

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
4 Mead Street
Walton, NY 13856**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE CONNECTION
January 2018
**Connecting God's People
Through Love**



January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church in Society- Lynn Allen Deacon- TBA Elijah's- Karen Inglis Trustee- Patty VerNooy 865-5745	1 New Year's Day	2 Trustee's Meeting 6:30 pm	3	4 Elijah's Closet – Pricing 10:00 Elijah's Closet Committee Meeting 10:30	5 Elijah's Closet 10:00-3:00	6 Epiphany Elijah's Closet 10:00-3:00 The Gathering Table 11-1
7 (The Baptism of Christ) 10:00 – Worship/Communion 11:00 - Coffee Hour Church in Society- after the service	8	9	10	11 Elijah's Closet – Pricing 10:00	12 Elijah's Closet 10:00-3:00	13 Elijah's Closet 10:00-3:00 The Gathering Table 11-1
14 (Second Sunday after Epiphany) 10:00 – Worship 11:00 – Coffee Hour Deacon's meeting- after the service	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 Annual Report Deadline Elijah's Closet – Pricing 10:00	19 Elijah's Closet 10:00-3:00 Prudential Mtg 3:15 pm	20 Elijah's Closet 10:00-3:00 The Gathering Table 11-1
21 (Third Sunday after Epiphany) 10:00 – Worship 11:00 - Coffee Hour	22	23	24	25 Elijah's Closet – Pricing 10:00	26 Elijah's Closet 10:00-3:00	27 Elijah's Closet 10:00-3:00 The Gathering Table 11-1
28 (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany) ANNUAL MEETING 10:00 – Worship 11:00 - Coffee Hour	29	30	31	If there are any additions or changes that you would like to submit after the 17 th please do so and I will do my best to get it in the Newsletter. Information can be left in the Secretary's mailbox or emailed to the church at: waltonucc@frontiernet.net		

COFFEE HOUR HOST

If you agree to be a host it will be your responsibility to find a second person to help you with Coffee Hour. The host will also supply Half n Half and Juice. Also if you agree to do a Sunday and are unable to do it after the fact then it would be your responsibility to find a replacement Coffee Hour Host. The Church will make Coffee and hot water for the host and provide paper products, sugar and sweet n' low. The Church Secretary will call you with a reminder before the Sunday you are to host.

COFFEE HOUR HOST FOR JANUARY

January 7 – Nadene Kopetz
 January 14 – Donna Thomson
 January 21 – Jan Kilpatrick
 January 28 – Patty VerNooy

COFFEE HOUR HOST FOR FEBRUARY

February 4 – Donna Truman
 February 11 – Dorothy Welch
 February 18 – Lynn Allen
 February 25 – Janet Brienza

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First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

4 Mead Street, Walton, NY 13856

Church Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9am-12pm

Church Phone: (607) 865-4066 Email: waltonucc@frontiernet.net

Church Website: www.uccwalton.com

Elijah's Closet Thrift Shop Open Friday and Saturday 10am-3pm

Elijah's Closet NEW Phone # 607-761-6089

A NOTE FROM

Janet

A NEW BEGINNING

The month of January has often been used by the Church to have at least one week set aside for prayer for Christian Unity. It is thought that if we are to witness effectively in the world, Christians need to present the Gospel together in unity.

However, since time began, people have preferred to build walls to prevent unity. People have felt they need to defend their territory, to protect their property, to exclude others, and to give themselves security. The church is no exception. As we developed through the 2017 years of the churches' growth we have set up many "theological barriers". We have excluded each other from Communion, established "denominations" and theologically denied each other's integrity.

Our walls were built from deeply held beliefs and superstitions, deep rooted prejudices, half understood fears, and inherited misunderstandings. At times our walls have become so high that it becomes impossible to see over them to see the truth.

As we worship this year through the Gospel of Mark we will see that the cross is the greatest act of demolition of the walls that hold us back. The Christ that moves among us is teaching us that the unconditional love of God, the creator, has pierced through our earthly desires of disrupting unity by sending God's self to live through us with the unconditional love of the Spirit of truth in us.

