

# THE CONNECTION

## April 2023



*Connecting God's People Through Love*

The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,  
Walton

## April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Elijah's Closet 10-2
2 2 <sup>6th</sup> Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday Worship 10 AM  Communion  Deacons & Trustees Mtg. after service	3	4	5 Elijah's Closet Mtg. 4:45	6	7 Elijah's Closet 10-2	8 Elijah's Closet 10-2
9 Easter Sunday  Worship 10 AM	10	11	12	13	14 Elijah's Closet 10-2	15 Elijah's Closet 10-2
16 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  Worship 10 AM	17 Church In Society Mtg. 6:30 @ Church	18	19	20	21 Elijah's Closet 10-2	22 Elijah's Closet 10-2 The Gathering Table 11:30-1:30
23 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  Worship 10 AM	24	25	26	27	28 Prudential Board Mtg. 3:30	29
30 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  Worship 10 AM	<p><u><i>Celebrations</i></u></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:secretary@uccwalton.com">secretary@uccwalton.com</a>.</p>					

### Birthdays

8 – Don Ogden / 10 - Ann Lepinnet / 13 - Heather Ogden / 18 - Ron Richards

24 - Charles Kazarian / 26 – Deb Caruso

### Anniversaries

14 – John & Janet Brienza

## 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 January: (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>Palm Sunday</b> <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i> April 2, 2023		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	
<b>Good Friday</b> April 7, 2023	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 <b>or</b> <i>Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9</i>	John 18:1-19:42
<b>Resurrection of the Lord</b> April 9, 2023 <i>Easter Day</i>	Acts 10:34-43 <b>or</b> <i>Jeremiah 31:1-6</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 <b>or</b> <i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	John 20:1-18 <b>or</b> <i>Matthew 28:1-10</i>
Fifth Sunday in Lent <b>March 26, 2023</b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Second Sunday of Easter April 16, 2023	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter April 23, 2023	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
Fourth Sunday of Easter April 30, 2023	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

# Treasurer's Report

## February 2023 Offering Information

Monthly amount needed to meet the yearly budget of \$88,475: \$7,373

December Offering: **\$1,521.00**

January Offering: **\$4,332.00**

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

*Marc*

## Moderators' Message

### Moderators' Message

Some of you may be familiar with the voice and stories of Paul Harvey, radio broadcaster. Of him, Britannica.com says,

**Paul Harvey**, American radio commentator and news columnist, enjoyed an almost unparalleled longevity as a national broadcaster.

Harvey was descended from five generations of Baptist preachers. He and his sister were brought up by their mother after their father was shot to death under uncertain circumstances. At age 14 he landed a menial job at KVOO radio in Tulsa and was soon doing voice work there. In 1944 he began broadcasting for a Chicago radio station. *Paul Harvey News and Comment* proved immediately popular and was nationally syndicated by ABC in 1951. In 1976 the program spun off *The Rest of the Story*.

Harvey's mix of current-events news, human-interest anecdotes, and common-sense editorials reached some 24 million listeners daily. His staccato pacing, bouncing intonation, and signature hooks (e.g., "Stand by... for news!" and "Paul Harvey... good day!") helped make his voice one of the most recognizable in the history of radio.

One of Harvey's broadcasts, *The Story of the Birds*, carries a powerful message for Easter.

George Thomas was a pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage and set it by the pulpit. Several eyebrows were raised as the Pastor began to speak.

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright.

I stopped the lad and asked, "What you got there, Son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you gonna do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, Son?"

"Huh? Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing -- they ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?" The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten-dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone.

The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit. Then the pastor began to tell this story. One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting.

"Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you get done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people.

They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them, and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you,

curse you and kill you!! You don't want those people!!"

"How much?" Jesus asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your tears, and all your blood."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

<http://easter.spike-jamie.com/birds.html>

Wishing you a blessed Easter season.

Diane Meredith

## **A Note From Janet**

### **APRIL**

April is a very special month for me since it marks two very important times in my life. My Mother's birthday (April 21) and her death day (April 14) plus it always holds Easter in its timeframe.

Easter is very special, it makes us who we are. We are the only religion that celebrates the resurrection. The resurrection of someone who was "human" but overcame death by being raised to life again! This is who we are, we are an Easter people!

This year Easter is April 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a time in which we need to understand that our life with its birthdates, also allows us to meet our own ending. But that is not the final act! Just as Jesus brought Lazarus from the grave, he also comes to us from the grave. This is the time we celebrate the fact that we do not die but we are called home to a new life in Christ who taught us that we are all God's children and to God we will return!

We do not know how heaven is constructed or "administered" but we do know that death is not final. We have a new life after our passing from earth. It is my prayer that we will be united with those who we loved on earth. The God who loves us will not disappoint us!

### **HAPPY EASTER - HAPPY RESURRECTION!**

Our Good Friday Service will be held in the parlor on **April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00**; we will be a part of God's greatest passion for us.

Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Walton Ministerial Association, will be held at 6:00 am. Announcement of location will be publicized in the Reporter.

*Pastor Janet*