

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

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



May 21, 2023  
Ascension Sunday

WORDS OF WELCOME

ORGAN PRELUDE ----- -Dr. Jessica Scott

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise God, who has raised Jesus Christ to reign in power!

People: Praise God, who sends the Spirit to empower the church

Leader: Praise God with trumpet sound; praise God with flute and harp!

People: Praise God with timbrel and dance; praise God with strings and pipes!

ALL: Let everything that breathes praise God!

## \*OPENING PRAYER

Great and loving God, we who come to worship are also persons who sometimes feel that you have abandoned us or left us to fend for ourselves. Although we rely upon your ever-presence, we suspect your absence. Encourage us, O God, when we doubt your promise to be with us always.

In our worship, grant us the gifts of discernment and hope. Enable us to recognize your workings in the commonplace and the everyday. Open us to faith and help us to perceive not only what is, but also what, by your grace, might be.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*HYMN #57, v. 1-5-----"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS ----- -Shelley Spellman

## OFFERTORY - -"Eden's Song" / arr. M. Schweizer - -First Church Family Choir

*A memory of Eden stirs, and walks within the warmth of spring.*

*It whispers every hope God has to Life Eternal, listening.*

*Stretch past the gloom of winter's grey, unfurl by faith and not by sight,  
To touch the light of lengthening day that calls thee forth to green delight.*

*The season of new growth begins, embrace the promise we all share,*

*Lift every voice and celebrate the Living God, who's always there.*

## PASTORAL 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.

### A PRAYER FOR OUR GRADUATES

May God's bright flame from the lamp of knowledge guide you.

May God's warm glow of the Holy Scriptures comfort you.

May the baptismal waters of God continue to refresh you,

May your Soul always be fed at Christ's table,

May your Heart always be open in the presence of the Holy Spirit,

May your mind be transformed in the mighty presence of the Great "I Am."

God is with you. God is with us. Go with God. Amen.

## PSALTER LESSON --UM Hymnal pg. 78I (with response) - - - - - Psalm 47

## GOSPEL LESSON - - - - - Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

SERMON - - - - - "Getting on the Right Mountain" - - - - - -Rev. Jenkins  
*(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)*

\*HYMN #571 - - - - - "Go, Make of all Disciples"

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE - - - - - -Dr. Scott



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

May 22 -- Spring Concert by the Clarksburg Madrigals  
(see separate notice)

May 28 and June 4 -- Bell Choir Rehearsals at 9:30 a.m.

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

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

**Please feel free to call or send a text to....**

**Pastor Michael Atkinson at 304-771-3309 or Reverend Harry Jenkins at 304-280-0592**



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



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **"Sing We, and Chant It"**

**The Madrigal Singers in Concert --Tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.**

Come enjoy a delightful evening of music in our majestic sanctuary!  
\$5.00 admission including refreshments Children 12 & under -- free



### **CHURCH FAMILY BANQUET**

On Sunday, June 25th, following worship  
you are invited to a prepared lasagna dinner -- all for free!

**Watch for more details, but save the date.**



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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