

**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”*



March 12, 2023

10:45 a.m.

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“Third Sunday in Lent”

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE - “Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless” / Cherwien - -Brett Miller

\*CALL TO WORSHIP ----- Rev. Harry Jenkins

Leader: O come, let us sing to our God and make a joyful noise  
to the rock of our salvation.

People: We lift our hearts and voices in joy and thanksgiving  
for being here together in the presence of our beloved God.

Leader: Come, let us worship this amazing God, for we belong to God.

People: We will listen for God’s word and live in the hope it inspires.

\*OPENING PRAYER

Loving and caring God, we come this morning in hope— hope that will sustain us in our trying times, our lonely times, our doubting times. Refresh us this morning with the living water of your presence and love. Open us to the possibilities of friendship — the possibilities of encountering you in unexpected ways, the possibilities of seeing the miraculous in everyday life. Amen.

\*HYMN #479 ----- “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 - "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed/Amazing Grace" - arr. Mahnke  
*Robert Skidmore, violin; Brett Miller, organ*

GOSPEL LESSON - - - - - John 4:5-42

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

She said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.

They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

SERMON -----“Unexpected Conversations” -----Pastor Atkinson  
*(You are encouraged to use this space for notes)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of living waters, we confess that we have often turned from you and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt. Our thirst mounts daily, seeking to be quenched by your redeeming love.

Yet, when that love is offered to us, we again turn away, unable to truly believe that you would actually heal and love us. We have behaved in very unloving ways. We have chosen to ignore those in need or to deal only passively with them. Our hearts are not placed in service to others, but rather in self-serving motives. Heal us, merciful God. Wash us again in the living water. Help us be faithful servants. AMEN

*(Silent prayers of Confession may be offered at this time.)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The waters of mercy and healing are poured over you. God is loving and faithful to those who come to God. Come, seek the loving presence and be healed. AMEN.

\*HYMN #2133 (The Faith We Sing) -----“Give Me a Clean Heart”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE -----“Variations on ‘Wondrous Love’”/Eggert -----Mr. Miller

**NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH**

**WINTER SHELTER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

During worship next Sunday morning, we will take time to express our appreciation to those who have worked countless hours and to those who have given generously of food and money to assist the homeless in our neighborhood throughout the winter.

We especially wish to thank the coordinators of this ministry, Diana Higginbotham and Shelley Spellman.

**UMCOR SUNDAY**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief does incredible work on our behalf throughout the world. 100% of our gifts through UMCOR goes to that work.

There will be an envelope in next week’s bulletin for any donation you may wish to make.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- 304-623-3397

Pastor Michael Atkinson -- 304-771-3309

Pastor Harry Jenkins -- 304-280-0592



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fumc@citynet.net



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### WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH

All women are invited to come to our luncheon meeting  
**Thursday, March 16, at noon, in our parlor**  
Contact Shirley Murphy, 513-600-8469 or 304-623-5098,  
if you can attend.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

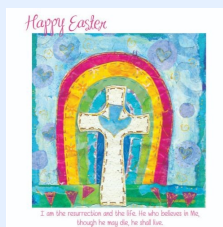
Sunday, March 12/19/26 -- Confirmation Class at 12:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Monday, March 13th -- Vision Team meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Tuesday, March 14th -- Monastic Meal at 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 16th - Prayer Shawl Ministry at 5:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Twelve-Step Meetings (7 sessions each week) -- Monday through Thursday -- Library  
Winter Shelter -- nightly from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.



### OUR EASTER PROGRAM: "THE GLORIOUS RAINBOW OF EASTER"

Practices for "The Glorious Rainbow of Easter", will be held on the following dates **after church**:  
March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, and April 2nd. \ Rehearsals will last 30 minutes or less.  
Any child, youth, or adult that would like to participate is encouraged to stay for the rehearsals.

On Easter Sunday, April 9th, all participants in the Easter program are asked to be at the church by 10:15 am for quick run through before presenting it to the congregation.  
**(Also, the Children's Church choir will be singing on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.)**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SHELLEY SPELLMAN AT 304-669-8461

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

