



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates September 13, 2024

September Celebrations

Birthdays

16th: Brian Caruso

20th: David Kelly

21st: Tracia Muller

On the Calendar

Saturday, September 14: Gathering Table Saturday Sandwich Lunch 11:30 am-1 pm.
Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Loraine at 607-788-6984 or
loraine.davila@yahoo.com

Sunday, September 15: Sanctuary Worship at 10 am; Ron Galley, leader; Prudential Board, Operations and Ministry Committee meetings following worship.

Saturday, September 28: Gathering Table Saturday Sandwich Lunch 11:30 am-1 pm.
Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Loraine at 607-788-6984 or
loraine.davila@yahoo.com

Tuesday/Thursday, October 1 & 3: Chair Yoga resumes. 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Elijah's Closet: Fridays and Saturdays 10 am-2 pm.

50% OFF Jean Sale September 13 & 14

Pastor Janet will be on vacation. September 9-16.

Contact Diane Meredith (607-267-3431) or April (office) at 607-865-4066

email: secretary@uccwalton.com

April will be on vacation. October 2-7. Contact Pastor Janet (607-435-8903) or Diane Meredith (607-267-3431)

Member Updates

If you have anything that you would like included in our bi-monthly Updates, please contact April at 607-865-4066 or secretary@uccwalton.com

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

Clothing by Mary Luti

"I was naked and you clothed me." - Matthew 25:36 (ESV)

The usual way most of us clothe Jesus is by donating our used things to thrift stores or by buying something new for the church's winter coat drive or by giving money to agencies that help neighbors who've been left naked in the world by hardship and injustice.

But we can clothe Jesus in other ways, too. So many ways.

Like when someone uncovers their weakness or sin to us, and we wrap them in mercy, healing, and peace. Or when someone comes to us stripped down to their hard-won truth, and we adorn them with affirmation and dignity. Or when someone lays bare to us their deepest fear, their suffering, need, or shame, and we don't leave them exposed, but clothe them with presence, cloak them in love.

Harvard Divinity School professor, Stephanie Paulsell, writes movingly about a time when she was naked. After losing a cherished pregnancy, she couldn't work, read, or pray. But she could talk:

"I wore out my friends," she says, "especially Kay. The year before, Kay had left behind job, salary and colleagues to spend a year in prayer and silence. Violating her solitude again and again, I cried on the phone, 'I am so depressed I can't even pray. I try to pray, but I can't.' A few days later, a package arrived from Kay. It contained a simple beige jumper and a note that read, 'I have prayed in this dress every day for a year. You don't have to pray. Just wear it. It is full of prayers.'"

"I did wear that dress," Paulsell goes on. "I wore it and wept in it and cried out Why? to God in it. I let the prayers in that dress pray for me when my mouth was full of ashes. And when I became pregnant again, I continued to wear that dress."

So many ways.

Prayer

Jesus, when did we see you naked and clothe you?

Lifted in Prayer

The family of Steve Northrup
Fran Robinson
Jan Kilpatrick
Pastor Janet
Don Ogden
Anthony Contello

Eric Eberling
Lyle Robertson
Betty Johnston
Lorraine Miller
Nadene Kopetz
The family of Carl Fancher