**HISTORY of the United Methodist Church,** Worcester, NY

**175 Years of Service and Commitment 1836-2011**

**Contributors**

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| **CITATION** | **YEAR** | **NOTE** |
| BB3 | Pre-history | The area was a Mohawk hunting ground; there were Indian trails from the Susquehanna region through the Adaquitangie country (later named the Charlotte Valley) to Schoharie, over the Decatur hills and perhaps through the Schohanna Valley (the northern valley formed by what was later called the Schenevus Creek).  |
| BB5 | 1723 ff. | European intrusions probably occurred, including the first documented organized passage by Palatine overflow settlers from the Schoharie Valley through the Adaquitangie to Pennsylvania. |
| BB6 | Maybe 1740 | European settlement took place in the Adaquitangie. |
| BB8 | By 1768 | Documented European settlement had taken place in the Schohanna Valley; post-Revolution expansion followed; Crippens, Flints, Bigelows and other early families appeared in the Tusculum and West Worcester areas; Champions settled near Four Corners (East Worcester). Early institutions including churches were yet to develop. |
| WYO763WH | About 1790 | Methodists organized in Westford; no records exist until 1823. |
| TWH49 | 1792 | May 10 – The Congregational Church Society of Christ formed; it became the First Presbyterian Church in 1917.  |
| TWH502BC1 | 1797 | Early Baptist meetings occurred at the Fern farm on West Hill.  |
| 2WFF 104TWH 502BC1 | 1798/1799 | The First Baptist Church was organized on West Hill; its first meeting house was built in 1819 west of the present eastern intersection of Route 7 and West Hill Road.  |
| WYO763WH | 1823 | December 24 – The “First Methodist Episcopal Society in Westford” met in Schoolhouse No. 3 for incorporation. It was reincorporated on December 28, 1896. |
| BB138WYO710EW | 1823 or 1824  | Elizabeth Champion formed the Methodist Society of East Worcester; East Worcester became part of the Westford Circuit a few years later. |
| BB137 | Probably 1820s | “The beginnings of the Worcester Methodist Episcopal Church were in the hamlet of Tusculum in the early 1800s. This small group began to meet in a red schoolhouse ... ” It is not clear whether this statement refers to the likely formation of the Emory Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Town of Worcester in the period before the Methodist meeting house was built and occupied at 132 Main Street, or to a later period. Bishop John Emory of the State of Maryland was the apparent inspiration for this Society.  |
| WYO763 | 1828 | The Methodist “Westford Circuit” was formed. Wyoming Conference circuit histories do not mention a Westford Circuit, although individual church histories do. Previously, Westford was probably served by the Montgomery and Otsego (1791) Circuits. The Conference history says of the Otsego Circuit, “The country was wild; settlements were few and far between. Roads were few, people poor, wicked and restless.” It is not clear, but the early circuit rider preachers originating from Westford were apparently under the formal authority of the Otsego Circuit, of which Westford was a part – what would now be called a “charge.” The phrase “Westford Circuit” may not have described a real circuit set up by the Conference, but might rather have been an informal reference to the charge which housed the circuit riders. In that case, the year 1828 would likely have been the year that circuit riding started in and around Westford.  |
| BB1372BC5, 6ZZ Conveyances 31HH  | 1831 | December 19 – Hiram Burritt, Nicholas Chesebro, Timothy Brown, Schuyler Crippen and John Waterman, trustees of the Emory Society, purchased land at 132 Main Street in the hamlet of West Worcester, from George Clarke, Esq. of Hyde Hall, for $1. The land was “not to be used for any other purpose than as ground for the construction of a church and as a church yard.” The conveyance was recorded on September 4, 1833. Hurd's History of Otsego County (1878) states that “the society was without a church edifice until 1840, when a neat and substantial edifice was erected.” This date is contradicted by later records. The church was, however, soon built to the west and behind the present site of the Second Baptist Church. It was a 36x46 wooden structure with a pulpit on the south side. |
| BB138 | 1830s | The South Worcester Methodist Episcopal Church formed; it closed in 1963. Howson Hartley was one of the trustees at the time of closing.  |
