

The Crossroads

January 2022

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:	Monique Michaud	E-mail: neekso420@yahoo.com

From the Desk of Pastor Jenkins:

God Is Still on the Throne

Warm Greetings!

As we embark upon a New Year, once again, we find that we are still dealing with this pandemic in the USA. But, as you know, the entire world is going through much of the same.

I don't know about you, but perhaps there was a sense of hope last year at this time that as we turned the page on 2021, this would all be behind us within a few months. But that's not the case despite man's best efforts of masks, vaccines, and mandates!

While humanity can only do what we can in our strength, I want to remind you today that God is Still on the Throne regardless of where we have been or where we are going!

As I write my first letter for the New Year, we have ended another glorious season of Advent. God has entered our lives through the birth of a babe in the manger. Let the church say Amen! Greetings! Last year has been incredibly challenging to us all, due to COVID-19, and the loss of friends and family members, who will always be remembered. That said, when trials and tribulations take its course, let us never forget, who is the author, and finisher of our faith.

There are several lessons we can learn from 2021:

1. Trials come to all of us. They seem to be custom designed for each of us.
2. Every trial has a life cycle. COVID-19 is just one of the recent flu's that we had to endure recently, as other flu's have come across our paths over the years.
3. The outcome of any issues may not be to our liking, but God is still on the throne.
4. The ultimate trials that we face will get us to turn to Christ. He will never forsake us or leave us.
5. God can do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we may ask or think.

Friends, let us prepare for 2022, with the expectation and anticipation with the understanding that the spirit of discouragement and negativity is not who we are as children of God. I pray that you will trust God to see you through this New Year. The Bible tells us "*Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*" (Hebrews 11:6). When things may seem to be hopeless, God will always show up in the lives of our family members as well as for you. Stay encourage, God has not forgotten us.

Let me urge you to do the following:

- Pray that God will guard us against the enemy. Satan always has something up his sleeves.
- Resolve to know Christ better in 2022. Further resolve to lean upon Him and trust Him.

· Resolve to give your tithes and offerings to the Lord. He does not need it, but you do! Malachi 3:10 “*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,*” Says the Lord of hosts, “*If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*”

· Remember to reach out to people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Selah. God is still on the throne. And He will remember His own; though trials may press us, and burdens distress us, He never will leave us alone; God is still on the throne, He never forsaketh His own; His promise is true, He will not forget you, God is still on the throne. Burdened soul is your heart growing weary. - - *Kittie L. Suffield*

Happy New Year & God's Blessings!

Rev. Michael D. Jenkins

Thoughts from the Choir Loft

The WUMC Chancel Choir will not be meeting for the immediate future due to recommendations from NYAC and the newly suggested COVID restrictions. If you are interested in joining the choir in the future, please reach out to let me know. Watch for future rehearsal and service dates.



Peace, Mike

Altar Flowers

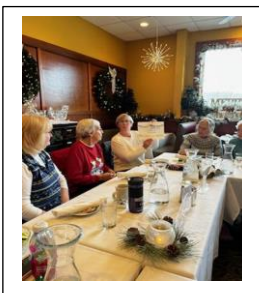
If anyone is interested in putting flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one or in celebration of something, please contact *Chris Montambault*. You can text or call her at 203-560-7463; or you can email her at Cree212@yahoo.com.

A Message from the United Methodist Women

On Thursday, December 9th some of the ladies in our church joined in with the UMW group at Mangia's Restaurant for their annual fellowship luncheon to discuss the successes of this year and talk about plans for the New Year. It was very well attended as people were there also to bid a farewell to *Pat Kurtz* on her move to NH. Pat was pleased to receive the memorial plaque that people signed for her new home.



This year is the 29th year, (note: last year is on there also, (Covid) that the UMW has fulfilled its commitment to support the NY Annual UMW with their giving. It simply states “**You Did It!**” and yes they did, even with limited access to each other or outside events due to Covid. Great job ladies!





CALENDAR DATES FOR WATERTOWN UMC



January 2nd – *Epiphany Sunday, Holy Communion*

January 16th – *Human Relations Sunday – special collection envelope**

January 17th – *Joint Bible Study with Ansonia – 6:30 zoom
(more information to follow)*

January 19th – *Deadline to submit Crossroads articles for February edition*

January 20th – *Church Council meeting – location to be determined*

**Human Relations Sunday is a special Sunday recognized in the United Methodist Church.*

We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. With a special offering celebrating Human Relations Day, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited.

Across the United Methodist connection we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important.

One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. On Human Relations Day, we join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

Please remember to notify the office when a meeting is scheduled so it can be placed onto the church calendar.

A Message from Bev Sklanka:

We need your help in 2 programs that have worked for our church in the past.



We are in search of *LaBonne's Markets* register receipts. They have a register rebate program. Please save your register receipts, ask your family, friends and relatives. Put them in the collection plate or see *Beverly Sklanka*.



We are also collecting coins, your loose change, pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters all mount up. Put them in the collection plate.

Thank you for participating in these 2 programs. They make a difference financially, every little bit helps. Thank you.



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. Continued prayers for those suffering in both *Haiti* and *New Orleans*; as well as those effected by the recent tornadoes.



Healing from Illness/Injury: *Greg Chere, Christa Swanhall, Lois DeLisle, Melanie Milton, Diane Chere, Helen Collins, Barbara Hopper, Stewart Hopper, David and Joyce Perkins, Wendy Cronk, Jane Sandulli, Steve Cohen, Jake Hoadley, Aurelia Woodbeck, Corrine Garner, Sara O'Neil, Pat Kurtz, Jeff Grenier and Beverly Skalanka*

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!

News from the Church Office:

Note: Church Office hours have changed to the following:

1st Monday of each month – 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Rest of the month – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



Lines are always open
If you need anything!

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!

Blessings,

Kathy Craig, Office Manager



Submitted by *Wendy Cronk*

We welcome anyone that would like to submit an article of interest or photos of church members for your monthly newsletter. If someone sees an article in the newspaper about youth or members of the church, please send the information along to the office so that we can also recognize them.

Submissions should be sent to wumcsec@wumcct.org and the deadline date for submission is the 3rd Thursday of each month.



Paetyn Woermer	January 2 nd
Julie Burne	January 6 th
Holly Norton	January 8 th
Craig Czarsty	January 15 th
Karen VanDerlyn	January 16 th
Kristen VanDerlyn	January 17 th
Madelyn Burne	January 27 th
Patricia Quatrella	January 28 th
Anita Kalenauskas	January 29 th
John Yerger	January 31 st

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

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!

***Open Hearts • Open Minds • Open Doors
All Welcome Here!***



**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