

The Crossroads

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

From the Desk of Pastor Jenkins:

CAN I GET A WITNESS!

Greetings Friends,

As we prepare to move in the season of 2022, I pray that we will continue to focus on the transparency of the campaign Back to Church Sunday! This an ongoing process. We are called to be always a witness of our faith. Our Christian witness should not be limited to an hour on Sunday mornings when we gather for worship. Rather our worship on Sunday mornings should nurture, feed, and empower us to go out into the world to share the Good News. You have heard me use the term; church starts when the service is over. This is your opportunity to be that witness when you walk out the door on any given Sunday.

When Jesus commissioned the disciples, he did not encourage them to stay put and hang out with those who came to them. Rather, he sent them out saying, "*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:19-20) The goal of witnessing is to develop disciples seeking to go out and embody God's word in our broken and hurting world.

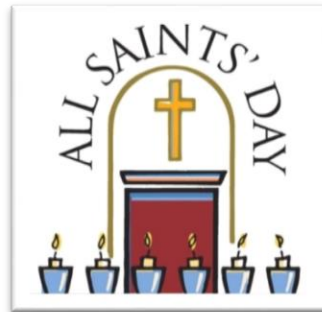
Let me remind you, the way we act, speak, look, and think should reflect Him and His ways. We are witnesses of Jesus Christ when we talk to others about our feelings about Him. We are witnesses of Jesus Christ when we live with a happy outlook that shows our faith. One's personal encounter with God cannot be easily dismissed. A changed life is dramatic evidence of God's power.

The personal witness of Christ about himself combined with the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, brought Peter to a spiritual knowledge of Jesus as personal Savior.

God's Blessings!

Rev. Michael D. Jenkins

Matthew 6:33



This Sunday, the following church and family members and other loved ones in our community will be remembered:

John (Terri) Cook

Joyce Daniels

Bernice Elwood

Andrew August Knox

Jim Marks

Fannie Mae McBroom

Laverne George Spaulding

Pastor Jenkins will be away on vacation from November 22 and returning December 1, 2021. *Rev. Paul Hibbard* will be available for pastoral emergencies during that time. He will also be preaching on Sunday, November 28, 2021. If you need to reach him, please call his cell at (860) 488-7705



CALENDAR DATES FOR WATERTOWN UMC

Nov. 14, 201 Stewardship Sunday

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. However, if there is a reason to meet, we will meet accordingly. Please continue to check in by email or with the pastor.

December Advent Events will be published shortly – stay tuned to your email.

A Message from the Special Events Committee ~ thank you, thank you!!

The “Winter Themed” Paint Party for November 19th

*is **SOLD OUT***

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

A Financial Update from Mary Woodward

<u>Watertown Methodist Church</u>	
<u>October 2021 Financials</u>	
<u>Income</u>	
Donations	2,450
Rental Donations	2,100
Special Events	480
Charles Palmer Fund	2,610
Total Donations	7,640
<u>Expenses</u>	
Payroll Expenses	5,884
Church/Asbury/Parsonage Expenses	3,844
Supplies & Office Expense	413
Program Committee Expenses	90
Apportionments	1,000
Total Expenses	11,231
Monthly Short-Fall	(3,591)
*Emergency Trustee Funds	7,000

The Legend of the Poinsettia

The legend of the poinsettia comes from Mexico. It tells of a girl named Maria and her little brother Pablo. They were very poor but always looked forward to the Christmas festival. Each year a large manger scene was set up in the village church, and the days before Christmas were filled with parades and parties. The two children loved Christmas, but were always saddened because they had no money to buy presents. They especially wished that they could give something to the church for the Baby Jesus. But they had nothing.

One Christmas Eve, Maria and Pablo set out for church to attend the service. On their way they picked some weeds growing along the roadside and decided to take them as their gift to the Baby Jesus in the manger scene. Of course they were teased by other children when they arrived with their gift, but they said nothing for they knew they had given what they could. Maria and Pablo began placing the green plants around the manger and miraculously, the green top leaves turned into bright red petals, and soon the manger was surrounded by beautiful star-like flowers and so we see them today.



Starting in next week's Sunday bulletin, there will be an order form for you to place your holiday poinsettia order. You will have your choice of red, pink or white and the cost will be \$15.00 each. The deadline to order is November 28th. For any further information, please contact *Chris Montambault*.

Thoughts from the Choir Loft

Come one and Come All to our Chancel Choir Rehearsals. We will meet every Thursday and there's room for any and all that want to join. No Experience Necessary!

Peace, Mike



Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Project 2021



*Thank you to all that contributed to this project,
Preparations are underway to package up all the goodies and there will
be a blessing send off on Sunday, November 14th before they leave Watertown UMC.*

Speaking of Christmas....

