



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates September 4, 2025

Celebrations

September

Birthdays

16th: Brian Caruso

20th: David Kelly

21st: Tracia Muller

Remembrances

September

Day of Resurrection

Maureen Kennedy 9/2/21

On the Calendar

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

Saturday, September 13: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, September 28: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

Elijah's Closet

Fridays and Saturdays

10:00 am-2:00 pm



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.



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)



Pastor Janet's
Birthday Celebration!



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

Board Updates



Coffee Hour will resume on September 7th, hosted by the Prudential Board. If you would like to host, a sign-up sheet is on the table outside of the office.

Some DOs and DON'Ts to bring when hosting:

<u>DO:</u>	<u>DON'T:</u>
Juices Boxes	Plates/bowls
Half & Half	Cups
Snacks	Plasticware
Sugar-free option	Napkins
	Sugar/sweetener
	Coffee/tea
*Items listed as DON'Ts are provided and will be available in the parlor/kitchenette.	

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.

Reminder: Sunday School will resume on September 7th. 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.

The Gathering Table resumes this month. We have been blessed with many volunteers covering our fall schedule but are still looking for a few spots to be filled. We are looking for a volunteer host(ess) for October 11th, to greet the guests and be available for the chef and servers should they need help. They would set up, clean up, and ensure that the program is running smoothly.

We are also looking for volunteer servers for December 13th to make subs in the kitchen for takeout since the Christmas sale will be in the fellowship hall. Please let Loraine Davila know if you would like to host and/or serve on any of these dates. You can email her at loraine.davila@yahoo.com or text/call 607-788-6984 to get on the schedule. We serve lunch from 11:30-1:00.

Previous Sermons and Liturgy

❖ August 24, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 12:7-13*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:10-17*
- ▶ Sermon: Standing Straight

❖ August 31, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 1:1-4*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 14:1, 7-14*
- ▶ Sermon: A Dish to Pass

Pastor's Pen

Cinderella by Pastor Janet

I taught college students for over 25 years of my career. I was frequently told by many that "I am not religious but I am spiritual". Somehow I tried to settle these thoughts in my mind. Then one day I came across an interpretation of the story of Cinderella that gave me some insight into what the young people were saying. It seems that children's stories have provided something of a spiritual message that the young children have absorbed and maybe even have been affected by them.

In the story of Cinderella the wicked stepmother and her awful daughters are the "ugly" thoughts in our head that somehow tells us how "bad" we are (we are Cinderella). When everyone, except Cinderella, goes to the ball she weeps (sorry for her sins). Then the Fairy Godmother (the Holy Spirit) appears. She offers the opportunity for Cinderella to go to the ball. Cinderella is surprised to be visited by the Fairy Godmother who tells her that she (the Holy Spirit) had to come to Cinderella since she is so innocent and forgiving of her awful family.

The Fairy Godmother graces her by transforming her clothes into a beautiful gown. In addition she transforms a pumpkin into a coach and mice into horses. She didn't call Uber nor did she order clothes from Talbots or Niemen Marcus. Instead she transforms what was already there. The ugly and unloved items become the vehicle of beauty, love, and justice. The unbelievable becomes the source of freedom and light. Just like Moses, who had a rod of God in his hand, was able to provide a source of water in the desert for his people. Giving the Jewish people spiritual water to live in peace and salvation. The Fairy Godmother places her wand into a "new life" for Cinderella. Cinderella can now leave the house of pain and move into a castle with a Prince of Peace – and we know who that is!

Fairy tales are a preparation that teaches children how to live and believe in the Spirit. A Pumpkin becomes a coach, the simple water in jugs at a wedding become wine and loaves of bread and fish are multiplied to feed hundreds. Our Spiritual life tells us (and our children) that life at times is beyond the impossible and with God all is possible.

A spiritual life is often gained by children from what they read or are told by adults. In spite of our decreasing Sunday school numbers, fairytales like Cinderella (and others), offer a growth in the spirit! God acts in mysterious ways!

A note from Pastor Janet: Thank you so much for surprising me with a "celebration " of my birthday! The flowers, the cards, the cake and especially the fellowship was a gift to me on my 81st birthday. I thank you also as you are a gift to me! You are my Church-family and you give me strength to go on during these times of difficulty in our world. Thank you so much and may God Bless you all!



New York Conference



Rev. Ryan Henderson

Associate Conference Minister

New York Conference United Church of Christ

Comments can be sent to the author via rhenderson@uccny.org

MY THOUGHTS

I have sensed subtle signs of grief in the lives of the many churches I have worked with this summer. Grief in the face of unwanted changes, Grief in the way choices and decisions are made. Grief in the light of saying goodbye and finding the courage to move in a new direction. Are you feeling grief in your faith Community? Are feeling grief in your life?

Grief is a deep loneliness and sometimes grief can feel like anger. Grief can make us feel like we are treading water while the waves try to pull us under. Grief can be fatigue as we continue to try and hold on to something that is slowly slipping away from us.

Fred Rogers once said *"Don't grieve. Anything that is mentionable can be more manageable"*

One of the ways I deal with grief is finding people I can trust and who I can talk with. When I speak about grief, I find it becomes more real, and I see my grief in a new way. Sometimes, I try and find places in nature where I can seek beauty or joy in the green trees and blooming flowers, giving my grief perspective.

Last weekend I worshipped with a church who was selling its building and moving to nest with another local UCC church. One of the hymns we sang was written by Rev Harry Emerson Fosdick while he was Pastor of The Riverside Church in New York City called "God of Grace and God of Glory". The words that stuck with me from the second stanza are:

"Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days"

Like Fear and Doubt, grief takes away from us living our faith- in all its fullness. Grief has power, only if we give it power, and only God-given faith can give us the courage to walk boldly into tomorrow.

A Prayer:

God of Grace and Glory

Grant us Grief, Grant us Courage

As We Live- Today, Tomorrow and beyond

Together in Love

Amen

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller

Larry Underwood

The family of Lucille Bowker

The family of Susan Benedict

The family of Terry Glance

Dawn Armstrong

The family of Peter Cymbalist

The family of Patricia Knapp

The family of Barbara Carpenter

The family of Carolyn Worden