

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

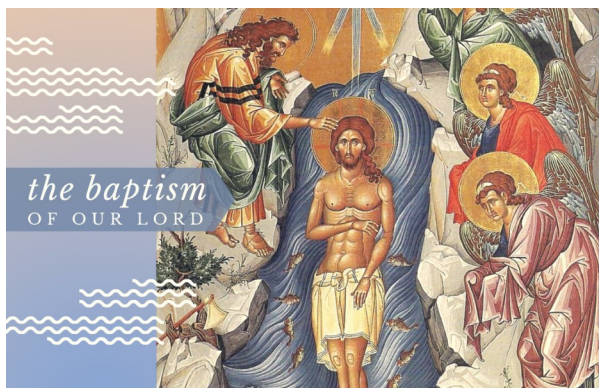
Phone: 304.623.3397

email: cfumc@citynet.net

Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

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



February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

WORDS OF WELCOME -----Rev. Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE -----Dr. Jessica Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The bags are packed and set for the journey. Are you ready?

People: Not really. We have so much still to do.

Leader: The Lord calls to us now. The Peace of God is at hand.

People: What will be required of us for this journey?

Leader: Open your hearts and spirits. Take the risk of discipleship.

People: Lord, help us to be ready. Calm our fears as we step forward in faith. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER *(Unison)*

The season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. AMEN.

HYMN -----"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us to overcome our sins, and close by You to stay.

And through these days of penitence, and through Your Passion-tide,
For evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that, when this life of suffering is past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

CALL TO CONFESSION -----“O Lord, Have Mercy” ----- Children of First Church
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We have lists of things to do, for all the areas of our lives. Our lives are so time bound and duty bound that we feel imprisoned in them. Now we are challenged by Christ to take a journey of discipleship. We don't feel ready for this journey. We need more time. And we complain and cry about how much we have to do.

Forgive us, Lord, when we place so many "duties" in the path to serving you. Reset our priorities so that we will be ready to commit our lives in your service. Lord, help us to be ready when you call us. Help us to courageously answer the summons you bring. Let us place our trust in you in all things. AMEN.

(silent confession)

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

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.

SONG ----- “Come, Yes Sinners, Poor and Wretched” - -arr. Tedd Smith & Don Hustad
Dr. Jessica Scott, piano; Brett Miller, organ

GOSPEL LESSON----- Mark I:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’



SERMON -----“Our Lenten Journey: Discerning the Essentials” -----Rev. Atkinson
(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

HYMN -----“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
He had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;
He had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley;
We have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;
We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial;
You have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you;
You have to stand it by yourself.

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE ----- Dr. Jessica Scott



Easter Giving Tree!

Again this year, for those in need,
we will provide "Easter Baskets" full of food.

Here's how you can help:

Beginning Feb. 16th and continuing throughout Lent,
our church will be open
on Tues/Wed/Thur, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Doors near parlor entrance).

An "Easter Tree" with tags of items needed for the baskets
is on display immediately inside that entrance.

Instructions will be on the back of the tags.

Food needs to be at church by **March 25th**.

Let's make this a special Easter for our sisters and brothers in need!

Distributions will be made on **March 30th**.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Moorhead at 304-677-9859
or Anita Burns at 304-203-1279.

