

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

THE CONNECTION

August 2023



Connecting God's People Through Love

A Note from Janet

DWELLING IN THE HEART

In the gospel of Luke, we read of an early story of Jesus' life. When he went with his family, and many others, to Jerusalem for the Passover at age 12, we read of a dilemma that happened.

Instead of going back with the caravan to Nazareth, Jesus remained behind. His parents thinking he was lost panicked! They finally found him a few days later in the Temple. Jesus asks: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" then, when he finally went with them, we read: "that his mother kept all these things in her heart."

Mary is a young mother, her first born son was conceived in an unusual circumstance. She is a confused teenager trying to raise a child who seems to be more knowledgeable than the average child. She and Joseph become parents who make a loving home for her family in the midst of violence and poverty. She becomes a devastated mother who watches her son unjustly tried, condemned, and executed. But through it all Mary continues to seek God's purpose in all this.

We all can identify with Mary as we too have been pierced with sorrow. Coping with a serious illness, watching a loved one die, seeing children make mistakes that seem unsolvable, living with the threat of violence and possible loss of income, all these sorrows are with us today. But like Mary, may we come to know within our own hearts of God's grace and purpose for our lives. With God's grace, as Mary knew in her heart, we will be transformed from our suffering and brokenness into a resurrection, into a new creation. God is dwelling in our hearts as we too witness the challenges of today.

Pastor Janet

Pastor Janet will be on vacation for the first three weeks in August. Communion will take place on Sunday, July 30 rather than on August 6.

Treasurer's Report

June 2023 Offering Information

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

June Offering: \$2,135

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

Marc

Moderators' Message

August Greetings!

One of summer's many joys is the number of events available to us for connecting, worshipping, and sharing God's blessings under the canopy of blue sky and sunshine. We have a busy month ahead. Pastor Janet will take some well-deserved vacation time. Please pray with us for her safe travel, good health, and spiritual renewal. Please call the church office to contact Nancy Grotevant or Diane Meredith if you have pastoral needs or concerns during Pastor's vacation.

- August 6 : Ron Galley will lead worship. 10 am; coffee hour hosted by Loraine Davila after worship.
- August 12: Gathering Table. Come for lunch and fellowship 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Shop Elijah's Closet, too.
- August 13: Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine, Dean of the New York School of Ministry and Associate Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ, New York Conference, will lead worship at 10 am.
- August 13: Vesper Service at 6 pm at the Delaware County Fairgrounds Entertainment Court
- August 20: Ron Galley will lead worship at 10 am.
- August 26: Gathering Table. Come for lunch and fellowship 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Shop Elijah's Closet, too.

May August fill you with the Spirit!

Diane Meredith, Co-Moderator



**American
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Walton First Baptist Church on Wednesday, August 22 – 9AM to 2 PM.

To schedule an appointment to donate, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Elijah's Closet 10-2
6 10 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM Communion Coffee Hour	7	8	9 Elijah's Closet Mtg. 4:45	10	11 Elijah's Closet 10-2	12 Elijah's Closet 10-2 The Gathering Table 11:30-1:30
13 11th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM Deacons after service	14 The Fair opens – Vesper Service 6PM	15	16	17	18 Elijah's Closet 10-2	19 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Fair Closes
20 12 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM Sunday School Mtg. after service	21	22	23	24	25 Elijah's Closet 10-2 Prudential Board Mtg. 3:30	26 Elijah's Closet 10-2 The Gathering Table 11:30-1:30
27 13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM	28 Church In Society Mtg. 6:30 @ Church	29	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 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
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 6, 2023	<u>Genesis 32:22-31</u> <u>Psalm 17:1-7, 15</u>	<u>Isaiah 55:1-5</u> <u>Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21</u>	<u>Romans 9:1-5</u>	<u>Matthew 14:13-21</u>
Eleventh Sunday af- ter Pentecost August 13, 2023	<u>Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28</u> <u>Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b</u>	<u>1 Kings 19:9-18</u> <u>Psalm 85:8-13</u>	<u>Romans 10:5-15</u>	<u>Matthew 14:22-33</u>
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 20, 2023	<u>Genesis 45:1-15</u> <u>Psalm 133</u>	<u>Isaiah 56:1, 6-8</u> <u>Psalm 67</u>	<u>Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32</u>	<u>Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28</u>
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 27, 2023	<u>Exodus 1:8-2:10</u> <u>Psalm 124</u>	<u>Isaiah 51:1-6</u> <u>Psalm 138</u>	<u>Romans 12:1-8</u>	<u>Matthew 16:13-20</u>

free
community meal



saturday august 12 & 26

11:30 - 1:30



The First Congregational
Church, United Church of
Christ, Walton

The Gathering Table

The Gathering Table free lunch program has been well received by the community. We have been serving 25-35 lunches every other Saturday. Lunches are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. On Saturday July 22, Pastor Janet treated us to a German menu including Bratwurst, Kohlrabi, and German Potato Salad.

This coming month we will have lunches on Saturday, August 12th and the 26th. Please feel free to join us for lunch and fellowship, or sign up to volunteer! You can volunteer by contacting the church office at 607-865-4066 or by emailing secretary@uccwalton.com