| 2WFF104WYO708,710EWWHSHH | 1836 | The West Worcester Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at a meeting over which its first pastor, Alexander E. Daniels, presided. Daniels was also the first pastor after incorporation at East Worcester (1838), Decatur (1841) and Schenevus (1842). He married three times and survived all three wives. He is buried in his home town, Morris, New York. Daniels was joined as pastor by another Westford circuit rider, Martin Marvin. Ministers from 1836 to 1840 were circuit riders from Westford. |
| WYO763 | By 1836 | The Westford Circuit included West Worcester, Jacksonboro (Schenevus), Elk Creek, Decatur, East Worcester, Brooker Hollow, Richmondville, Westford, Low's Schoolhouse, Elliott Hill, Boardman's, Crumhorn and Foster Schoolhouse. Decatur was the strongest point on the Circuit. The apportionment for pastors was $717, used as follows: Martin Marvin $232; Alexander E. Daniels $200; house rent for both $40; wood $15 and $30 respectively; table expenses $200. In 1839, Westford and Crumhorn were the strongest points.  |
| 1WFF52-53 | 1837 | “... an academy building was erected by Rev. Isaac Grant, Asa Waterman and John Caryl, its site being an elevation overlooking the valley and the town of Worcester” (about 230 Tuscan Road). Grant (1785-1841), originally from Massachusetts, was a widely-known Methodist preacher on the Bridgewater (1816), Canaan (1817), Chenango (1826) and Otsego (1827, 1838) Circuits, and who served at Westford in 1829, 1830 and 1833. This building was called “the Methodist Seminary,” although it is not certain that it was ever used for that purpose. Local historian Ida Flint Shafer said that “it was intended to be.” Also called “the Hall of Science” and other elaborate titles, it should not be confused with the former “Academy” building near 215 Tuscan Road later used as a Methodist church. The “Seminary” was later the home of attorney Samuel H. Grant, and was torn down in 1927. |
| BB137TWH51WYO770  | 1837 | The Westford Quarterly Conference appointed a committee “to sell or rent the Methodist Meeting House in Worcester.” |
| BB1392WFF104TWH502BC1 | 1839 | Previous to this time, the “Western” Baptists had met in the “Old Academy” building in Tusculum and had no name or organization. On January 2, several of them contracted for the sale of “An undivided half of the lot, house and stores of the Emory M.E. Church of West Worcester” at the site at 132 Main Street, for $200. They were to build 16 horse stalls for use by both congregations. Local historian W. Fern Ferguson states that the “purchase was made because of the First Baptist's increase in members who lived in or nearer Worcester village.” [There were 39 members in 1841.] Daniel Crippen, the son of the early settler Silas Crippen, and Aaron Petty of Westford represented the Methodists. Each group was to use the meeting room on alternate weeks, and both were to use the burial ground. There is no evidence that this agreement was ever recorded by the county. Legal arrangements for the eventual transfer of the entire property extended over a seven-year period until 1846.  |
| TWH 522BC1WYO 77071 Conveyances 44 | 1840 | February 15 – Daniel Crippen of Worcester and Aaron Petty of Westford, trustees of the Emory Society of the Methodist Church in Worcester, sold the other half of the lot, and the church and sheds, to the Baptist trustees, William Cook and Joseph Hartwell of Worcester and William Pierce of Decatur, for $300. The sale was recorded on July 16, 1842. |
| BB1392WFF104TWH50 2BC1 | 1841 | March 30 – A council met at the “West Meeting House” (the former Methodist church) and formally organized the West Baptist Church of Worcester, later known as the Second Baptist Church. The first pastor was Rev. D.B. Collins. |
| WYO709, 764 | 1841 | July – Decatur Hollow, Elliott Hill and West Worcester were set off as a separate Methodist charge. Ministers from 1841 to 1854 were circuit riders from Decatur. |
| WYO764 | 1844 | July 27 – East Worcester, Brooker Hollow, Foster Schoolhouse and Richmondville were set off as the Richmondville Charge. |
| 2BC1, 6164 Deeds 136 | 1846 | December 1 – The Emory Society trustees William Barney, John Dana and William C. Queal conveyed full title to the entire plot at 132 Main Street to the trustees of the Second Baptist Church for $300, reserving the right to use the graveyard for as long as the Baptists did. The total cost to the Baptists of the land and buildings between 1839 and 1846 was thus $800. The conveyance was recorded on March 6, 1873. In 1876, the Baptist (former Methodist) building was lowered four feet, moved 30 feet east and 14 feet north, rebuilt and enlarged.  |
