

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

Dr. Jessica Scott, Organist

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

April 6, 2025
Morning Worship
10:45 a.m.



WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE

Dr. Jessica Scott

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based upon Psalm 126

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

People: Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy;

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

People: Restore our fortunes, O Lord.

Leader: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

People: May those who went off with heavy hearts come home with laughter and rejoicing.

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ‘Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?’ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Extravagant Love”

Deacon Anna Troy

(You are encouraged to use this space for notes)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, which, we believe, justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we focus on a perceived golden past, and so we ignore the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus.

Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem.

Moment of Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Adapted from Thom Shuman, posted at <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=2008>.

*PASSING OF GOD'S PEACE

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Dr. Scott

*DOXOLOGY

U.M.H #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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:

Sung Response -----The Faith We Sing #2257 (b)

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! 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...

Sung Response -----The Faith We Sing #2257 (c)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

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.

Sung Response -----The Faith We Sing #2257 (d)

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM “Create in Me a Clean Heart” Chancel Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN #224I “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

*BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Dr. Scott

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13, 10:45 AM

Christian Seder Supper, Monastic Meal,

Tuesday, April 15, 12:15 PM
(\$4/meal, RSVP to Don Gardner)

Final Lenten Small Group Study

Wednesday, April 16, 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM

Easter Celebration

Morning Worship
Sunday, April 20, 10:45 AM

Be on the lookout for an Easter Letter from Pastor Mike.

Today's Worship Participants

Liturgist: Lisa Thrush

Ushers: Roxane Panarella, Curt Diaz, Teresa Gouer, Randy Matheny

Altar: Carolyn Yost Livestream: Mike Smith

Communion Steward: Janie Jenkins

Communion Servers: Dinah Hannah, Sherri Shank

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**



Beth Bryant-Barranco
John & Charlene Cathell
Kyle Harris
Harry & Joretta Lewis
Landen Jaggie
Parker Fox
Emma Riddle
Josh Hoban
Diane Davis
Steve Abe
Joy Butcher-Winfree
The Children of FUMC

THIS WEEK AT FUMC

- **Tuesday, April 8**—Bell Rehearsal, 10 a.m.
—Monastic Meal, 12:15 p.m.
- **Wednesday, April 9**— Small Group Study,
11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 10**— Prayer Shawl group, 5-6 p.m.

First Church goes to the Theater!

King of Kings Animated Film
Cinemark Theaters, Meadowbrook Mall

April 13 at 3:45 PM

Sign up to claim your ticket- All ages welcome!

Easter Flowers

Each year flowers are given in memory or in honor of loved ones to help decorate the altar for Easter Sunday.

- * **Dedication information is due to the church office by April 16**
- * Flowers are due to the church during Holy Week
Office Hours, April 15-17, 9-1

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