Michael Lloyd, in his *Café Theology*, states: "We need to make every effort, not just to maintain the unity of the spirit, but to recover it and to live it. We need to help the world to believe by living out the unity that proclaims there is one God. It is an evangelistic imperative as well as a matter of integrity"¹

During this month of unity we will pray each week in our worship service for Christian Unity. We will pray for all of us to come together rather than building walls that separate us and make us exclusive. We will pray that all Christians in Walton hold each other together in love and become one in the Spirit regardless of our "denomination".

As a new beginning consider adding to your personal prayers a prayer for greater Christian unity in our community!

PRAY FOR UNITY!

¹Michael Lloyd, *Café Theology*, Alpha International, 2005.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

The readings used at our weekly worship service and in most Mainline Protestant Churches and in Roman Catholic Churches are from a list of assigned readings known as The New Revised Common Lectionary. In our Congregational tradition, pastors are encouraged to use the assigned readings but it is not mandatory. I personally prefer to follow the readings and I mainly focus on the Gospel lessons for my meditation. It gives me and you a structure through which we can study and learn from the teachings of the scripture of the Word (Logos) of God in our midst.

The readings for January: (You are encouraged to read them as well)

JANUARY 1 – NEW YEAR’S DAY

Eccl 3:1-13; Ps 8; Rev 21:1-6a; Mt 25:31-46

JANUARY 6 – EPIPHANY

Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Mt 2:1-12

JANUARY 7 – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST/FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mk 1:4-11

JANUARY 14 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

1 Sam 3:1-10, (11-20); Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor 6:12-20; Jn 1:43-51

JANUARY 21 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

JANUARY 28 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mk 1:21-28

From The Past.....

I found an article from “*The Congregationalist*” dated January 3, 1924 which led to more information to share with you. The article reads:

“Walton Celebrates Missionary Society Centennial

The 100th anniversary of the parent organization of the women's missionary union of First, Walton, was recently celebrated with a special service followed by a social hour.

The name of the original organization was the “Female Benevolent Society.” The first minute book is in existence and as part of the celebration the constitution and the minutes of the first annual meeting of the society were read, and proved to be very quaint and historically interesting.”

Stanley U. North was minister at the time of the centennial of this women's group. On the evening of Nov 18, 1923 this special event was held in the church school rooms, with hymns, prayer and a speaker (Dr. Eleanor Stephenson Picken, Physician in the Ahmednagar Hospital for Women, as well as the reading of the constitution and minutes of that first meeting in 1822.

I have not located the original minutes but I have found a ledger type book in our archives which is the transcription written in 1923 by Mrs Anna Bell Haulenbeck, Historian who became the first historian of our

church. It is titled "Record of the Benevolent and Missionary Work of the Women of the First Congregational Church of Walton, New York, who have been 'with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel; - 'laborers together with God' since 1822".

The Constitution along with 10 Articles for this group was adopted November 8, 1823. They met every 2 weeks. There were 33 members. Twenty-five cents would "constitute any lady to become a member". Meetings would open with prayer and close with singing. Annual meetings were held the 2nd Friday in November. Some of the names of the leaders and members are from familiar historical Walton families (and many streets!): Townsend, Seymour, Eells, Hanford, Gardiner, Fitch, Hoyt, Marvin, Ogden, Guild, St. John, Bassett, North. For eight years after this date there was no other church in Walton, so that all the families in the little town had their "interests" in common, but nearly all these names were still on the church active membership roll and the Woman's Missionary Union 100 years later!

Thankfully, the ledger I am reading is written in good penmanship and although faint on yellowing pages (THIS book is almost 100 yrs old!), it is very interesting.....in months ahead I will share some of the information with you.

Jeri Ogden
Historian

HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR CHURCH

Notes from Church in Society:

- The cookie sale at the Spend the Day in Walton event was a big success and we earned \$331.00. We had lots of cookies as well as several pies and quick breads left over from the Thanksgiving Dinner which were sold. The hot chocolate was not popular so we will not be offering it next year. A table was set up to sell toys which was well received.
- Elijah's Closet had beautifully set up the Fellowship Hall with trees, toys and a place for Santa to greet the children. Lots of pictures were taken in this beautiful setting.

