

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"

March 9, 2025

Morning Worship

10:45 a.m.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Aus Tifer Not Schrei Ich Zu Dir" by M Reger

Dr. Jessica Scott

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

People: **God, rescue us in the wilderness!**

Leader: Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

People: **God, rescue us within the wilderness!**

Leader: Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

People: **God, rescue us through the wilderness!**

Leader: Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

People: **Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.**

Leader: **When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #130**

"God Will Take Care of You"

*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.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

ANTHEM

"Covenant Prayer"

Chancel Choir

ORGAN OFFERTORY

"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" by Joyce Jones

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 up lifts;
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from

here, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”

Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE “Pre-Test, Post-Test, Final Exam” Rev. Michael Atkinson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, We confess that when we read about your temptations, we excuse ourselves. After all, we reason, we are not you. Of course, you passed the test, we say. You’re God, right? But we mere mortals have no expectation that we can withstand evil like you did. But we are reminded that you are not only Savior; you are example. You faced the temptation to prove yourself, to be spectacular, and to have consuming power. And you walked away, resisting. Forgive us when we have not resisted; when we have yielded to temptation. Forgive us for loving power and prestige more than God. Help us to choose a life rooted in God’s word and grace. Amen.

Written by Valerie Bridgeman Davis, The Africana Worship Book, Year C (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008)

*HYMN

“Yield Not To Temptation”

Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin;
Each vict’ry will help you some other to win;
Fight valiantly onward, evil passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through.

*(Refrain) Ask the Savior to help you, Comfort, strengthen and keep you;
He is willing to aid you, He will carry you through.*

Shun evil companions, bad language disdain;
God’s name hold in rev’rence, Nor take it in vain;
Be thoughtful and earnest, kindhearted and true;
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through. *(Refrain)*

*BENEDICTION

*ORGAN POSTLUDE

“Tocatta in E Minor” by J Pachelbel

Dr. Scott

Today's Worship Participants

Liturgist: Judy Burns
Ushers: Teresa Gouer,
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**



Beth Bryant-Barranco
John & Charlene Cathell
Kyle Harris
Harry & Joretta Lewis

THIS WEEK AT FUMC

- **Tuesday, March 11**—Bell Rehearsal, 10 a.m.
—Monastic Meal, 12:15 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 12** — Small Group Study Begins, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 13**—Prayer Shawl group, 5-6 p.m.

March Dates to Remember:

Outreach Meets— March 18
Connection— March 19
Woman's Lunch— March 20
Deacon Anna Wedding Shower— March 23
Leadership Team Meeting— March 25
Carol Markstrom Concert— March 26
5th Sunday— March 30

!! Parents!!

Don is in need of 10 minutes of your time, after worship today, to talk about upcoming children's events.

Thank you!!

Bag Assembly NEXT Sunday (March 16) for the Nutterfort Elementary Food Bag Ministry. Plan to hang after worship for 20 minutes to help!

Food Items Needed! Kid-friendly, Easy to Open Food items

It's not too late to sign up!
Small Group Study begins Wednesday March 12
Two class options: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
"Give Up Something Bad for Lent"
by James W. Moore

connect with us



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