

THE CONNECTION

November 2022



Connecting God's People Through Love

Moderator's Message

November 2022

Welcome to November, the month that brings Thanksgiving—not just the holiday—but a season of reflection and gratitude. As we reap the harvest and prepare for the winter season, we are reminded of the many blessings God's grace affords us.

Last month, I wrote, “The pandemic taught us lessons we could not anticipate, and each of us is changed in some way. Every organization is now re-evaluating expectations and adapting to a ‘new’ normal. As a church family, we must do the same with respectful dialogue and prayer. We know ‘God is still speaking . . .’ because we hear the call. How do we become those beautiful messengers who bring the good news?”

We can share the blessings! Members of our church family have organized a free pre-ordered, takeout Thanksgiving meal for the community to be prepared on Tuesday, 11/22 and distributed in the parking lot on Wednesday, 11/23. If you can help, please contact the church office (607- 865-4066; secretary@uccwalton.com).

Our church leadership team is also looking ahead to 2023. Watch for an upcoming letter that explains our plans for replenishing committee membership and provides the opportunity for annual pledging. Working together, we can sustain a strong ministry and program of worship in the new year.

Please remember to vote on November 8th and to honor our veterans on November 11th. Best wishes to all for a blessed Thanksgiving.

Lord of us all,

This is the ideal season to reflect upon various scripture that pertains to the seasonal changes. As is stated in Isaiah 40:8, ‘The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.’ or in Daniel 2:21, which says, ‘God changes times and seasons; God removes kings and sets up kings; God gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.’

These verses are promises of hope, a beacon in the storm to cling to, no matter the circumstances we currently face. We can seek direction and counsel through the word of God to learn more about what it means to live a Christian life throughout the entire year. God's word is never changing, so it is a steady fortress to cling to. We aim to recommit ourselves this fall to knowing more of God's word and learning more about the many blessings contained within its rich pages. Amen.

<https://www.loveinfaith.life/blogs/news/autumn-reflections>

Diane Meredith, Co-Moderator

A NOTE FROM
Janet

THANKSGIVING

“Jesus departed to the mountains to pray, and he spent the night in prayer”.

Luke 6:12

November is a month of Thanksgiving and, ultimately, a time of prayer. We wait for winter, we celebrate the harvest, and we enjoy the family. It is month that can bring our faith to maturity, even in silence. The person of a mature faith prays to become more immersed in God who gives us all our blessings.

We pray to come to know God in every small way and to become closer to the God we seek. As time goes on the Spirit will grow us in wisdom and age us in grace. Prayer brings us to sense the God-life within us; to sit in silence and be nourished by the spirit that lifts us above the tumult of the world around us. It deepens our love and the need of the sight of God in our life.

We do not pray to prove we can pray, we pray in order to become more humble before the God who made us. In prayer we become more confident that the God who made us will also sustain us. I like to believe that this is what our early settlers felt when they celebrated the first Thanksgiving. It is what we should do to be thankful and confident that our lives are in God’s hands and all will be well!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Janet

From the Treasurer

September Offering Information

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

September Offering: **\$4,055.00**

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

Marc

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Elijah's Closet 10-2
6 <i>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10 AM Communion Trustees Mtg. after service Daylight Savings Time	7	8	9 Elijah's Closet Volunteers Mtg. 4:45	10	11 Elijah's Closet 10-2	12 Elijah's Closet 10-2
13 <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10 AM Deacons Mtg after service	14	15	16	17	18 Elijah's Closet 10-2	19 Elijah's Closet 10-2
20 <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10 AM Christian Ed. Mtg. after service	21 Church In Society Mtg. 6:30 @ Church	22 Thanksgiving Meal Prep 10:00—4:00	23 Thanksgiving Meal Prep 11:00-3:00 Distribution 3:00-6:00	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Prudential Board Mtg 3:30 @ Church	25 Elijah's Closet 10-2
27 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> Worship 10 AM Hanging of the Greens	28	29	30	31		

Thanksgiving Meal

We are planning a Thanksgiving meal for the community. The meal will consist of a Thanksgiving Casserole with turkey, gravy, stuffing, and mashed potato, a side of green beans, and a dessert of apple crumb cake. The meal will be provided free of charge as a take-out meal only.

If you would like to reserve up to four meals, please call the church office starting Monday, November 7th. If the call is not answered, please leave a message with your name and phone number, and how many meals you would like. Meals may be picked up on Wednesday, November, 23rd, between 3:00 and 6:00 PM.

COFFEE HOUR

At our Back to Church Sunday Lemonade Hour, we talked about starting up Coffee Hour again and decided to start slowly with having the gathering, in the parlor, on Communion Sunday.

So, starting Sunday, November 6 we will again enjoy each other company after our service. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the top of the stairs for anyone who would like to host. You may also contact Dana at the Church office by calling (607) 865-4066 or email secretary@uccwalton.com.

Daylight Savings Time



Don't forget to change your clocks, Sunday, November 7

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

Date	1 st Reading and Psalm	Alternate 1 st Reading and Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
November 6, 2022 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost	Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98	Job 19:23- 27a Psalm 17:1-9	2 Thessaloni- ans 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27- 38
November 13, 2022 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 **	Malachi 4:1- 2a Psalm 98	2 Thessaloni- ans 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
November 20, 2022 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68- 79 **	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33- 43
November 27, 2022 First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44

Hanging of the Greens

We will decorate the Sanctuary with the annual Hanging of the Greens after the service on Sunday, November 27th. All are invited to celebrate this annual event to celebrate the beginning of Advent and the Christmas season.