



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates April 1, 2025

April Celebrations

Birthdays

- 8th: Don Ogden
- 10th: Ann LePinnet
- 11th: Libby Kelly
- 13th: Heather Ogden
- 19th: Ron Richards
- 26th: Deb Caruso

Anniversaries

- 14th: John & Janet Brienza

On the Calendar

Tuesday/Thursday, April 1 & 3: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Friday, April 4: Operations Committee Meeting

Sunday, April 6: Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am with Rev. Ryan Henderson, New York UCC Associate Minister; Sunday School; Coffee hour, hosted by Lynn Allen; Prudential Board Meeting

Tuesday/Thursday, April 8 & 10: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Saturday, April 12: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, April 13: **Palm Sunday Breakfast**; Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

Thursday, April 17: **Maundy Thursday Communion and Fellowship** 4:00 pm

Friday, April 18: **Community Good Friday Tenebrae Service** 4:00 pm

Sunday, April 20: **Easter Sunday** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School; **Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 26: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, April 27: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School

Tuesday/Thursday, April 29 & May 1: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Elijah's Closet

Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 am-2:00 pm

April 11, 12, 18 & 19: 50% Off Easter Items



Member Updates

Please place your non-perishable food and toiletry donations in the wagon located at the back of the sanctuary. Loraine Davila will drive donations to the food bank the last Tuesday of each month.

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

March 25 & 27
April 1 & 3
April 8 & 10

April 29 & May 1
May 6 & 8
May 13 & 15

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.



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

YOUR GUIDE TO Energy Savings

Cold & drafty home? For renters too!

•FREE home energy assessments

•Low- and no-cost programs to insulate and seal air leaks in the home for income-eligible households (see back)

Need help with heating?

•Income-eligible households may qualify for free heating system repair and replacement.

•Significant incentives are available for heat pumps, which often cost less to operate than fuel oil, propane or electric resistance heat.

Savings with solar

•Signing up for community solar can reduce your monthly electric bill by 5 to 20%.



Contact a Community Energy Advisor in your area to learn more!

Energy advising is FREE and can help you understand these options
smartenergychoices@cornell.edu
607-366-0833
smartenergychoices.org



LEARN MORE AT SMARTENERGYCHOICES.ORG

Board Updates



Don't forget to sign up for Coffee Hour, if you are able. We are still in need of a host for June.

Some DOs and DON'Ts to bring when hosting:

DO:

Juices Boxes
Half & Half
Snacks
Sugar-free option

DON'T:

Plates/bowls
Cups
Plasticware
Napkins
Sugar/sweetener
Coffee/tea

*Items listed as DON'Ts are provided and will be available in the parlor/kitchenette.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday

Sanctuary Worship at 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday

Holy Thursday Communion and Fellowship at 4:00 pm

Good Friday

Tenebrae Service at 4:00 pm

Tenebrae is a religious service of Western Christianity held during Good Friday and characterized by gradual extinguishing of candles, and by a "loud noise" taking place in total darkness at the end of the service which represents the placement of Christ in the tomb. It is a somber service to lead toward a spiritual preparation of the Easter Day Glory!

Easter Sunday

Celebrate Christ's resurrection with Sanctuary Worship at 10:15 am

Highlights



Nora Kellogg 3/16/25

Pastor's Pen by Pastor Janet

Do We Care?

According to the church calendar, of which very few people follow, we are in the fourth week of Lent. In three weeks, the church celebrates Easter. This is the time some people enjoy talking about the Easter Bunny delivering chocolates and chocolate eggs! (Do bunnies make chocolate eggs?)

Easter is also the day the Christian Church celebrates the risen Christ. Some may believe in the resurrection and some may not. But for centuries the only day that is truly unique for the Christian people is Easter. Christianity is the only religion that has witnesses to the resurrection of Christ, the leader of the Church.

But to get to Easter we travel through the period of Lent – a time of passion, a time of hardship, a time of grief. Don't we all travel these times in our life? Life is not always "up", it is sometimes "down".

As a child growing up in an immigrant German family whose parents left the hardships of the 1920s' and 30's in Germany to come to a place of renewal and resurrection, I heard many stories of the difficult times. Today we are hearing similar stories from others who have left their homeland to come to a safe haven. The immigrants of today are looking for healing and resurrection for their lives. They are a people who need to know that there is Easter for them as well as for others.

Today when I hear God's voice during Lent, I hear: "take care of the homeless, care for the widows and the children, provide for those who have nothing, feed and nurture my children of the world". I see this as a time we should become a sanctuary for the victims of our world and society. Isn't this the time we, who have so much, stand together for those who are

unable fend for themselves? Isn't this a time when we stand with Martin Luther King Jr. and say: "if a man (person) had nothing worth dying for, then he (she) is not fit to live"?

We are a people of the resurrection, let's hope we can live to see the day when all are resurrected and at peace. Let us care enough to find this peace for us and others in our time!

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

Give Up Judging by Donna Schaper

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." - Galatians 5:14 (NRSV)

Chapter 5 of Galatians is worth a good long read. It is about the subject of Christian freedom, which the writer imagines is a kind of slavery to love. It is about the difference between the law and grace, using circumcision as an example, concluding that it matters little if we are or are not circumcised. Instead it matters a lot how we talk about the subject to each other.

Maybe you don't need to read this chapter. You may have no issues about right and wrong cultural customs, the right way to dress for church, the right foods to eat in Lent. You may never have spoken of chocolate cake as "sinful" or scoffed at someone who was obese. You may attend church meetings and tolerate all the points of view expressed by other members. If so, skip this chapter.

If, however, you find yourself coiled culturally, intolerant of difference, unkind when someone smokes in public or brings a dog to a meeting, turn to Galatians 5 and sit down for the long read. You will learn what it means to be in love with each other. You will also be brought to attention by the warning that sometimes when we "bite and devour each other," we actually find ourselves chewed up, even consumed.

Be kind. Fall in love. Think less about circumcision, ancient or modern, and more about love.

Prayer

O God, we pray that we can be a little yeast that leavens the entire dough of community, and that when we are gone, people miss us because our kindness is lost. Amen.

Lifted in Prayer

Dane
Bruce Ellis
Dawn Armstrong
Jenni DeYoung
The family of Marilyn Olson
The family of Douglas Hoyt
The family of Scott Jackson
The family of Shayne Shaffer

Pastor Janet
Mary Carroll
Lorraine Miller
The family of Elaine Clum
The family of Patricia Houck
The family of Barbara Tyler
The family of Fred Wright