

# 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"*



May 7, 2023

10:45 a.m.

Celebration of Holy Communion

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE ----- Dr. Jessica Scott

\*CALL TO WORSHIP ----- Rev. Harry Jenkins

Leader:        Come, all of you who feel lost, alienated, alone.

*Right Side:    At one time we felt that way – we didn't belong anywhere.*

Left Side:     We just wanted somewhere to be.

Leader:        Christ, the Strong Cornerstone of our house, welcomes you.

*Right Side:    Once we were no people*

Left Side:     Now we are God's people.

*Right Side:    Once we had no place to dwell*

Left Side:     Now we live and abide in God's love.

Leader:        Thanks be to God for God's gracious love and hospitality.

\*OPENING PRAYER

God, you are the source of life. Gather us now together, we pray. Form us into a holy community of your own people, molding us by the breath of your Holy Spirit, and revealing in this corporate body the face of your anointed Christ. Amen.

\*HYMN #126----- "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR

### SCRIPTURE LESSON ----- I Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him--you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### SERMON-----”Under Construction” ----- Pastor Atkinson

*(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)*

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you encourage us with your love, bringing new life out of death. We confess that we need your life-giving power in our lives and our relationships. We have hurt others and been hurt by them. We are often angry or afraid. We are not sure when to assert our needs and when to care for others' needs. We continue to live in ways which do not lead to peace and justice.

Forgive us, O God. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and healing upon us, that by our lives and our loving, we may glorify you, through Jesus Christ the Risen One. Amen.

*(Silent Prayers of Confession Offered)*

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ, our cornerstone and our salvation, offers to us hope and comfort. In the name of Christ, we are all forgiven! AMEN.

### 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. 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. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.

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 at 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

MUSIC FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS- - - - First Church Handbells  
*"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"/ arr. McChesney*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN #617 ----- "I Come With Joy"

ORGAN POSTLUDE ----- Dr. Scott

**CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT (C.O.M.E.)**

Here at First Church on Saturday, May 13, 2:00 p.m.

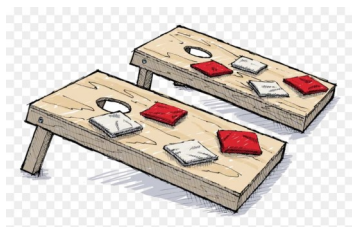
**Donations this year will benefit:**

The Ebenezer Community Outreach Center  
The Heart and Hand House Outreach Ministries

**How can we help?**

Come attend the event... learn more about these UM missions...  
bring donations (see below)...  
enjoy fellowship with other United Methodist churches in our area

There will be hot dogs and drinks to purchase,  
and a bake sale!



And there is a **Corn-Hole Tournament** to raise money for missions!  
\$20 per team (2 persons) Can't find a partner?  
Come and we'll pair you up with another person.  
Also, the securing of sponsors is encouraged.  
To register, contact Pastor Michael!

**What donations are needed?**

Ebenezer: copy paper, paint brushes, playdough, blocks, baby dolls, baby wipes, Lysol

Heart and Hand: adult hygiene items, kids' pull-ups size 4t-5t,  
size 4 diapers, cleaning supplies, soup, rice, pasta





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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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### UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

Tuesday, May 9th -- Monastic Meal at 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 11th -- Prayer Shawl at 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 13 -- Celebration of Mission Event from 2 to 4 p.m. (see separate announcement)

Monday, May 15th -- Feed My Sheep at noon

Tuesday, May 16th -- Outreach and Finance at 5 p.m.; Church Council at 6 p.m.

May 14 and 21 -- Family Choir Rehearsal at 9:45 a.m.

May 28 and June 4 -- Bell Choir Rehearsals at 9:30 a.m.

Twelve-Step Meetings (7 sessions each week) -- Monday through Thursday -- Library  
Winter Shelter -- nightly from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

### Sing We, and Chant It

**The Madrigal Singers in Concert --Monday, May 22nd, at 7:00 p.m.**

Come enjoy a delightful evening of music in our majestic sanctuary!

\$5.00 admission including refreshments Children 12 & under -- free



### MOTHER/DAUGHTER + FATHER/SON + GRAND-AGERS = CHURCH FAMILY BANQUET!!

On Sunday, June 25th, following worship

you are invited to a prepared lasagna dinner -- all for free!

This celebration is in lieu of the several other events that often occur in Spring

---a chance for all of us to gather together for this Church Family Banquet!

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

