

The Crossroads

February 2021

Watertown United Methodist Church

305 Main Street Watertown, CT 06795
Church office 860-274-3785 Fax 860-274-6788

Pastor: Reverend Michael D. Jenkins
Pastor Jenkins Cell: (203) 522-3453

Office Manager:	Kathy Craig	E-mail: wumcsec@wumcct.org
Organist:	Michael Gardner	E-mail: magoo204@charter.net
Church Custodian:	David Perkins	E-mail: walkingperky@att.net

From the Desk of Pastor Jenkins:

Dear Beloved,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Praise God for allowing us to see the month of February. Friends for the past few weeks, I have been sharing with you all regarding the calling that God has placed upon us. Last Sunday, Jesus called the disciples to leave their profession and families behind and follow him. This coming Sunday January 31st, you will we will hear how Jesus heals the man with an unclean spirit. Healing, prayer, and preparation for the kingdom of God. This is a reminder for us, to listen deeply to the word of God as we begin to take our Lenten Journey with Jesus and your worshipping neighbor.

Ash Wednesday marks the day or start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter. Lent is the time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ during His trial, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

I pray that you will take the time to pray, hearing from the Lord, while mediating on His word. The Bible tells us, "this book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful" Joshua 1:8.

Lent is a time to clear away the cultural debris that disorients me on the Christian path. The Lenten acts of deprivation I choose are of little value unless they help my mind and heart to be more attentive and focused on one thing only, to walk the gospel message, to love as Jesus loved. All else is secondary. "Judy Rupp."

I believe if you trust God during this Lenten season, he will enable you to listen deeply to the calling that has been placed upon your life as a disciple for Jesus Christ. Amen

God's Blessings!

Rev. Michael D. Jenkins
Matthew 6:33

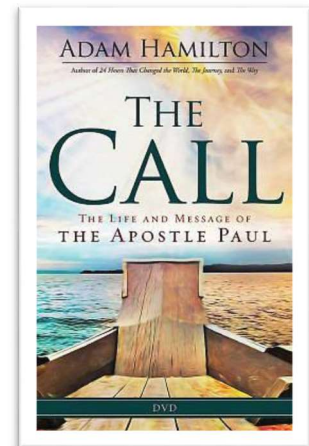
Announcement – Sunday, February 14th

February 14: Transfiguration Sunday - Worship Led by NYAC

On **Sunday, February 14**, the Watertown UMC will share in a **joint online worship service** with other congregations in the New York Annual Conference. **PLEASE NOTE: Worship will not be held in our sanctuary that day.** A link for participating in the service being livestreamed from White Plains, New York, will be provided next week.

Bible Study Continues

Class is held at 6:30 pm and this study ocuses on “*The Call*”, the life and message of the Apostle Paul by *Adam Hamilton*. Books are \$5.99 each and copies are available for purchase. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. We hope you will join us for this study.



Words from the United Methodist Women

We all know that the COVID virus is still of concern, but in view of the good news that there are two vaccines available and are starting to be administered, perhaps our situation will change for the better. We will be checking in February to see if we can safely consider calling a meeting for March. There is a lot to catch up on, but safety first, of course. We will let you know soon.



Please keep in mind that Favorite Bible Verses are Need! Send your favorite Bible verse to Pat Kurtz at thisandthatfrompat@gmail.com or you can drop it at the church office. These verses will be posted prominently in the downstairs vestibule to be seen and read by everyone entering. If you are unable to remember just where it is in the bible, send it anyway. Pat will find it.

Pray regularly because Prayer = The world's greatest wireless connection

Bernice Proe, Secretary

A Few Messages from Pat Kurtz:

Outreach Opportunity: This afghan was handmade by *Aurelia Woodbeck*. It is sold and we thank Aurelia for always thinking of ways to help fundraise for our church.



Favorite Bible Verses Needed: These verses will be used as a witness for all entering this church of our Lord and Savior. Please send your favorite verse -- even if you are unable to remember what book in the Bible it is in -- to Pat Kurtz at 'thisandthatfrompat@gmail.com' or drop it off in the office. After your verse has been posted, you may redisplay the pages for others where you wish.



Invitation Cards – It is very important to our future that we become an inviting church!

Please take several of our Invitation Cards and pass them out! These are a great and easy way to invite others to come and experience the fellowship and activities of our church!

PRAYERS

Our World: World peace; direction of our nation; the unsaved; USA leaders; parents and children; missionaries; the economy; teachers and students; veterans; jobs; firemen, policemen and others who serve; hurricane relief; addiction struggles; other community churches and members.

Upcoming Surgery: *Aurelia Woodbeck* (February 11)

Healing from Illness/Injury: *Greg Chere, Christa Swanhall, Lois DeLisle, Melanie Milton, Diane Chere, and Helen Collins*

In order to keep our prayer list up-to-date, please share updates and corrections as part of the Worship Service, by calling the church office at 860-274-3785, or emailing the secretary at wumcsec@wumcct.org

Sunday morning “in house” worship continues; however, we will not be meeting for coffee hour in the present time- please sign up to sponsor a coffee hour possibly starting in October. This fellowship time we have after Sunday services is so very important in the life of a church and we need families or several individuals to band together and organize this for us each week. Please consider blessing us all in this way by signing up once every few weeks!



February 4	Alice Norton
February 7	Sara Milton
February 9	Dan LaFlamme
February 11	Dana O'Neil and Dan Sandulli
February 12	Christine Montambault
February 18	Marion Hubbard
February 19	Mackenzie Raymond

Your church family sends you birthday greetings and hugs from a distance!

