



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates September 16, 2025

Celebrations

September

Birthdays

16th: Brian Caruso
20th: David Kelly
21st: Tracia Muller

October

Birthdays

7th: Marc Evans
7th: Ginny O'Dell
10th: Charlotte Kelly
11th: Janet Brienza
17th: Donna Truman

Anniversaries

4th: Chaz & April Epps

Remembrances

September

Day of Resurrection

Maureen Kennedy 9/2/21

October

Heavenly Birthdays

12th: Lynn Parkinson

Day of Resurrection

LeRoy Sawyer 10/1/24
John Meredith 10/26/09

On the Calendar

Sunday, September 21: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Prudential Board Meeting

Saturday, September 27: Elijah's Closet **closed** for a Volunteer Appreciation Day

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

Tuesday/Thursday, September 30 & October 2: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Sunday, October 5: Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour, hosted by Nora and Sarah Kellogg

Tuesday/Thursday, October 7 & 9: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Friday, October 10: Please turn in your basket donation for our booth at the Fall Market.

Saturday, October 11: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm; Fall Market 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday, October 12: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School

Elijah's Closet

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

Member Updates



Summer break is over! Gathering Table is back! Saturday's guest volunteer chefs Gala and Dasha made a wonderfully delicious meal featuring some traditional Russian cuisine. Volunteers Morgan and Paige, from Pi Nu Epsilon, were a huge help making sure that our return to free community meals went off without a hitch. We were all so pleased to have had record attendance of 49 guests as we came together again. What a pleasure to have so many community members enjoying a meal together.

Pictured left to right: Loraine, Dasha, Gala, Morgan, and Paige

Join us for our next meal on October 11th from 11:30-1:00. Gala and Dasha will return as guest volunteer chefs with another one of their amazing menus. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Loraine Davila. We could always use servers, chefs, help with set up and clean up.

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

Beginning:
September 30th

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.



OUR CHURCH WILL BE PARTICIPATING AGAIN THIS YEAR! OUR BOOTH WILL BE A COLLECTION OF BASKETS TO RAFFLE OFF. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO MAKE UP A BASKET, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE HELP! IF YOU NEED A BASKET TO FILL, WE HAVE SEVERAL IN EBJAH'S CLOSET. PLEASE STOP IN DURING BUSINESS HOURS TO PICK ONE UP. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO STOP AT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ASK FOR GIFT CARDS, THAT WOULD BE GREAT. BASKETS CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE CHURCH ANYTIME BEFORE OCT. 10

Fall Market hosted by the Walton Historical Society
at the Delaware County Fairgrounds

10.11.2025

10:00 am-4:00 pm Rain or Shine

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

Highlights



Royal Regency Ball sponsored by the Office for the Aging.
Janet Brienza won "Queen of the Ball!"

Board Updates

WHY DONATE?

- Save lives: A single donation can save up to three lives.
- Health benefits: Donating blood can improve your overall health.
- Feel good: Experience the fulfillment of helping others in need.



LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE BLOOD DRIVE

JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO
SAVE LIVES THROUGH BLOOD
DONATION. WHERE WE COME
TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE
LIFE, COMMUNITY AND THE
POWER OF GIVING BACK.



Our organization would like to sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive, but we need to make sure we have enough people to donate before we can commit. To sign up, please contact April at (607) 865-4066, secretary@uccwalton.com or scan the QR code.



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.

Sunday School has resumed! 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

❖ September 7, 2025

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

❖ September 14, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Psalms 79:1-9*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Matthew 5:1-11*
- ▶ Sermon: Believe, Hope,

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

Clingdom Come by Kaji Douša

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. - Ruth 1:14 (NRSV)

It wasn't so long ago that a woman in the U.S. couldn't open a bank account or sign a mortgage without a man's permission.

I think of this every time I read the Book of Ruth.

The story begins with famine, migration, and loss. Naomi is left with no husband, no sons. This means, too—according to the rules and customs of her time—that she has no access to land, wealth, or protection. Ruth and Orpah, Naomi’s daughters-in-law, face a terrible choice: Will they return home and hope to marry again? Or will they follow Naomi into a future that guarantees nothing?

