



The First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
4 Mead Street  
Walton, NY 13856

# THE CONNECTION

## June 2022



*Connecting God's People Through Love*

## June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Elijah's Closet 10-2	4 Elijah's Closet 10-2
5 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> Worship 10 AM Communion	6	7	8	9	10 Elijah's Closet 10-2	11 Elijah's Closet 10-2
12 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10 AM <b>Deacons Mtg.</b> <b>Trustees Mtg.</b> <i>after service</i>	13	14	15	16	17 Elijah's Closet 10-2	18 Elijah's Closet 10-2
19 <i>Second Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10 AM <b>Christian Ed. Mtg. after service</b>	20 <b>Church In Society Mtg.</b> <b>6:30 @ Church</b>	21	22	23	24 Elijah's Closet 10-2 <b>Prudential Board Mtg 3:30 via Zoom</b>	25 Elijah's Closet 10-2
26 <i>Third Sunday after Pentecost</i> 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 or marriage. For any additions or corrections, please call the church office at 607-865-4066, or email the secretary at [secretary@uccwalton.com](mailto:secretary@uccwalton.com).

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Reading and Psalm	Alternate 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading and Psalm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel
<b>Day of Pentecost</b> June 5, 2022	<u>*Acts 2:1-21</u> or <u>Genesis 11:1-9</u>	<u>Psalm 104:24-34, 35b</u>	<u>Romans 8:14-17</u> or <u>Acts 2:1-21</u>	<u>John 14:8-17, (25-27)</u>
June 12, 2022 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31</u>  <u>Psalm 8</u>		<u>Romans 5:1-5</u>	<u>John 16:12-15</u>
June 19, 2022 <i>Second Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a</u>  <u>Psalm 42 and 43</u>	<u>Isaiah 65:1-9</u>  <u>Psalm 22:19-28</u>	<u>Galatians 3:23-29</u>	<u>Luke 8:26-39</u>
June 26, 2022 <i>Third Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14</u>  <u>Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20</u>	<u>1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21</u>  <u>Psalm 16</u>	<u>Galatians 5:1, 13-25</u>	<u>Luke 9:51-62</u>

## From the Treasurer

### April Offering Information

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

April Offering: **\$3,337**

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

*Marc*

## **Moderator's Message**

June is traditionally a month of joyous celebration as we look forward to sharing in significant life events such as weddings and graduations. Summer weather provides for outdoor gatherings and family picnics as we honor our dads on Father's Day. And Mother Nature is in full bloom with fragrant blossoms and beautiful greenery. But many of us may be struggling to feel joy amid current world events. The continued warfare in Ukraine; a hate crime in Buffalo, a resurgence of the COVID virus, social and political division...

Brothers and sisters in faith know that the church brings hope, and the United Church of Christ is at work, demonstrating that God is still speaking.

**UCC issues appeal for Ukraine, calls on U.S. to provide humanitarian aid**  
by [Connie Larkman](#) | published on Mar 1, 2022

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal for the people of Ukraine and will be working with global partners to assist vulnerable communities within that country.

“Members of the United Church of Christ are joining the global community to respond to the events unfolding in Ukraine,” said the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, associate general minister, Wider Church Ministries and Global Operations.” We are praying earnestly for peace and for the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the war. And, we are adding our resources to ensure that all can have access to safety and shelter as the fighting escalates.”

The UCC, through Global H.O.P.E. and Global Ministries, will be collaborating with **ACT Alliance** and the **Reformed Church of Hungary (RCH)** to bring aid to Ukraine. RCH is responding to the situation in the war-torn country through its agency, **Hungarian Reformed Church Aid**. That group has been offering humanitarian assistance since Russian troops first attacked Ukraine on Feb. 24. It's working with elderly and other vulnerable communities inside the country who have not been able to leave, including immigrants and migrant populations who are experiencing difficulties crossing into other European countries. HRCA is also working with refugees who are leaving the country.

Gifts to the [UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal](#) will provide shelter, food and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

“We are also appealing to the United States government by way of an action alert,” Thompson added. The UCC's advocacy office in Washington, D.C., is encouraging people through this action alert to urge the Biden administration to bolster support for Ukrainians by:

- Providing significant humanitarian assistance, both in terms of financial support and operational personnel.
- Rebuilding a robust, well-resourced refugee program that can effectively process refugees from a variety of regions across the globe, including Ukraine.
- Designating Ukraine for Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to protect Ukrainians already in the U.S.
- Granting Special Student Relief (SSR) to allow eligible students from Ukraine to remain in the U.S.

“We continue today, praying for Ukraine, for peace and for the many displaced people now on the move,” Thompson said. “We give thanks for the host countries providing refuge and for the humanitarian aid being made available.”

For this June, I offer the Prayer for Peace, also known as the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

May you find joy in your June celebrations.

Diane Meredith

**A NOTE FROM**  
**Janet**

**THE MID POINT**

The month of June marks the sixth month of the year, we have six more months before the end of the year! It is during this month, however, that a lot of activities begin to take place. This is the month of weddings, therefore it is the month of anniversaries; graduations take place; family reunions and family gatherings begin; vacation time is scheduled and travel to extended family becomes possible....in other words – it is the time for family. And now especially, we want to be with family after a hard shut-down from the pandemic.

Today's family is vastly different from what it was fifty or even twenty years ago. We are spread out across the country or even across the world, we communicate through a technology that seems endless, we provide for aging family members in many different ways than in the past. We celebrate the time we have together as “sacred” and we notice how the family has changed since the last time we were together.

Jesus had a family, a mother to whom he turned to on the cross and gave her care to his beloved John for safe keeping. He had brothers, a father both on earth and in heaven....as we do also! And Jesus often said “you are my brothers and sisters”. Jesus' care for all of us as his own family is found throughout scripture. He prays for us, he offers protection, he gives himself for us, he shows great love for us... all of us. The one thing he asks of us is that we learn to be a great extended family by showing and sharing his love with all who are related to us!

Make this month a family month by sharing God's love and grace with everyone...go beyond the friendly “hello's” and “how are you” by reaching out and sharing God's grace-filled love. By your love, the Spirit will do the rest!