



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

## Updates October 21, 2024

### October Celebrations

#### Birthdays

7<sup>th</sup>: Marc Evans  
7<sup>th</sup>: Ginny O'Dell  
10<sup>th</sup>: Charlotte Kelly  
11<sup>th</sup>: Janet Brienza  
17<sup>th</sup>: Donna Truman

### November Celebrations

#### Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup>: Nora Kellogg  
4<sup>th</sup>: Cookie Richards  
15<sup>th</sup>: Nolan Evans  
18<sup>th</sup>: Emily Richards  
26<sup>th</sup>: Chris Ogden

#### Anniversaries

18<sup>th</sup>: Roy & Rosemarie Tiesler

### On the Calendar

**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](mailto:loraine.davila@yahoo.com)

**Sunday, October 27:** Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am; Sunday School during worship

**Tuesday/Thursday, October 29 & 31:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Sunday, November 3:** Sanctuary Worship and Communion at 10:00 am; Sunday School during worship; Coffee Hour, hosted by the Evans Family

**Tuesday/Thursday, November 5 & 7:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Thursday, November 7:** "IT'S OK TO NOT BE OK, Coping with Loss During the Holidays" presented by Helios Care & Friends of Woodland Cemetery at Bushel, 106 Main St, Delhi. Free & open to the public 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

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

**Phone Chain:** We are working on updating our phone chain list and procedures.

If you need a copy, please contact April at 607-865-4066 or email: [secretary@uccwalton.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@uccwalton.com)

## Pastor Appreciation

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Pastor Janet was surprised with a celebration for Pastor Appreciation Day!  
Thank you Pastor Janet!



## A Devotional from Pastor Janet

**Change Your Mind** by Mary Luti

*"A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but did not go. Which one did the will of his father?" They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the*

*kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but tax collectors and prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds.” - Matthew 21:28-32 (NRSV)*

Moral of the story: People who say yes don't always follow through. People who say no sometimes do. Doers, not people who only talk a good game, are pleasing to God. Right?

Yes. And no.

Because doing isn't the only point here. There's a deeper one in what Jesus says about the first son: "He changed his mind." And in his reproach of his religious audience: "You didn't change yours." Jesus wants us to be doers of God's will. But he's equally concerned about our capacity for reconsideration. Maybe more.

What he commends isn't mere 'doing.' It's convertibility, a willingness to think again, to discover we're wrong, to reverse course. It seems that a chastened heart may be preferable even to constancy and virtuous doing. Because there's a sneaky danger in constancy and virtuous doing. It can give the illusion of perfection. Self-righteousness and judgmentalism come with that territory.

But people who change their minds are always undergoing the peculiar suffering of being wrong, swallowing their pride, recalibrating their assumptions and choices. They're under no illusion of perfection. Humbled and teachable, they're more likely to be merciful. And for Jesus there's no other bottom line.

## **Prayer**

Take my made-up mind and give me a changing mind. Make me convertible and merciful, so that I can truly do your will.

## **Lifted in Prayer**

Sharon Hobbie

Al Moore

Dane

The family of Jan Kilpatrick

The family of Roy Sawyer

The family of Kenneth Kokoszka

The family of Gerald Fitch

The family of Joan Kauppila

The family of Louise Carman

The family of Baby Lainy McClenon