



**Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

Updates December 1, 2024

December Celebrations

Birthdays

1st: Rosemarie Tiesler
1st: Warren Kelly
2nd: Glen LePinnet
3rd: Edie Morales
6th: Loraine Davila
9th: Haley Clark
10th: Chris Clark
20th: Todd Ogden

On the Calendar

Sunday, December 8: Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am; Second Sunday of Advent; Sunday School

Saturday, December 14: 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 with Special Music by Giancarlo Sidoli at 10:00 am; Third Sunday of Advent; Sunday School; **Christmas family gifts are due back to Ann (wrapped with tag attached);** **RSVP to April due for Christmas play and dinner**

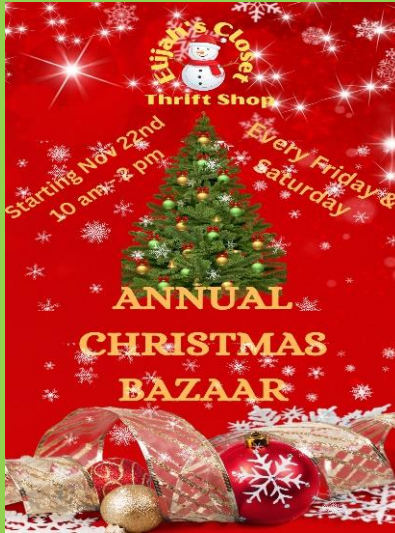
Tuesday, December 17: Prudential Board meeting 3:30 pm

Sunday, December 22: Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am; Fourth Sunday of Advent; Sunday School; **Loved ones' names for Christmas Eve bulletin are due to April;** **Christmas play & dinner 5:00 pm, snow date Monday, December 23rd**

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candle Light Service. Our music service begins at 6:30 pm with our service of Celebration beginning at 7:00 pm

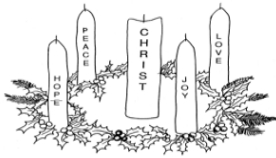
Sunday, December 29: Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am; **No** Sunday School

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



Member Updates

CELEBRATING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
AT
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
Walton



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
With the new church year approaching, we are celebrating the liturgical season of Advent-Christmas. We invite everyone to experience the richness of this spiritual season of renewal. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of God among us in the birth and life of Christ, and as we eagerly await the second coming of our Lord, we gather together on these dates and times to rediscover our spiritual journey and commitment.

Please join us for any or all of these gatherings:

December 8 The second Sunday in Advent: 10:00 am Worship Service

December 15 The third Sunday in Advent: 10:00 am Worship Service

December 22 The fourth Sunday in Advent: 10:00 am Worship Service
Celebration of a Blue Christmas on the Longest Night

December 24 Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
We celebrate the birth of Christ with words, prayers and songs! Our music service begins at 6:30 pm and our service of Celebration begins at 7:00 pm.

**LET US ALL JOIN TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE INCARNATION OF GOD
AMONG US**



Christmas Family gifts are due to Ann by 12/15/24.

Please make sure they are wrapped with the gift tag attached.

If you have a loved one or loved ones that you would like remembered in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please contact April with their information.

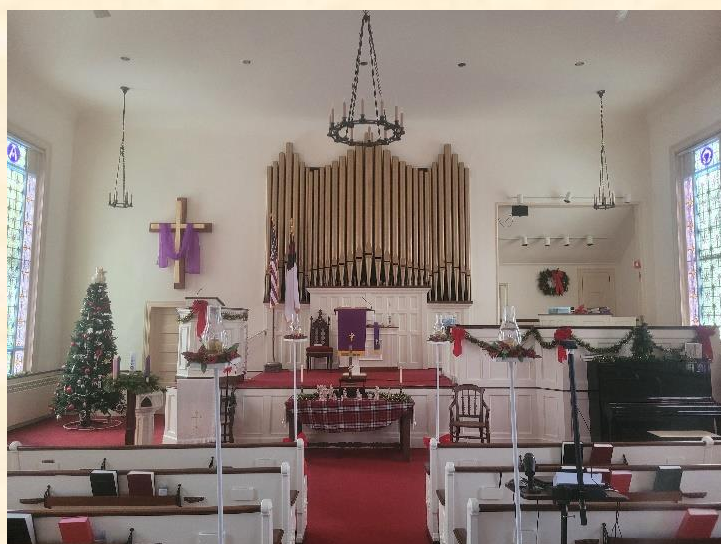
Please place your non-perishable food and toiletry donations in the wagon located at the back of the sanctuary. Loraine Davila will be driving donations over to the food bank the last Tuesday of each month. A guide with donation ideas will be in the wagon

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



Children's Sabbath



Hanging of the Greens

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

See You in the Morning by Mary Luti

Jesus said to them, "In this world you will have trouble. But do not be afraid. I have overcome the world." - John 16:33 (adapted)

If you've ever put a child to bed, you'll recognize this drill: Read story, say prayers, position bunny, plant kiss, turn off lights, tiptoe out. Kid whimpers, "Monsters." Lights back on. Look under the bed. Confident voice: "Nope, no monsters. Sweet dreams. See you in the morning."

It's a charming game, but every now and then it scares you more than it scares them. You realize they have it right.

There are monsters under the bed, children just don't know their names. But you do: drugs, cancer, racism, bullying, terrorism, molestation, family breakup, accidents. They might be idle now, but they won't always stay put.

And when that dawns on you, your calm authority on the matter of monsters seems more irrational than their fears. You're promising safety you can't deliver.

And yet we still say it, night after night: "See you in the morning." Even knowing what we know, we turn off the light. Knowing what we know, we leave them there in the dark.

This is faith: to offer tomorrow to a child when you can't be certain morning will come. To calm fears with firm assurances when your confidence is no match for what's under the bed. To turn off the light and go, knowing what you know.

This is faith: to trust that in the menace of life, when you yourself are terrified, Christ is in the room—"I have overcome the world. See you in the morning."

Prayer

When the lights are out, reassure my own anxious heart, and give me faith to promise the world the safety I can't deliver, but you can.

Amen.

Lifted in Prayer

Dane

The family of Lib Karl