News from the Church Office:

Communication is the key for all of us right now! At this time, some meetings are being scheduled on the church calendar. We did not attach the normal monthly calendar but will send it out once we hear about full openings with “no restrictions.” If you have a committee that will be meeting, please forward that information to the office so that it can be publicized for everyone’s interest. We publicize this newsletter for many people within our congregation and some not; so keeping everyone informed as to our ministries is vital to all.

If you need anything, please don’t hesitate to contact Pastor Jenkins directly at (203) 522-3453 or call the church office (860) 274-3785. Be safe, wash your hands and please practice social distancing for your safety and the safety of others too! Thank you for your patience and understanding at this crucial time for all.

Blessings,

Kathy Craig, Office Manager

Please notice the deadline below to order your Easter Flowers:



Easter Flower Order Form

I would like to order the following plants to be placed in the chancel for:

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

_____	Single White Lilies	@	\$15.00 / 6" pot
_____	Tulips	@	\$15.00 / 6" pot
_____	Hyacinths	@	\$15.00 / 6" pot
_____	Daffodils	@	\$15.00 / 6" pot

The flowers are given:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

**ALL FLOWER ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY
SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021**

Check for \$_____ is attached

Your name and contact info: _____

Please make checks payable to the Watertown United Methodist Church

News from NYAC



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop | New York Area Episcopal Office
Robert M. Walker, Assistant to the Bishop | Pamela Bowe-Tabbs, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop

20 Soundview Ave., White Plains, NY 10606 | 914-615-2221 | bishop@nyac.com

February 1, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Pastors, Lay Leaders, & Council Chairpersons serving in Connecticut

FROM: Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop
Tim Riss, New York/Connecticut District Superintendent
Alpher Sylvester, Connecticut District Superintendent

RE: State Guidelines for Re-Opening

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

Grace and peace to each of you. We pray that this letter finds each of you well, safe, and blessed.

As many of you are aware, on January 30th Governor Ned Lamont released a statement that it is his intent this week to lift the State of Connecticut's restriction on the number of people who can gather for in-person worship services. The basis of this decision is related to legal challenges on limitations placed on houses of worship in other states including New York.

When the legal challenges for restrictions on worship attendance overturned Andrew Cuomo's decisions in New York, I respectfully indicated to our churches there that it is my firm belief that churches should not be granted exemptions from mass gatherings due to the fact that any large gathering of human beings, religious or not, opens the door to potential infections. This is true for large weddings, funerals, restaurants, movie theaters, etc. No one is immune to contracting the virus.

This impending decision in Connecticut poses a noteworthy challenge for all of our United Methodist Churches in the state. This week, you will be legally permitted to resume full in-person worship in your local church. However, there still remains a significant portion of your congregants who have not yet received the vaccine, are in vulnerable age categories, or have pre-existing health conditions. The health and safety of our people should take priority over any permission granted due to fears over legal challenges.

As the bishop and cabinet members of the churches within Connecticut, we maintain the right to continue to enforce the clear and well-crafted protocols and guidelines for re-opening our houses of worship. We are writing today to urge you to err on the side of caution, to maintain the strict protocols/requirements for re-opening, to take into account the vulnerable populations of persons within your churches, and to carefully weigh and balance the degree to which, if at all, you choose to re-open your church for unrestricted worship and activity.

We are also aware of the pressures that many of you have felt from many sides to quickly move past this pandemic and, as a result, tone down the precautions necessary for us to continue to provide health and safety for the people we love. Please remain focused on the guidelines we have provided and know that we will support you in whatever way we can.

In order to maintain knowledge of what is happening in each of our churches, we will be contacting each of you to get clarity on the decisions you are considering in light of this latest development. We are simply doing this in order to understand, with transparency, what you are thinking and to offer our assistance where needed in your decision-making process. As always, we stand ready to help in whatever way needed.

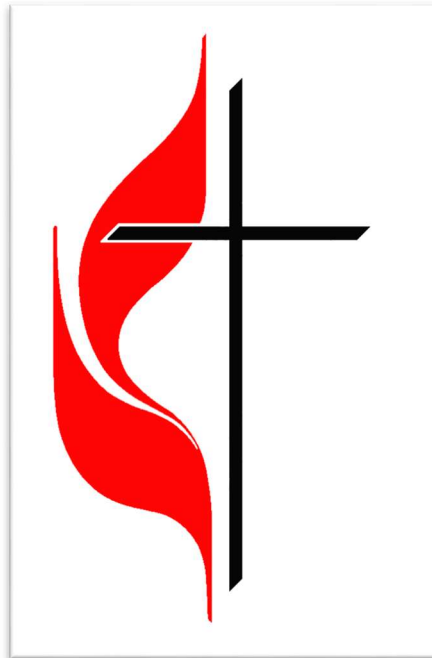
While we are all eager to get beyond this pandemic, there are still critical days which lie ahead that demand careful consideration and navigation. Let us commit ourselves to being intentional and deliberate as we face these challenging days. And may we always seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we move forward in faith.

The Journey Continues, . . .

Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop

Timothy Riss
District Superintendent

Alpher Sylvester
District Superintendent



Matthew 6:33

***“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.”***



Learning to live our lives, God's Way!

**305 Main Street, Watertown, CT 06795
Church Website: www.wumcct.org**

Rev. Michael Jenkins, Pastor

Email: Michael.Jenkins@nyac-umc.com

Urgent – (203) 522-3453 Personal Cell Phone

Office Phone: 860-274-3785

Office Email: wumcsec@wumcct.org

**Note: Pastor is off on Tuesday &
at Ansonia UMC on Friday**

