

The Crossroads

May 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:

Change Is Coming

Greetings Friends!

As the April showers fall, and the birds are singing a beautiful melody, I am mindful that the rain leaves me looking at God's creation and blooming of the flowers all around us. As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers. What a blessing it has been in recent weeks to witness the beauty of spring unfolding. It was good to see so many faces during the Lenten services. My heart was deeply touched. I look forward with great anticipation for what the future holds!

As the rain nurtures and waters, the earth, so must we nurture ourselves so that we can achieve our greatest potential as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are continually presented with opportunities to grow in faith through worship, Bible study, and other discipleship opportunities. As we continue to grow into our full potential as disciples, we must address the issues of white privilege, racism, implicit bias that plague our communities, churches, and our country. Let us never forget what happened January 6th, insurrection at Capitol. I know that this is not easy work, but it is important, necessary, and faithful work. It is my hope that over the course of the next year, that we will each take the opportunity to participate in a book study or anti-racism training so that we may grow to be a more welcoming and inclusive church. Please note that I'm not saying that we are intentionally unwelcoming or exclusive, but I acknowledge that there is more work for us (all of us) to do both individually and communally. Our Bishop is encouraging all in the New York Annual Conference to address systemic racism in whatever form it shows its ugly head. If you have questions or would like to talk about opportunities to grow, please let me know. I will do my best to offer opportunities in our community.

I believe that many of you have received your COVID-19 vaccinations. If so, that is great! I am praying that we will continue to wear our mask, wash our hands, and socially distance ourselves when necessary. Let us not forget the CDC-protocol. If you have yet been vaccinated, please take the time to schedule your vaccination. If you have concerns or maybe just unsure about taking your vaccination. Please let me know as I would be glad to schedule a time to talk with you.

God's Blessings!

Rev. Michael D. Jenkins
Matthew 6:33

Apportionments

In part of Pastor Jenkin's announcements last Sunday, he spoke about apportionments. He mentioned there would be special offering envelope in your Sunday bulletin every month, and it will start with this Sunday, May 2nd. Each month there will be a special designated area noted by the New York Annual Conference as to where these funds are applied. We thank you in advance for giving as you are able.



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

My Offering

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

Thoughts from the Choir Loft

I remember a few weeks ago during Easter Sunday when I could hear everybody singing the hymns behind my back.



That has been one of the toughest things for me during the pandemic: the few people in person during the service weren't singing or weren't audible because they were wearing a mask. That's why, if you were there (or watching) on Easter Sunday, you heard me say, "Sing like only God's listening." Singing of the hymns (ministering God's Word through song) is a way for us to feel his word directly in our hearts and it's a big deal for many of us. So, as you feel more comfortable coming back to church, and singing while you are there, remember to sing like "Only God is listening!"

By the Way, if you would like to share any thoughts about singing during service, I'd love to hear them. I encourage you to stop by the piano before or after service.

See you Sunday!

Peace,
Mike

Words from the United Methodist Women

We send our heartfelt sympathies to *Bernice Elwood's* family. After an extended illness, Bernice left our earthly family for her Heavenly home on April 14th. She was a long time active and loved member of the UMW, and will be sorely missed by our whole church membership.



We will have our NEXT UMW MEETING FOR THIS YEAR ON THURSDAY, MAY 13th at 1 PM. in Asbury Cottage. We will still maintain some precautions for a bit longer – masks and distance – for the sake of safety. Unfortunately we need a bit more time to firm up the program activity for this month, but we will get the news out soon, so watch the Sunday bulletin and/or your email.

Please keep in mind that favorite bible verses are still needed, so send your favorite verse to Pat Kurtz at thisandthatfrompat@gmail.com.

We still have another lovely blanket, handmade and donated by Aurelia Woodbeck, for \$50.00. Per Aurelia's request, the profit is for use in our outreach program.



A Short History of ROBO

ROBO (*Reaching Out Beyond Ourselves*) began in approximately 2004 crafting blanket squares to be made into blankets.

April Mohr (a former member of WUMC since moved to Tennessee), wrote "The program was originally spearheaded by a former pastor's wife, *Penny Johnson*. This idea for the square ministry (we call it ROBO which stands for Reaching Out Beyond Ourselves) began following a visit from *Marlene Taylor* who was the mother of one of our church family members. Marlene was born in Zimbabwe and lived there at the time our ministry began. She later immigrated to England. At that time, she felt she had to leave Zimbabwe for her own safety. The mission continued under the auspices of the Oasis Foundation with the squares assembled into blankets by Marlene Taylor's church in Harare." The blankets were then distributed to persons of need, usually children in the AIDES orphanage there. ROBO mailed over 180 pounds of squares and yarn to Zimbabwe continuing until postage costs became too expensive to continue.

