



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

Updates May 19, 2025

**May Celebrations**

Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup>: Lorraine Miller  
8<sup>th</sup>: Mary Carroll  
25<sup>th</sup>: Keri Batson

Anniversaries

4<sup>th</sup>: Chris & Jenny Clark  
17<sup>th</sup>: Ron & Loraine Richards

**June Celebrations**

Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup>: Diane Meredith  
8<sup>th</sup>: Judy Kipp  
11<sup>th</sup>: Chrissy Evans  
15<sup>th</sup>: Judy Ogden  
18<sup>th</sup>: Kanaan Epps  
22<sup>nd</sup>: Chaz Epps  
29<sup>th</sup>: Dorothy Welch

Anniversaries

15<sup>th</sup>: Brian & Deb Caruso

**On the Calendar**

**Friday, May 16:** Ministry Committee Meeting 3:30 pm; Operations Committee Meeting 4:00 pm

**Sunday, May 18:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Prudential Board Meeting

**Saturday, May 24:** Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm, volunteers needed\*\*

**Sunday, May 25:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School

**Sunday, June 1:** Sanctuary Worship and **Children's Sermon** 10:15 am; Coffee Hour hosted by our Sunday School children

**Sunday, June 8:** Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; No Sunday School; Historic Churches Tour 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

**Saturday, June 14:** Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm, volunteers needed\*\*

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



**Elijah's Closet**

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

Think of Elijah's when doing  
your Spring Cleaning!

Some of the items that we have out:





## 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.

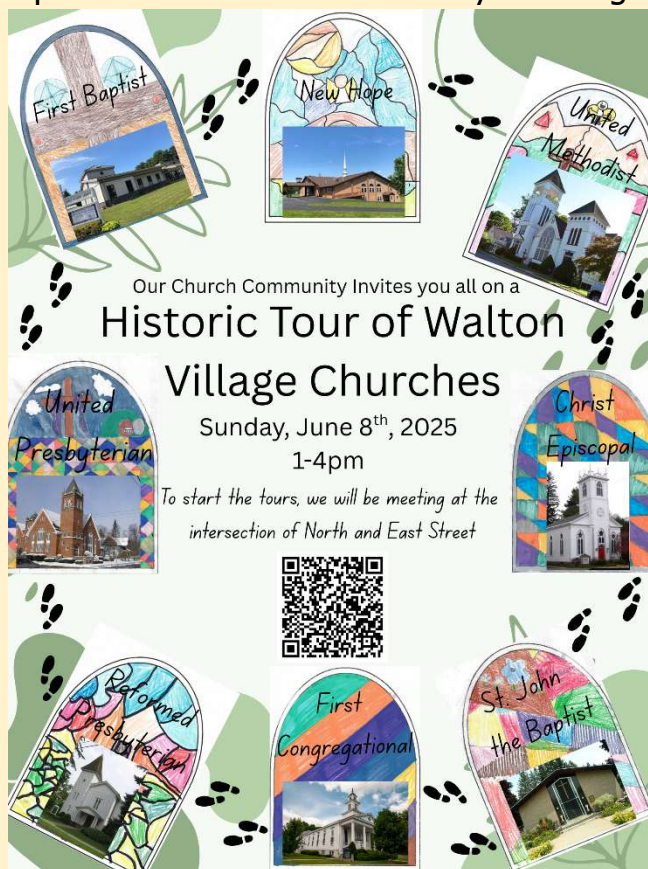
The Gathering Table is looking for volunteers. You can just cook, just serve or do both. Cooks may shop for their own food and be reimbursed or they can send Loraine a shopping list. Meals must be prepared in our church kitchen. Lunch is served from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Cooks would have to arrive early to prepare the meal and servers should plan on clean-up after the meal. Volunteers are needed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month. Currently, we are in need of a chef and 2-3 servers for May 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be on the calendar to volunteer, please contact Loraine Davila.



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

In order to give our volunteers a rest and time to plan for fall, the Gathering Table will be paused for the months of July and August.



## **A Devotional from Pastor Janet**

### **Through the Valley** by Talitha Arnold

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. - Psalm 23:4a (KJV)*

In a five-day span in April, I said (or led) the 23rd Psalm four times. Two were when I conducted funerals for beloved church members. A third was with another congregation for a colleague's memorial service. The fourth was during the "Mass for the Dead" at Santa Fe's St. Francis Cathedral Basilica the day Pope Francis died.

Each time, I had to stop halfway through verse 4. Walking "through the valley of death" takes on a fresh relevance when you're making that walk with a family or congregation.

I learned the 23rd Psalm at an early age, perhaps like you. My older brother once told me he remembered our mother praying the psalm with him and my other brother and sister as they knelt by their beds at night. I don't have that particular memory; by the time I was old enough to kneel, he and the others were old enough to pray on their own. Since I was a squirmy, curious toddler, my mother may have omitted Psalm 23 from our prayer time.

I remember the sense of accomplishment when I'd finally memorized the whole psalm, whether I learned it from my mother or Sunday School. But I don't remember pausing at verse 4 as a child. Although my father died when I was two, death was an abstraction for my toddler soul. It wasn't for my nine and eight-year-old brothers; it wasn't for my six-year-old sister. I have no idea what it must have been like to pray about "the valley of the shadow of death" after your father died.

I can only hope Psalm 23 offered some source of comfort and strength. I still do.

### **Prayer**

Shepherd of all, so many of your children still walk through the valley of shadows and death. May they know you walk with them. May they know your comfort and strength. Amen.

### **Lifted in Prayer**

Dane  
Lorraine Miller  
Mary Carroll  
Brian Caruso  
Bruce Ellis  
Tim Cobbane  
Sharon Hobbie

The family of Helen Pratti  
The family of Dawn Thomson  
The family of Amy Kilmer  
The family of John Savini  
The family of Beverly Meres  
The family of Sherri Price