

### On Going Programs – 2018

**Bible Studies** – Bible studies focus on different topics to provide personal learning and evangelical service.

**Elijah's Closet** – Operating strictly on donations and the talents of the "Mighty Flock", Elijah's Closet has flourished. The Closet provides everyday items at very affordable prices.

**The Gathering Table** – The Gathering Table is a ministry to our community in which a free lunch is provided every Saturday.

**Medical Equipment Loan Program** – For those who find themselves in need of medical equipment benefit from our program which provides wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, and much more, on a loan basis.

**My Brother's Keeper** – My Brother's Keeper, an outreach ministry that provides assistance to those less fortunate. This program answers the ageless question – "*Am I my brother's keeper?*" From the psalm of David comes the precious promise: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."

**Outreach Communion** – Two times a month, Communion is given to residents of the Delhi Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

**Saturday Musicians** – Saturday musicians is a group of talented musicians, who gather to play and share their love of music each Saturday.

**Sunday School** – Sunday School gives young church members a chance to take part in lessons that improve their Bible knowledge and assist in their spiritual growth.

**Thanksgiving Meal Program** – Each year a traditional meal is provided to families who otherwise would not have a Thanksgiving meal.

With special acknowledgment to Jeri Ogden for her dedication in keeping our church history alive

## First Congregational Church

## United Church of Christ

Celebrating 225 Years





The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is a proud church with 225 years of worshipping God and being a central focus in the formation of Walton and the surrounding area. From the earliest settlement of Walton, social and religious meetings were held in private homes.

As early as 1791 a log building was placed on Mt. Pleasant serving as both a church and a school.

Nine men, from different churches, met on September 17, 1793 and agreed upon Articles of Faith and Church Government.

On October 12, 1793, the church, known as the "Union Society", was officially organized, with 40 members.

Rev. David Huntington, a missionary from the "Reverend Committee of the General Association of Connecticut", was the 1<sup>st</sup> to oversee services.

**1800** A second, larger house of worship, along with a Parsonage was built on Mt. Pleasant.

**1815** Thirty-seven members were released to form a 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church of Walton. Now the North-field Church.

**1824** The parsonage burned destroying all church records, up to that time.

**1826** 10 members were released to form the New Presbyterian Church, Downsville.

**1831** Additional members were released to form the Episcopal Church in Walton.

Later this year more members were released to form the Methodist Church in Walton.

**1834** The parsonage was rebuilt on the site of the present church. The Townsend family donated the property.



**1840** A new church was built on the site where it currently stands.

**1857** The Plymouth Church was established as a daughter church.

**1881** The church was remodeled, raised 9 ft., and stained glass windows were installed.

**1893** A new parsonage was built.

**1902** A new organ was installed.

**1925** Steeple Chimes were installed.

**1931** The Nims Memorial Portico was added, along with the vestibule.

**1947** The Sanctuary was re-decorated.

**1956** The Sunday School Chapel was dedicated.

**1965** A new organ console was added, along with new lighting.

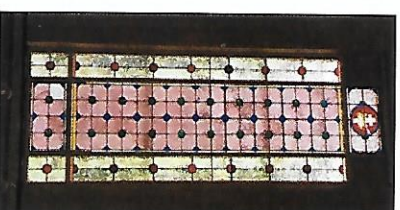
**1968** An amplifying system was installed.

**1984** Circulating fans were installed in the Sanctuary and an elevator was installed.

**1995** The Bell Tower was restored.

**1997 - 99** A new parking lot, new sound system, new electric system, new boiler, new roof and new dishwasher were installed.

Additionally, the stained glass windows were repaired.





**2003** A Fathers Day breakfast was served on in honor of our congregations fathers.

Church in Society participated in "Spend the Day in Walton and made and sold luminaries.

Kitchen windows were replaced and new carpet was installed in the youth room and one class-room.

**2005** A Family Game Night was held.

Easter flowers were ordered and delivered to homebound members and friends.

A Mother's Day breakfast was organized and served by the congregation men.

The fellowship hall was used for the Red Cross Blood Drive.

A family, with 5 children, was sponsored for Christmas.

Communion to our homebound members began.

A ham dinner was held.



**2006** Due to flood damage, a total restoration was completed of the Church House and basement below the Sanctuary. Included were new kitchen cupboards,

counter tops, appliances, flooring and heating system.

The Morning Glories provided opportunities for women of the church to spend time together.

A Christmas Caroling event was coordinated by our congregation for the Holiday Days in Walton.

**2007** Radiant heat was installed in the lower level, a concrete floor was poured, and carpet and vinyl flooring added.

A weekly after-school program, "Mission: Pneuma", was implemented for grades 1-3.

A Soup and Service started and included fellowship time along with a short inspirational service.