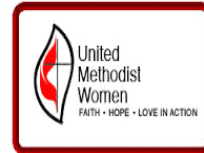


Aurelia Woodbeck has been busy working on a new project to raise additional funds for the Outreach Program of the United Methodist Women. This one is novel, useful, attractive, handy and something everyone can find a use for. Everyone can and does use a NOTEPAD.

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

Thank you Aurelia for always thinking "outside the box."

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
2021 ANNUAL REPORT FOR - October 2021**



The Covid virus has made this past year another difficult one as we tried to fulfill our mission of support for our church, and expand concepts of mission locally and globally. Our U.M.W. is a small group, but always has the support of the church members when a project is undertaken so our projects are usually a success.

This year, due to the virus, we were unable to hold meetings in January, February and March. In April we were happy to get permission to meet in the church building where we could observe the requirements of a 6 ft. distance and the wearing of masks. We had a chance to bring our records up to date and make plans for the rest of 2021. *Aurelia Woodbeck*, one of our regular members, made two lovely white blankets and donated them to the UMW and specified that the profit go to the UMW to be used in our outreach program. The blankets were both sold and the money earmarked accordingly. We decided to ask members of the congregation to start sending their favorite Bible verses to *Pat Kurtz* so they could be posted prominently in the downstairs vestibule for people to see as they come in. In May, we visited *Cricket Hill Gardens* in Thomaston to view their large display of prize Peonies. Four ladies took advantage of this pleasant outing.

For Mothers' Day in May, we had planned our annual outreach project for a baby and youth shower for the benefit of Carolyn's place in Waterbury. Church members always join us in donating gifts for babies and older children. Although his date had to be postponed until October, it was still a success. A luncheon at Mangia's Restaurant was held in June, and we had 14 people enjoy a delicious meal. June luncheons have been annual affairs to which we invite all the ladies of the church and at which we award Recognition Pins to church members who have served our church throughout the year in many ways. Last year we were unable to award the 2020 pins so we awarded pins for two years. *Karen VanDerlyn* and *Jane Sandulli* were our 2020 recipients, and *Cheryl Johnstone* and *Holly Norton* received for 2021. We sorrowfully acknowledged the loss of two of our active members during the year. *Bernice Elwood* died after a long illness, and *Barbara Hopper* made a permanent move to Florida. We will miss them both!

We try to schedule interesting trips or tours hoping to interest more ladies. With this in mind we planned a tour of our Watertown Historical Society for November. Unfortunately, falls and illness has made it impossible for some of our members to attend meetings for 2 or 3 months. Hopefully we will be able to gather for the Christmas holidays.

Respectfully submitted, Bernice Proe, Secretary

UMW Financial Report 9/30/2021

1/1/21 Balance Thomaston Savings Bank: \$1,650.89

Receipts:

Pledges	\$125.00
World Thanks Offering	\$25.00

Disbursements:

Pledge to Mission - CT District UMW	\$200.00
Special Mission Recognition	\$80.00
Gift to Mission	\$10.00
Gift in Memory	\$60.00
World Thank Offering	\$25.00
Gifts	\$50.00

9/30/21 Balance Thomaston Savings Bank: \$2,095.89

A Message from Bev Sklanka:

We are bringing back 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.

An Attitude of Gratitude

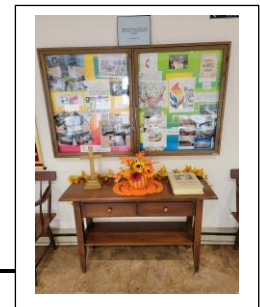
Last Sunday, October 31st, four families of our church were recognized for their unending volunteerism efforts both inside and outside of our church property. Please take a moment if you were not in church to thank these individuals the next time you see them. We will be celebrating others in the future, so just like the television show called "*What Would You Do?*" – we will be watching – it could be YOU!!!

Thank you again to *Richard & Laura Brandt; Ivan & Sue Cyr; Joel & Paula LaBonte; Dennis & Donna Sullivan*



We also would like to take a moment to thank *Karen Bronson* for her creativity of the Stewardship Campaign display board that she assembled in the lobby of church hallway. If you haven't seen it yet, please take a moment and check it out.

How appropriate as we enter into a season of gratitude with Thanksgiving right around the corner. **Thank you all for a job well done!**



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, 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



Tim Luddy	November 2
Kristen Proe	November 4
Pat Kurtz	November 7
Megan Swanhall	November 12
Beth Bowden	November 14
Tim McCaffrey	November 17
Jonathan Swanhall	November 20
Donna Opalak	November 25
Alex Wildman	November 27

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.”***



Highlights from November 2020-November 2021 at the Watertown United Methodist Church

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes - On Monday, November 16th our collection of 64 shoeboxes for "Operation Christmas Child" were loaded up by Matt and Tyler Geer and delivered to the local distribution center and are now on their way to needy children around the world! That was 2020 after the annual Charge Conference – we are in the process of collecting shoeboxes for 2021 – stay tuned for the final count!



