



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates October 1, 2024

October Celebrations

Birthdays

7th: Marc Evans

7th: Ginny O'Dell

10th: Charlotte Kelly

11th: Janet Brienza

17th: Donna Truman

On the Calendar

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

Sunday, October 6: Sanctuary Worship and Communion at 10 am; World Communion Sunday; Coffee hour, hosted by Loraine Davila.

Tuesday/Thursday, October 8 & 10: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Friday, October 11: Please turn in your basket donation for our booth at the Fall Market.

Saturday, October 12: Walton Historical Society Fall Market 10:00 am-4:00 pm; The 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, October 13: Sanctuary Worship at 10 am; Pastor Appreciation Day; No Sunday School; Ministry Committee meeting following worship

Tuesday/Thursday, October 15 & 17: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Saturday, October 19: Pancake breakfast at the Northfield Community Church 7:00 am-9:00 am to benefit Operation Christmas Child; Pottery Art Show at the United Presbyterian Church 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday, October 20: Sanctuary Worship at 10 am; Children's Sabbath; Prudential Board meeting following worship; Pottery Art Show at the United Presbyterian Church 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday/Saturday, October 25 & 26: Prayer Workshop at New Hope Community Church on Friday 6:30 pm-8:30 pm and Saturday 8:30 am-1:00 pm with Rev. Jon Mitchell.

Saturday, October 26: 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

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

April will be on vacation. October 2-7.

Contact Pastor Janet (607-435-8903) or Diane Meredith (607-267-3431)

email: secretary@uccwalton.com

Member Updates

Please place your non-perishable food and toiletry donations in the wagon located at the back of the sanctuary. Loraine Davila will be driving donations over to the food bank the last Tuesday of each month. A guide with donation ideas will be in the wagon

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

What Have You to Do with Us? by Talitha Arnold

"Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" - Mark 1:23-24 (NRSV)

Jesus had just come out of the wilderness, called his first followers, and was in the middle of his first sermon in Capernaum. Then a man "with an unclean spirit" showed up yelling, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" What a way to start a ministry!

Actually, I can't think of a better story to begin the good news of Jesus Christ. His first miracle isn't walking on water or feeding the multitudes. It's healing someone with "an unclean spirit"—a 1st century description of mental illness.

Then, as now, such persons were often among the most isolated and vulnerable people of their communities. Yet there are more accounts of Jesus' caring for persons with mental illness than all other healing stories combined. That says something about his ministry—and ours.

Moreover, when Jesus met the man in the Capernaum synagogue and other persons with "unclean spirits" or demons, he didn't condemn or judge them. He didn't address their faith issues or need for forgiveness as he did in other healing stories. Instead he differentiated between the "unclean spirit" and the person it was attacking—a person who deserved his compassion and help.

If such understanding was important for Jesus, then it's important for the Church. In our time, as in Jesus's, persons with mental illness and those who love and care for them often echo the Capernaum man's cry, "What have you to do with us?"

"Quite a bit," Jesus answered unequivocally. That needs to be our answer, too.

Prayer

Hear our prayer, Lord, for those afflicted with mental illness and those who care for them. Hear our prayer, too, for our congregations to respond with Jesus' compassion and understanding. Amen.

Take Action

If your faith community strives to better understand and support those living with mental illnesses, check out the congregational toolkit and other resources [available through the UCC Mental Health Network](#).

Honoring Maureen

The event to honor Maureen with a ribbon cutting for the Fashion and Design Center and the studio named after her at Harcum College was an exceptional day! I want to thank the congregation for the contribution and support of this honor for Maureen. I learned from past students who attended that she was more extraordinary than even I knew! She was a beloved teacher and mentor to many! Thank all of you for her memory!

Janet

Lifted in Prayer

The family Leona Maritato
Fran Robinson
Jan Kilpatrick
Lorraine Miller
Don Ogden
Anthony Contello
Paul & Betty Smith
Sharon Hobbie

Dane
Lyle Robertson
Betty Johnston
Nadene Kopetz
The family of Carl Fancher
The family of Richard DeMoney
Maxine Locherer