The ROBO group then began making baby clothing to support *Carolyn's Place** in Waterbury. We also began hosting a baby shower on Mother's Day each year to support this local group. The next baby shower is planned for this May 9 during the regular Sunday church service.

More recently, *Evelyn Russo* learned of the world wide '*Dress A Girl*' Program* which ROBO has chosen to support. Many children around the world (yes, even here in the U.S.) have little or no clothing. Girls, especially, are considered to be unworthy of clothing.

In addition, *Gloria Martin* from Florida has been making pocket size dolls to be placed in the dress pockets. Church family members, friends and others have donated cotton fabric and trims to support this program. We made 48 dresses which were carried by one of our church members, *Mark Newton*, to the orphanage in Haiti which he and a group of others established. *Nicole Novembre*, who attends church with *David Perkins*, took 55 dresses to Jubilee, Haiti where she and her husband lead a mission. Later she took another 86 dresses. The first dresses (11) completed were taken on a WUMC mission trip to Guatemala in 2017. Presently we have 180 dresses for which we are making plans to send with another Christian group, 'Serving in Jesus' Name' to Kenya.

The group meets nearly every Tuesday beginning at 11 AM to make dresses. Consider joining us. Skill in sewing is not necessary. For more information, contact Evelyn Russo at 203-592-9979 or Quiltermom5552@yahoo.com. Listed below are other resources for you as well:

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

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

For more information about the group 'Serving in Jesus' Name': servinginjesusname.org



More News from UMW:

Mark Your Calendar for next Sunday, May 9th Baby Shower for Carolyn's Place

Below is a listing of the items they are currently in need of: Disposable diapers (sizes newborn, 4, 5, & 6; baby wipes; socks-sizes newborn to 2 yr. old; seasonal clothing-sizes newborn to 2 yr. old; baby bottles, sippy cups, new rattles & teething rings, toys and board books, high chairs, pack n play units, reusable shopping bags and forever stamps.



Mark Your Calendar for Thursday, May 20th

The UMW group is sponsoring a local trip to *Cricket Hill Gardens*, 670 Walnut Hill Rd., Thomaston on Thursday, May 20th. They have a variety of blooms, but they specialize in a variety of lovely peonies. Our reservation for viewing is 10 a.m., so we need to meet in the church parking lot promptly at 9:30 a.m. to arrange some car-pool rides.

It is necessary that we know who will be going so PLEASE contact *Pat Kurtz* either by phone 203-266-5152 or email thisandthatfrompat@gmail.com or *Bernice Proe* at phone 860-274-8641 or email berniceproe@gmail.com.

Anyone who prefers to drive directly there, must still pre-register with Pat or Bernice as they have to advise the nursery how many to expect from our group.

Keep Praying -- Prayer is the world's greatest wireless connection

Bernice Proe, Secretary



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.

Christian sympathies: are extended to the family of WUMC member, Bernice Elwood and also *Monique Michaud* in the passing of her uncle, *Michael Jannetty*. Please keep both families in your thoughts and prayers during their time of grief and loss.

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, Bill Stinson (neighbor of Pat Kurtz), Jean Jannetty, (Aunt of Monique Michaud), and Steve Cohen.*

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!



May 3	Ivan Cyr
May 4	Charlotte McCaffrey
May 5	Evelyn Russo & David Sorman
May 7	Scott Archibald
May 17	Nancy McCleary
May 21	Dorothy Parker
May 24	Emily Perin, Margaret Czarsty & Lisa Ferratto
May 27	Jim Proe
May 31	Sue Gates & Melanie Milton

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. 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. (Please see the pages of Community Events at the end of this edition submitted by Sue Cyr).

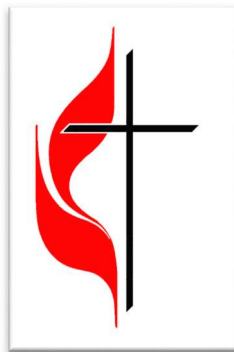
If you need anything, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Jenkins directly at (203) 522-3453 or call the church office (860) 274-3785. Be safe, wash your hands and please practice social distancing for your safety and the safety of others too! Thank you for your patience and understanding at this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

Blessings,
Kathy Craig, Office Manager

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.



