



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates September 1, 2024

September Celebrations

Birthdays

16th: Brian Caruso

20th: David Kelly

21st: Tracia Muller

On the Calendar

Sunday, September 1: Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 am; Ron Galley, leader

Wednesday, September 4: Giancarlo Sidoli guitar concert. Free to the public. 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. ****Please note the time change****

Sunday, September 8: Sanctuary Worship and Communion with Pastor Janet at 10 am; Sunday School resumes; Coffee hour, hosted by the Clark Family.

Saturday, September 14: Gathering Table Saturday Sandwich Lunch 11:30 am-1 pm.

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.

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

*****HUGE Jean Sale 8/30-8/31 and 9/6-9/7*****

Pastor Janet will be on vacation. September 1-7; September 9-16.

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

email: secretary@uccwalton.com

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

Mud and Blood by Matt Laney

And the Word became flesh and lived among us... - John 1:14 (NRSV)

A friend once said something astonishing. This friend did not identify with any faith, but he was very interested in philosophy, spirituality, mythology, and religion. He said:

"If I was to create my own deity, I would make a god who knows what it's like to be alone, a god who maybe even felt afraid or abandoned. What good is a god who sits up in the clouds? Give me a god covered in mud and blood. A god who is humble and compassionate. Not pretty but real."

That alone was breathtaking, but he wasn't finished.

"The only problem with a god like that is you might not recognize him. You could walk past him on the street or in a store or wherever and miss him. He could be standing right in front of you, staring you in the face and you wouldn't know it. You'd have to learn to pay attention, keep your eyes open and be ready for surprises."

I have never heard a better definition of the God of Christianity. A God who camouflages in mud and blood is one who prefers not to stand out. Perhaps God loves surprise appearances and hides themselves with pure delight and giddy anticipation.

I'm not new at this Christianity thing but I'm still learning to slow down, look carefully and pay attention. I'm as surprised as the next person when God shows up in unlikely faces and places. The fact that I have a label called "unlikely" reveals how far I have to go ...and how much giddy delight I bring to God.

Prayer

God of mud and blood, today, let me find you in friends, co-workers, strangers and in the mirror.

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