



Watseka First United Methodist Church
*'Welcoming Neighbors of All Ages to Experience God,
Share Hope, and Be Changed by Christ's Love'*

The Evangel

Volume 53, Issue 3

April 1, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

By the time you receive this newsletter, the announcement has been made that I am being re-appointed to Chatham UMC in Chatham, Illinois as of July 1, 2025. This was a total surprise to Jerry and me when our DS told us. We both have enjoyed our time here at Watseka even though it has only been a short three years. Just know, you will hold a special place in our hearts and my time here as your pastor has been my honor. Your Ad Council, PPRC along with the District Superintendent, Bishop and Cabinet are working together to find the right person to be your pastor. As soon as that is ready, the PPRC will make the announcement.



The following, is with permission from a colleague, very appropriate for this Easter season: *Rev. Eric Butterworth, author of the best-seller Discover the Power Within You, tells about a young soldier who lost his legs in battle. Something died within this young man when he found he would never walk again. He lay in his hospital bed, staring blankly at the ceiling. He refused to talk to anyone who tried to help him. He refused to cooperate with doctors or nurses who wanted to help him to adjust. He allowed his heart to fill with bitterness and betrayal.*

One morning another hospital patient strolled in and sat down on a chair near his bed. He drew a harmonica from his pocket and began to play softly. The sullen patient looked at him for a second, then back to the ceiling. That was all for that day. Next day the harmonica player came again. For several days he continued to come and to play quietly at his bedside. One day he inquired, "Does my playing annoy you?" The patient said, "No, I guess I like it."

A few days later the harmonica player was in a jovial mood. He played a sprightly tune and began to do a tap dance. The cynical soldier looked on but was apparently unimpressed. "Hey, why don't you smile once and let the world know you're alive!" the dancing harmonica player said with a friendly smile. But the legless soldier said, "I might as well be dead with the fix I'm in."

"Okay," answered his happy friend, "so you're dead. But you're not as dead as a fellow who was crucified two thousand years ago, and he came out of it all right." "Oh, it's easy for you to preach," replied the patient, "but if you were in my fix, you'd play a different tune." With this the dancer stood up and said, "I know a two-thousand-year-old resurrection is pretty far in the dim past. So maybe an up-to-date example will help you to believe it can be done."

With that he pulled up his trouser legs and the young man in the bed looked and saw two artificial legs! He once lay where that young soldier now lay. He himself had known the power of a resurrection. He had learned to live life abundantly--even without his legs. Needless to say, the young soldier's own resurrection began that moment.

(Pastor's Column cont. on page 2, column 1)

(Pastors Column cont. from front cover)
 Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are not just about dying. They **are about believing that no situation – no matter how dark or hopeless – is beyond God's redeeming power!** Resurrection comes in all shapes and sizes in the places that we need it the most. I pray that this Eastertide you can know the joy of new life in Christ, for just as God raised Jesus, God can also raise you to fresh vistas of spiritual power!

Happy Easter!

In service to Christ and the people of Watseka First United Methodist Church,

Pastor Darla

United Women in Faith Upcoming Events

The **Rummage Sale** was successful thanks to everyone who donated items, helped sort items and setup, worked at the sale, came to the sale, and helped take down on Saturday. The \$2,900 profit will be used for projects in our church and missions locally, nationally, and globally.

The United Women in Faith group will be **meeting on Thursday, May 1 at 6 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Following a light supper, the group will be packing 100 personal dignity kits for Midwest Mission. These kits, including a hand towel and washcloth, toothbrush and soap, shampoo, deodorant and lotion, are sent to places of disaster—flooding, tornadoes, and the frontlines in Ukraine.

United Women in Faith will have a **Spring District Gathering on Saturday, April 26** at St. James United Methodist Church in Danville. The program is about CASA for Kids (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children). If you are interested in attending, please contact Diann Peabody by Monday, April 14.

Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana is hosting its **"Festival of Quilts"** fundraiser on Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5. Cunningham Children's Home is a child welfare and educational services agency that is a mission of the United Women in Faith. Cunningham was established in 1895.

**WUMC General Fund Report:
 February 2025**

General Fund Income & Expense Summary

	February	Y-T-D
Income	\$12,863.86	\$28,179.85
Expenses	-\$15,468.63	-\$30,648.37

These figures do not include \$2,125.44 due for 2025 Y-T-D conference apportionments.

Thank you for your monetary support which allows us to share Jesus' story and love, fulfilling the mission and vision of our church.

