

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Pastor
Dr. Natalie Shaffer, Director of Music
Dr. Jessica Scott, Organist

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



WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Procession from Easter Suite" by Charles Callahan

Dr. Jessica Scott

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Easter people, Christ is risen! God is doing a new thing!

People: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Leader: Life has conquered death! Love has overcome fear!

People: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Leader: God has transformed a dead end into a new start!

People: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Leader: Easter people, raise your voices! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

*OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Life, submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead, you restored to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Throughout this Easter Season we proclaim the marvelous mystery of death and resurrection. For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #302

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“On That Great, Great Morning”
Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir

MESSAGE

“Easter People”
(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

Rev. Michael Atkinson

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, still creating, we hear your promises of a new day of joy and peace, and we are skeptical. We expect things to go on the same as they always have, from bad to worse. The past will keep us guilty, the future will make us afraid, and the present will burden us with too little time and too much to do.

Forgive our lack of faith, our quickness to believe that you do not hear us, and our pessimism about tomorrow. Do a new thing in our hearts, and let us be glad and rejoice in your abundant care; through Christ, we pray. Amen.

Written by Dr. Tom Cheatham at <https://theconnection08.wordpress.com/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog

ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND PEACE

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven!

People: In the Name of Jesus, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

*PASSING OF GOD'S PEACE

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Dr. Scott

"Easter Meditation on a Phrase of Tournemire" by William Haller



*DOXOLOGY

U.M.H #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 up-lifts;
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:

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Now the Green Blade Riseth"

U.M.H. #311

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

For the well-being of all, the bread served during Communion is gluten-free.

All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion, a sacred time in which we remember and celebrate the risen Christ.

This morning, you will notice four communion stations located in the front and center aisle of the sanctuary, on both the left and right.

When invited forward, you may come down the aisle to the station closest to your seat.

At each station, you will receive the bread and dip it into the cup, this is called intinction.

If you prefer not to receive Communion by intinction, you are warmly invited to come to the altar rail, where you will be served in a way that is comfortable for you.

You are also welcome to spend time at the altar in prayer, either kneeling or sitting, as you feel led.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN #322

"Up From the Grave He Arose"

*BENEDICTION

*ORGAN POSTLUDE

"Thine is the Glory" by Diane Bish

Dr. Scott

He is Risen!

Today's Worship Participants

Liturgist: Tammy Matheny

Ushers: Roxane Panarella, Curt Diaz, Mary Seti, Jeff Spellman

Altar: Carolyn Yost Livestream: Mathew Wray

Acolyte: Carson Wray

Communion Steward: Janie Jenkins

Communion Servers: Candy Atkinson, Susan Wilmerink Hanby, 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**

Prayer List

Kyle Harris

Joretta Lewis

Diane Davis

Robert Winfry

Julie Cottrill's Mother

Karen Hoffert

The Children of FUMC

THIS WEEK AT FUMC

- Tuesday, April 7— Leadership Team Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 8 — Monastic Meal resumes, 12:15 p.m.
 - Thursday, April 9— Prayer Shawl, 5-6 p.m.

Easter Photo Opportunities

A new photo backdrop is available in the Narthex for family photos following Worship today. You are invited and encouraged to utilize it, as well as the altar featuring our Easter flowers and the blooming trees in the parking lot. We would love to see your photos! You may tag us on Facebook or share them to the church email as you feel comfortable!



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