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



The baby shower held for the benefit of Carolyn's Place on Mothers' Day, May 9th, 2021. Everything donated was placed on the altar that morning and Pastor Jenkins blessed the donations before being brought to Carolyn's Place.



The women of UMW gathered for a tour at the Cricket Hill Gardens in Thomaston, CT on May 20th. Everything was in full bloom and just beautiful.

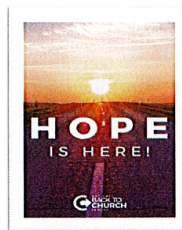


The women of UMW celebrated the relaxation of the COVID rules by getting together for a luncheon at Mangia's Restaurant. It was nice to restart our annual outing that had been put on hold due to the pandemic. Fourteen people attended and enjoyed a delicious meal of their own choice.



Pastor Jenkins joined the ladies for lunch and they surprised him with a birthday cake. He certainly was surprised by their hospitality!

September is National Back to Church month and Pastor Jenkins invited the whole congregation as well as the Watertown and surrounding communities to "Come Back to Church" with a celebration on Sunday, September 19th. There was a four week video series for the month of September that simply stated: *Hope is Here!* The banner was hung on the front of our church letting everyone know that the doors of the Watertown United Methodist Church are open for everyone... and on the National day of celebration, we were joined by Pastor Michael's son, Tyler and his band. It truly was a celebration in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



This Sunday, October 31st there will be a **Recognition Celebration** of some of the volunteers that have gone Above and beyond recently at our congregation.



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Rev. Michael Jenkins, Pastor
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Web: www.wumcct.org

This is a page from the 2021 Annual Conference Report

News from the Watertown Community.

Carolyn's Place Fall Wish List:

Items Needed include baby wipes, diapers (sizes NB, 5 & 6), pull-up diapers, baby wash, shampoo, lotions, bottles, diaper rash cream, socks (NB – 2T), fall/winter clothes (sizes 12-18 mo. & 24 mo – 2T), and forever stamps. Thank You in advance!

Join Us
FOR WATERTOWN'S
**SANTA'S
HOLIDAY
LIGHT PARADE**



You're Invited!

Parade begins at 4:30pm

Santa's Holiday Light Parade is **THE OFFICIAL** start of the season! Join Santa on his journey from the North Pole to Watertown! Civic Groups, Businesses, Families, Schools, Companies, Churches... Decorate yourself, your friends and your vehicle. The more lights the better!!!!

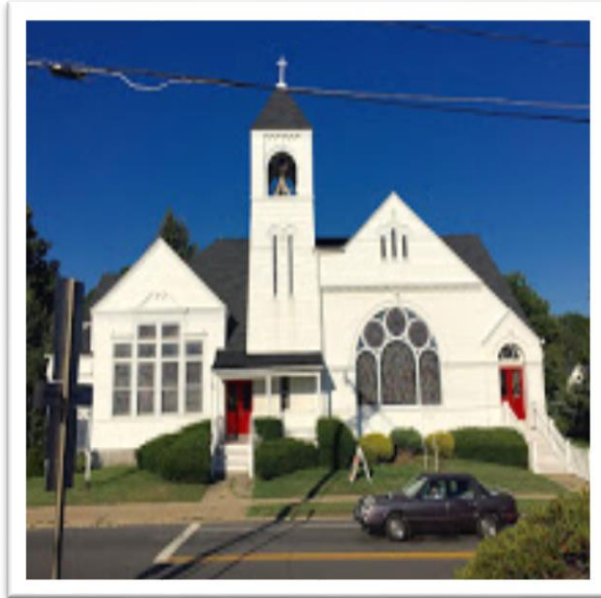


The parade will start at Main Street (corner of French Street) and go to the Watertown Gazebo - corners of Routes 6 & 63. Step-off time 4:30pm to arrive at the Gazebo by 5:00pm



**SPONSORED BY: THE WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE WATERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

For more information or to pre-register contact the Parks & Rec at (860)945-5246.
Parade Guidelines & Application are located on our website at www.watertownctrec.com.



Learning to live our lives, God's Way!

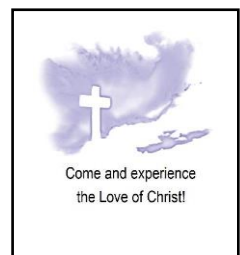
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Church Website: www.wumcct.org

Rev. Michael Jenkins, Pastor

Email: Michael.Jenkins@nyac-umc.com

Urgent – (203) 522-3453 Personal Cell Phone



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