| 2WFF104TWH52 | 1846 | Fern Ferguson surmised that “Apparently the Methodists, having no meeting house, then worshiped with the East Worcester Methodists.” It appears, however, that they eventually moved their services to Tusculum. Perhaps the overall effect was that the Baptists and Methodists in West Worcester simply switched locations with each other. [See 1854, 1856, 1857 and 1868, below.]  |
| WYO712 | 1853 | The East Worcester charge was formed. |
| 2WFF105 | 1854 | February 16 -- A card exists for a “donation visit” for the benefit of Rev. W. Burnside “at the Methodist Church in West Worcester,” “By Order of the Committee.” This church is probably the “Old Academy” building in Tusculum, later known as the “Old Church.” Rev. Burnside was the last minister to serve West Worcester from Decatur. |
| WYO712  | 1855 | East Worcester and Worcester formed one charge until 1882. Ministers from 1855 to 1871 were based in East Worcester and traveled to preach in Worcester.  |
| BB20, 26  | 1856 | Frank C. Gates' wall Map of Otsego County shows an “M.E. Church” on the north side of the road in Tusculum, on the property presently owned by Jeffrey Milavec (215 Tuscan Road).  |
| BB1372WFF 104TWH52WYO770WT 2/3/1943WT/WHS | 1857 | February 1 – A Methodist Society class was organized in the Red Schoolhouse “situated near the little settlement known as Tuscon” “on the south side of the main road in the west end of the hamlet.” This was probably the District No. 16 school, at a site on the present Robert Milavec farm in Tusculum, west of 186 Tuscan Road. “Preaching was first in the schoolhouse, subsequently in a building which was originally built for an academy and which had been fitted up so as to accommodate the society” – probably the same “Old Academy” building that the “Western” Baptists had previously used and that was shown on the 1856 wall map as the “M.E. Church.” The Wyoming Conference history says that “It was uninviting and out-of-the-way.” Fern Ferguson thought that “this was a second and successful attempt for it [the Worcester Methodist Church] to be on its own and that it continued there until coming to its present site” in the Worcester hamlet. At the time, East Worcester was the principal point on the charge. “The pulpit in Tusculum was often supplied by a circuit rider, who probably preached in East Worcester in the morning, and later in Tusculum.”  |
| WT 2/3/1943 | 1859 ff. cited | “About 1859 Worcester began to make more progress in growth. The railroad had completed its way through town, new streets had been laid out, hotel, a new school house, stores and homes erected, and it seemed an opportune time for a new Methodist Episcopal church in Worcester. Tusculon had heretofore been the home of the Methodist [Church]. Its pulpit being supplied by the pastors from East Worcester.  “A committee was appointed to solicit members and a new church proposed. Some ... wanted to build a church in Tusculon, others in the village of Worcester, so a compromise was made 'that it should not be built any further than the Decatur creek.' People solicited responded liberally and a goodly sum was pledged, the largest amount being $700 by the Queal brothers, others $300. Plans were drawn for the erection of a new edifice.” |
| BB22, 26 | 1868 | Frederick W. Beers' Atlas of Otsego County shows the “M.E. Church” at the same location in Tusculum as does the 1856 wall map. This was probably the former “Academy” building, later called the “Old Church.” |
| BB137 2WFF103 TWH52WYO771160 Deeds 421WT 7/20/1882WT 2/3/1943UMC | 1870 | Work began on a new church at 111 Main Street. On the day of the rising of the frame, Harrison Hoyt, a local storekeeper, made lemonade in a big wooden churn for the carpenters. The original building, now part of the main sanctuary, was 35x56 feet. The $3,600 cost of the church was met by public donation, including the gifts mentioned previously. Builder Sylvester Groat was overseer and Eli Vaughn his assistant. John Trickey, owner of the large Jersey farm at 192 Main Street, gave the church bell and a communion set, and donated toward the bell tower. The organ was given through the influence of the pastor, Rev. Hiram V. Talbot, by the Estes Organ Company. The “2nd Methodist Church” trustees Thomas Vickers, Lucius Lobdell, Stephen Gile, James M. Crippen and John D. Herrick purchased the actual land from farmer, former innkeeper Hamilton Russ and his wife Levantia for $405 on November 27, 1871. The deed specified the land as “being the same premises on which there is now a church edifice.”  |
| BB137TWH52WYO771 | 1871 | November 9 – Bishop Jesse T. Peck preached in the morning at the dedication of the “New Church” building; church pastor Rev. Talbot and Rev. William G. Queal (a Worcester native never appointed to serve at his home town; he was part of the Chenango Circuit in 1848) preached in the afternoon; Rev. William N. Cobb did the formal dedication. The main charge from 1871 to 1882 was in Worcester, and the minister now traveled from there to preach in East Worcester.  |
