



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates December 1, 2025

Celebrations

December

Birthdays

1 st : Rosemarie Tiesler	1 st : Warren Kelly
2 nd : Glen LePinnet	3 rd : Edie Morales
6 th : Loraine Davila	9 th : Haley Clark
10 th : Chris Clark	20 th : Todd Ogden
25 th : Beth Ogden	28 th : Moira Walter

Remembrances

December

<u>Heavenly Birthdays</u>	<u>Day of Resurrection</u>
12 th : Leonard Parkinson	9 th : Bill Thomson

On the Calendar

Wednesday, December 3: Luncheon for Edie Morales at Danny's Restaurant 4:00 pm.
Please RSVP to April ASAP. This is a self-pay event.

Sunday, December 7: Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour, hosted by Rosemarie Tiesler

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

Sunday, December 14: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Gifts for our Christmas Family are due under the tree (**wrapped with tag attached**); **RSVP to April due for Christmas play and dinner**

Sunday, December 21: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; **Christmas play & dinner 5:00 pm**

Tuesday, December 23: Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candle Light Service. Our music service begins at 3:00 pm with our service of Celebration beginning at 3:30 pm

Sunday, December 28: Sanctuary Worship at 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



Please place your non-perishable food and toiletry donations in the wagon located at the back of the sanctuary. Lorraine 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

Board Updates



This year, we will be collecting a special offering in memory of your loved ones to purchase poinsettias for our Christmas Eve Service. Envelopes were included in the November 23rd bulletin. Please contact April if you need one.

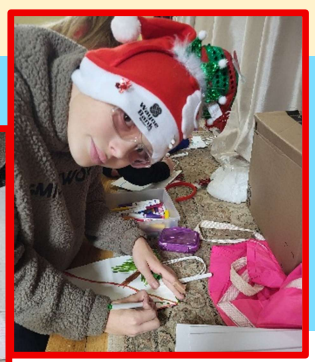
To honor loved ones that are no longer with us, we would like to add birthdate/memorial dates to our newsletter. If you would like to have a loved one included, please submit their names and dates to April.

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.



Highlights

Sunday
School
Gift
Wrapping



Gathering Table



Hanging of the Greens



Previous Sermons and Liturgy

❖ November 23, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Colossians 1:11-20*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Luke 23:33-43*
- ▶ Sermon: The Reign of Christ

❖ November 30, 2025

- ▶ Scripture Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*
- ▶ Gospel Reading: *Matthew 3:1-12*
- ▶ Sermon: Prepare

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

The Hot Fudge Bible by Matt Laney

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. – John 1:14 (NRSV)

My mom is the boss of the sauce. She makes a hot fudge that's truly out of this world.

This thick, chocolatey ambrosia, under which ice cream melts in surrender and taste buds sigh in devotion, was the sweet reward of my childhood. With her blessing, and in joyful anticipation that you might also taste the most delicious thing ever concocted from earthly elements, I reveal the sacred recipe:

Mom's Hot Fudge Sauce:

- 2 squares unsweetened baker's chocolate
- ¼ cup butter
- Melt together in a heavy pan.
- Add: 1 cup sugar, 5 oz heavy cream, 1 tbsp vanilla, and a pinch of salt.
- Boil while stirring for 5 minutes.

Can you taste it already? Actually ... you can't.

That recipe is just a bunch of letters and numbers. If you want to taste it, you have to make it. Assemble, stir, simmer, smell, pour, partake.

Scripture is no different.

It's a recipe, a witness, a guide, an invitation to encounter the Divine through the lived experience of ancient Israel, her prophets, her poets, and through a carpenter from Nazareth. We can read it, memorize it, quote it, but until we live it, we haven't tasted it.

Notice we don't say, "The Bible is the words of God." We say, "The Bible is the Word of God." The words point to the Word, but they are not the same. John takes it further: "The Word became flesh..." The Word, the living experience of God, took on skin, voice, life, flavor.

The words of Scripture aren't the final dish. They're the ingredients pointing us to the living and embodied Word.

When we stop treating the Bible like a dropped-from-heaven manuscript and start seeing it as a pointer to the living Word, it becomes a window, not a wall; a sweet yet hot sauce, not a dusty cookbook.

Prayer

God, don't let me just read the recipe. Make me hungry enough to fire up the stove.

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller
The family of Bob Church
The family of Buzzy Boice
The family of Francis Bojo
The family of Lousie Peck

Floyd Allen
The family of Bonnie Stanton
The family of John Hampel
The family of Tonia Beers