



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

## Updates January 1, 2026

### Celebrations

#### January

##### Birthdays

7 <sup>th</sup> : Nancy Grotevant	12 <sup>th</sup> : Bruce Ellis
15 <sup>th</sup> : Lynn Allen	20 <sup>th</sup> : Josie Kelly
22 <sup>nd</sup> : Nadene Kopetz	27 <sup>th</sup> : Donna Thomson

### On the Calendar

**Sunday, January 4:** Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School;  
Coffee Hour, hosted by Bruce Ellis

**Thursday, January 8:** Ministry Committee Meeting 2:00 pm

**Friday, January 9:** Operations Committee Meeting 4:30 pm

**Saturday, January 10:** Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

**Sunday, January 11:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Prudential Board  
Meeting

**Tuesday/Thursday, January 13 & 15:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Thursday, January 15:** Annual Reports are due

**Sunday, January 18:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School

**Tuesday/Thursday, January 20 & 22:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Saturday, January 24:** Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

**Sunday, January 25:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School; Annual Meeting  
Coffee Hour following Worship

**Tuesday/Thursday, January 27 & 29:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

### 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 have anything that you would like included in our bi-monthly Updates, please contact April at 607-865-4066 or [secretary@uccwalton.com](mailto:secretary@uccwalton.com)

## Board Updates

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, 1/25/26, directly following worship. Please have your report(s) to April by **1/15/26**.

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

### Advent/Christmas Play



## Previous Sermons and Liturgy

❖ December 21, 2025

► 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday & Christmas Play

❖ December 24, 2025

► Christmas Eve Service

## A Devotional from Pastor Janet

### Merry Christmas! by Mary Luti

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place." - Luke 2:13-15 (NRSV)*

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Oh, you thought Christmas was over?

Nope, you still have a few days to celebrate before Christmas officially culminates on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, a.k.a. the Commemoration of the Visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, a.k.a. Twelfth Night, a.k.a. the Twelfth Day of Christmas when your true love is supposed to give you twelve drummers drumming, although what you're supposed to do with twelve high-stepping, gaily uniformed musicians making a din is anybody's guess.

Anyway, I hope your eggnog hasn't soured, that you haven't stashed the crèche, recycled the tree, moved on to other things. I hope you're still in Christmas. I hope Christmas is still in you. Because here's the thing: even when it ends officially, Christmas isn't over. It never is.

We're always adoring on bended knee at cradles occupied by unfathomable babies. Always surrounded by glory-singing angels. Always offering ourselves in praise. Always finding God most tenacious and tender among the suffering, the displaced, the overlooked, the despised. Always subverting the violent power of kings with the serene insistence of stars, the meekness of stables, the divine dignity of human flesh, the generous offer of favor and grace.

Christmas never ends. And we're forever beckoned to lend ourselves to its grace as it unfolds daily in us, in our neighbors, and in the love-starved, weary world.

### Prayer

Thank you, God, for "this thing that has taken place," that's always taking place—this gift, this challenge, this endless love.

### Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller

Larry Underwood

Pastor Janet

Cynthia Miller