| WTWHS | 1871 | Benjamin Day was the first Sunday School Superintendent in the “New Church;” Stephen Gile had had the responsibility in the “Old Church” (the Academy building). Grocer Robert W. (“Rob”) Davison served as Superintendent for 25 years before 1940, and Charlotte S. Smith served for many years until 1965.  |
| 2WFF104WHSWT 2/3/1943 | After 1871 | Two versions exist regarding the eventual fate of the “Old Church.” One is that it was later sold to Morrell Starkweather and moved to Railroad Avenue. The other is that it was sold to Alonzo Herrick, taken down and moved to Worcester, where it was remodeled into a double house standing “opposite the milk station on Depot Street.”  |
| EW pastor listWYO771WYO712 | 1883 | East Worcester and Worcester, which had been administered as parts of one charge since 1855, separated and became individual charges, each with its own minister. |
| BB137UMCWT 2/3/1943 | 1883 | “ ... it was thought best to have a permanent pastor and Rev. [J.D.] Belknap was assigned” as the first one for Worcester-only. Services were on Sunday morning and evening, and also on Thursday evening. A house was rented on “Park Ave.” (then called Brook Street and now Park Street) for a parsonage. |
| BB137TWH52WYO771C Incorporation 358  | 1884 | January 10 – The meeting for incorporation took place. Mill owner Julius T. Hadsell and storekeeper Eli Denny presided; James Pickett, George Stam (also storekeepers) and Edgar Prindle were the first trustees.  |
| TWH52WYO771208 Deeds 5UMCBB123-124WT 2/3/1943 | 1884 | March 24 – Property for a parsonage (“a house opposite the church”) was purchased from Giles C. Goodenough and his wife Alida for $1,300. Two Goodenough daughters had drowned while boating on the Susquehanna River near Unadilla while on their honeymoons in 1875. |
| WHS | 1891 | April -- The Epworth League was organized, featuring leaders of weekly discussions on church-related topics. |
| BB137TWH52WYO771UMC2WFF103 | 1895 | With increased membership, the church building was remodeled and enlarged for $4,100. $2,000 had been raised in advance; $1,900 was raised on the day of dedication. The building committee was composed of George B. Crippen, President and Treasurer; E. Martin Burpee, Secretary; Julius T. Hadsell, Manley Preston and Charles Goodell. Lyman H. Blend of Oneonta was the architect and W.H. Murphy of Cobleskill was the builder. Sunday School rooms and a small kitchen were added; the sanctuary was enlarged; new floors and stained glass windows were installed. The windows were in honor or memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Preston; Rev. Eugene C. Herdman and Amanda M. Preston Herdman; Horatio and Frances Flint; Catherine M. Howe; Schuyler G. Crippen; Rev. William B. Barney; Oscar H. Tyler; Rev. Haskell B. Benedict and his wife; Epworth League Chapter 1542, George B. Crippen, President; T. Vickers and family; Ada Herrick; Arviro Rockefellow; William VanBenthuysen and family; Sunday School Class No. 5, E.M. Burpee, teacher; and the Junior Epworth League No. 3227.  |
| BB1372WFF103TWH52WYO771UMC | 1895 | October 10 – The remodeled church building was dedicated. The presiding elder was Rev. Asa J. VanCleft. Rev. Jay Benson Hamilton of Syracuse University preached in the morning; former church pastors Rev. Jacob H. Littell of Otego and Rev. William Edgar of Scranton addressed in the afternoon on the subjects of “Christian Fruit Bearing” and “Our Fraternity,” respectively; Bishop Edward G. Andrews of New York City held forth in the evening.  |
| BB140 | 1895 | Free Methodists appeared in South Worcester in this era, having a large grove meeting on Titus Hill. |
| UMCMP | 1898 | February 11 – Charges were preferred in the case of the Worcester Methodist Episcopal Church v. Manley J. Preston. Mr. Preston, a Sunday School teacher and a lifelong church member, and the pastor, Rev. Hugh A. Williams, had experienced a series of disagreements during the year 1897. Preston was charged with disobedience to the pastor and to the discipline of the church in refusing to abstain from acting as the teacher of his class after a disputed Sunday School Board vote (either 6-5 or 5-6 or with ineligible voters) to relieve him of his duties. A local church trial found him guilty, having the effect of expelling him from the congregation, whereupon he appealed to the Quarterly Conference. Meeting in Milford during the first week of March, Presiding Elder Austin Griffin and other officials acquitted Preston by a vote of 5-2 and reinstated him. He arrived back in Worcester by train to a happy reception and celebration and resumed his role in the church. Rev. Williams had left town in April, 1897, succeeded in normal course by Rev. Frank N. Smith, who had been required by virtue of his office to press the charges, which he did reluctantly and against his personal preference.  |