Notes from Deacons:

- The Advent Book Study and worship was attended by a dozen people over the season, since 2017 was short Advent, only three weeks were involved.
- Christmas Eve was Sunday this year. We held our regular Sunday church service at 10:00 and the Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00 pm.
- The Christmas Eve service began at 6:30 pm. With wonderful music before provided by our church family....THANK YOU ALL FOR SHARING YOUR JOY!

Additional Notes:

- **Our Annual meeting will be held on January 28, 2018. Committee chairs please have your reports to Tracia by January 18.**
- **Joyfully we announce the birth of HALEY MARIAN CLARK to the proud parents of Jenny and Chris Clark on December 16, 2017; their third child!**
- **Sadly we marked the passing of Ellen Boecke on December 10, 2017 and we held her funeral on December 16 at the Courtney Funeral Home.**

The Trustee Report

The trustees were waiting for the windows to be delivered and placed this coming week so we would have them as the church fellowship hall Christmas gift. Received a phone call that the delivery man didn't wait for help to unload the heavy windows and 4 of the 6 were damaged, therefore a new order had to be placed and now we hope to have them in the end of December or into the New Year. A big disappointment.

Michel Doig has shown interest in improving our fellowship hall ceiling. He and another person will do this in stages, as for the present time we need an estimate from him for Nadene Kopetz to write the grant we will be applying for, to help in the cost. He is working on this.

Shamrock Construction will be replacing the roof on the Mead Street side of the portico when weather permits.

The trustees have decided to not put heat in the elevator this winter unless a problem starts. We made the decision as the person or persons riding the elevator have their coats on and it is a short trip. If the heat was to be on, it would run continuously and therefore be very warm inside it and costly.

Due to the volume of sales in Elijah's Closet it is recommended by Judy Kipp, treasurer, to have two people count the offering and monies from the Closet for the weekly deposit.

We asked if there is a possibility for programmable thermostats to be placed in the bottom level of the church as it is very warm in the kitchen or Elijah's Closet. This is not possible due to the radiant heat. The only floors within the church that have thermostats are the main and third floors.

When the trustees sign up for the coming year, for the monthly duties, it is suggested, again by Judy Kipp, that they do two months together to not forget the duties of the weekly deposits and the opening and closing of the church each Sunday.

Respectfully submitted
Patty VerNooy, chairperson



If you would like someone on the prayer list, please contact Mary Carroll at 607-865-6442. If an address is provided, a card will be sent.

If anybody is interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail please leave a message with your e-mail address in the Secretary's mailbox, or email the church at: waltonucc@frontiernet.net



There is always a need for donations, so please bring in your donation for the Walton Food Bank.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce
Hot and Cold Cereal
Pasta (Elbows, ziti, shells, etc.)
Canned vegetables (corn, peas, green beans, spinach, etc.)
Tuna Fish (chunk lite or solid white in water)
Noodles
Macaroni and Cheese
Soups (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream of mushroom or chicken)
Canned fruit
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Rice
Jell-O, pudding, Ramen noodles are a plus
Cake mixes for Christmas

Please don't donate out-of-date items. We can't use them.

We are collecting Household and Personal items to donate to the Walton Food Bank. Such items include: Laundry soap, Bath Soap, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Deodorant and so on.



These are the Birthdays and Anniversaries of members and friends of our church family. If you know someone on the list who's having a birthday or anniversary, feel free to send that person a card. Even if you don't know anyone on the list, feel free to send any celebrant a card. More importantly, strive to hold each of these people up in prayer on the anniversary of their birth. Please call the Church Office with additions or corrections 607-865-4066.

9th Steve Sehen
15th Lynn Allen
17th Frank Eggelton
21st Ted Carman
22nd Nadene Kopetz
27th Donna Thomson



If you have any updates to your address, phone number or if you want to add a cell phone number to our records, or if you would like to add your Birthday or Anniversary to our list please submit to the Church Secretary through email, placing in the offering plate or putting it into the Secretary's box. Thanks!