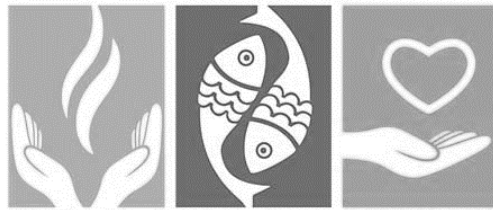


THE CONNECTION

March 2022



PRAY FAST GIVE

The Season of Lent

Connecting God's People Through Love

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Ash Wednesday	3	4 Elijah's Closet 10-2	5 Elijah's Closet 10-2
6 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10 AM Communion	7	8	9	10	11 Elijah's Closet 10-2	12 Elijah's Closet 10-2
13 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10 AM <i>Deacons Mtg. after church in the Parlor</i>	14	15	16	17 <i>Trustees Mtg. 4 PM</i>	18 Elijah's Closet 10-2 <i>Prudential Board Mtg 3:30 via Zoom</i>	19 Elijah's Closet 10-2
20 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10 AM	21	22	23	24	25 Elijah's Closet 10-2	26 Elijah's Closet 10-2
27 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10 AM	28	29	30	31		

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

Date	1 st Reading and Psalm	Alternate 1 st Reading and Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022	<u>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17</u> or <u>Isaiah 58:1- 12</u>	<u>Psalm 51:1- 17</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</u>	<u>Matthew 6:1- 6, 16-21</u>
First Sunday in Lent March 6, 2022	<u>Deuteron- omy 26:1-11</u>	<u>Psalm 91:1- 2, 9-16</u>	<u>Romans 10:8b-13</u>	<u>Luke 4:1-13</u>
Second Sunday in Lent March 13, 2022	<u>Genesis 15:1-12, 17- 18</u>	<u>Psalm 27</u>	<u>Philippians 3:17-4:1</u>	<u>Luke 13:31- 35</u> or <u>Luke 9:28- 36, (37-43a)</u>
Third Sunday in Lent March 20, 2022	<u>Isaiah 55:1-9</u>	<u>Psalm 63:1-8</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</u>	<u>Luke 13:1-9</u>
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 27, 2022	<u>Joshua 5:9- 12</u>	<u>Psalm 32</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</u>	<u>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</u>

From the Treasurer

January Offering Information

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

January Offering: **\$1,688**

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

Marc

Moderator's Message

Welcome March 2022!

Having been in virtual worship through the first several weeks of the new year, returning to in-person worship brings the promise of newness and rebirth, much as March signals the beginning of spring and its promise of warmer days and budding vegetation.

We are together again, in our traditional, familiar manner of working and worshipping as a community. As we continue on our shared journey, we will likely focus on what happened during the pandemic. What did we do? How did we do? What did we learn? What do we do now?

As co-moderators, Nancy Grotevant and I are partnered in one objective—to equip this congregation and our greater community to sustain this beloved church well beyond our earthly days. We will actively seek your ideas and support through surveys, questions, and honest dialogue. Many of the questions are already addressed on our website <https://uccwalton.com/>:

- Why was the Church founded?
- Why has it survived for so many years?
- Why have we been the mother church for so many neighbor congregations?
- Why have we started, supported, and led attempts at ecumenism in the area?

The answers to the “whys” have always been the same: a deep abiding faith in the power, mercy, justice, and steadfast love of the omnipresent God and the unswerving knowledge that God has guided and sustained us for 200 years and will continue to do so for the next 200 years, or 200 times 200 years.

So, join us as we re-visit together, our guiding principles:

1. Sharing His Love: We are a community grounded in the life and love of Jesus Christ and are dedicated to sharing this love with others.
2. God is Still Speaking: We have a long history here in Walton, but we actively engage how God is Still Speaking to the church today.
3. Children are Welcome: We love and welcome children and enjoy their energy during worship and beyond.
4. Asking and Seeking: We believe in asking tough faith questions and seeking together the Spirit's call.
5. Worship Style: We value worship in word, in a wide variety of music, and in silence.
6. You're Welcome Here: No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

For with God, in God, and through God, we are never alone. Thanks be to God!

Diane Meredith

A NOTE FROM

Janet

MARCH

If the truth be told, I hate the month of March. My mother used to call it “totenmonat” which was her German for the month of death. Yes, the Ides of March suggest this, and indeed most people die in this month after a long winter of either their illness or starvation. But, putting that aside, March is just another month in the calendar and it is the start of some days of spring.

This month it is the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. But to me it is also a reminder of the death of Maureen. March 2nd is exactly six months since she died. I have said that I would make my decision about my ministry with you on this date. Truthfully, I am in a state of mourning (still) and a state of discernment. Ministry is my second career; actually, teaching and ministry are sometimes regarded as one. I love the people of the First Congregational Church, and I do enjoy being involved with the many aspects of the spiritual journey on which all of you are on.

My decision is still not complete. I want, you, the members of the church to feel comfortable with your leadership. To be honest, I need your thoughts as I work through the pages of the “totenmonat” with you and with me. I ask myself: is it time for the FCC to need new leadership? Sometimes the answer is “yes”, and sometimes “no”. Truthfully, I need you to respond to me and let me know of your thoughts, concerns and the future of the Walton FCC.

I write this newsletter to all of you and ask you to respond, in some way, your thoughts.

I can be reached through the church office at 607-865-4066 or if you wish to send a note (even anonymous) to 4 Mead St., Walton, NY, ATTN. Pastor Janet.

I ask for your support and input in helping me to discern my ministry with you!

Janet

228th Annual Meeting

The 228th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church, UCC in Walton was held on Sunday, February 27, 2022.

In addition to the congregation approving the committee reports of the Deacons, Christian Education, Church in Society, and Trustees, reports from the Clerk, the Pastor and the Moderator were shared.

The final Treasurers report for 2021 was approved as presented and the 2022 Budget was ratified.

Finally, the Nominating Committee presented the slate of committee members for 2022. This year's committee members, beginning February 28th, are as listed below:

<u>Christian Ed.</u>	<u>Church in Society</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	
Beth Ogden	Rosemarie Tiesler	Donna Thomson	
Donna Thomson	Janet Brienza	Fran Robinson	
Judy Ogden	Mary Carroll	Diane Meredith	
Ann LePinnet	Deb Caruso	Ann LePinnet	
Chrissy Evans		Janet Brienza	
		Nadene Kopetz	
<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Moderators</u>	<u>Clerk</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Lorraine Miller – 2022	Nancy Grotevant	Mary Carroll	Marc Evans
Todd Ogden – 2022	Diane Meredith		
Joe Laydem – 2023			
Bruce Ellis – 2024			
Donna Thomson – 2024			

Our faith is 2000 years old. Our thinking is not.