



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

Updates August 1, 2025

## Celebrations

### August

#### Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup>: April Epps

8<sup>th</sup>: Jenny Clark

23<sup>rd</sup>: Charlene Gregory

29<sup>th</sup>: Roy Tiesler

30<sup>th</sup>: Pastor Janet

#### Anniversaries

2<sup>nd</sup>: Glen & Ann LePinnet

## On the Calendar

**Sunday, August 3:** Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; Farewell Luncheon for Donna Truman 11:00 am

**Monday, August 4:** Pastor Janet's vacation begins

**Tuesday and Thursday, August 5 & 7:** BINGOcize at UPC 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

**Sunday, August 10:** Sanctuary Worship with Ron Galley 10:15 am; Vesper Service Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm; Vesper Service 6:00 pm

**Tuesday and Thursday, August 12 & 14:** BINGOcize at UPC 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

**Sunday, August 17:** Sanctuary Worship with Ron Galley 10:15 am

**Tuesday and Thursday, August 19 & 21:** BINGOcize at UPC 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

**Sunday, August 24:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am

**Sunday, August 31:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am

## Elijah's Closet

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

## Member Updates

A note from Lorraine Miller: "Thank you everyone for the cards and flowers that I've received from the church. Thank you so much."



**Farewell Luncheon**

IN HONOR OF

**Donna Truman**

Join us as we celebrate Donna and thank her for many years of membership.

Sunday, August 3, 2025  
11:00 AM  
First Congregational Church, UCC



**NOT YOUR TYPICAL EVENT**

LOVED IT. REVIVAL AND RESTORATION... THAT'S WHAT LAST NIGHT FELT LIKE. - JIM

FACING UNBEATABLE ODDS? AN ADDICTION? A MOUNTAIN IN YOUR LIFE?

**THE STORY TOUR**

**JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF HOPE AND HEALING FOR THE HURTING AND STRUGGLING**

**FEATURING...**

PASTOR TRAVIS HABBERSHON  
SPEAKER & SUICIDE SURVIVOR

ORIGINAL MUSIC OF THE ALLAN SCOTT BAND

ENCOURAGING GOD STORIES  
HIGH ACROSS THE U.S.

SPEAKER & EX-TRIP ADDICT  
ALLAN SCOTT

A show for **anyone, anywhere** who wants to experience Jesus in a **new** way. - PAM

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
WALTON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL » 47-49 STOCKTON AVE, WALTON, NY 13856

6:00PM DOORS 6:30PM SHOW

\$12 GROUPS (10+)  
\$14 GA (\$4 INCREASE AT THE DOOR)  
\$22 PREMIUM SEATING  
\$42 VIP

SOME STORIES & TOPICS COVERED IN THE STORY TOUR MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

PURCHASE TICKETS AT [WWW.THESTORYTOUR.ORG](http://WWW.THESTORYTOUR.ORG) - QUESTIONS? CALL 570-506-8100

EVENT SPONSORS

WALTON MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

FOUND & FAVORED MINISTRIES

If you would like to volunteer at the upcoming Story Tour event, a sign-up sheet is on the table outside of the office (where the coffee hour sign-up is)

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.

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**

Pastor Janet will be on vacation August 4<sup>th</sup>-August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please call the office with any pastoral questions or concerns.

To honor loved ones that are no longer with us, we would like to add birthdate/memorial dates to our newsletter. If you would like to have a loved one included, please submit their names and dates to April.

The Gathering Table remains on break for the month of August. We are working on our fall schedule. We are looking for volunteer chefs and servers for the following dates: September 13<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>. December 13<sup>th</sup> will be takeout subs, only servers needed. Please let Loraine Davila know if you would like to cook and/or serve on any of these dates. You can email her at [loraine.davila@yahoo.com](mailto:loraine.davila@yahoo.com) or text/call 607-788-6984 to get on the schedule. The meal should feed a minimum of 30 guests. The church will provide drinks. We can also provide a dessert if you only want to volunteer to cook the main meal. You can shop for your own ingredients and turn in a recipe for a full refund, or you can give Loraine Davila a shopping list and she will provide the ingredients that you need. We have a full kitchen for you to use. We serve lunch from 11:30-1:00. You may arrive as early as 9:30 to start cooking.

Coffee Hour will resume on September 7<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Prudential Board.

**Reminder:** Sunday School will be on break until September 7<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the summer! We are looking for adults to help teach Sunday School. It can be a day or you can get into the rotation. Lessons are preplanned and will be printed out for any person willing to teach. Once a month, the kids are split into the older group and younger group. Please let Ann know if you are available to help.

### **Previous Sermons and Liturgy**

#### **❖ July 20, 2025**

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Colossians 1:15-28*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 10:38-42*
- ▶ Sermon: I Have Come to Believe

❖ **July 27, 2025**

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Colossians 3:23-4:6*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 11:1-13*
- ▶ Sermon: The Lord's Prayer

## **A Devotional from Pastor Janet**

### **Return to the Deep Sources** by Talitha Arnold

*Open my eyes, so that I may behold the wondrous things out of your law. I live as an alien in the land, do not hide your commandments from me. - Psalm 119:18-19 (NRSV)*

"Return to the deep sources," wrote poet May Sarton. "Nothing less will nourish the torn spirit, the bewildered heart, the angry mind" ("Santos: New Mexico" in *Collected Poems: 1930-1973*, from W. W. Norton).

Bewildered and torn, feeling like a stranger in their own land, the psalmist asked God to help them return to their deep sources. "Open my eyes," they asked, "to behold your wondrous law. Reveal your commandments that gave life to our ancestors in the wilderness."

Sometimes dismissed by Christian scholars as a praise song to the law or a pedantic teaching tool (each stanza begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet), Psalm 119 can be profoundly comforting and empowering in our time. Like the psalmist (and perhaps like you), I feel increasingly like a stranger in this land—a place where people are kidnapped by masked and armed men, where medical care for children and the elderly is inaccessible, where public lands are up for grabs. And when such inhumanity is authorized by people who wear gold crosses and celebrated by people who read gilded Bibles, I am lost in bewilderment and anger.

Like the psalmist, I need to open my eyes to God's wondrous law and remember the words that gave life in the desert. As a Christian, I also need to remember the Word that became flesh and showed us how to love this world as God so loves.

Like Sarton, I need to return to the deep sources, for as the poet reminds us, "nothing less will teach the stiff hands a new way to serve, to carve into our lives the forms of tenderness." Nothing less "will speak for love."

### **Prayer**

Deep Source of all Love, Strength, Wisdom, help us return to you. Amen.

## **Lifted in Prayer**

Lorraine Miller

Kim Cook-Blincoe

The family of Jason McGlone (East Branch Fireman)

Pastor Janet

The family of Frank Caruso