

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

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*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 31, 2021  
Reformation Sunday

WORDS OF WELCOME - - - - - Pastor Michael Atkinson

PRELUDE - "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" /arr. P. Manz - Dr. Scott

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Throughout all our lives God is with us.

People: Praise be to God for God's mercy and love.

Leader: Even when we are faced with difficult decisions, God's presence is near.

People: When we don't know which way to go, God will guide and lead us.

Leader: Open your hearts today to God's gently leading.

People: We open our lives to God, that we may faithfully serve God all our days.

## OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we gather here this day in praise and thanksgiving for all the wonderful things you have done for us. Help us to be faithful disciples in all that we think, do and say, that your great love may be revealed and offer healing to all people.  
AMEN.

HYMN #110 - - - - - "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

## 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.

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR

#### MUSICAL OFFERTORY - - - - - "Give Me Jesus" / arr. Howard Helvey

*Brett Miller, tenor   Robert Skidmore, violin   Dr. Jessica Scott, piano*

*I heard my mother say (3x), give me Jesus (3x).  
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.*

*Dark midnight was my cry (3x), give me Jesus (3x).  
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.*

*Oh, when I come to die (3x), give me Jesus (3x).  
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.*

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON - - - - - Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbor as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.'

When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

SERMON----- “The Litmus Test” -----Pastor Atkinson  
(*You are encouraged to use this space for notes.*)

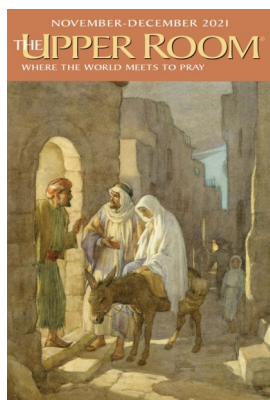
INVITATION

HYMN #368 ----- “My Hope Is Built”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ----- “Toccata in d” / J.S. Bach-----Dr. Jessica Scott

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***November-December issues of the Upper Room  
are now available.***

***Check on the credenza in the Narthex,  
or contact the church office at 304-623-3397.***

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY AT FIRST CHURCH

All Saints is a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place.

We celebrate the communion of saints as we remember the dead,  
Both of the Church universal and of our local congregations.

Here at First Church, the names of persons in relationship with our church family who have died during the past year will be read. There will also be a time for the naming of others by the congregation.





### HOLIDAY “FOOD BASKET” GIVING TREE



The Giving Tree is in place in our sanctuary until November 21. We are collecting food for at least 9 baskets to be handed out prior to Thanksgiving (and again at Christmas).

Please take leaves from the tree and return the items to the tree area, or to the volunteer desk (by 2nd St/Parlor door) by November 21.

We also have 10 “Adopt a Child” tickets from the Salvation Army. If you wish to have one of these, please contact Nancy Ferber at 304-476-0566.

“Thanks!” from the Outreach Committee.



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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### CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT FIRST CHURCH

We are continuing our ministry with the kids of First Church.

Candy Atkinson provides leadership on Sunday mornings during “Children’s Church” the Mezzanine Classroom (2nd floor).

Don Gardner will guide the youth in activities in worship, service, and fellowship.

In all events, we follow “Safe Sanctuary” practices here at First Church, A 2nd adult is required to be in the room ... so your help is always welcome!