Photos From the United Women in Faith Spring Rummage Sale



The Crew: L to R Front: Lori Yelenick, Julie Carey, Dorothy Koonce, Melinda Day, Barb Curry, Carol Drew, Martha Howe. Middle: Dee Montgomery, Donna Price, Debby Sapp, Velanne Gocken, Barb Hasbargen, Diann Peabody. Back: DeDe Yenerich, Doug Custer, Chuck Peabody



Pastor Darla & Melinda Day taking care of lay aways for customers



Doug Custer & Tim Dorsey taking packed boxes to the truck after the sale



The Crew taking a lunch break from setting up for the Rummage Sale



John Onnen helping hall things over to the sale from the Wesley Center.

April Birthdays

4-3	Adalynn Ziemianski	4-21	Ali Zack
4-4	Whitney Kingdon Robin Warren	4-22	Beverly Kofoot
4-5	Doug Custer	4-24	A. J. Day Mylee Valentine
4-7	Jackson Dickte	4-27	Rhonda Leitz
4-9	Matthew Thomas	4-30	Debby Sapp
4-13	Kalie Both		
4-14	Carol Christy Rheta Norrick Sharon Ward		
4-20	Taylor Rutledge Cindy Seemann		



April Anniversaries

4-1-2001	Joanne & Howard Wheeler
4-2-2016	Reilly & Matthew Cook
4-7-1984	Jeanne & Wayne Brown



Super Senior Birthdays

From the Member Care Team- These Super Senior people are celebrating birthdays in April

Carol Christy April 14
501 N. Clarence Avenue
Watseka IL 60970-1465

Rheta Norrick April 14
110 Washington Way
La Grange GA 30240-8703

Al J. Day April 24
Kingdon Apartments
819 W. Lafayette St, Apt. 117
Watseka IL 60970

April Radio Broadcast Support -

April 6: Wayne & Jeanne Brown in honor of their 41st wedding anniversary

April 13: Rich & Amy Dickte Happy Easter

April 20: Elaine Hickman in honor of her family and in memory of Wayne

April 2: Hannah Mitchello in celebration of Carrie Jo's 8th birthday



April Greeters/Ushers

April 6– Barb & Larry Hasbargen
April 13– Pam & Mick Thurston
April 20– Diann Peabody, Barb Curry
April 27– Joyce & Tim Dorsey

April Liturgist– Jeanne Brown

Holy Stitches Update

The Holy Stitches met on Saturday, March 15th, at 9:00am for a receiving blanket sewing day. They sewed until noon and they were able to complete 10 blankets that morning. They will be meeting again to sew and complete more receiving blankets.



The stitchers did not meet on their regular meeting day, Tuesday, March 15, because of other commitments. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15, at 7:00pm in the parlor.

Food Pantry Update

During February the pantry served 134 families– 281 adults and 118 children.

Special items for April are pancake mix, syrup, and cereal. However we appreciate all donations with current dates.



Preparations are being made for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon being held on April 8, in the fellowship hall at 11:30am. If you haven't signed up yet, the clipboard is in the food pantry. We couldn't serve our clients without you, our VOLUNTEERS!

The Eastern Illinois Foodbank delivery is on Tuesday, April 1st, at 8:00am. Midwest Foodbank pick-up is on Friday, April 11th. All volunteers are most welcome!

Conner Onnen & Ben Clifton helping to bring rummage sale items from the Wesley Center to the Fellowship Hall



Watseka First United Methodist Church
301 South Fourth Street
Watseka, IL 60970



"Go Make Disciples of All Nations" Matthew 28:19

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Evangel News Email: office@watsekaumc.org
7:00 p.m. Radio Broadcast on WIBK, 96.9FM and www.wibkradio.com
Online Giving at <https://bit.ly/2SlvyCr>



First United Methodist Church Watseka



First UMC Watseka

**Our Mission: Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
Our Vision: To welcome neighbors of all ages to experience God, share hope, and be changed by Christ's love.**

***Calendar subject to change. For an up-to-date calendar check our online calendar on our website at <https://www.watsekaumc.org/church-calendar>.**

Tues., Apr. 1	8:00am- Food Pantry Delivery
Sun., Apr. 6	9:15am- Sunday Worship Service (Communion Sunday)
Tues., Apr. 8	11:30am- Food Pantry Volunteer Luncheon
Friday, Apr. 11	11:30am- Food Pantry Delivery
Sun., Apr. 13	9:15am- Sunday Worship Service
Mon., Apr. 14	6:00pm- AD Council Meeting
Tues., Apr. 15	7:00pm- Holy Stitches Meeting
Fri., Apr. 18	Good Friday CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Sun., Apr. 20	7:00pm- Good Friday Service at Milford UMC Easter Sunday
Mon., Apr. 21	9:15am- Sunday Worship Service Easter Monday CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Thurs., Apr. 24	2:00pm- Newsletter Deadline
Sun., Apr. 27	9:15am- Sunday Worship Service



HAPPY EASTER!