

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 19, 2023

10:45 a.m.

“Fourth Sunday in Lent”

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE -----Dr. Jessica Scott

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

Leader: Once you lived in darkness.

People: Now the light of God has shone upon us.

Leader: Find what is pleasing to God and follow God’s ways.

People: The acts of darkness are left behind as we journey to God’s light.

Leader: Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

People: Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your light of salvation. AMEN.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness, and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

***HYMN #57 (selected verses)** ----- “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

WINTER SHELTER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM - - "Give Me Jesus" - - - -African-American Spiritual

FUMC Family Choir

In the morning when I rise (3x) give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, You can may have all this world, give me Jesus

I heard my mother say (3x) give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, You can may have all this world, give me Jesus

Dark midnight was my cry (3x) give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, You can may have all this world, give me Jesus

Oh, when I come to die (3x) give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, You can may have all this world, give me Jesus

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.

GOSPEL LESSON - - - - - John 9:1-41

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

"How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees he who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." Others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

(You are encouraged to use this space for notes)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Even though you have lived in darkness, God’s light is being poured out for you. Accept the light and love that is freely offered, and be transformed by its healing mercies. AMEN.

*HYMN #451 -----”Be Thou My Vision”

*BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Go gently, go lightly, go safe in the Spirit,
live simply, don't carry much more than you need:
go trusting God's goodness, go spreading God's kindness,
stay centered on Jesus and where he will lead.

Go singing, go bringing the gifts of the Spirit,
go hopefully searching for things that are true:
in living, in loving, whatever befalls you,
God keep you, God bless you in all that you do.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- 304-623-3397

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Pastor Harry Jenkins -- 304-280-0592



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



Bring family (& friends) to our 1st family fun night at First Church!



Children & adults of all ages are welcome to come for an evening of fun that includes decorating Easter eggs.

Next Sunday, March 26 at 4:30 pm in the Dining Hall.

Questions? Call Leah Wray (304-672-2096) / Renae Payne (304-669-6025).

RSVP's are appreciated but not required.

Snacks, eggs and coloring supplies will be provided.

We can't wait to kick off our 1st family fun night with you!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

Today after worship -- Confirmation Class with Pastor Mike -- Parlor

Tuesday, March 21st -- Monastic Meal at 12:15 p.m. -- Parlor

Tuesday, March 21st -- Outreach Meeting at 5:00 p.m. -- Groom's Room

Tuesday, March 21st -- Finance Committee at 5:00 p.m. -- Parlor

Tuesday, March 21st -- Church Council at 6:00 p.m. -- Parlor

Wednesday, March 22nd -- Study with Rev. Jenkins at 6:00 p.m. -- Parlor

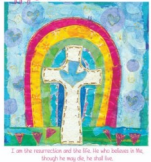
Thursday, March 23rd - Prayer Shawl Ministry at 5:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Thursday, March 23rd -- Study with Pastor Atkinson at 6:00 p.m. -- Parlor

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



Happy Easter



OUR EASTER PROGRAM: "THE GLORIOUS RAINBOW OF EASTER"

Practices will be held on the following dates **after church**: March 19th, March 26th, and April 2nd.

(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.**