| BB137TWH52WT 2/3/1943 | 1901 | A new parsonage was begun at 112 Main Street, and completed in 1903 for $2,100. A 1902 bequest by Miss Ann Smith provided $1,000 of the funds.  |
| WSCS | 1906 | The women's Beulah Sunday School class began, lasting into the late 1920s.  |
| CSG | 1907  | Rev. Charles W. Smith left town after marital indiscretions, leaving a wife and daughter at 236 Main Street. In 1965, his daughter Helen Smith Bevington (1906-2001), an author and English instructor at Duke University, wrote a book, Charley Smith's Girl, detailing her life and relationships with her parents.  |
| BB138WYO708 | 1917 | Decatur was part of the charge until it became inactive in 1993. The first Decatur church had been built in 1807 and replaced in 1839 and 1901. The latter building was torn down on July 8, 1998. Ministers from 1917 to 1945 traveled from Worcester to preach in Decatur, and from 1946 to 1993 to preach both in Decatur and East Worcester.  |
|  BB137-138UMC | 1926 | November 28 – The church contracted with Clarence E. Morey of Utica for the purchase of a two-manual pipe organ for $3,000. The instrument was installed in 1927, financed by pledges and by $1,000 from the Beulah Sunday School Class. Some records state that the organ was placed “at the center back of the sanctuary and later moved to the left of its original position.” This reference is apparently to the keyboard and controls; the pipes remained in the center.  |
| 2WFF104TWH54 | 1937 | Rev. Wheaton P. Webb served until 1943. He later authored the script for the town sesquicentennial program in 1947. Rev. Webb's widow Alice published his autobiography Wind on the Stairs in 1990, which featured a full chapter on his service and experiences in Worcester, including chronicles of folk stories from the surrounding hills. |
| WSCSWHSWT | 1939 | Several church missionary groups, including the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the Ladies Aid Society, merged to form the Women's Society for Christian Service, which was chartered on September 25, 1941.  |
| 2WFF 104 | 1943 | Rev. Frederick W. Church began his pastorate, which at nine years became the longest in church history.  |
| UMC | 1945 | November 11 – The church held a service on the 50th Anniversary of the remodeled building. The subject of Rev. Church's sermon was “Looking Backward and Moving Forward.”  |
| BB 138EW | 1946 | East Worcester became part of the charge without its knowledge and against its will. Rev. Church, the pastor at Worcester, “dumped” the EW church records, according to that church's history. The charge now consisted of three churches. Ministers from 1946 to 1993 traveled from Worcester to preach in both Decatur and East Worcester, and until 2000 from Worcester to East Worcester. |
| BB138UMC | 1951 | Horse sheds and carriage step stones were removed and additional automobile parking added.  |
| 2WFF104 | 1952 | Rev. Richard V. Graham served until 1958. |
| BB138465 Deeds 305 | 1954 | November 5 – Lewis and Ella Wade donated land in back for an “Educational Building.” |
| UMC | 1955 | The church received the gift of chimes in memory of Lewis M. Wade (1879-1955).  |
| BB138WT/WHSUMC | 1956 | May 6 – An “Educational Building” added to the rear of the church was dedicated. The guest speaker was Rev. Samuel J. Truscott, Superintendent of the Oneonta District. The addition was built by William Weber and Kenneth Robinson for $10,225, was later renamed the Charlotte Smith Sunday School Room, and even later the Fellowship Hall. It has also been used for such community activities as suppers; Scout, Alcoholics Anonymous and Rotary meetings; GED, aerobics, rug hooking and quilting classes; and blood drives.  |
| BB clippings | 1959 | July 12 – Observance of the 75th Anniversary of Incorporation took place. |
| 522 Deeds 189 | 1961 | November 7 – Ella Wade transferred more land in back for parking, a picnic area and garage. |
| 2BC46 | 1965 | September – The Second Baptist Church voted to formalize the practice of union services with the Methodists and Presbyterians. This practice had occurred occasionally over many years. |
| BB138 | 1968 | Nationally, the Methodist Episcopal Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church merged as the United Methodist Church. |
