

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"*

October 17, 2021
LAITY SUNDAY

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

PRELUDE - "Open Our Eyes/Be Thou My Vision" arr. M. Hayes - Dr. Jessica Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On Laity Sunday we celebrate that we are called.

People: Both Laity and Clergy are called to go and make disciples.

Leader: What are disciples to do?

People: Help a world so desperately in need of hope and love,
through our humble witnessing.

Leader: Witnessing is simply telling what we know or have experienced.

It is not defending the faith, nor defining doctrine, nor denouncing the sins of the world.

People: God has not called us to be lawyers, but he has called us to be witnesses;
...simply telling about something wonderful that has happened to us,
and how others could have the same.

ALL: WITNESSING IS ONE POOR BEGGAR TELLING ANOTHER
POOR BEGGAR WHERE TO FIND BREAD.

OPENING PRAYER

Help me, Lord, to remember religion is not to be confined to the church, or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but everywhere I am in thy presence; so my words and actions have moral content. So, may all the happenings of my life prove useful and beneficial to me. May all things instruct me and afford me an opportunity for exercising some virtue and daily learning and growing toward Thy likeness. Amen.

HYMN #277-----"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

PEOPLE'S PRAYER AND 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.

INTRODUCTION OF WITNESSES - - -Judy Burns, First Church Lay Leader

Candy Atkinson

Anita Burns

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

CHORAL OFFERING-----"Tell Me the Old, Old Story"

Tell me the old, old story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
Tell me the story simply, as to a little child;
For I am weak and weary, and helpless and defiled.
Tell me the old, old story.....of Jesus and His love.

Tell me the story slowly, that I may take it in -
That wonderful redemption, God's remedy for sin.
Tell me the story often, for I forget so soon;
The early dew of morning has passed away at noon.
Tell me the old, old story.....of Jesus and His love.

Tell me the same old story when you have cause to fear
That this world's empty glory is costing me too dear.
Tell me the story always, if you would really be,
In any time of trouble, a comforter to me.
Tell me the old, old story.....of Jesus and His love.

SCRIPTURE LESSON - - - - I Corinthians 9:19-27 (*paraphrase from The Message*)

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life.

I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!

You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally.

I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No lazy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

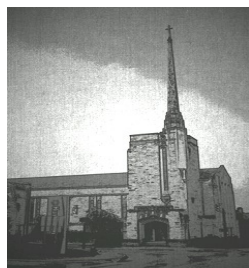
A CROWD OF WITNESSES

- Carl Lantz
- Evangeline Samples
- Lorie Wyant
- Don Gardner
- Judy Burns

HYMN #156 - - - - - "I Love to Tell the Story"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - - - - - "Give Thanks" arr. Mark Hayes - - - - - Dr. Scott



*Our appreciation to all the witnesses
for assisting with today's worship service*



BLESSING BOXES

Fulfilling Christ's command to "feed my sheep", Blessing Boxes are scattered throughout Clarksburg. One is right outside our 2nd Street entrance.

Claim a Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday to fill the Box with drinks and non-perishable/"ready to eat" foods. **Please remember when choosing items to folks likely do not have access to stoves, ovens, refrigeration, pots, pans, or even a can opener. Thanks!**

Some supplies are here at the church, or donate your own.

CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP! 623-3397



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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CHILDREN AND WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

On October 3rd, we resumed our practices of:
...offering a Children's Sermon within morning worship,
...providing Children's Church during a portion of the worship hour.

Children's Church will be held in Rooms 207/209, under the leadership of Candy Atkinson.

Because we follow "Safe Sanctuary" practices here at First Church,
A 2nd adult is required to be in the room ... so we need your help!

If you can assist Candy with this ministry, please contact her at 304-771-2360.

