

The Crossroads

December 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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From the Desk of Pastor Jenkins:

Have Yourself a Very Offensive Christmas?

What is the Great Commission, and how does it relate to me?

Matthew 28:18-20

Best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, but with respect for the religious persuasion of others who choose to practice their own religion as well as those who choose not to practice a religion at all.

Yes, this is basically the way Christmas goes down these days. Tiptoeing around certain words or phrases that might offend people of differing religious and /spiritual beliefs. You know, the ones that don't believe or acknowledge that over 2000 years ago, God of the universe wrapped Himself in human flesh and chose to enter this planet in the most vulnerable and imaginable way possible... as a newborn child. The media having conversations on taking Christ out of Christmas. This was mentioned last year and this year.

Don't misread me, I respect that people have differing beliefs and that everyone is made in the image of God. But somebody please help us put away fear of offending folks and take on the attitude of the first people on earth that received the birth announcement:

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" (Saints we need to stay encourage and remain confident in our Lord and Savior) He said. I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior-yes the Messiah, the Lord-has been born today in Bethlehem, in the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." The Reign of Jess's offspring. Suddenly, the angel was joined by a host of others-the armies of heaven – praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is please.

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger,

after seeing Him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel has said to them about the child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they heard and seen. It was just as the angel told them. (Luke 2:8-20)

We need to understand that the first Christmas wasn't marked with trimmed trees, tinsel, toys or Joanne's delicious apple pie. It was a crude manger, the smell of animals, and a visit from a group of shepherds- who were basically the "low life" guys of that day. In fact, because of their profession, shepherds weren't even allowed to worship in the temple. Isn't that just like God? The guys who were "unworthy" to go to church were the ones God Himself chose to tell about the birth of His Son Jesus. And did you catch how they responded? They told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.

Guess what? The message was politically incorrect in that day as well. The Jews didn't expect the Messiah to be born in homeless conditions, much less be told about the birth of the Lord from the shepherds. So they would have been offended.

What about the Romans? To them, Caesar their king was "god", so this news would have offended them as well. And pretty much the rest of the Christmas story is the wonderful news about God of the universe who loves us too much to live without us in eternity. He chose to be born so that He could die. Jesus became a man for us, to redeem us. Christmas and Easter are so connected that we can hardly think of His birth without thinking of His death. And that's the message that has boldly ticked off, upset and generally disturbed people for 2000 years.

May I suggest that that this Christmas, Christ followers follow Christ, and let people know about the news that caused the armies of heaven to cry out, in praise God? Don't worry about whether or not it might peeve your peeps and pray for the possibility that your family and friends who haven't trusted in Jesus for Salvation might receive the greatest gift in all eternity.

Three areas to consider during this Advent season: Christmas encouragements

Head: What you need to know about the truth

Heart: What you feel about the truth

Hands: What you need to do about this truth

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Peace,

Rev. Michael D. Jenkins and Family

Thoughts from the Choir Loft

The WUMC Chancel Choir will be singing on December 19th and 24th. We'd love to have some more singers, especially for Advent. We will rehearse on December 16th and 23rd (both Thursdays) from 7-8:30 PM. Come join us, no experience necessary!

Peace, Mike





An Invitation from the United Methodist Women

CALLING ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH TO COME TO A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

We are holding a holiday celebration. As we have done in past years, (except for the virus interruption), we want to share the joy this year. Come on:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, at 12:00 NOON

MANGIA'S RESTAURANT MAIN ST., WATERTOWN

Choose your lunch from the regular menu – Receive and pay your individual check
Very short business meeting with 2021 news

FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER

Contact Bernice by phone: 860-274-8641 or email: berniceproe@gmail.com

The "Winter Themed" Paint Party for November 19th
was a Fun Night for all!

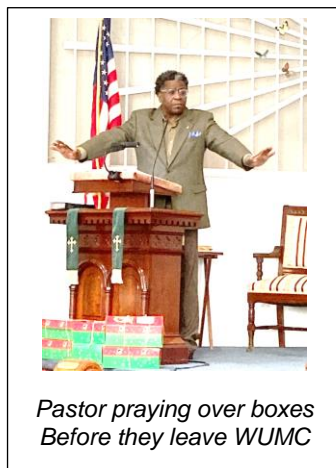
Thank you to all that signed up to join us and watch for news on another event.