An Intergenerational Retreat was held for the girls and women of the church.

**2008** Bible Basics classes provided an overview of the Old Testament.

With a new kitchen and Fellowship Hall, the Community Thanksgiving dinner resumed.

The World Day of Prayer was held at our church.

**2009** The Fellowship Hall was painted and new seamless gutters were installed.

**2010** The roof over the Sunday school classrooms was replaced.

Sunshine baskets were made and delivered.

In an effort to collect more food items for the Walton Food Bank, specific items were highlighted for monthly collection.

**2011** A "Fat Tuesday" pancake dinner was held.

**2012** Weekly Vesper meeting were held in December.

Repairs were completed to the balcony, old pastor's office and upstairs hallway.

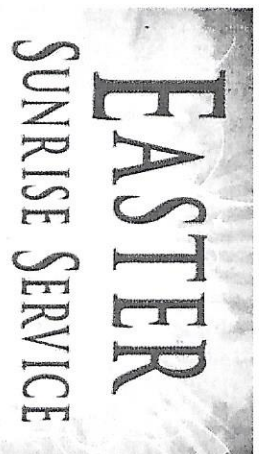
**2013** The exterior of the church was painted, with trim changed to hunter green with gold high-lights.

The concrete sidewalk on the Mead St. side, damaged by the 2006 flood, was repaired and replaced. The bluestone was also replaced.

An adult study group was held 4 consecutive Sundays. The book "Reaching Out" was the basis for discussion.

The carillon was moved from the balcony down to the sanctuary for easier access.

**2014** This church hosted a Community sunrise service breakfast Easter Sunday.



A Sunday church service and picnic was held at the home of a congregation member.

Shared services with United Presbyterian Church Mead St. door was replaced with a more modern glass door.

A thorough cleaning of the stage closet and attic provided items sold in the community yard sale.

**2015** The church gained Historical recognition and placed on the National Historic Registry.

**2016** A special program and vigil on suicide was held by the church.

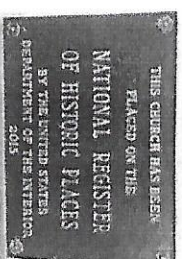
A wheelchair lift was installed at the far end of the stage.

Cookies were provided to Townsend School students on the last day of school.

**2017** The Church hosted the Susquehanna Valley Association of the United Church of Christ.

Displayed Historic Plaque and held dedication service of sign board.

Hallways and stairways were painted a new, serene color which matches the parlor color.



The stage was determined to have weak spots so it was totally rebuilt. New draperies were installed, bringing the stage area back to what it was before the 2006 flood.

Through a matching grant from the O'Connor Foundation and funds provided through the church, six windows in the Fellowship Hall were replaced.

Elijah's Closet produced "The Prophets Pickles," increasing profits significantly.



## Clergy History

Rev. David Horrower  
1795 - 1806  
(1<sup>st</sup> regular minister)

Rev. Archibald Bassett  
1807 - 1810

Rev. Orange Lyman  
1811 (6 months)

Rev. Isaac Headley  
1813 - 1829

Rev. Alvah Lillie  
1829 (6 months)

Rev. E. D. Wells  
1830 - 1831

Rev. A. L. Chapin  
1831 - 1833

Rev. Jonathan Huntington  
1833 (6 months)

Rev. Fayette Shipherd  
1834 - 1838

Rev. William Clark  
1838 - 1842

Rev. F. D. Willis  
1843 - 1847

Rev. Andrew Phillips  
1847 (6 months)



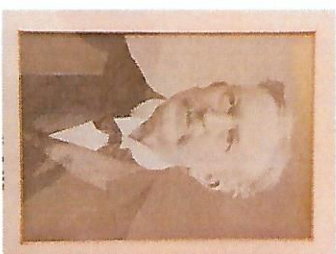
Rev. Julius  
Pattengill  
1848 - 1868



Rev. Samuel  
White  
1868 - 1875



Rev. Henry M.  
Ladd, D.D.  
1875 - 1881



Rev. Granville Nims  
1881 - 1912



Rev. Charles Wyckoff  
1912 - 1921



Rev. Stanley North  
1922 - 1927



Rev. William Tuttle  
1927 - 1940



Rev. Harry Bergen  
1940 - Unknown



Rev. Robert Calvert  
1955 – 1959



Rev. Reginald Avery  
1960 – 1967



Rev. Hugh Reed  
1968 – 1975



Rev. Anthony Lister  
1976 – 1980



Rev. Harold Smith  
1982 – 1990



Rev. Paul Cronin  
1990 – 2001



Rev. Jennifer Matiso Juliano  
2005 – 2010



Rev. Janet Schwengber  
2012 – Present