



September 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Elijah's Closet 10-2 ½ price clothing Sale	4 Elijah's Closet 10-2 ½ price clothing Sale
5 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  Worship 10 AM Communion	6	7	8	9 <b>Trustee's Mtg. 4 PM</b>	10 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Bag Sale	11 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Bag Sale
12 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM <b>Deacons Mtg. after church in the Parlor</b>	13	14	15	16	17 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Fall to Winter Sale <b>Prudential Board Mtg 3:30 via Zoom</b>	18 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Fall to Winter Clothing Sale
19 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  Worship 10 AM	20  <b>Church in Society Mtg. 6:30 at Church</b>	21	22	23	24 Elijah's Closet 10-2	25 Elijah's Closet 10-2
26 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  Worship 10 AM	27	28	29	30		

### **Celebrations**

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 or email the Church Office with additions or corrections 607-865-4066, [secretary@uccwalton.com](mailto:secretary@uccwalton.com).

#### Birthdays

13<sup>th</sup> Nikki Bowker      16<sup>th</sup> Brian Caruso  
 19<sup>th</sup> Briana Ogden      21<sup>st</sup> Tracia Muller  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Sierra Allen      27<sup>th</sup> Lynn Robinson

#### Anniversaries

8<sup>th</sup> Bill & Kathi Smith

A Note From

*Janet*

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

September is the time we “gear-up” for another year. But just like 2020, we are now gearing up for another twist in the pandemic. Already the daily news is raising the issue of masks or not, of closing restaurants again or not, of how to handle the children as they return to school, or maybe not return. We are again facing a time of uncertainty and questioning what is to come in the wake of the Delta mutation of the COROVIRUS of 2019.

I am not a political person. Truthfully my voting record includes both parties. But I am a Scientist and I have often thought of the fact that “mutations” are so common and threatening if we let them. We are again in a period of “threat”. I worry about where we are as a nation. Are moving forward? I worry that we do not understand. I worry about the science that is playing out. I worry that we are placing our emotions before our intelligence. I worry that God is letting us decide for ourselves since we have the freedom of God. I worry that we do not place the truth and message of God first in our life.

We are again in a period of transition. God is giving us the freedom to decide where we are and how we wish to go. But God is also giving us “warning signs” that we need to pay attention to and try to understand. Our God is gentle and loving and gives us the choice to decide. Our God also tells us that we are to consider to be faithful and loving to all God’s family.

As we worship the God of our lives it is us who must decide how worship is to take place. God welcomes us to show our love in many ways, not only in the sanctuary. Is it time again to return to another venue of worship? Are we being tested to show our love of God beyond the stage of a church sanctuary? Does God welcome our worship in the desert of our journey to come to the Promised Land?

I do not have answers for these question, but if we open the scriptures....there seems to be answers!

A meditation to consider;

### **The Bible’s Church Growth Plan**

by [Jennifer Brownell](#) | published on Jul 30, 2021

*Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. – Acts 9:31 (NRSV)*

You probably don’t ever have these conversations where you are (cough, cough), but the

church people I hang out with spend a fair amount of time thinking, reading, and talking about plans or programs designed to get the church to grow. Screens or no screens. Small groups or leadership training. One kind of music or another kind. And whatever the attractive program or plan is, it must lure the elusive “young family,” seldom seen in the wild and not easily captured.

What if church growth, though, was less about a plan or a program and more about an orientation, an attitude, a way of being?

What if the most attractive feature of your church to young families (and old singles and all the configurations of humanity in between) was that you had the kind of true peace that confronted conflict in a healthy, unafraid way?

What if the most appealing growth plan was a commitment to faith so unabashedly reverent that it looked something like awe?

What if the best church growth program of all was a community of people giving and receiving the kind of comfort that can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit?

I mean, I don't know if it would work. But if your church is anything like mine, you've tried everything else. Maybe the plan we've been seeking has been with us all along, hidden in plain sight right here in the thirty-first verse of the ninth book of Acts.

### **Prayer**

Holy Spirit, give us comfort. Christ, grant us awe. Creator God, bring us peace. Amen.

### **MODERATORS MESSAGE**

It doesn't seem right that a whole year has gone by and we are at the point again of filling vacancies on our various boards.

Our members have so many talents and our church has many chances to share these talents and interests...so I ask you – have you considered being on one of the boards or committees that help keep our church running?

Now's your chance! October is when we start looking for replacements for these committees & boards for the coming year. If you are interested in serving on one of these in 2022, please let me know in church on an upcoming Sunday or email me at [onelongroad2@hotmail.com](mailto:onelongroad2@hotmail.com).

Our current committies and boards are:

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – Provides youngsters with Sunday School and programs.

**BOARD OF CHURCH IN SOCIETY/ELIJAH'S CLOSET** – Serves as a link between the church and community and encourages fundraising activities, while overseeing the churches thrift shop – which provides our community with much needed, low cost clothing and household items.

**Share Your  
Time & Talents**

**BOARD OF DEACONS** – Assists the Pastor in the spiritual and worship affairs of the Church.

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** – Receives/acknowledges memorials and gifts and makes suggestion for their use.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – Take care and custody of the property of the Church.