Look at all that talent from WUMC – great job everyone!

Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Project 2021

Thank you to all that contributed to this project, this year's count was 79!



*Pastor praying over boxes
Before they leave WUMC*



Sue Cyr & Diane Chere

Thanks to all that stood up to the Holiday Food Challenge!

Karen Bronson and her family donated turkeys to compliment all the traditional holiday fixings that were collected to supply 4 families with their Thanksgiving dinner.



Need a last minute teacher gift?

Aurelia Woodbeck has been busy working on her project to raise additional funds for the Outreach Program of the United Methodist Women This one is novel, useful, attractive, handy and something everyone can find a use for. Everyone can and does use a NOTEPAD.

Size 5"x5" Pad covers are Yarn Granny Squares Pencil incl. Hang anywhere Price only \$3.50 Place your order by picking one up in the Narthex or phoning Aurelia at 860-417-9729



CALENDAR DATES FOR WATERTOWN UMC

Advent & Christmas Schedules

December 5th - *Second Sunday of Advent/Communion* Lighting of Two Purple Candles.

December 12th - *Third Sunday of Advent* Lighting of Both Purple Candles and Pink.

December 19th - *Fourth Sunday of Advent* Lighting of All Four Candles.

December 24th - *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* at 7:00 pm. Lighting All Candles and The Christ Candle

January 5th - *Epiphany Sunday, Holy Communion*

All committee meetings will be meeting in person.

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

HOPE

11/28

PEACE

12/5

JOY

12/12

LOVE

12/19

A Financial Update from Sue Woodward Cyr:

Watertown Methodist Church	
November 2021	
Income	
Donations	\$4,952
Rental Donations	\$1,000
Special Events	\$122
Total Donations	\$6,074
Expenses	
Payroll Expenses	\$6,083
Church/Asbury/Parsonage Expenses	\$2,464
Supplies & Office Expense	\$208
Program Committee Expenses	\$25
Apportionments	\$1,000
Total Expenses	\$9,780
Monthly Short-Fall	(\$3,706)
*Emergency Trustee Funds	\$0
Released Restricted Funds used for:	\$5,625
Parsonage Master Bathroom	(\$4,450)
	(\$490)
Balance	\$685

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. Our church just received a check for \$70.60 through this 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*.

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!

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!

Please mark down the new church office hours in the event you need to come in for a visit. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this very busy season.

Blessings,

Kathy Craig, Office Manager



Marie Solazzo-Spring and Samantha LaFlamme	December 2nd
Kevin Parkhurst	December 4
Dawn Luddy	December 9
Lois Schenkel	December 10
Beverly Sklanka and Nathaniel Burne	December 25
Kevin Proe and Colton Proe	December 29

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

Watertown United Methodist Church Mission & Vision Statement

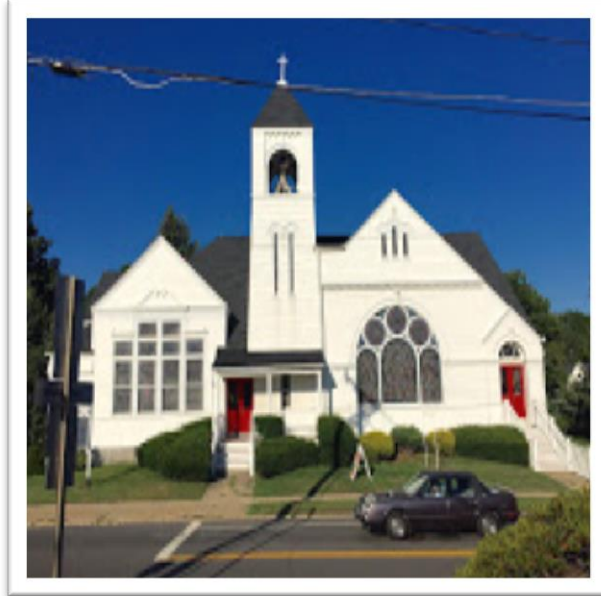
The mission of the Watertown United Methodist Church is to glorify God by bringing people to Jesus and into fellowship with His family.

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!

305 Main Street, Watertown, CT 06795

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Rev. Michael Jenkins, Pastor

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Urgent – (203) 522-3453 Personal Cell Phone



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