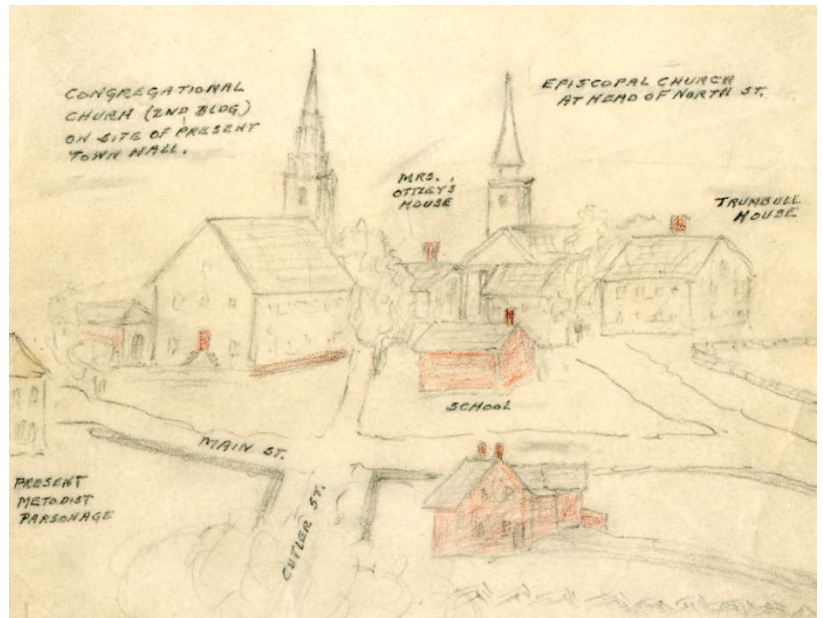
Matthew 6:33

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

Community Events in the Watertown Area:

**2021 Self-Guided
Historic
Walking Tour**

**Opening Day
May 1, 10 am – 2 pm
[Rain date: May 2, 12 – 4 pm]**



**Are you ready to stretch your legs and take a walk?
Looking for a safe outdoor spring activity
that's fun and educational for the whole family?**

**Join us on a 1-mile walk to explore 18 historic places of interest
dating back to 1772.**

**Volunteers will be stationed along the route
to answer questions and provide additional information**

Scavenger Hunts for Grades K-2 and 3-5 will also be available

**For more information:
860-274-1050
curator@watertownhistorymuseum.org**



**WATERTOWN
HISTORY MUSEUM**

Preserving Watertown's History since 1945

(NOTE: the Watertown UMC will be opened that day as it is part of the walking tour)



**May 21, 2021
1:00 pm**

**100th Anniversary of
Dedication of the
World War I Memorial
On Veterans Hill**

With an honor guard from VFW Post 7330

Sponsored by:

Watertown History Museum

Watertown Veterans Council

American Legion Post #195

VFW Post #5157

VFW Post #7330

For more information:

860-274-1050

curator@watertownhistorymuseum.org



**WATERTOWN
HISTORY MUSEUM**

Preserving Watertown's History since 1945

Hello Watertown community members!

A group of Watertown High School students is looking for help in gathering information for a project for the Watertown Historical Society. During WWII community members volunteered to be "Plane Spotters" or members of the "Ground Observers Corps." The list of volunteers below comes from materials in the historical society's care. We would like help gathering information and stories about these people and their experiences. If you can help us, we would be very grateful for your help in gathering information or having an opportunity to speak with you. Please email Mary Lou Kuegler at kueglerma@watertownps.org if you would like to speak with us.

Thank you for your help!