Naomi urges them to go. That’s what the system expects. “Find a man. Secure your survival.” Orpah listens and leaves. I can’t blame her.

But Ruth? Ruth clings. She chooses love and loyalty over law and legacy. She would have never known it at the time. But there was reward to come. Through her exercise of agency, she walks herself right into the lineage of David (she’s his grandmother) ... and Jesus.

Ruth’s Rules said: *You’re nothing without a man.* Ruth’s Courage said: *I’ll make a future with what I do have—my will, my love, my God.*

Thousands of years later, systems are still trying to roll us back to Ruth’s Rules. But they forget (or, perhaps, never even knew): Ruth *rewrote* them. And so will we.

Prayer

Holy One, when the rules are ruthless, give us Ruth’s courage. Remind us that even when the road is uncertain, love is still a way forward. Amen.



New York Conference United Church of Christ

A Response to Violence

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister and President/CEO has released a statement and prayer addressing the recent incidents of violence in the United States. She calls the church to pray for the families and communities who have experienced grief and loss, and to pray for those dealing with the aftermath of these events. Her full statement is below.

Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise... The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. Isaiah 60:18,20b

On September 10, 2025, the United States was once again visited by violence. The murder of Charlie Kirk was an act of violence that should not be applauded or tolerated. At Evergreen High School in Colorado, two students were injured by another student who opened fire in the school then took his own life with that gun.

Today, we pray with families and communities who have experienced grief and loss, we pray for those who have lost their loved ones in these recent tragedies. May they find peace and comfort in the days ahead as they lay these souls to rest. We pray for the injured and their care givers. We pray for those who mourn.

Pastoral care is needed for people and communities who are experiencing the loss of these lives in different ways. Ours is ministry to those in need and suffering, and for those who will minister to these families and accompany them on the journey to healing and hope. We pray for their strength.

The murder of Charlie Kirk was a targeted act of violence, as was the school shooting. These are not isolated acts of violence, instead they are the latest incidents to bring attention to this epidemic of violence. In June of this year, Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark Hortman were murdered in their home. while Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman and his wife

Yvette Hoffman were shot and seriously injured in their home by the same gunman. These were also targeted acts of violence, as are the shootings that have taken place over the years in houses of worship, affecting Christians and those of other faith traditions.

Yesterday's shooting in Colorado is the 46th school shooting in the United States this year and occurred just weeks after children were killed and injured at the Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. Our nation's schools have become places of fear and anxiety, rather than places of safety for our children and teachers. Our young people, like so many adults, are turning to violence, rather than finding ways to resolve the challenges they experience and the issues that are emerging around them.

Violence is not to be condoned and is not an answer to resolving the differences that are a part of our social fabric. There are differences of opinion on any number of issues. Theological and political differences are not an invitation to hurt and harm others, or to end the lives of others.

The United Church of Christ strongly condemns these acts of violence, and continues to call for a renewal of civil discourse in our communities. We mourn with those who mourn, longing for a time when violence shall no more be heard in our land.

And, on this day, when the United States commemorates the 24th anniversary of the violence of September 11, 2001, we remember the lives lost on that day and continue to pray for those who lost their loved ones. We pray for an end to the violence and live with hope for a future where peace prevails for all.

Bring us back from the edge, O Lord, the edge where our humanity frays. Draw us closer to your everlasting light, as our lives are impacted again by the violence that pulses around us. Grant us wisdom to lower the guns and to eliminate the rhetoric which has become a relentless stream of violence. Provide us with words of hope where hope feels elusive and our desire for change seems long in coming.

Cleanse from us the toxic hate which fills our media, oozes into our town halls and public squares, and seeps into our schools and faith communities. May your love find us in new ways as we wrestle with the anger and animosity surrounding us.

We know that your light still shines, your path of peace remains close by, your Spirit is ever ready to guide us beyond the edge and into your love. Open our hearts to seek, find, and follow you. End the violence. Bring us back from the edge, O Lord we pray. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
General Minister and President/CEO
United Church of Christ

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller
Kimberly Cook-Blincoe
The family of Suzanne Tucker
The family of Irene Conklin

Mary Ann Piroha
The family of Diane Edwards
The family of Emelia Kilmer