

# *The Crossroads*

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

**Organist:**

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**Church Custodian:**

**David Perkins**

**E-mail: [walkingperky@att.net](mailto:walkingperky@att.net)**

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

#### **Prayers for Fasting**

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 March. I pray as we journey through the beginning of the month, let us make time to reflect on some of these pointers that pertains to fasting. The New Testament contains about 20 references to fasting (depending on the version or translation you are using). It was an important and valued part of early Christian experience.

Yet some followers of Jesus today do not fast. Some of us barely know what fasting is. Put simply, it is denying yourself something—usually (but not always) food—for a set period to focus your heart and mind more fully on God.

Early Christians fasted and prayed for clear direction and during special seasons of need. Fasting was not only for special occasions, however; it was a way of exercising self-control and dethroning one's all-too-human appetites while also aspiring to a new level of intimacy with and devotion to God. Fasting and prayer go together beautifully.

Whether you have tried before or not, or whether you have tried-and-failed or not, consider a fast as a way of enriching and expanding your spiritual life. There are numerous ways to do it. You may fast from food—for a meal, perhaps, or for a day. You may, as many do, fast from red meat on Fridays during Lent. You may fast from eating out or from eating dessert. But a fast does not have to be food related. You may fast from a pleasure or a habit for a certain period. Whatever you fast from and however you choose to do it, fasting can do wonderful and unexpected things in and for you—particularly if you soak your fast in prayer. Offer something like the following before, during and after

#### **Before Your Fast**

Pray to God, you are my God, and I seek You earnestly (Psalm 63:1). I seek You as I undertake this fast. I bow before You and ask You to purge me of all unworthy thoughts, words, and deeds. Forgive my sins as I forgive those who have sinned against me. Keep me strong and alert during

my fast. Protect me from the Evil One, deliver me from temptation and steer my mind and heart away from all distractions. Help me to bring my spirit, soul, body, and mind into subjection and focus them on You, to Whom all praise belongs, amen.

### **During Your Fast**

Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps Your covenant of love with those who love You and keep Your commandments (Daniel 9:4), I give myself to You. I love You more than these things from which I fast. I seek You more than my own comfort and pleasure. Meet me here. Amen.

### **When Your Fast Ends**

Almighty God, my Father, thank You for being with me as I fasted. Stay with me as my fast ends, that I may not wane in my devotion to You. Remind me always of the purpose of Your fast, as You revealed through Isaiah: to lose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke, to share my food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, to clothe the naked and not to turn away from my flesh and blood. Then, let it be so that my light will break forth like the dawn, and my healing will quickly appear, that my righteousness will go before me, and the glory of the Lord will be my rear guard, that I will call, and You will answer, that I will cry for help, and You will say: Here am I (see Isaiah 58:6-9).

I believe, if you trust God during this Lenten season of prayer, and fasting, 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

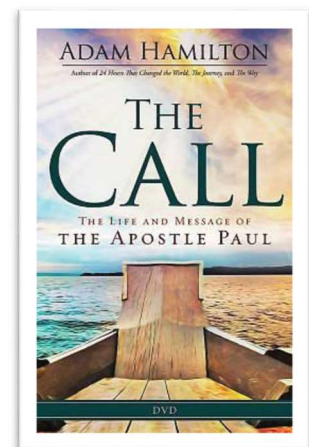
Matthew 6:33

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## **Bible Study Continues**

Class is held every other \*Wednesday at 6:30 pm and this study focuses 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 is in the Narthex. We hope you will join us for this study.

\*Please refer to the calendar at the end of this newsletter to stay current with the dates our Bible Study group will be meeting.



## Words from the United Methodist Women



It has been good news that the two vaccines available to fight the Covid Virus have started to be administered so things should change for the better soon. We are looking forward to getting back to normal and meeting together again, hopefully by Spring. We also hope that more ladies of the church will consider meeting with us once a month. Our outreach activities are interesting and benefit many, and the larger our group, the more we can accomplish.

We have another lovely blanket, handmade and donated by *Aurelia Woodbeck*, to be sold to the first person with an offer of \$50.00. Per Aurelia's request, the profit is to be used for our outreach program.



Please keep in mind that favorite bible verses are needed, so send your favorite verse to *Pat Kurtz* at [thisandthatfrompat@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### 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!

## 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.

**Recovering from Surgery:** *Aurelia Woodbeck* (February 11); *Stewart Hopper* (Mid-January in Florida), son of *Barbara Hopper*

**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](mailto: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!

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March 9	Sue Cyr (Mary Woodward)
March 10	David Perkins, Joyce Perkins, Bruno Perin, and Alexander Pannoni
March 15	MacKenzie Zeigler
March 17	Jan Koachman
March 20	Maggie Luddy
March 23	Emmet Napychank and Morgan Raymond
March 26	Raymond Johnstone
March 31	Gregory VanDerlyn and Joseph Seacrist

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

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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 (please see small listing on the next page). 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

## Dates for the WUMC Calendar – Month of March

**Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – NO Bible Study

**Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Communion Sunday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30 PM – Bible Study (in person)

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – UMCOR Sunday (special envelope)

Reminder - *Daylight Saving Time* – don't forget to turn your clock ahead before bed, so you're not late for church service...

**Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** – NO Bible Study

6:00 PM - Trustee Meeting (in person)

**Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30 PM – Church Council Meeting (zoom)

**Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Last day to order Easter Flowers

(see order blank next page)

**Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 7:00 PM – CT District Prayer Gathering with Cooperative Parish

(zoom – watch for more information from Pastor Jenkins)

**Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** - 6:30 PM – Bible Study (in person)

**Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** – Submission deadline date for April edition of Crossroads

**Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** – Palm/Passion Sunday – Holy Week Begins



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



**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**

