

# **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"*

February 22, 2026  
Morning Worship  
10:45 a.m.



## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” by J.Carter

Dr. Jessica Scott

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

People: **We follow, trusting in God’s mercy.**

Leader: We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

People: **We recognize God’s mercy at work in the face of temptation.**

Leader: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

People: **We pay attention to God’s merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.**

Leader: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone— God is with us.

People: **We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025*

### **\*OPENING HYMN #395**

“Take Time to Be Holy”

## \*PASSING OF GOD'S PEACE

### 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.

### ANTHEM

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”  
by Rosamond Johnson, arr. Rollo Dilworth.

Chancel Choir

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS “This is Where Children Belong” TFWS #2233

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

### MESSAGE

“Deep Roots”

Rev. Michael Atkinson

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

People: **Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

People: **Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

People: **Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people:

People: **Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

People: **Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

*A time of silence for personal confession*

Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in his name. **Amen**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As the Apostle Paul wrote: *"...if you confess with your lips that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9) These words contain the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

~ written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on Liturgies Online. <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>

## ORGAN OFFERTORY

"Ach Herr, Mich Armen Sunder" by D Buxtehude

Dr. Scott

## \*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 uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*CLOSING HYMN #378

“Amazing Grace”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in e minor” by J Pachelbel

Dr. Scott

**Today’s Worship Participants**

Liturgist: Judy Burns

Ushers: Phil Ferber, Jacki Welsh, Jaden Welsh, Carl Lantz

Altar: Carolyn Yost      Livestream: Lorie Wyant

Acolyte: Carson Wray

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**



**Kyle Harris  
Joretta Lewis  
Diane Davis  
Robert Winfrey  
Jim & Rose Cole**

**The Children of FUMC**

**THIS WEEK AT FUMC**

- **Tuesday, Feb. 24**— Leadership Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 25**— Bell Rehearsal, 11:00 a.m.  
—Small Group Study, 2:00 p.m.  
—Connection , 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, Feb. 26**—Prayer Shawl group, 5-6 p.m.  
—Small Group Study, 6:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, March 1** — Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.  
—Children’s Ministry Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

**Acolyte & Usher Training**

**Anyone who has signed up or is interested in learning more please stay after worship today for a brief training.**

Children 2nd grade and up, Teens, Adults

**connect with us**



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



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