

# *The Crossroads*

*June 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**

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<b>Church Custodian:</b>	<b>David Perkins</b>	<b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:walkingperky@att.net">walkingperky@att.net</a></b>

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### **From the Desk of Pastor Jenkins:**

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

Dear Friends,

I greet you in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I pray that it is well with you and your family's health. Let me first start by sharing a blog from [blog.youversion.com](http://blog.youversion.com). For anyone feeling alone, this is for you. You are not alone. Right now, many of us are navigating how we can re-establish connections with friends and family we have not seen in a while. This process takes time, and it can seem frustrating. But even when we feel alone and disconnected, we can seek connection with God through prayer, and ask Him to help us reconnect with the people around us. God is always with us, and He loves it when we seek out honest conversations with Him.

As we continue this awesome journey together, we are reminded that, along with the changes of seasons, we must evaluate what has become the "new normal" in our lives. We remember those seemingly long-ago days in January 2020 and what our church was doing. Looking back serves only to inform us of what has been. Looking around us informs us of the new reality. Looking forward gives us the golden opportunity to seize the moment and take progressive action into the future.

What are your dreams and expectations for your church? How are we connected with each other? With our denominational ties? With our interfaith options? With our community?

What can we do to improve our presence as the body of Christ, the WUMC? Where do we start? What are our priorities? What needs to be pruned? What must we hold fast to? What new ideas are dawning and how do we cultivate them. The purpose of these questions brings us back to the heading of my letter. We are in the sixth month of 2021. Before you know it, 2022 will be here. How will you as a church begin to move forward in ministry. I pray as we brainstorm as the body of Christ, God will give us some fresh and new ideas. Let us begin now! Amen.

God's Blessings!

Rev. Michael D. Jenkins  
Matthew 6:33

## **Reminder - Apportionments**

In part of Pastor Jenkin's announcements last month, he spoke about apportionments. He mentioned there would be special offering envelope in your Sunday bulletin every month, and it will be inserted in the bulletin for June 6<sup>th</sup>. Each month there will be a special designated area noted by the New York Annual Conference as to where these funds are applied.



Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matt. 6:21

# My Offering

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

This month's offerings will be applied to the purchase of Health Care Kits provided by the NYAC at a cost of \$12.00 per kit. Please make your check payable to WUMC and a check for the total amount donated will be sent to New York Annual Conference.

Also, for the month of June – there will be a special Sunday offering insert for Peace with Justice Sunday on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Your gifts change lives in places where the joy of knowing Christ is mixed with the tragedy of violence. United Methodists relate to this special Sunday by seeking peaceful solutions, creating and supporting peace-related ministries in their conference and learning about peaceful, just efforts around the world.

## **CALENDAR DATES FOR WATERTOWN UMC**

June 6 Holy Communion Sunday

June 10th-13th New York Annual Conference will hold virtual sessions.

June 20th Father's Day

Bible study dates during the summer TBA.



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## **Thoughts from the Choir Loft**

So, since I love to sing, I have been fortunate to sing in many different choirs through the years. One of my favorite types of choral piece to sing is a mass. Most classical



composers have composed at least one mass from Bach to Mozart to Beethoven and everyone in between. Masses follow the structure of a classic Latin Mass when the mass was almost entirely sung and was done in Latin. This is similar to the format of a typical Sunday service at WUMC.

I am currently sitting in my car waiting for Ella, my daughter, while I listen to the 2nd Mass by Anton Bruckner. I sang this in college and I was one of 100 voices. Nobody heard me (except for myself and the people around me) but I loved it. I still get chills when I hear it. I get that same feeling whether I'm singing with 100 voices or 50 or 10. The feeling is powerful and calming at the same time. I also think it's almost impossible to feel it anywhere else. That might be my favorite aspect to singing in the choir: how every voice is important and that the ensemble is greater than any one singer.

