



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

Updates August 19, 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

#### September

##### Birthdays

16<sup>th</sup>: Brian Caruso

20<sup>th</sup>: David Kelly

21<sup>st</sup>: Tracia Muller

### Remembrances

#### August

##### Heavenly Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup>: Maureen Kennedy

#### September

##### Day of Resurrection

Maureen Kennedy 9/2/21

### On the Calendar

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

**Sunday, August 24:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Prudential Board Meeting

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

**Sunday, September 7:** Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour, hosted by the Prudential Board

**Saturday, September 13:** Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm; The Story Tour @ Walton High School 6:30 pm

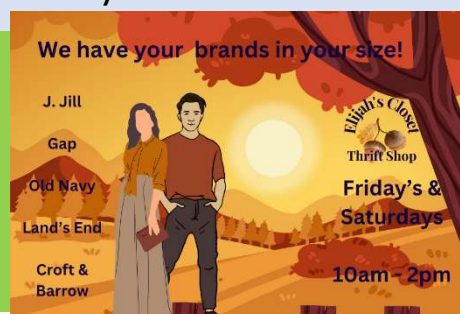
**Sunday, September 14:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

**Sunday, September 21:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

### Elijah's Closet

Fridays and Saturdays

10:00 am-2:00 pm



## Member Updates



**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?

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

**THE STORY TOUR**

**FEATURING...**  
PASTOR TRAVIS HABBESHAW  
SPEAKER & SUICIDE SURVIVOR

ORIGINAL MUSIC OF THE  
**ALLAN SCOTT BAND**

ENCOURAGING  
GOD STORIES  
FROM ACROSS THE U.S.

**SPEAKER & EX-GROUP 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 (OF 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**

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

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 13th, 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 7th. 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

### ❖ August 3, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Colossians 3:1-11*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 12:13-21*
- ▶ Sermon: What Really Matters?

### ❖ August 10, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Psalms 19: 9-14*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 4:14-24*
- ▶ Sermon: My Strength and My Redeemer

### ❖ August 17, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 11:11-14, 18*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Matthew 7:7-13*
- ▶ Sermon: Your Path in Life

## A Devotional from Pastor Janet

### No Lasting City by Mary Luti

*Let us then go to [Jesus] who is outside the camp and bear the [hardships] he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. - Hebrews 13:13-14 (NRSV)*

In a recent essay about immigration, Lydia Polgreen noted that perhaps no force in human history is more powerful than the longing for home. Which is why for millennia the most fearsome punishment you could inflict on someone was not confinement, but exile.

To be forced to leave your place to live among strangers was akin to death. For millions of people forced from home by war, violence, climate change, and poverty, it still is.

No one immigrated to a new place wanting to dislodge or displace those already living there. If those who arrived due to forced displacement wanted anything, it was to go home someday. Most couldn't. They settled down and made a good life. But even after generations, visions of home still ache in the soul.

Many Americans believe that if we build walls against people on the move, deport them to unlivable places, consign them to prisons far from any home they ever knew, our home will stay "ours," stable and secure.

But Scripture affirms this most bracing thing: Here on earth, we have no continuing place. There's no lasting city, not for anyone. None of us will ever be home until we meet in God. We're deluding ourselves if we think otherwise.

Jesus had no such illusions. He was a man outside the camp, a stranger warded off and defended against by hard borders of fear.

The author of Hebrews says we should go to him, share his exile, feel his ache; and then—with every refugee, immigrant, and exile—turn towards that home that exists fully and finally only in the welcoming heart of God.

### Prayer

For immigrants, exiles, and refugees, we pray; and for ourselves, exiled from our own humanity by fear. Have mercy on us, change us, bring us home to you.

### Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller

The family of Michael Roach

The family of Doug Wacha

The family of Cindy Calabrese

The family of Joan Caruso

The family of Helen Nichols

The family of Betsy Munn

The family of Elizabeth Wright

The family of Diane Koji

The family of Walt Geidel

The family of Daniel Shackelton

The family of Theresa Stevens

The family of Anthony Contello

The family of Bobby Hulse

The family of Thomas Coffin

The family of Harold Pomeroy

The family of Kolby Polomcean