

THE CONNECTION
May 2022



Connecting God's People Through Love

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10 AM Communion	2	3	4	5	6 Elijah's Closet 10-2	7 Elijah's Closet 10-2
8 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10 AM Trustees Mtg. <i>after church</i>	9	10	11 <i>Elijah's Closet</i> Volunteer Mtg. <i>4:45 pm</i> @church	12	13 Elijah's Closet 10-2	14 Elijah's Closet 10-2
15 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10 AM Deacons Mtg. <i>after church in the Parlor</i>	16	17	18	19	20 Elijah's Closet 10-2	21 Elijah's Closet 10-2
22 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10 AM Christian Ed. Mtg. after church	23 Church In Society Mtg. 6:30 @ Church	24	25	26	27 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Prudential Board Mtg 3:30 via Zoom	28 Elijah's Closet 10-2
29 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10 AM	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
Third Sunday of Easter May 1, 2022	* <u>Acts 9:1-6,</u> <u>(7-20)</u>	<u>Psalm 30</u>	<u>Revelation</u> <u>5:11-14</u>	<u>John 21:1-19</u>
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023	* <u>Acts 7:55-60</u>	<u>Psalm 31:1-5,</u> <u>15-16</u>	<u>1 Peter 2:2-10</u>	<u>John 14:1-14</u>
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023	* <u>Acts 17:22-</u> <u>31</u>	<u>Psalm 66:8-20</u>	<u>1 Peter 3:13-</u> <u>22</u>	<u>John 14:15-21</u>
Ascension of the Lord May 18, 2023	* <u>Acts 1:1-11</u>	<u>Psalm 47</u> or <u>Psalm 93</u>	<u>Ephesians</u> <u>1:15-23</u>	<u>Luke 24:44-53</u>
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 21, 2023	* <u>Acts 1:6-14</u>	<u>Psalm 68:1-</u> <u>10, 32-35</u>	<u>1 Peter 4:12-</u> <u>14; 5:6-11</u>	<u>John 17:1-11</u>
Day of Pentecost May 28, 2023	* <u>Acts 2:1-21</u> or <u>Numbers</u> <u>11:24-30</u>	<u>Psalm 104:24-</u> <u>34, 35b</u>	<u>1 Corinthians</u> <u>12:3b-13</u> or <u>Acts 2:1-21</u>	<u>John 20:19-23</u> or <u>John 7:37-39</u>
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth May 31, 2023	* <u>1 Samuel</u> <u>2:1-10</u>	<u>Psalm 113</u>	<u>Romans 12:9-</u> <u>16b</u>	<u>Luke 1:39-57</u>

From the Treasurer

March Offering Information

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

January Offering: **\$2,195**

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

Moderator's Message

Diane Meredith

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

After a difficult winter season, we happily enter Eastertide, the fifty-day period beginning at sunset on the eve of Easter and ending on the day of Pentecost. We will rejoice in our resurrected savior for the next several weeks.

But rejoicing may be difficult for some. During our Easter worship service, Pastor Janet and I offered a message in the form of a dialogue about grief—the very personal and arduous journey we each face at some time in our lives. A critical element in the healing process is discernment—hearing God's call and finding purpose in our lives.

As our pastoral search committee meets to discuss a viable future for our church, we have considered ways each of us can help. Given our many individual circumstances, there are sometimes limits to our ability to commit. Here are several ideas for helping us grow:

- increase giving
- join a committee:
 - Trustees
 - Church in Society/Elijah's Closet
 - Christian Education
 - Deacons
- work at Elijah's Closet or help with merchandise
- serve as a reader for worship
- actively invite guests to church
- share joys and concerns with the Deacons
- send cards; visit; call other members
- pray for our church regularly
- write for the newsletter
- share our events on social media
- assist in making phone calls
- share your voice—what concerns or ideas do you have about our church?

Co--moderators Nancy Grotevant (onelongroad2@hotmail.com) and Diane Meredith (mereditd@gmail.com) are ready to hear from you.

