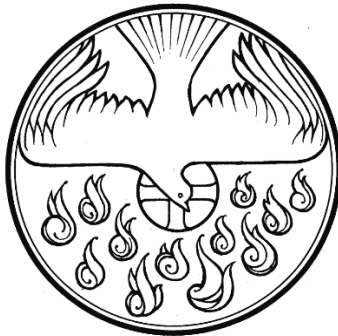


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
 UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
4 MEAD ST. WALTON, NY 13856

# THE CONNECTION

## June 2023



*“I will pour out my Spirit on all people...”*  
*Joel 2:28-29*

# Connecting God's People Through Love

June 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Alzheimer's Presentation 6:00 PM	2 Elijah's Closet 10-2	3 Elijah's Closet 10-2
4 <i>Mental Health Sunday</i>  Worship 10 AM Communion Coffee Hour	5	6	7 <i>Elijah's Closet Mtg.</i> 4:45	8	9 <i>Elijah's Closet</i> 10-2	10 <i>Elijah's Closet</i> 10-2  The Gathering Table 11:30-1:30
11 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i>  Worship 10 AM Coffee Hour Deacons after service	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Elijah's Closet</i> 10-2	17 <i>Elijah's Closet</i> 10-2
18 <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i>  Worship 10 AM	19 <i>Church In Society Mtg.</i> 6:30 @ Church	20	21	22	23 <i>Elijah's Closet</i> 10-2  <i>Prudential Board Mtg.</i> 3:30	24 <i>Elijah's Closet</i> 10-2  The Gathering Table 11:30-1:30
25 <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i>  Worship 10 AM	26	27	28	29	30	

# 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>Trinity Sunday</b> June 4, 2023 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>Genesis 1:1-2:4a</u>  <u>Psalm 8</u>		<u>2 Corinthians 13:11-13</u>	<u>Matthew 28:16-20</u>
<b>Proper 5 (10)</b> Second Sunday after Pentecost June 11, 2023	<u>Genesis 12:1-9</u>  <u>Psalm 33:1-12</u>	<u>Hosea 5:15-6:6</u>  <u>Psalm 50:7-15</u>	<u>Romans 4:13-25</u>	<u>Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</u>
<b>Proper 6 (11)</b> Third Sunday after Pentecost June 18, 2023	<u>Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)</u>  <u>Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19</u>	<u>Exodus 19:2-8a</u>  <u>Psalm 100</u>	<u>Romans 5:1-8</u>	<u>Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)</u>
<b>Proper 7 (12)</b> Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 25, 2023	<u>Genesis 21:8-21</u>  <u>Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17</u>	<u>Jeremiah 20:7-13</u>  <u>Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18</u>	<u>Romans 6:1b-11</u>	<u>Matthew 10:24-39</u>
<b>Trinity Sunday</b> June 4, 2023 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>Genesis 1:1-2:4a</u>  <u>Psalm 8</u>		<u>2 Corinthians 13:11-13</u>	<u>Matthew 28:16-20</u>

## Treasurer's Report

### **April 2023 Offering Information**

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

April Offering: **\$2,241.40**

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

*Marc*

## Moderators' Message

June blessings to all of you! As we near the mid-point of the year 2023, I share a simple devotion that brought me joy:

*"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. They who come to me will never go hungry, and they who believe in me will never be thirsty.'" John 6:35*

Jesus is our Bread of Life. He promises that as we come to Him, and pick up with words, spend time first with Him, and allow His truths to nourish our spirits and lives, we will be satisfied. ([www.debbiemcdaniel.com](http://www.debbiemcdaniel.com))

June brings many events, family gatherings, and new beginnings—Father's Day, high school graduation, weddings, reunions . . . For many, these are delightful celebrations, but for some they create anxiety, depression, stress, even loneliness. Our small, but mighty flock is faithfully working to bring hope to our community. Gathering Table luncheons have resumed on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. In June, due to high school commencement, we will serve only on the second Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. July will resume the regular twice-a-month schedule. Rosemarie provides music, and our volunteers are good company. All are welcome.

There will be a repeat of the ***Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia*** presentation at the church on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. This is for anyone interested but especially designed for caregivers.

