

THE CONNECTION

October 2021

*The Lord will
indeed give
what is good*



*and the land
will yield it's
harvest*

Psalm 85:12

**Connecting God's People
Through Love**



October 2021

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

31 23rd Sunday
after Pentecost

Worship
10 AM

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.

Birthdays

7th Marc Evans 7th Ginny O'Dell
 11th Janet Brienza 13th Jerry VerNooy
 15th Roger Bowker 17th Donna Truman
 22 – Serenity Clark

Anniversaries

3rd Nicole & Bryan Clark
 13th Steve Sehen & Charles
 Kazarian

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 October: (You are encouraged to read them as well)

Date	1 st Reading and Psalm	Alternate 1 st Reading and Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 3, 2021	Job 1:1, 2:1-10 Psalm 26	Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 10, 2021	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 17, 2021	Job 38:1-7, (34-41) Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c	Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost October 24, 2021	Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost October 31, 2021	Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146	Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

JULY AND AUGUST OFFERING INFORMATION

Monthly amount needed to meet the yearly budget of \$85,325: \$7,110

July Offering: \$1,925

August Offering: \$6,300

Many thanks to all of you for not only your money but your time and talents.

MODERATORS MESSAGE

AS SEASONS CHANGE

I love the changing seasons! And I have to admit fall is one of my favorites. I love the colors and I have so many decorations to decorate my house both inside and out. Fall is different because fall constantly represents change. The weather is changing, the colors of leaves are changing, and your intake of pumpkin spice lattes are changing! Just kidding about that last one... or maybe not.

The Bible says there is a season for everything in life (Eccl. 3:1-8). If only we could embrace the seasons of our lives as willingly as we embrace the seasons of the year. It's been said that the only thing that is constant is change; but unfortunately that's what we tend to resist—especially if it means going outside our comfort zones.

God gave great thought to the seasons of our lives. He designed each one, knowing exactly what will take place in each season – fruits, vegetables and an assortment of other things. So why are we so to resist the season we're in?

It's as if we are never satisfied. When it's summer it's too hot. When it's winter, it's too cold and snowy and we want summer.

When we are single, we want to be married. When we are married, we want children, and when we have children, we want them to spread their wings and be out on their own. When we have an empty nest, we miss them and want them back—at least for a little while.

During this season of thanksgiving, let's determine to count our blessings and enjoy, as He does, the season He has us in. Every day is a gift, and we should savor all the sights, sounds, smells, friendships, fellowship, family, food, and fun of the season. Let's also be thankful that God, in His infinite wisdom, planned our lives and leads us through many fruitful seasons. Instead of wishing we were in a different one, let's embrace and enjoy the one we are in right now.

MORE FROM THE MODERATOR

I'm often asked "who made that decision"? You are probably aware that there are many, many decisions that are made on a daily/weekly/monthly/yearly basis – related to finances, programs, internal operations, re-opening and many, many, many other things.

What makes our church different from other churches is that the First Congregational Church, UCC, is that we are a self-governing church. We operate under established by-laws, elected boards and committees, and committee reps to make important church decisions. This is why it is so important for church members and associate members to give their time to serve on a committee or board – so YOUR voice is heard.

Additionally, the Prudential Board is the main decision-making body. It is made up of the chairs of each of the committees (Christian Ed., Church in Society/Elijah's Closet, Deacons and

Trustees) and a member of each of the committees. They meet every month on the 3rd Friday at 3:30 pm. At these meetings discussion revolves around support of new activity, finances and funding, changes to be suggested and new ideas to be developed. Decisions are then assigned to the appropriate committee.

If you would like your ideas and opinions to be heard – say yes when the Nominating Committee asks you to volunteer!

There Is Always a Need for Donations

The Walton Food Bank is always in need donations. Please bring in non-perishables items and place them in the wagon in the back of the sanctuary. PLEASE don't donate out-of-date items. They can't used and will be disposed of.



Ideas for donations include:

Pasta, Pasta Sauces	Peanut Butter and Jelly
Hot and Cold Cereals	Canned Fruits and Vegetables
Macaroni and Cheese	Tuna Fish
Soups	Rice
Jello and Pudding	Ramen Noodles
Household Items (Laundry Soap, Dish-washing Liquid)	
Personal Care Items (Bath Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, etc.)	

FROM THE PAST....

In November 1957, the Women's Fellowship Society received a request from a Thrift Shop of the Congregational Church in Evarts, Kentucky for "good, used clothing". Times don't change much as today our own Elijah's Closet is going strong!

AND also found in the minutes was noted "whomever operates the dishwasher be paid \$5.00 per paid dinner". We are so fortunate to have Mary Carroll who donates her time to run the dishwasher whenever needed.

SPECIAL THANKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Elijah's Closet continues to thrive through the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers. If you are able to give time, either to price, display or work as a cashier – please talk to Mary Carroll.
- With Sunday School beginning in September – a big thank you goes to the Christian Ed. Committee who has exciting things planned for this coming year. If you know of any children who would benefit from our gathering of children, please invite them (along with their parents).
- Don't forget to bring in items for the Walton Food Pantry. Any non-perishable items are

welcome – just make sure they are not outdated.