| BB138 UMC | 1971 | This year marked the centennial of the “New Church” building. Its interior was redecorated and exterior plantings honored Arthur B. Doig, the long-time principal of Worcester Central School. Former pastor Rev. Wheaton P. Webb was the guest speaker at an evening service on August 21. Bishop J. Gordon Howard gave the sermon at the Centennial Sunday Service on August 22.  |
| UMC | 1977 | The church received $13,000 from the estate of Robert Darling. [This outline includes all known bequests of $10,000 or more.] |
| BB161 | 1980 | Combined choirs at union services of the three Protestant churches in Worcester led to the formation of the Community Chorale. |
| UMC | 1988 | May 23 – The church initiated the Waterman Fund, a bequest of $374,994, half of the residue of a trust fund from the estate of Carrie Waterman, which directed that “the income therefrom be used toward maintaining an active church organization.”  |
| WHSUMC | 1990 | The turn-of-the-century era witnessed the modernizing pastorates of John L. Phillippe (1990); Joyce K. Allen (1996), the first woman pastor; Jane M. Pykus (2001); and E. Susan Wenner (2009).  |
| BB138 | 1991 | A Church Directory was published in this year, and again in 2000 and 2004. |
| BB138 | 1993 | September 26 – Consecration services took place for extensive renovations, including new siding and exterior renovations, handicap access ramps, a new kitchen and bathrooms, and many interior improvements. A round window hidden by the organ was moved behind the pulpit and backlighted. Budget for the project was $170,000. |
| UMC | 2000 | East Worcester again became a separate charge. Worcester and East Worcester became station churches. Their ministers served only at their own congregations. |
| UMC | 2000 | April 7 – The Church received notification that it had received a bequest from the estate of Abigail Roberts VanWagenen, a high school teacher from Rochester, New York and the widow of the pioneering brain surgeon William Perrine VanWagenen of Rochester Memorial Hospital. Mrs. VanWagenen had died on March 9. The bequest, entitled “The Fund in Memory of George VanWagenen and Minnie [Russ] VanWagenen [his mother],” was “Four percent to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Worcester, New York,” and stated that “The amount received shall be invested in a prudent manner by the authorities of the said Church or its representative. The principal sum shall not be spent .. The income may be used in any manner ...” The gift was $445,003.04. The Methodist Church in Rush, New York, received an identical amount.  |
| 950 Deeds 230UMC | 2001 | October 30 – The church purchased the adjacent former U.S. Post Office building at 115 Main Street for $53,398.33 and named it the Mission and Ministry Building. The “M&M” hosts many community and church meetings and events.  |
| UMC | 2002 | Jon Karker planted two new 35-foot-high maple trees. Karker met half of the $1,000 cost, and the remainder was met by donations by Walt and Molly Thompson, Fred and Lorraine Voss, Betsy Weidman, Robert and Deborah Rodriguez and Rev. Jane M. Pykus.  |
| UMC | 2003 | The church received a grant of $23,200 from the Penksa Foundation, $20,000 from the estate of Kenneth Hatton, and $10,000 from the estate of Stanley Gorham.  |
| UMC | 2004 | The Paul Hunt Charitable Trust Fund initiated annual continuing contributions of $3,500 until it is depleted. |
| UMC | 2006 | A year-long series of monthly events from January 2006 through January 2007 celebrated “170 Years of Ministry in Our Community, 1836-2006.” They included concerts, an organ recital, a social gathering, a service of light and a balloon launch, among other things. Rev. Jane M. Pykus' subject was “You are a Light” at the main service on October 15. Rev. Pykus compiled and archived many of the church's historical documents.  |
| UMC | 2006 | The church received a bequest of $86,742.93 from the estate of Andrew E. Skinner. |
| UMC | 2007 | Restoration of the stained glass windows featured donations by Andrew E. Skinner, Paul Hunt, Arnold and Sandra Rock, Stanley Gorham and the Penksa Foundation, and others in memory of Hazel Silvernail and William Weber.  |
| UMC | 2008 | July – The Worcester United Methodist Church was yoked with the First Presbyterian Church. Local Methodist pastors became certified to serve there.  |
| UMC | 2010 | June – In an administrative realignment, the local church left the Wyoming Conference and joined the Upper New York Conference. |
| UMC | 2010 | September 26 – Observance of the 175th Anniversary of the organization of the Church. This outline of its history was distributed. |

