

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304.623.3397 email: cfumc@citynet.net

Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Pastor

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



July 23, 2023
Sunday Worship
10:45 a.m.

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE ---"What Wondrous Love" / arr. McCarthy -----Don Gardner

*CALL TO WORSHIP -----Audra Skidmore, Liturgist

Leader: Weeds and seeds, growing together.

People: Each will influence the other.

Leader: What will we learn from the weeds?

People: Trials and tribulations, choices that have not always worked out. Weeds can teach us about perseverance — consider the tough dandelion plant pushing its way up through the pavement — for some it's just a weed, but for others there are lessons to be learned.

Leader: What will be gained from seeds?

People: Inside each one of us is a special person, waiting to be nurtured to wholeness. Each seed is unique; each has its own gifts to offer.

Leader: In God's garden, God's love extends to both – asking both to consider what each has to offer to a hurting world.

People: Lord, help us to be good seeds, bearing fruits of kindness, justice, and compassion. Keep us mindful of those for whom life has been difficult and yet they persist in trying to make each day better. Be in our hearts, O Lord, and in our lives.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of surprises, we come here from the weariness of the week, from various triumphs, from fears and doubts. Open our hearts to receive your surprising message of hope for all people, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

*HYMN #399-----“Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated”

*PASSING OF GOD’S PEACE

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

OFFERTORY-----“I Sing the Mighty Power of God” ---First Church Ringers

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON----- Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ “An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

“No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

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

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*HYMN #224I (The Faith We Sing)----- “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG RESPONSE #2190, v. 3 -----“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

ORGAN POSTLUDE -- “Festive Trumpet Tune” / David German ---Mr. Gardner

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, nursing home, has a need from the church,
or would like a visit, please contact Pastor Atkinson.

**Please feel free to call or send a text to
Pastor Michael Atkinson at 304-771-3309**

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



New First Church Men's Group!

This Tuesday, July 25, at either 8:00AM or 6:00PM, all men are invited to join Pastor Mike for a meal, fellowship, conversation and devotion at the FOP Restaurant in Nutter Fort.

Please let Pastor Mike know today which time (8:00 AM or 6:00 PM) you prefer .

NEXT WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH!

**Fifth Sunday Fellowship Worship in the Dining Hall
Covered-dish Brunch at 10:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:45 a.m.**



Administrative Assistant Position at First Church

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is receiving applications for the Administrative Assistant position at FUMC.

Candidates should provide a resume and cover letter expressing interest in the position to cfumc@citynet.net, no later than Thursday, August 3, 2023.



Greater Clarksburg United Methodist Churches *PICNIC to CELEBRATE PARISH CLERGY!*

Sunday, August 6, 1:30 p.m.

Freedom Shelter at the Riverbend (VA) Park

We are to bring desserts to share---all else will be provided!



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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