**UCC DELEGATE** – Attend meetings and functions of the Susquehanna Assoc. and the NY Conference and reports to church members upon their return.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – Responsible to create slate of names to fill open positions for the coming year.

**MODERATOR** – Is the chief lay officer of the congregation, serves as the chairperson of the Prudential Board, and chairs the Annual Meeting.

**HISTORIAN** – Keeps accurate record of history of the church, its membership and its activities. Writes a monthly column for church newsletter.

### ***From The Christian Education Committee***

Sunday School will begin on Sunday September 12, 2021. It will be held during the church service. All children age 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. We hope to see everyone then.

*Committee Members and Sunday School Teachers*

### ***NOTES FROM THE PRUDENTIAL BOARD***

In July 2021 the CDC made a recommendation that all persons (vaccinated and unvaccinated) need to wear face masks at all times for all gatherings.

Our UCC Conference leaders have followed suit in asking their churches to move forward with an abundance of caution. They will be monitoring the CDC communications closely to determine if any modifications will be needed.

With this recommendation being stated and knowing our parishioners and taking into account the new Delta variant, our Prudential Board had a lengthy discussion at our meeting on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. We have tried to take into account all the variables. The outcome of this discussion is:

- Masks will again be required within the church. This includes Sunday Services and Elijah's Closet.
- Streaming Sunday Services will continue.
- Signing in will continue in case anyone needed to be contacted.

- We will not be resuming Coffee Hr, Singing, or printed bulletins until a future time.
- Renting of the Fellowship Hall will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Thanksgiving Dinner was discussed. Mary will be in touch with the committee and get their input.

We ask for your prayers and patience as we seek to navigate the ever-changing waters in which we are all swimming. We will continue to evaluate the situation and make adjustments. And as always, we welcome your feedback.

### SHARING A NOTE

Earlier this month we received a package from Tim Huyler, who is now living in TN. He was going through some boxes that belonged to Pete (Huyler) and came across several articles and booklets and he thought we might like them.

He said “Hope you enjoy looking at them. I hope you all are doing well. I still enjoy getting the monthly newsletter and reading about the church.”

### DEACONS DIALOGUE

Let's spread some cheer to some of our congregation. Please take the time to send a card or note to the following members to let them know we are thinking about them.

Janith Kilpatrick  
82 Griswold Street  
Walton, NY 13856

Maureen Kennedy  
17 Clinton Street  
Delhi, NY 13753

At the August Prudential Board meeting, the board voted to require masks for Sunday services in order to follow the recommendations of the United Church of Christ current guidelines. Hopefully this action will keep members safe and our unvaccinated children protected. Thank you for your cooperation.

The shawl the congregation ordered for Pastor Janet's ordination has arrived. Her plans are for her to wear it on Communion Sundays. Be sure to notice this exquisitely hand embroidered addition to her vestment. It is a beautiful reminder of her special day of ordination.

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*Committee Members and Sunday School Teachers*

## 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 September: (You are encouraged to read them as well)

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading and Psalm	Alternate 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading and Psalm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 5, 2021	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125	Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 12, 2021	Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-9 <b>or</b> <i>Wisdom of Solomon</i> 7:26 - 8:1	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 19, 2021	Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1	Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 <b>or</b> <i>Jeremiah 11:18-20</i> Psalm 54	James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 26, 2021	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124	Numbers 11:4-6, 10- 16, 24-29 Psalm 19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-5

*The following were messages sent to us from the Susquehanna Association of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ.*

**THE COVID DELTA VARIANT IS SPREADING QUICKLY IN  
ALL  
NEW YORK COUNTIES.**

**THE COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST TRANSMISSION  
RATES ARE:**

**BRONX, BROOKLYN, MANHATTEN, QUEENS, STATEN ISLAND, ALBANY, BROOME, CAYUGA,  
CHEMUNG, CHENANGO, CORTLAND, DELAWARE, DUTCHESS, HAMILTON, HERKIMER,**

***LEWIS, MONROE, MONTGOMERY, NASSAU, ONEIDA, ONONDAGA, ORANGE, ORLEANS,  
OSWEGO, OTSEGO, PUTNAM, RENSSELAER, ROCKLAND, SATATOGA, SCHENECTADY,  
SCHOHARIE, SUFFOLK SULLIVAN, TIOGA, ULSTER, WARREN, WESTCHESTER***

**THOSE COUNTIES WITH A MODERATE TRANSMISSION RATE ARE: *CLINTON, COLOMBIA,  
JEFFERSON, LIVINGSTON, STEUBEN, WYOMING.***

**PLEASE!**

**MASK UP!**

### **\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\***

In response to the [July 27 CDC Recommendation](#), the New York Conference strongly recommends that all persons (vaccinated and unvaccinated) wear face masks at all times for all gatherings in our church buildings. We ask our churches to carry on with an abundance of caution. The Conference Board of Directors has lifted the travel ban for conference staff and for conference gatherings. However, all indoor conference meetings will require attendees to mask. We recommend that Associations follow this same protocol. We will monitor the CDC communications closely to determine if this recommendation needs to be modified.

**Be safe, please.**