



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

Updates January 1, 2025

**January Celebrations**

**Birthdays**

- 7<sup>th</sup>: Nancy Grotevant**
- 9<sup>th</sup>: Steve Sehen**
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Bruce Ellis**
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Lynn Allen**
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Josie Kelly**
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Nadene Kopetz**
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Donna Thomson**

**On the Calendar**

**Sunday, January 5:** Sanctuary Worship and Communion at 10:00 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour hosted by Janet & Donna

**Saturday, January 11:** Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm. We will be back to a warm sit-down meal with Shepards pie, rolls and dessert. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Loraine Davila

**Sunday, January 12:** Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am; Sunday School; Baptism of the Lord, Holy Spirit Prayer and Receiving of the Lord's Prayer; Prudential Board meeting following worship

**Sunday, January 19:** Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am; **No** Sunday School

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

**Member Updates**

**CHAIR YOGA FOR OLDER ADULTS CONTINUES**

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START!**

**WHERE?** First Congregational Church, UCC  
Corner of Mead and North Sts., Walton, NY  
Enter using the North St., back entrance

**WHEN?**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

January 28 & 30	February 25 & 27
February 4 & 6	March 4 & 6
February 11 & 13	March 11 & 13

**FREE CLASSES** – no registration required. Come to 1 or come to all.

*If you have any questions call the church at 607-865-4066*

**Wear comfortable clothes and bring water with you.**

There will be paperwork to be filled out, so please come 20-30 minutes early to your **FIRST** class - even if you completed paperwork in the past.

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)

## Board Updates

The annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> following worship.  
Please send reports to April by 1/12/25.

### Highlights



Blue Sunday/Christmas Service in remembrance of our loved ones on 12/22



Our Christmas Eve Service



"Journey to Bethlehem"  
Christmas Play

## **Pastor's Pen by Pastor Janet**

Is Christmas Over?

We all know the endless song "The Twelve Days Christmas" which was actually written to commemorate the 12 days we celebrate Christmas from December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas) to January 6<sup>th</sup> (Epiphany) when the Magi came to visit the newborn Christ.

Christmas leads us to the time when we travel through Scriptures to the days when we begin to celebrate the eventual death of Christ (Lent, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday). The death of the child whose birth we celebrated at Christmas.

In the Gospel of Saint John (chapter 20) we read of the visit of Mary Magdalen to the grave of Jesus. This visit, along with the Christmas visits, has much to teach us about love. When we love someone, we do not abandon them when they die. We go to their grave to mourn. The angels at the empty tomb do not know why Mary is weeping, but we do! She, like us, wants to have the return of a loved one. But we know that is impossible! She, at least, wants to be near the body again. So do we!

But with Mary's visit the body is not there! Mary assumes the gardener knows what happened to the body she came to mourn. So she asks where he was taken. Mary is called by name, she knows the voice of Jesus! He is alive! Mary is the first witness to the resurrection! Isn't that what Christmas was all about? To know, believe, and to witness to the eventual resurrection of our loved ones and even us! To believe that the incarnation of Christ was to give us new life?

Jesus tells Mary to report to the disciples what she has seen. We, too, are to tell of what we know. Christmas is the Easter story! Christmas never ends, it is the joy filled message of the resurrection of our loved ones and of us. Love is what brings us to the grave, love is what gives us the ability to bring hope to a love starved world. The love of God gives us resurrection.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

## **Lifted in Prayer**

Dane

Sherry Price

The family of Diane Robinson

Dan Tempel

The family of Faye Anderson