

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Pastor

Rev. Anna Troy, Deacon Don Gardner, Director of Music

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

July 7, 2024
Morning Worship
10:45 a.m.



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

PRELUDE ----- "Berceuse" ----- Gabriel Faure

Sandy Gore, flute; Don Gardner, piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved, when our bodies feel unable and incapable, and the voices all around us disparage and criticize our bodies as weak and worthless, God calls to us...

People: **Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.**

Leader: When we persist in the false belief that we should and must do everything on our own, never asking for help and persisting in our drive for full independence, God calls to us...

People: **Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.**

Leader: When we feel shame because we need help, and the deep vulnerability of our needs pierces our hearts, God calls to us...

People: **Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.**

Leader: Listen! Pay attention! God calls to us in our weakness, not to erase our frailties or bemoan all the things society may tell us we lack, but to empower us within the vulnerability of our humanness, naming us *Beloved* in the fullness of who we are.

People: May we open our hearts in worship to receive the goodness in our weakness and the power in the strength of God's love for all of God's vulnerable creation. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2024.

*OPENING HYMN #354 ----- "I Surrender All"

*OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, Who opens our hearts to the mysteries of faith in ordinary and extraordinary moments, come near to us today. Make known among us and within us your strength, that we might experience your power that uses what the powers of this world call weakness to demonstrate your Almighty love to all creation. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2024.

*PASSING OF GOD'S PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE LESSON----- 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Merciful God, of what do we boast? Can we truly say with Paul that we do not boast about ourselves or our achievements? Does the danger in such thinking lie in the next step—the thought that we can do anything, or all things—by ourselves?

People: Forgive us the times when we ignore you, O God, and depend on our own strength to do things our own way.

Leader: Paul talks about power being made perfect in weakness.

People: Forgive us for believing that we have to be hard and domineering if we want to get ahead in life.

Leader: Paul says that he boasts of his weaknesses so that the power of Christ may dwell in him.

People: Forgive us when we use our power selfishly or aggressively, ignoring that indwelling, Christ-given power which frees us to be vulnerable.

Leader: Jesus says "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." Permeate our lives with your grace, Lord, so that we can affirm with Paul that we are content with weaknesses for your sake, and fill us with the knowledge that it is when we allow ourselves to be empowered by you, that we are truly strong.

People: Amen.

ASSURANCE AND PARDON

Leader: Hear again the good news: that Jesus' grace is sufficient for us all—sufficient for us to be forgiven in his name. Receive that grace and rejoice in the power to live in his strength.

People: Thanks be to God!

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY-----U.M. Hymnal #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit; Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 thanks 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

People: 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 names 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...

People: 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. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood...
...By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast as his heavenly banquet. 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

"Here I am Lord" arr. Joel Raney - - - - - Sandy Gore, Flute; Don Gardner, Piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN #365 - - - - - "Grace Greater Than Our Sin"

*BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, nursing home, has a need from the church, or would like a visit, **Please feel free to call or send a text to Pastor Michael Atkinson at 304-771-3309**

Today's Worship Participants

Ushers: Curt Diaz, Roxane Panarella, Wesley and Jackson Walls

Acolyte: Altar: Carolyn Yost

Communion Steward: Janie Jenkins



Lord in your Mercy,

Hear our Prayers

- The children of FUMC
- John & Charlene Cathell
- Jay Grega
- Family of Edith Davisson
- Jane Lynn Squires
- Beth Bryant-Barranco
- Harry & Joretta Lewis
- Kyle Harris
- Summer camps and programs working with youth

THIS WEEK AT FUMC

- **Tuesday, July 9**— Monastic Meal, 12:15 p.m.
 - **July 10-12**— VBS, 5-8 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- **Monday, July 15**—Feed My Sheep, Noon
- **Thursday July 18**—Women's Luncheon at Kelly Miller Community Center, Noon
- **Sunday, July 21** — Greater Clarksburg Cooperative Parish Picnic, *more info to come*

Women of FUMC Luncheon

Thursday, July 18 at Noon

Kelly Miller Community Center

For questions and to RSVP talk with Anita Burns or Shirley Murphy.

FUMC T-Shirt Sale

Ends July 8th

Available in 6 different colors, sizes YXS-XXXXL

Link to buy is on Facebook,

see Leah for help ordering

Proceeds benefit VBS 2024

"Friends Feeding Friends" is a community group that meets outside our church every Wednesday evening to provide a meal to anyone in need. (approx. 150 people each week)
FUMC will be providing that meal on July 17th and help is needed!

connect with us



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cfumc@citynet.net

scan the QR Code with your mobile phone camera for easy access to our Facebook and YouTube accounts



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