As we celebrate Eastertide, consider this meaning of “congregation” for Christians:

According to the Reconciling Ministries Network, being a congregation means that “we are committed to accompanying others in respect and mutuality, walking alongside those who both agree and disagree with us as we discern future directions for shared mission.”

Keeping each of you in prayer as you journey,
Diane Meredith

A NOTE FROM
Janet

POST EASTER SYNDROME

We have celebrated Easter – the resurrection! Now is the time that tests our faith. During the time after the resurrection there is a period of forty days in which Jesus appeared to many before his ascension. But it is during this time that many people feel that the stories of the risen Christ were “made-up”. Many believe that the Jesus stories of meeting with his disciples and eating with them and appearing to them in locked rooms are part of the fairy tales of Christianity.

This is the time, in scripture, that tests our faith. Do we accept that he was really seen by people or do we just want to ignore this part of the scriptures? There are current day stories of people seeing the Virgin Mary or Christ in their life. Are these stories real or do we dismiss them as wild tales of people who are mentally deficient? It is a hard decision for many Christians to make. It is not logical or scientifically provable that someone who is dead has been able to become alive and seen by those yet alive. To accept this requires faith.

And that is what Christianity is all about, belief that the Christ who was crucified and died returned to life. That is belief in the resurrection! It cannot be proven, but it cannot be disproven!

What do you believe?

Janet

HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL PRUDENTIAL BOARD MEETING

- Elijah’s Closet donated sales of Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23 for the benefit of Michelle and Christina Ritter, who lost their mother suddenly to leukemia.
- In addition, the weekend of May 20th and 21st, all proceeds from sales of Elijah’s Closet will be donated to the Ukrainian Relief Effort. It was decided the funds will go to aid Moldova. This is where Beth Ogden spent time and has been in contact with people there and 100’s of 1,000’s are fleeing the Ukraine into Moldova.
- The Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet and will be working on a job description for an assistant pastor with a focus on children and family.
- Rosemarie Tiesler has worked with the Area Agency on Aging and in May our Fellowship Hall will be used each Tuesday and Thursday, from 12 – 1 for Tai Chi.
- At their next meeting, on Sunday May 1, the Deacons will be discussing our Sunday Service and whether adjustments need to be made to our current layout. They welcome your input. Any ideas you have can be written down and put in the Deacons box in the hallway to the office or sent to the church email: secretary@uccwalton.com.
- The Congregational Church will be hosting a meeting of the Walton Ministerial Association in May.
- There will be several Vacation Bible Schools being offered in July and August.
- A Baccalaureate Service will be held on the evening of June 12 at the Baptist Church.

MAY DAY

Y F L A V I T S E F S N O B B I R
P S R E W O L F N Z J T Y O B W Z
U P G W C H I L D R E N K K U F L
R B C S M A Y Q U E E N N Q T E A
I T N E I C N A S R O L O C T R U
T R A D I T I O N S J U G J E T G
A L I O E K S P O R D N I A R I H
N Q L K M O S S O L B U P L F L T
S M S F G W J S M N S A B P L I E
R A O O L H T R M A R P B L Y T R
B O V Y Z Y O A X A Y N R C O Y Q
S U S G P M Y G D D U D P I U O C
D T E H A D C E M F Y F A W N G M
O S T N A E N I H S N U S Y K G N
B I S Y P E T A R B E L E C D H X
C D D M A Y P O L E S I N G I N G
I E W O B N I A R E N A T L E B V

ANCIENT BASKET BELTANE BLOOM BLOSSOM BUDS
BUTTERFLY CELEBRATE CHILDREN COLORS FERTILITY
FESTIVAL FLOWERS FUN LAUGHTER MAY DAY
MAY QUEEN MAYDAY MAYPOLE OUTSIDE PARADE
PURITANS RAINBOW RAINDROPS RIBBONS ROMANS
SINGING SPRING SUNSHINE TRADITION