
Liturgist: Rev. Harry Jenkins

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"*

*Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

**The Carol-----"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"**

Arr. By John Innes

Dr. Jessica Scott, piano; Brett Miller, organ

**THE NINTH LESSON: John 1: 1-14** -----John unfolds the Mystery of the Incarnation  
Liturgist: Pastor Michael Atkinson

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

**THE CAROL # 246** ----- **"Joy to the World"**

**BENEDICTION** -----Pastor Atkinson

**POSTLUDE** -- "Break Forth, O beauteous Heavenly Light" / arr. Maxwell"-----Dr. Scott

Thanks to Jeanie and Mike Dyer  
for the beautiful door wreathes.

Thanks to Frank McKinney and Keith Murphy for hanging  
the balcony garland provided by former member David Young.

Thanks to David and Cindy Conway for sprucing up  
the front sign board.

Thanks to Randy Matheny for repairing the Blessing Box.

Thanks to Cyndi Jamison Shaver for the garland and candles  
on the Advent Wreath

Thanks to so many other "elves" who make good things happen!





Contact Tammy Matheny at 304-476-2015

if you would like information about our Prayer Chain.



If you have yet to submit your 2023 Pledge Card, please mail it to the church, or simply place it in a Sunday collection plate.



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(follow us on Facebook) First United Methodist Church of Clarksburg

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- 304-623-3397

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Pastor Harry Jenkins -- 304-280-0592

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH**

Mon., Dec. 12th -- A Candlelight Christmas Concert with the Clarksburg Madrigals  
7:00 p.m. -- \$5.00 admission (children 12 and younger are free)

Tue., Dec. 13th -- Monastic Meal -- Parlor

Tue., Dec. 13th -- Finance Committee -- Parlor

Thur. Dec. 15th -- Women of First Church Christmas Luncheon (contact Shirley Murphy for details)

Thur. Dec. 15th -- Prayer Shaw Ministry -- Parlor

Sun., Dec. 18th -- Morning Worship: "Reclaiming Christmas -- Love"

Sun., Dec. 18th -- "A Blue Christmas" Parish Service.

Pastor Atkinson is the preacher for this 7:00 p.m., at North View United Methodist

Mon., Dec. 19th -- Feed My Sheep Christmas Luncheon at noon

Wed., Dec. 21st -- Church Family Christmas Dinner (*In place of the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service*)

The evening will conclude with our candles raised and our voices singing "Silent Night"

Sat., Dec. 24th -- A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25th -- Christmas Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

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