



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates November 3, 2025

Celebrations

November

Birthdays

1st: Nora Kellogg
4th: Cookie Richards
15th: Nolan Evans
18th: Emily Richards
26th: Chris Ogden

Anniversaries

18th: Roy & Rosemarie Tiesler

Remembrances

November

Heavenly Birthdays

14th: John Meredith

On the Calendar

Tuesday/Thursday, November 4 & 6: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Saturday, November 8: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, November 9: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

Thursday, November 13: Ministry Committee Meeting 2:00 pm

Friday, November 14: Operations Committee Meeting 4:30 pm

Sunday, November 16: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

Saturday, November 22: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm, "Turkey and the Fixins"

Sunday, November 23: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 30: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School

Elijah's Closet

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

****We are now equipped to accept debit/credit card payments with SQUARE****

Member Updates

Church Kid's Club

New this year, the kids of the church are invited to attend our newly formed group, named by the youth of the church: The Church Kid's Club. We will meet the last Sunday of the month, following the regular Sunday School calendar, for "Sunday Snack Chats". The kids discussed the missions of this group, which include:

Helping our church to grow

Doing community services, events and fundraising

Be ambassadors to any new or returning youth to our church

At this time, all children of the church are invited to attend for planning, discussions and, of course, snacks! We look forward to sharing some of our ideas and plans, and hope the congregation will help us execute them.

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



Fall flowers provided by Rosemarie!



We had a very successful Gathering Table, serving 52 meals! Four members from the William B. Ogden Library were volunteer chefs and servers. It's such a pleasure to have so many community members enjoying a meal together. Pictured from left to right: Tara, Rachel, Heather, and Carol.

Board Updates



Construction 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.

Updated office hours: Tuesday, 9:30 am-12:30 pm; Thursday, 11:30 am-2:30 pm; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday are flexible, with appointment availability from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

We will be designing and printing our own offering envelopes this year. If you would like to use these, please request them from April. Be sure to include the frequency you would prefer, i.e. monthly or weekly.

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.



Previous Sermons and Liturgy

❖ October 19, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *2 Timothy 3:14-4:5*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 18:1-8*
- ▶ Sermon: Trust

❖ October 26, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *1 Peter 5:6-11*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 18:9-14*
- ▶ Sermon: Justification

❖ November 2, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Romans 5:1-5*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 19:1-10*
- ▶ Sermon: Hope

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

Practice Apathy by Mary Luti

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."— Matthew 22:37-38 (NRSV)

How are you grounding yourself spiritually these days? Praying? Cultivating community? Guarding space for joy? Doing something compassionate every day? Practicing apathy? Apathy?

Yes, apathy. Not in the modern sense of indifference and uninterest, but in the ancient sense of focused on the necessary, unswayed by nonessential things.

Christians have always practiced apathy, especially in rough times. The radicals we call desert mothers and fathers, for example, were apathetic to the max.

They were conscientious objectors, runaway slaves, tax evaders, women escaping violent marriages, destitute people, disillusioned urbane elites, and basic everyday Christians perturbed by Jesus's invitation to dispossess themselves and follow. Throughout the 3rd and 4th centuries, they abandoned villages and cities in droves to take up demanding spiritual lives on the margins of civilization.

Out there, they ruminated on the gospel, imitated Jesus, and kept the prophetic edges hot, daily un-adapting themselves to Empire and to an institutionalizing Church already plagued with ego advancement, social pretension, and compromises with power.

They attended doggedly to the Essential, maintaining, in historian Belden Lane's words, "a fierce indifference to unimportant things."

We're not desert monastics. But our world is still awash in spectacle, ego, and lies. We still need to be unmoved by it, to grow apathetic in the face of it, asking our souls every day:

What am I learning to ignore and what am I learning to love?

What's dying in me and what's flourishing?

What do I need to set aside and what do I need to affirm unreservedly?

To what unimportant things do I need to become fiercely indifferent?

To what, to Whom alone, do I cling?

Prayer

Give me a fierce indifference to unimportant things. Focus me on Christ and the gospel, so that I may be free and fearless to face this hour.

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller

The family of Eleanor Donnelly

The family of Lewis Protheroe

The family of Natasha Reed

The family of baby Athena Wayman-McNutt

Ruth Loker Bolduc

The family of Brenda Fisher MacDonald

The family of Chad Buteau

The family of Howard Smith