- If you enter the church from the North St. entrance, you might notice new sconces on each side of the entrance. Thank you to Jerry VerNooy for getting these in working order and installed.
- And let's not forget everything Joe Ladym does for Elijah's Closet (including impromptu dump runs and helping keep the stage cleared) as well as his work with the Deacons – when you see Joe, thank him!
- The final “forgiveness” request has been submitted to Wayne Bank for the Payroll Protection Program which the church received through the Small Business Administration. This was the second draw the church received through this program.

A Note From
Janet
THANK YOU – AGAIN!

For all of your thoughts, prayers, and attendance to Maureen's Funeral Mass, I thank you! Many of you may not know, but Maureen was a true and deep seated Franciscan. As a form of Spirituality, those who gathered strength from Francis of Assisi's life tried to follow his spiritual path. Spirituality can be defined as a system of beliefs, virtues and values that form a particular approach to God. When Francis returned home after war and captivity, he spent time in the hills of Assisi, finding physical and emotional healing in nature as he contemplated his future. Through his hours in prayer and contemplation, Francis saw God in everyone and everything, and that as a result, everything God created is good. Thus his spirituality endorsed the belief that the main reason Christ joined us a human was more that he loved us and therefore had to redeem us.

The essence of this spirituality implies that our true nature is not of sin, but that God is within us. God creates all things as good. God's love is unconditional. Nothing forced God to love us, so why would God begin to love us because we sinned? God's love has nothing to do with sin. Jesus did not come because we sinned; Jesus came out of love, an immense love that was extravagant in that God so wanted to be with us that God became one of us.

This was Maureen. All she saw was God's love in everything and everybody .She held no judgment. She loved all things. She knew it was all in God's hands! I can't tell anyone how much I will miss that constant expression! In a way, I too am a Franciscan at heart so we melded together spiritually and found a deep relationship with God in our lives. Thus my ministry was her ministry also!

She left us with a great Spiritual foundation. I pray that I may continue in her path! As a church family her strength needs to be carried forward; may we find the unconditional love of God in all our lives!

Thank you for time to allow me to grieve and contemplate my future.

A Meditative Thoughtfound on the UCC Daily Devotional website:

Prone to Wander by Anthony Robinson

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way. – Isaiah 53:6 (NRSV)

There is a magnificent chorus in Handel’s *Messiah* based on this text from Isaiah. Near the end of the chorus is a long series of intricate fugues among the several voices that keep repeating the line, “We have turned.” The effect is striking, as the music describes in sound everyone turning and turning (like sheep) in new and different directions (but always astray).

One of the earliest and most abiding Christian insights about human nature is that we were made for God but keep turning away. Just as flowers are “heliotropic,” designed to turn toward the sun, so we humans are “theotropic,” designed to turn toward God.

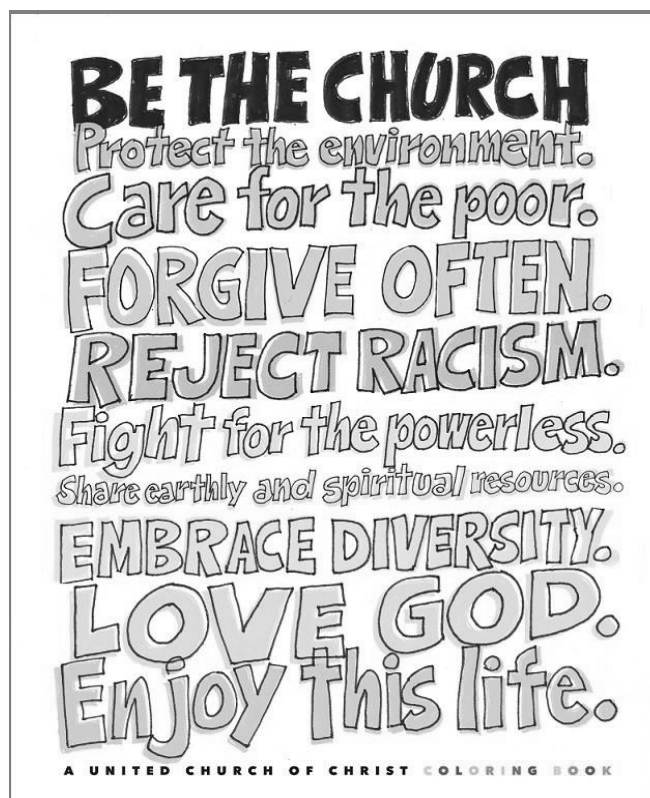
But somehow our natural theotropism has become faulty and broken. We are more likely to go astray, to turn to our own way, than to turn toward God.

But the good news is we have a still-seeking God who does not give up on us. It is true that we are “prone to wander.” The phrase comes from Robert Robinson’s powerful hymn, “Come, Thou fount of every blessing.”

In that hymn Robinson also wrote this: “Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God.” He knew that, though we turn to our own way again and again, God keeps bringing us back.

Prayer

Seek us and find us, Still-Seeking God, and turn us back to you, the source of our life.



Fall Word Search



ACORN
APPLE
AUTUMN
CHESTNUTS
CHILLY
CIDER
COBWEB
FALL
FOOTBALL
GOURD

HALLOWEEN
HARVEST
HAY BALE
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
MAIZE
NOVEMBER
NUTS
OCTOBER
PUMPKIN

QUILT
RAKE
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SLEET
THANKSGIVING

