

The Lamplighter

A Publication of Windsor First United Methodist Church

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SUMMER 2026



July 17, 2026

Pastor Pondering's

Summer is a wonderful season. The longer days, warm sunshine, family vacations, backyard cookouts, reunions, and time spent outdoors remind us to slow down and enjoy the blessings God has given us. It is a season that invites us to create memories with those we love and to appreciate the beauty of God's creation.

As much as we nourish our bodies with good food and rest during these summer months, it is equally important that we continue to nourish our faith. It can

be easy to slip out of the routines that keep us spiritually grounded. Whether you're traveling or staying close to home, I encourage you to make time for prayer, reading Scripture, and worship. Even if you are away for a weekend, seek out a church to visit or spend time reflecting on God's presence in your life. Just as our gardens need regular care to flourish, our faith grows stronger when we intentionally spend time with the Lord.

This summer has also reminded us that life is a mixture of joy and sorrow. As a church family, we mourn the passing of our beloved sister in Christ, *Jeannie Ditch*. Jeannie touched many lives with her kindness, faith, and love for others. We give thanks for the witness she shared among us and trust in the promise of the resurrection through Jesus Christ. Please continue to keep her family in your prayers as they grieve and adjust to life without her physical presence.

Our hearts also remain with many others who are facing difficult days. At this writing, we continue praying for Tod, Bob, Gary, Judy K., and for all those who are in nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, or homebound. Many within our congregation are carrying burdens that are unseen—illness, loneliness, uncertainty, and loss. One of the greatest gifts we can offer one another is the assurance that they are remembered in prayer. A phone call, a card, or a simple visit can be a powerful reminder that they are not alone.

Following this writing, we now ask your prayers of sympathy and comfort for the Williams and Bode families at the recent passings of our long-time friends and members, *Rosemary* and *Bob*. We honored Rosemary at her service on June 17 and Bob's memorial will be on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at Windsor FUMC at 11:00am with a luncheon to follow. A committal service with military honors will be held at 2:00pm at Knox Cemetery in Ouaquaga NY. All are welcome to attend. Please continue your prayers for these families.

Summer also provides us with an opportunity to reflect. We live in a world filled with uncertainty. We see it in the news, in our communities, within the Church, and sometimes even within our own families and personal lives. Change can be unsettling, and the future may not always seem clear. Yet as followers of Christ, we are reminded that our hope is not found in circumstances but in the One who is unchanging.

Jesus assures us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. His presence is constant when life is joyful and when it is difficult. He walks beside us through seasons of celebration and seasons of grief. When the path ahead feels uncertain, we can rest in the certainty of His love, His grace, and His promises. God remains faithful, even when the world around us seems anything but.

As we continue through these summer months, may we take time not only to rest our bodies but also to renew our spirits. May we cherish the time we have with family and friends, reach out to those who need encouragement, and remain steadfast in our faith. Let us continue to be the hands and feet of Christ, sharing His love wherever we go.

Thank you for being such a caring and faithful congregation. It is a blessing to walk this journey of faith together.

As always, know that I am praying for each of you. If there is any way I can support you, please don't hesitate to reach out. My office hours are Tuesday's 9:30 - 12:30, please call or stop by, and if that time doesn't work with your schedule, please feel free to call or text me to set up a meeting time, (just a reminder that Monday's are my Sabbath Days)

May God bless you and keep you throughout this summer season.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Deb

Assisting Us in Worship

August 2 – 11:00am Ecumenical Service on the Windsor Village Green with a picnic to follow. This is our 5th Sunday service.

All other services are held at 10:00am unless otherwise noted.

August 9

Liturgist: Cindy Martin

August 23

Liturgist – Carol Holland

August 16

Liturgist – Elaine Barrett

August 30

Liturgist – Carol Carpenetti

If you are led to assist as a liturgist on Sunday mornings, we welcome you! If you aren't comfortable opening up the service, we can provide the scripture reading for you.

Please contact Isabelle Jahn or Sue Bennett if you are interested.

Welcome To Our Newest Members

A service of receiving new members, confirmation and baptism was held in June.

We welcome *Nick Bush* as a transfer member, *Autumn Cafferty* and *Addie Deyo* through confirmation and *Antoinette Aird* through Holy Baptism. Please continue to prayer for them as they continue their faith journey with us.

We also welcome all new friends and visitors to our congregation. Please join us following worship for fellowship...and even a cookie or two!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



A dedication of Bibles was held during worship on May 10 and each of the following youth were presented with their own copy of the beautiful "Go Bible":

Maxwell Bartholomew, Lilly Bidwell, Autumn Cafferty, Ben Cafferty, James Carroll, Elliott Clarke, Addie Deyo, Bryan Henley, Lucas Henley, Camden Konop, Corbin Merrill, Wyatt Merrill, Parker Noyd, Priya Pendorf, Abigail Slesinsky, Kaelyn Slesinsky, Nathan Slesinsky.