ADMINISTRATIVE SEQUENCE

1831 The Emory Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Town of Worcester purchased land for construction of a church.

1836 The West Worcester Methodist Episcopal Church was organized as part of the Westford Circuit; circuit rider preachers also served East Worcester and other area churches.

1841 Decatur Hollow, Elliott Hill and West Worcester were set off from Westford as a separate charge.

1844 East Worcester, Brooker Hollow, Foster Schoolhouse and Richmondville were set off from Westford as the Richmondville Charge.

1855 East Worcester and West Worcester were administered as one charge. East Worcester was the main point on the charge.

1871 The main point of the charge was at Worcester.

1883 Worcester and East Worcester became separate charges.

1917 Worcester and Decatur were administered as one charge.

1946 The Worcester charge also included East Worcester and Decatur.

1965 Union services were formalized among the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches in Worcester.

1993 Decatur church became inactive; the Worcester charge still included East Worcester.

2000 East Worcester became a separate charge.

2008 The Worcester charge was yoked with the First Presbyterian Church.

2012 Worcester and Westford were administered as one charge.

**KNOWN PASTORATES SERVING WORCESTER METHODISTS**

\* Main point of the charge

(Some dates are approximate) WYO771; 2WFF; WHS; HH; UMC

**------ 1836 WESTFORD\* CIRCUIT -----**

1836 Alexander E. Daniels (first of several circuit rider preachers; served charges at Westford (1836-37, 1842 and 1855-56, East Worcester, Decatur (1840-41, 1857) and Schenevus (1860); Chenango Circuit, 1835); and

 Martin Marvin (circuit rider; served at Westford (1835-36, 1841-42 and 1850) and Schenevus (1851-52); Chenango Circuit, 1831, 1832; Otsego Circuit 1837, 1840, 1849)

