



Updates November 15, 2024

November Celebrations

Birthdays

1st: Nora Kellogg

4th: Cookie Richards

15th: Nolan Evans

18th: Emily Richards

26th: Chris Ogden

Anniversaries

18th: Roy & Rosemarie Tiesler

December Celebrations

Birthdays

1st: Rosemarie Tiesler

1st: Warren Kelly

2: Glen LePinnet

6th: Loraine Davila

9th: Haley Clark

10th: Chris Clark

20th: Todd Ogden

25th: Beth Ogden

On the Calendar

Sunday, November 17: Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am; Sunday School; Let Ann know if you would like to participate in the Christmas Play

Saturday, November 23: The Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm ****Takeout Only**** Volunteers are always needed. Contact Loraine at 607-788-6984 or loraine.davila@yahoo.com; GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" at New Hope Community Church 3:00 pm

Sunday, November 24: Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am; Sunday School; Christ's Reign; Children's Sabbath; Hanging of the Greens following worship. Snacks will be provided

Tuesday, November 26: Community Thanksgiving Service at 6:00 pm. In lieu of an offering, the Walton Ministry Association has asked us to please bring a food bank donation

Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, December 1: Sanctuary Worship and Communion at 10:00 am; First Sunday in Advent; No Sunday School; Coffee hour hosted by Rosemarie Tiesler

Saturday, December 14: The Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm ****Takeout Only**** Volunteers are always needed. Contact Loraine at 607-788-6984 or loraine.davila@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 15: Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am with special music by Giancarlo Sidoli; Sunday School;

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



With your support, Elijah's Closet was able to purchase 43 small appliances to assist residents of Newland, NC who were impacted by Hurricane Helene!!

THANK YOU!



The First Congregational Church



Starting Nov 22nd 10 am- 2 pm

Every Friday & Saturday

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Member Updates

A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

The Sunday School children will be sharing a Christmas play "Journey to Bethlehem" Sunday evening, December 22, 2024. This year, we have invited adults from our congregation to participate as well. We are hoping to have many adults share their sense of whimsy with the children and congregation. Our plan includes a catered dinner for our church family. More information to come.



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

Highlights



Nolan Evans was awarded student of the month for exemplifying the character trait of RESPONSIBILITY



April and family went to see the new movie "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and loved it! The message is that Jesus is for everyone. How incredible is that?!? No matter where you are on your journey, even if it's just beginning, like the Herdmans, he is with and for you.

Board Updates



November 2024

Greetings, Church Family!

November is Stewardship Month, and this year's UCC theme is *Imagine Together*. Imagine what we can accomplish working together in our church and community!



The Operations Committee has drafted a 2025 budget with an increase of approximately 8% needed to sustain our employees, our building, and our programs. It will be presented at our Annual Meeting in January.

We have committed to a new approach for annual pledging. We are not distributing pledge cards to return. We are asking only that you consider increasing your current giving by 8%. Giving is not measured in dollars only. Your time and service on behalf of the work of our church is also a gift. If you are unable to increase your financial contribution, your participation as a volunteer at The Gathering Table, Elijah's Closet, special events, and/or as a member of the Prudential Board is equally valuable to our mission.

Invitation to Generosity

In the Creator, there is no lack of any good thing. When we consider our resources as part of God's abundance, we nurture generosity within us. Let us give to support the mutual needs of our faith community, the expansion of ministry, and the benefit of the world that God so loves.

With sincere appreciation for your support,
The Operations Committee of the Prudential Board

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

Where You Go, I Will Go by Vicki Kemper

She said to them, "Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty." - Ruth 1:20-21 (NRSV)

We love the story of Ruth and Naomi for its poignant embodiment of faithful love: Ruth, recently widowed, refused to do what was expected of her and go back to her family of origin. She refused to allow her widowed mother-in-law to live out her days with nothing but grief and bitterness for company.

"Where you go, I will go," Ruth told Naomi. "Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried" (Ruth 1:16-17).

It is a love story for the ages, one that sets a high standard for faithful marriage, family, friendship, and community. It has inspired countless wedding vows. What's not to love?

And yet: In our celebration of Ruth's love and devotion, have we ignored Naomi's grief? Have we romanticized the story by overlooking the inevitability of loss? And what do we do with Naomi's heartbreaking sense of divine punishment and abandonment?

Even more to the point: How do we treat the grieving ones in our own lives? Do we rush in to fix their pain, or do we offer to witness it and share it? Do we avoid the grieving because their pain makes us uncomfortable? Do we suggest they get over it and move on?

In the grand story of Naomi and Ruth and Boaz, Naomi quickly becomes a minor player. In the grand story of our own lives, how can we draw the grieving ones in the center?

Prayer

God who grieves every loss, grant us a love faithful and courageous enough to accompany the bereaved with undying devotion.

Amen.

Lifted in Prayer

Dane
Michael Hodge
The family of Robert Maquire
The family of Estella White
The family of Jim Bryden

Grace Bartolillo
Elinor Tempel
The family of Kenneth Radick
The family of Eddie & Kaelyn Foster
The family of Donald Lawrence