Opening day of Sunday School will be early September, date to be announced.

All ages are welcome to attend!

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Our **Mission Committee**, **United Women in Faith** and many others continue to serve our church and community. Laurie Wightman shared this poem at the last meeting:

"Much to Do" from the Tradition of the Ancestors:

Time to begin again this good work

We have been sent to do

To feed the hungry, heal the sick, care for the poor.

All these tasks and a thousand more stand before us.

Peace still beckons across the war-torn countryside

And justice waits to be fulfilled

In the streets of our cities.

Even the earth speaks of its own lament

To all who will listen

We have much to do.

Time then to take a breath, roll up our sleeves

Put aside personal disagreements and get busy.

We can debate our faith in the evening over coffee.

Now is the time for all of us

To be out in the fields of change.



We partnered with Whitney Point UMC for this project and over 17,000 dresses have been created! Our own Sheri Hotaling has made over 84 on her own! Our thoughts and prayers to the family of Jean Ellis who recently passed away. Jean was the coordinator of the program in Whitney Point. The sewing group

is actively creating on Wednesday mornings in Room 5. You don't have to be a seamstress as there are other ways to contribute – cutting, measuring, etc. Please contact Carol Prentice or Blanche Birtch for additional information.



We will be preparing shoe boxes again this holiday season for this Kentucky mission. Tags will be available in the narthex for articles needed now. We have many donations remaining from last year, so we ask that **only those articles on the tags be given now**. Thank you for continually supporting this mission.



We will host our second free community meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 26th. There will be lots to plan so watch for more information on details how you may assist with preparing, hosting and serving options. Please direct questions to Laurie Wightman, Missions Chair.



Secret Sister Group

It's the time of the year to gather and reveal our secret sisters! We will meet on **Tuesday evening, August 18 at 5:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to pass for approximately 15-20, your tableware and choice of beverage. Meat will be provided. Also bring a gift for the one you have blessed, and a thank you to the sister who has treated you all year! We will choose new names for the coming year. Any sister who wishes to join the group, is invited to attend.



God's Bread Food Pantry

Submitted by Jill Skinner, Coordinator



What is the Windsor FUMC God's Bread Food Pantry? God's Bread is a mission of our church that is very important to the families in our communities we feed each week. We are currently serving 28 households consisting of children, adults and seniors. Each household can come every week to receive food. God's bread is open to anyone that is in need.

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The God's Bread Food Pantry takes place here at our church every Tuesday morning from 9:30am till noon to service those in need. Volunteers come in at 8:00am to set out the food. If you're not an early bird, there is an opportunity to greet those that start coming at 9:30am.

We continue to need volunteers to help with deliveries, giving out food and greeting our members at the pantry. If you can volunteer 1 day a month it would be very much appreciated. Without our volunteers we would not be able to carry out our mission to feed those in need.

As a volunteer and chair of God's Bread for many years, I need to step back from some of the duties of the Food Pantry. We are looking for individuals to take over some of the responsibilities such as ordering and monthly reports to CHOW and The Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

We do work hand in hand with Windsor Human Development. So why do we need God's Bread too? Some members do receive food from Human Development, but not all.

We do not ask questions; we have a simple application to fill out. We are here to serve those in need, including our own Church Family.

Matthew 25:34-40 "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you took me into your home. I needed clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' "Then the people who have God's approval will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you into our homes or see you in need of clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' "The king will answer them, 'I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.'"

This year our grants have been greatly reduced. To support this special need, if you are fortunate to give, we are asking for donations of peanut butter, soups, canned meats (tuna, chicken) and spaghetti sauce at this time. Any questions or concerns volunteering or receiving food, please contact Jill Skinner or Carol Carpenetti.

FROM THE TRUSTEES



John McNulty – President

Matt Wightman – VP

Kate Daum – Secretary/Treasurer

Ben Amberge, Tom Birtch, Norm Quinn and Keith Royer

The Board of Trustees have been busy lately.... the obvious is the new carpet and paint in the narthex along with other projects as follows:

- ❖ Installation of a new heat pump in the Pre-School Sunday school room to hopefully use less energy next winter.
- ❖ We have worked with Deposit and Sanitaria Springs UMC's to get much needed repairs to the Deposit parsonage. The roof has been repaired, electrical issues fixed and most importantly insulation installed to make it more energy efficient and comfortable for Pastor Deb.
- ❖ We also are planning to replace additional windows in the Windsor sanctuary, and are doing usual repairs as needed!
- Our thanks to *Craig Cartner* for his excellent work preparing and painting the narthex prior to carpet installation and for painting the boiler room door and center posts of the double doors. He also is changing out lights as needed. Craig is not only the church custodian keeping our building clean and safe, but a great help in times of need for many of our groups and events at church.

