

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

THE CONNECTION November 2023



Connecting God's People Through Love

A Note from Janet

If Only We Stick Together

In the Gospel of Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus again describes the kingdom of heaven. He tells the story of ten women who went to meet the bridegroom. Five were foolish and five were wise. The five wise shaved their lamps and saved oil while they waited for a late arrival of the bridegroom. The five who were foolish let their lights burn while they fell asleep waiting. The five with the full lamps were welcomed into the wedding feast, the other five left to get oil from the market and were too late to enter the wedding feast.

The message for this is to “keep awake”, or to keep our faith alive and trimmed to be prepared for the banquet feast. The marvel of this story is that the woman who fell asleep did not trim their lamps and they never learned from the woman who knew enough to trim their lamps.

In a sense we are all waiting, waiting to be called to the banquet feast, but some of us have grown tired and we fail to stay awake. Waiting itself is a strong witness. As a congregation we all wait together and we need each other to help us stay awake.

I hear this story as a call to be more than just listeners to “sermons” and sing hymns. I take this as a call to gather together and learn from each other to find ways to wait together. Some of us will be called early and some late, but we do wait together in our faith. Is it time for us to form group sessions like Bible Studies, discussion groups, lunch gatherings, etc. for us to be able to stick together as we wait for the banquet feast? Can we each share our faith journey in some way so we can learn from each other? Will this keep us awake?

Pastor Janet

Treasurer's Report

September 2023 Offering Information

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

September Offering: \$2,458

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

Marc

Moderators' Message

November Blessings! The holiday season approaches, and we prepare for many celebrations, especially the recognition of all who served on Veterans' Day. The church often takes on more meaning for us as we reflect through the Thanksgiving season on all that we cherish and appreciate.

When Advent arrives (on December 3), we collectively anticipate a new beginning or a reset. I recently read the following which helped me remember why the church is so vital.

"As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa. Christians aren't consumers.

We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church."

-Michael Carl

I was reminded by this reflection of a favorite prayer I first saw posted on a church bulletin board. It speaks to the why—why we are Christians; why we go to church; and why we serve.

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

— St. Teresa of Ávila (attributed)

WE are the body of Christ, serving each other, the community, and indeed, the world in the name of Jesus. WE were and are and will be the best hope for a world where peace, kindness, justice, charity, forgiveness, and love define our legacy. Have a blessed November.

Diane Meredith

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

Date	1 st Reading and Psalm	Alternate 1 st Reading and Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost November 5, 2023	<u>Joshua 3:7-17</u> <u>Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37</u>	<u>Micah 3:5-12</u> <u>Psalm 43</u>	<u>1 Thessalonians 2:9-13</u>	<u>Matthew 23:1-12</u>
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2023 (If All Saints not observed on this day)	<u>Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25</u> <u>Psalm 78:1-7</u>	<u>Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16</u> or <u>Amos 5:18-24</u>	<u>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18</u>	<u>Matthew 25:1-13</u>
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023	<u>Judges 4:1-7</u> <u>Psalm 123</u>	<u>Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18</u> <u>Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12</u>	<u>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</u>	<u>Matthew 25:14-30</u>
Thanksgiving Day, USA November 23, 2023	<u>Deuteronomy 8:7-18</u> <u>Psalm 65</u>		<u>2 Corinthians 9:6-15</u>	<u>Luke 17:11-19</u>
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost November 26, 2023	<u>Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24</u> <u>Psalm 100</u>	<u>Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24</u> <u>Psalm 95:1-7a</u>	<u>Ephesians 1:15-23</u>	<u>Matthew 25:31-4</u>

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Elijah's Closet 10-2
5 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM Communion Coffee Hour Deacons' Mtg.	6	7	8 Thanksgiving Meal Mtg. 4:00 Elijah's Closet Mtg. 4:45	9	10 Elijah's Closet 10-2	11 Elijah's Closet 10-2 The Gathering Table 11:30-1:30
12 24th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM	13	14	15	16	17 Elijah's Closet Christmas Bazaar Sale Begins 10-2	18 Elijah's Closet Christmas Bazaar 10-2
19 25th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM Christian Ed. Mtg. after service	20	21 Thanksgiving Dinner Cooking Day	22 Thanksgiving Dinner – Prep and Handout Day	23 Thanksgiving 	24 Elijah's Closet Christmas Bazaar 10-2	25 Elijah's Closet Christmas Bazaar 10-2 The Gathering Table 11:30-1:30 Spend the Day in Walton
26 26th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 AM Hanging of the Greens	27 Church In Society Mtg. 6:30 @ Church	28	29	30		

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.

This month we will have lunches on Saturday, November 11 and 25. Meals for this month will be “box lunches” to accommodate the Christmas Bazaar taking place in the Fellowship Hall. 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



CHAIR YOGA FOR OLDER ADULTS

Chair yoga is a form of exercise which helps older adults exercise without putting pressure on joints.

It may also help those who have difficulty with balance and may reduce the fear of falling as well as help people who are not used to exercising to begin improving their strength and balance.

Movements typically involve sitting in the chair while stretching and holding poses or standing and using the chair for balance.

Come join Jennifer LePinnet Clark, DPT and Trained Yoga Instructor, as she guides you through a series of exercises allowing you to take gradual steps toward better strength and balance.

It's never too late to start.

WHERE? First Congregational Church, UCC
4 Mead St., Walton, NY 13856
Enter using the North St., back entrance

WHEN? Tuesdays & Thursdays
October 10th – November 16th
11 am – 12 noon

FREE CLASSES – no registration required. Come to 1 or come to all.

If you have any questions call the church Secretary at 607-865-4066