So, I encourage you to listen to Mass no. 2 in e minor by Bruckner or any mass then visit me at the piano and tell me your thoughts.

See you Sunday!

Peace,  
Mike

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## Words from the United Methodist Women

May 13, 2021



**Present:** Pat Kurtz, Beverly Sklanka, Evelyn Russo and Bernice Proe.

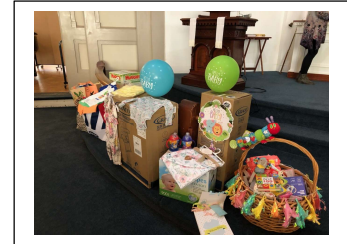
Bernice Proe supplied copies of the secretary's report for April 8th. After giving time for them to be read Beverly Sklanka made a motion they be accepted as presented and it was seconded by Evelyn Russo. It was also nice to receive a friendly letter from former member Sharon Sharpe who had moved away. We also received a note from Diane Hibbard expressing her pleasure in our continuing to hold showers for the benefit of Carolyn's Place. Diane originally started to sponsor these showers when she was serving at our church with her husband, Rev. Paul Hibbard. The cards were passed and shared for reading.

Beverly Sklanka gave the treasurer's report. She reported our expenditures during the past month have been for our commitment to the N.Y. Conference U.M.W of \$375.00, and a gift card for \$50. to Wendy Cronk who has been ill. Receipts included a World Thanks offering, a pledge, payment for a second blanket made by Aurelia Woodbeck to benefit our outreach work, and gifts in memory of Bernice Elwood. A memory donation in the amount of \$100. was received with specific instructions it be used for ROBO and/or other outreach. We will honor this request and we will research an item to possibly be engraved. (The total given in memory of Bernice is \$470.00.) Our treasury balance now stands at \$1965.89. (FYI note – The blanket was purchased by Jane Sandulli as a donation to be given to a person of Aurelia's choice. Aurelia's choice was Rose Norton. We will send a "thank you card to Jane for her gift.)

**Devotion:** Pat Kurtz began this part of our time together by leading us in the sharing of thoughts and memories of our good friend and UMW member, Bernice Elwood. She had been one of our original members, faithfully attended gatherings and always could be counted on to be our strong support. We will miss her greatly. Bernice died on April 14th after an extended illness. Pat gathered our final thoughts into a theme for the day: have consideration for others, endeavor to be wise in the way we act toward outsiders, and strive to make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how to answer everyone.

**Old Business:**

The baby shower held for the benefit of Carolyn's Place on Mothers' Day, May 9th, was successful, and we thank Chris Montambault for preparing and decorating the altar. We also thank Karen Bronson for delivering the many gifts to their destination.



Our June meeting luncheon is planned for THURSDAY, JUNE 17th, to be held at a restaurant, and the invitation will be open to all church ladies. The destination will be local and a choice between Mangia in Watertown, or Maples in Middlebury, depending on which venue can accommodate us. Mission pins will be awarded at that time. Pins for 2020 will be given to Karen VanDerlyn and Jane Sandulli. Pins for 2021 will be awarded to Cheryl Johnstone and Holly Norton.

Our tour to Cricket Hill Gardens in Thomaston was held on May 20th at 10 A.M. Everything was beautiful. Ladies in photo: (left to right) Evelyn Russo, Pat Kurtz, Debbie Godbout, Bernice Proe, and Beverly Sklanka



**New Business**

We will schedule our planned visit to the Watertown Historical Museum at their new site after June 11th when they start to have open hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernice Proe, Secretary

For more information: about Carolyn's Place: <https://carolynsplace.org/>

For more information about the Dress a Girl Program: <http://www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/>



**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!

# PRAYER LISTING

**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.

**Recovering from surgery:** Aurelia Woodbeck

**Healing from Illness/Injury:** Greg Chere, Christa Swanhall, Lois DeLisle, Melanie Milton, Diane Chere, Helen Collins, Barbara Hopper, Stewart Hopper, David and Joyce Perkins, Marion Hubbard, Wendy Cronk, Jean Jannetty, (Aunt of Monique Michaud), Steve Cohen, and Jane Sandulli.