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

June Monthly Income:	\$11,340.59
YTD Income (all sources)	52,241.67
YTD Expenses	49,644.61
YTD Surplus/Deficit	\$ 2,597.06

Sandy (our finance chair) reports that as of mid-year we are doing well with a slight surplus YTD. In coordination with Pastor Deb, we are planning an earlier Stewardship drive this year which will end in October.

We have met with and submitted our final grant application to the "Put God First" foundation in Vestal and prayerfully hope they will consider our requests.

Thank you to everyone who provides both financial gifts, gifts of time, talent and service to our church and community.

1Peter 4:10 – "Use your spiritual gifts to serve others as faithful managers of Gods grace."

CHURCH COUNCIL'S next scheduled meeting is on SEPTEMBER 22 at 6:00PM.

Minutes of our June meeting will be approved at that time and copies made available in the notebook on the narthex table.

If you wish a copy of minutes from any of the council meetings sent to you, please let Sue Bennett know.

SAVE THE DATES

Soup and Salad Meals

Will begin Thursday, October 8 5:00pm and continue the 2nd Thursday of each month through April.



United Women in Faith

Annual Bazaar – November 7th.

If you wish to be a vendor or know of someone who would like to, please contact Sue Bennett in the church office or (607) 760-9053.

A black and white poster for the United Women in Faith Annual Bazaar. It features autumn-themed illustrations like leaves, pumpkins, and a basket of goods. The text is arranged in a decorative layout with various fonts and sizes.

The United Women in Faith
will host their
ANNUAL BAZAAR
Saturday, November 7, 2026
at
Windsor First United Methodist Church
56 Chapel St, Windsor, NY

We'll have a wonderful selection of artisans offering their crafts for sale, delicious bake goods, lunch from our kitchen and more!

FREE ADMISSION

For Vendor table information, please contact
Susan Bennett
607-760-9053 or 607-655-1791

Come shop, enjoy lunch and support our church!

A black and white calendar for Women in Faith, 2026-2027. It is decorated with floral and heart motifs. The calendar lists meetings, soup and salad events, and church events.

WOMEN IN FAITH
2026-2027

MEETINGS

- ♥ Tuesday, September 29, 2026 – 6:30 PM
- ♥ Tuesday, October 27, 2026 – 12:30 PM
- ♥ Tuesday, December 1, 2026 – 6:30 PM
- ♥ Tuesday, January 5, 2027 – 12:30 PM
Budget and Elections
- ♥ Tuesday, February 2, 2027 – 6:30 PM
- ♥ Tuesday, March 2, 2027 – 12:30 PM
- ♥ Tuesday, March 30, 2027 – 6:30 PM
- ♥ Tuesday, April 27, 2027 – 12:30 PM

SOUP AND SALAD

- 🍲 Thursday, October 8, 2026 – 5:00 PM
- 🍲 Thursday, November 12, 2026 – 5:00 PM
- 🍲 Thursday, December 10, 2026 – 5:00 PM
- 🍲 Thursday, January 14, 2027 – 5:00 PM
- 🍲 Thursday, February 11, 2027 – 5:00 PM
- 🍲 Thursday, March 11, 2027 – 5:00 PM
- 🍲 Thursday, April 8, 2027 – 5:00 PM

EVENTS

- 🛍️ **WUMC CHURCH BAZAAR**
Saturday, November 7, 2026
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- 🎄 **WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Saturday, December 5, 2026
3:00 PM at WUMC
- 📦 **TRASH TO TREASURE**
Saturday, April 24, 2027
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



First United Methodist Church
PO Box 36
(56 Chapel St.
Windsor NY 13865

Everyone welcome
Parking behind church

RETURN ADDRESS
REQUESTED

First United Methodist Church of Windsor
56 Chapel Street, PO Box 36
Windsor NY 13865
Pastor Debra Arnold (607) 972-8396
Email: darnold88@gmail.com
Pastor Office Hours in Windsor – Tues. 9:30-12:30

Church Email: wumc1@tds.net
(607) 655-1791
Website: www.umcwindsonny.org
Church Secretary Office Hours: Tues, Thurs., Fri.
9am-1pm

Binghamton/Oneonta District of the
United Methodist Upper NY Conference
PO Box 5546
Endicott NY 13760
Rev. Bob Kolvik-Cambell, District Superintendent
Rosemary Dilorio –Administrative Assistant
(607) 748-0662

Sunday: Worship & Sunday School – 10:00am
Tuesday: God's Bread Food Pantry – 9:30-Noon
Finance Team quarterly
Church Council – Dates TBD
Thursday: Handbell Practice at 6:00pm
Choir Practice at 7:00pm & Saturday at
10:00am

♪ **NO PRACTICE IN THE SUMMER** ♪

2nd Thursdays Oct. thru April - Community Soup
and Salad Dinners–**Will begin October 8th**