

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 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

PRELUDE ----- "Andante Sostenuto" / A. Guilmant ----- Dr. Jessica Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Throughout God's world this day Christian churches are celebrating communion as one family dining together in one room under one roof

People: **Our sisters and brothers in Africa, Europe, Central America, Asia, and in all lands and countries join us in lifting the bread of life and the cup of salvation.**

Leader: Neither powers nor principalities shall stop us nor deter our purpose, our sense of mission, or our challenge to go forth as disciples into every town, village, and crossroad proclaiming the love of Christ for all creation.

People: **In Christ's love there is no East, no West, no North, no South, but only one Spirit of hope, love, and peace for all.**

Leader: Let us praise Christ! May this holy meal empower each of us to be agents of hope and peace in a time of uncertainty and strife.

People: **The bread and wine are not for us alone, but are symbols of a universal message that surpasses the might of missiles, the walls of oppression, and disunity and fear that abounds.**

Leader: May Christ bless the worldwide communion of the church this day!

People: **Praise be to Christ our Creator, Redeemer, and Savior! Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of mercy and compassion, be with us this day as we hear of the healing love of Jesus. Remind us that we are also recipients of his compassion and we are called to bring the same hope and love to others. Prepare us for service in His Name. AMEN.

HYMN #620-----“One Bread, One Body”

SCRIPTURE LESSON -----Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love

SERMON-----“One” ----- Pastor Atkinson
(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

(additional space for sermon notes)

CALL TO COMMUNION ----- “Eat this Bread” / Jacques Berthier

*Robert Skidmore, violin; Don Gardner, tenor
Brett Miller, clarinet/tenor; Dr. Jessica Scott, piano*

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in me and you will not thirst.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Lord, you know that we are stubborn and willful. We believe that we know the right way to do everything and to heal all the troubles of the world. We resort to extraordinary means to provide healing only to find that we have not placed our trust in your redeeming love. Our efforts fall far short of the goal of reconciliation. Forgive us our stubbornness and arrogance. Heal our wounded souls and restore hope and compassion to our relationships with you and with each other. Lift us up and cause us to serve you by serving others in this world. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God’s love and restoring mercy are poured out for us. Receive these blessings, for we are loved by God and granted forgiveness and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we are all forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thank to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. . . .

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. . . .

...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine...

...through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

HYMN #191-----"Jesus Loves Me"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ----- "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" /Bish-----Dr. Scott





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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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CHILDREN AND WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

Beginning Sunday, October 3rd, we will resume our practice 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.

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