*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](mailto:wumcsec@wumcct.org)*

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**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!

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June 1	Jean Fabianski
June 2	Rachel Bronson
June 8	Karen Bronson
June 13	Laurie Hudson
June 14	Pastor Michael D. Jenkins
June 19	Debra Perin
June 20	Nicole Mangione
June 21	Catherine Turner
June 22	Carren Archibald, Lois Delisle, Jeff Grenier Andrea Pannoni
June 26	Stephanie McCaffrey

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

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## A Little Shout Out to the Ladies of UMW

Evelyn Russo notified Pastor Jenkins that the ladies boxed up **180 dresses** for a new home in Kenya. The group had a wonderful time reflecting back on all the unique and beautiful dresses made and we thought we'd share a few photos for you all to enjoy. What a wonderful gesture of love for the recipients!



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## 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. 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 know of events happening around the Watertown area that might be of interest to our members, please pass it along to be shared.

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

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## Watertown United Methodist Church Mission & Vision Statement

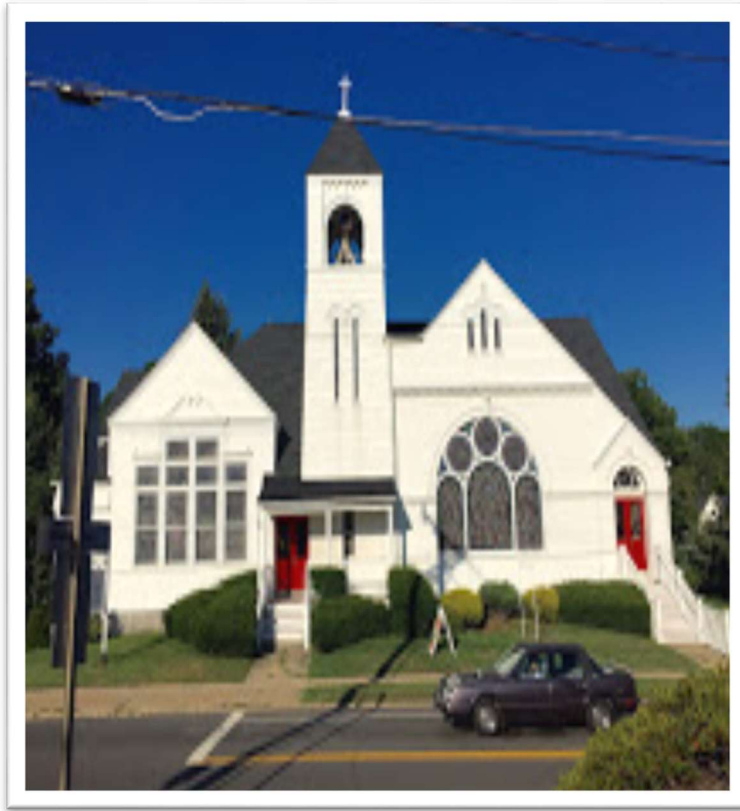
*The mission of the Watertown United Methodist Church is to glorify God by bringing people to Jesus and into fellowship with His family.*

*The vision of the Watertown United Methodist Church is to nurture individuals and families in Christian living, to equip them for ministry in the church and for service beyond the church.*



### 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](http://www.wumcct.org)**

***Rev. Michael Jenkins, Pastor***

***Email: [Michael.Jenkins@nyac-umc.com](mailto:Michael.Jenkins@nyac-umc.com)***

***Urgent – (203) 522-3453 Personal Cell Phone***

**Office Phone: 860-274-3785**

**Office Email: [wumcsec@wumcct.org](mailto:wumcsec@wumcct.org)**

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