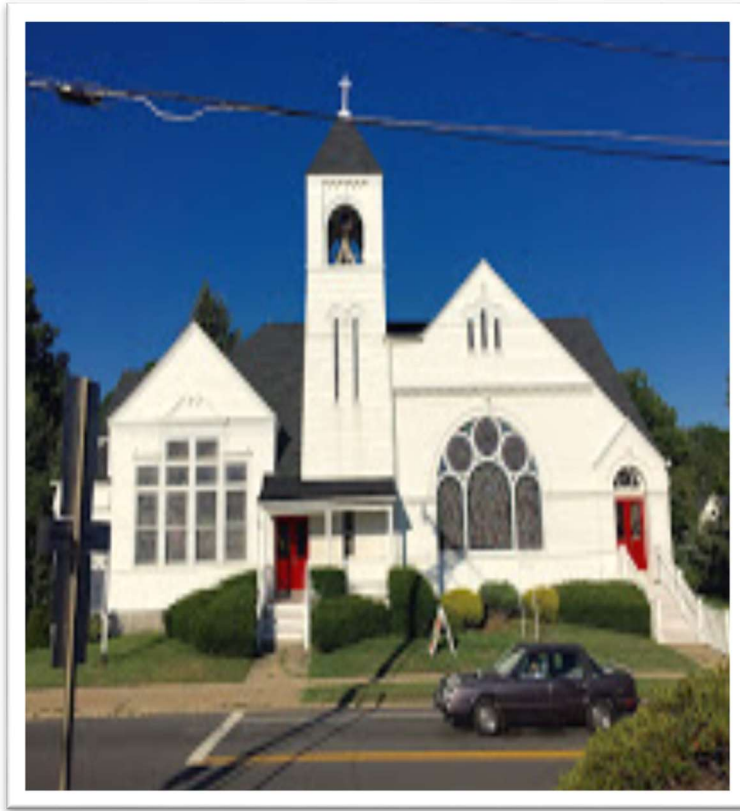
MLKuegler

List of Watertown Plane Spotters

Allenson, C. Milton	Budge, Harold	Coon, Margaret
Adams, Robert Carr	Camp, Fred G.	Coon, Catherine M.
Adams, Martha W.	Canty, Josephine F.	Clark, Edmund E.
Atwood, Mrs. Harry	Carmody, Guerrin B.	Cummings, Leslie H.
Alix, Joseph	Cassidy, Deanne R.	Couch, Earle W.
Bassette, William. M.	Cassidy, Charlotte	Cruikshank, Paul
Booth, Clarence N.	Cassell, Wesley L.	Cruikshank, Mrs. Paul
Barnes, Stanley	Cawley, Sherman	Curtiss, Helena B.
Barnes, Jane O.	Chauncey, Harriett G.	Douglas, Edwin C.
Bartlett, Wallace C.	Cawley, Beth B.	Dreven, Edward
Bisbee, Alan	Coon, Charles W.	Dowd, Edina T.
Bryan, Wilfred	Coon, Ruth T.	Edwards, Peter C.

Evans, Arthur H.	Klimpke, Gertrude	Munger, Ralph S.
Farwell, Howard C.	Laneville, Louis V. Jr.	Neill, Mary E.
Field, O. Dunsel	Lakovitch, Joseph B.	Nadeau, Albert
Fish, Grace	Lattin, Harold F.	O'Brien, William. F.
Fox, Rose H.	Lemay, Henry T.	O'Dell, Ethel
Frazier, Russell L.	Lewis, Leroy P.	Olmstead, Elizabeth K.
Gallagher, Joseph A.	Lockwood, Julia M.	O'Reilly, Elizabeth M.
German, Roy M.	Logan, Lenore H.	Osborn, Armande
Gilgard, Ruth S.	Logan, John A. Jr.	Parker, Raymond
Halliwell, William. L.	Logan, James P.	Parker, Helen N.
Halliwell, John S.	Mahlstedt, Doris W.	Pierpont, Edward B.
Hallock, Howard R. Jr.	Marens, John V. Jr.	Platt, Edgar H.
Harley, Ralph R.	Marens, Daniel T.	Poor, William G.
Hayes, M. Francis	Mattoon, Edith C.	Poor, Mrs. William
Hazen, Virginia R.	McCleary, John A.	Quesnel, Domasie
Hemminway, Bartow L.	McKnight, Marie W.	Randall, Elsie G.
Heminway, Merritt	Miller, Anna L.	Ranson, Leroy
Helie, Lucius H.	Morgan, Barry L.	Read, Robert A.
Hoffman, Nina M.	Morgan, George L.	Read, Edna R.
Hosking, James S.	Morgan, Mrs. G. A.	Reed, Arthur M.
Hunt, Richard M.	Moriarty, Floyd F.	Reinhold, Frank M.
Hutchinson, Frances	Morse, John F.	Rowland, Elizabeth S.
Keilty, Elizabeth	Morse, Ruth V.	Salisbury, David L.
	Moseley, George E.	

Samoska, John	Upton, Edwin
Scovill, Marion F.	Walsh, Lawrence
Sherwood, Sherrie	Ward, Leslie A.
Shields, Thomas H.	Werrenrath, George
Shove, Ackley	Wilson, George R.
Sjosted, H. Raymond	Wilson, Harley
Smith, Seymour R.	
Soderberg, Eric W.	
Sorenson, Charles M.	
Souilliard, Harper	
Souilliard, Alice A	
Starr, William T.	
Starr, Janet E.	
Staib, Kenneth H.	
Stearns, H. P.	
Stearns, Isobel G.	
Stockman, Ellis W.	
Sweet, Delas E.	
Sweet, Kenneth V.	
Sweitzer, Iva B.	
Thomas, Mrs. John H.	
Todd, Grandon E.	
Tyler, Roland W.	
Tyler, Roland Mrs.	



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**