1837 Alexander E. Daniels and John Crawford

1838 M. French, David Davies and Philip Bartlett

1839 E.L. North and Philip Bartlett

1840 Alexander E. Daniels and A. Brown

**----- 1841 DECATUR HOLLOW\*, ELLIOTT HILL and WEST WORCESTER -----**

1841 Alexander E. Daniels (at Decatur)

1842-43 C. Starr

1844 S.C. Phinney

1845-46 Edwin Dennison

1847-48 E.L. North

1849 George Parsons and R.O. Beebe

1850 George Parsons

1851-52 D.C. Dutcher

1853-54 William Burnside (Otsego Circuit 1847)

**----- 1855 EAST WORCESTER\* and WORCESTER -----**

1855-56 Bishop B. Carruth (Broome Circuit, 1882)

1857-58 Delos Potter

1859 P. Hughson

1860-61 John W. Mevis

1862 Willis L. Thorpe

1863-64 I.D. Peaslee

1865 Henry F. Rowe

1866 W.E. Hyde

1867 C.D. Mead

1868-69 George Parsons

1870-71 Hiram V. Talbot

**----- 1871 WORCESTER\* and EAST WORCESTER -----**

1871-72 Hiram V. Talbot

1873-74 Samuel G. Moore

1875-77 James N. Lee

1878-79 Nelson S. Reynolds

1880-82 Thomas P. Halstead

**----- 1883 WORCESTER ONLY -----**

1883 J.D. Belknap

1884-86 William Edgar

1886 George H. Prentice

1887-88 Ambrose J. Cook

1889 Thomas P. Halstead

1890 George F. Ace

1891-93 Jacob H. Littell

1894-95 Haskell Byron Benedict

1896-97 Hugh A. Williams

1897-98 Frank N. Smith

1898-99 Hiram A. Greene

1900 T.B. Miller

1901 T.B. Miller and Joseph Baird

1902-03 Joseph Baird

1904-05 James N. Lee

1906-07 Samuel Moore

1907 Charles W. Smith

1908-09 Sidney E. Hunt

1910-16 Adelbert D. Finch

**----- 1917 WORCESTER\* and DECATUR -----**

1917-21 Clinton B. Henry

1922-24 R. Floyd Lesh

1925-26 George G. Summerson

1927-30 C. Hazeldine Osborne

1931-32 R. Clayton Burch

1933-36 Edwin Lawrence Martin

1937-42 Wheaton Phillips Webb

1943-46 Frederick W. Church

**----- 1946 WORCESTER\*, EAST WORCESTER and DECATUR -----**

1946-51 Frederick W. Church

1952-57 Richard V. Graham

1958-59 Ernest C. George

1960-62 William Quick

1963-65 Larry H. Saxe

1966-67 Thomas White

1968 Richard Baker

1969-71 Joseph P. Timlin

1972-74 Ronald W. Browning

1975-77 Jeffrey A. Glassey

1978-82 Algernon B. Jayne

1983-90 William G. McCall, Jr.

1990 Norman Tiffany (interim)

1990-93 John L. Phillippe

**----- 1993 WORCESTER\* and EAST WORCESTER -----**

1993-96 John L. Phillippe

1996-2000 Joyce K. Allen

**----- 2000 WORCESTER ONLY -----**

2000-01 Joyce K. Allen

2001-08 Jane M. Pykus

**----- 2008 WORCESTER METHODISTS and FIRST PRESBYTERIANS -----**

2008-09 Jane M. Pykus

2009-12 Eilene Susan Wenner

**----- 2012 WORCESTER\* and WESTFORD -----**

2012- Eilene Susan Wenner

**CITATIONS**

BB A Bicentennial History of the Town of Worcester

CSG Charley Smith's Girl

EW History of the East Worcester Methodist Church

HH Hurd's History of Otsego County

HW Two Centuries in Westford

MP Trial of Manley Preston

2BC History of the Second Baptist Church

2WFF The Works of Wm. Fern Ferguson, Book 2

TWH Town of Worcester History, 1953

UMC Worcester United Methodist Church documents

WHS Worcester Historical Society files

WSCS WSCS History

WT The Worcester Times clippings

WYO History of the Wyoming Conference