



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates February 15, 2025

February Celebrations

Birthdays

15th: Nancy MacNeill
18th: Sierra Caruso
20th: Fran Robinson
25th: Cooper Evans

March Celebrations

Birthdays

2nd: Betty Johnston
13th: Eliose Kelly
26th: Paige Clark

On the Calendar

Sunday, February 16: Parlor Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School

Friday, February 21: "Bonhoeffer" playing at Walton Theatre 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 22: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm; "Bonhoeffer" playing at Walton Theatre 7:00 pm

Sunday, February 23: Parlor Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School; **Planning Retreat 12:00 pm**; "Bonhoeffer" playing at Walton Theatre 1:00 pm

Tuesday/Thursday, February 25 & 26: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Wednesday, February 26: "Bonhoeffer" playing at Walton Theatre 1:00 pm

Sunday, March 2: Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour, hosted by Nancy Grotevant

Tuesday/Thursday, March 4 & 6: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday Service 4:00 pm

Saturday, March 8: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, March 9: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Prudential Board following worship

Tuesday/Thursday, March 11 & 13: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Sunday, March 16: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

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

Member Updates

Please place your non-perishable food and toiletry donations in the wagon located just **outside of the Parlor**. 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

CHAIR YOGA FOR OLDER ADULTS

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 4 & 6

February 11 & 13

February 25 & 27

March 4 & 6

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.**

Board Updates

PLANNING RETREAT



Our Planning Retreat will be held at Packin' Heat Bar & Grill on Sunday, February 23rd at 12:00 pm. **If you haven't already done so, please RSVP to April.**

Ash Wednesday



God always forgives us

Begin the Lenten season with prayer and reflection as we receive ashes, a symbol of repentance and renewal.

March 5th, 4:00 pm

Parlor Worship will continue through the entire month of February.

We have signed on with a "phone chain" service to ensure that members receive pertinent information in a timely and efficient manner. We have the ability to send these alerts by phone, text or email. If you haven't already done so, please provide April with your updated contact information and your preferred method of contact. You can sign up for text message alerts by texting "**ALERT**" to **22300**.

Highlights



Parlor Worship 2/2/25



Keygan Epps and 4-h club, Crafty Explorers, in the Reporter

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

When I Am Afraid by Talitha Arnold

O Most High, when I am afraid, I put my trust in you. - Psalm 56:3 (NRSV)

"Maybe," my friend said when we talked about Psalm 56. "When I'm afraid, *maybe* I put my trust in God. But," she continued, "I usually trust my own devices and designs first. I worry. I toss and turn, trying to figure out things on my own. I perseverate and procrastinate. I eat."

"Truth is," she said, "when I'm under siege, I'll do just about anything but trust in God."

I'm grateful for my friend's honesty. I think King David, to whom Psalm 56 was attributed, would have been grateful, too. According to tradition, David wrote it when imprisoned by the Philistines. Perhaps in that fearsome ordeal, David trusted God.

Yet often he didn't. His fear drove him to war against his enemies, including King Saul and his own sons. Faced with Bathsheba's pregnancy, he conspired in her husband's death.

Ironically, this psalm offers the way out of fear. Whoever wrote it started by breaking the silence, telling God the truth about the fear, anger, and the besiegers: "They stir up strife; they lurk, they watch my steps." The psalmist pled for help, and then he shifted focus from himself to God, the One to be trusted. The psalmist remembered his vows, gave thanks, and celebrated how God had "delivered my soul from death and my feet from falling" so he could "walk in the light of life."

Breaking the silence, asking for help, giving thanks, remembering the covenant and God's past deliverance from fear *and* falling. Maybe that's the way out of fear and into trust. I'll try it if you will.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for Psalm 56. Help us overcome our fear and find our way back to You. Amen.

Lifted in Prayer

Dane
The family of Richard DuMond
The family of Parker Michael Pruiksma

Pastor Janet
The family of Cathleen Soules-Ladd