Weekly worship continues at 10 am on Sundays throughout the summer. We will welcome you warmly with Steve's organ music and Pastor's sharing of the Word. Join us!

In closing,

Sometimes life may be hurried and stressed. But choose not to allow the enemy to steer you away from God. It's those times you need God the most. Make the choice to come to God daily. Allow Christ to meet your deepest needs and His Spirit to bring refreshing to your soul. He is enough. He is more than enough.

Peace. ([www.debbiemcdaniel.com](http://www.debbiemcdaniel.com))

We know that God is Still Speaking.

Diane Meredith

## Celebrations of Baptism

On Sunday, May 21, family and friends joined our congregation to celebrate the baptism of Hadlee Marie Bowker and Nora Kellogg. A reception was held in the Parlor after service.

## **A Note from Janet**

### **BEARING FRUIT**

Jesus said to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my father is the vine grower... Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.” John 15:1, 4

Jesus uses the word “remain” (or abide depending on the translation used) more than eight times in John 15:1-8. Jesus is not describing wine making, but he is telling his disciples to remain and stay committed to the vine. Stay committed to growing your faith; stay committed to mercy and justice; stay committed to hope and love.

The vineyard is a delicate arrangement of vines and ultimately grapes. So much is necessary sometimes even adverse conditions arise. But Jesus says stay committed to him in the struggles, sorrows, or challenges of life because the vine grower is keeping the vines alive to bear fruit in your spiritual world.

Once the grapes are harvested a new wine is made. The grapes become the fruits of our commitment to remain connected. The vineyard is that special place of growth and spiritual development. We do not throw the grapes at each other instead, in the harvest, we gather around the table of love, joy, and forgiveness and drink the promise of resurrection. Our vineyard is our gathering place of worship; our joy is uplifting the poor, of remembering the forgotten, and of support for all people given to us. As the Lord gathers our fruits we can share and commune with the Lord together! Let us all remain in the vine together!

*Pastor Janet*

### **One Hour Program Explains the Basics of Alzheimer’s and Dementia**

In the United States alone, more than 5 million individuals are living with Alzheimer’s and 16 million are serving as their unpaid caregivers. The disease is a global crisis that impacts numerous families right here in our community. However, no one has to face this disease alone or without information.

The Alzheimer’s Association® has created an education program covering the basics of Alzheimer’s and dementia to provide a general overview for people who are facing a diagnosis as well as those who wish to be informed.

The free one-hour Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia program:

- Explores the relationship between Alzheimer's disease and dementia.
- Examines what happens in a brain affected by Alzheimer's.
- Details the risk factors for and three general stages of the disease.
- Identifies FDA-approved treatments available to treat some symptoms.
- Looks ahead to what's on the horizon for Alzheimer's research.
- Offers helpful Alzheimer's Association resources.

The program is being held in conjunction with our Church. The program will be held Thursday June 1, at 6:00 PM. Call 607-206-4514 or email Ann at [athayer@alz.org](mailto:athayer@alz.org)

## **Delaware County to host Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training Program July 11-19 2023**

The Delaware County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce a joint mission of the U.S. military and the County of Delaware with an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) mission. IRT is a federally supported program through the US Department of Defense to ready military personnel for future potential deployment missions across the nation and throughout the world. Through the IRT program, military units are paired with communities willing to partner with them as a real-world field experience.

The IRT event will be held July 11th through the 19th and will be open as a "walk in" service to any person wanting to attend, where military personnel will provide Delaware County residents with no cost health exams, youth sports physicals, eye exams and glass prescriptions, dental exams and procedures, behavioral health screenings and veterinary care for domestic household pets.

As the host community, the Walton Central School District has very graciously volunteered to provide operations space at the Walton High School Complex. Delaware County will operate a command center at New Hope Church, and the Delaware County Board of Supervisors will be providing security, managing traffic flow, assisting with patient flow and organizing continuity of care services for those in need.

Partnering with Delaware County, Delaware Opportunities will provide volunteers to assist on-site during the event and organize a community resource area where local services providers will be available to assist with long term care needs and services. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact Delaware Opportunities at (607) 746-1600. Additionally, regional medical services through United Health Services in Walton, Bassett Health Care and Westchester Medical are participating to assist patients and provide additional services through their facilities.