



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates January 15, 2026

Celebrations

January

Birthdays

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

February

Birthdays

15th: Nancy Macneill 18th: Sierra Caruso
20th: Fran Robinson 25th: Cooper Evans

On the Calendar

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

Sunday, February 1: Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee
Hour, hosted by Loraine Davila

Tuesday/Thursday, February 3 & 5: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Sunday, February 8: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

Tuesday/Thursday, February 10 & 12: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Saturday, February 14: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

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

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.



CHAIR YOGA FOR OLDER ADULTS CONTINUES

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START!

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

January 13 & 15	February 24 & 26	April 14 & 16
January 20 & 22	March 3 & 5	April 21 & 23
January 27 & 29	March 10 & 12	April 28 & 30
February 3 & 5	March 17 & 19	May 5 & 7
February 10 & 12	March 24 & 26	May 12 & 14
	Mar 31 & Apr 2	May 19 & 21

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.



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

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, 1/25/26, directly following worship.

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.



A Special Message to Our Church Family

I want to extend a huge thank you to our members for your generous help in supplying gifts for our Christmas Family. I told the guidance counselor that we would be willing to accept a larger family as we have always provided many of the wished for items. When I realized the number of tags on our table I was overwhelmed and hoped we could give at least half of the presents. All but two of the tags were claimed. Our Christmas tree was overflowing. As usual, we came together to help our community.

Ann

Previous Sermons and Liturgy

❖ January 4, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: Epiphany Sunday

❖ January 11, 2026

- ▶ Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9
- ▶ Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17
- ▶ Sermon: Baptism

A Note from Pastor Janet

THANKS!

Many of the Psalms are what we call Thankful Psalms. To boil it down to a sentence they say "give thanks and give thanks often". I, for one, do not give thanks enough. I often fail to thank for all that is done by many people around me and also for the love and care that people provide for me and each other.

Thanks to all of you, my sisters and brothers, for your prayers, your concern and your support of me over the years in my trials of life. In my grief and in my sicknesses, you have "stepped up" to hold the church and the worship of God together – Thank you!

Above all I am most thankful of God's Grace-upon-Grace among us. The Grace of God never ends; it fills all of us with joy and love and forms a congregation of prayer and thanksgiving. As the Christmas season of celebration comes to an end, let us not end our joy of giving and concern for each other in our church family. Let us all sew love and thankfulness for each other and let us recognize how much we are given in return for this love of thanks.

I, above all need to say this more often: "Thank you for you and thank you for all you have given me in my years of serving you" THANKS!

Prayer: For Grace-upon-Grace, for the children of God who respond to this Grace with love and joy; let your light shine on us, your church, as we continue to receive the blessings of your love. Grant us peace and allow us to reveal our love for you and each other with thanksgiving. Shower us with your Holy Spirit and give us joyful and thankful hearts. Amen.

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

A Prayer for a Leader by Talitha Arnold

Give the king your justice, O God. - Psalm 72:1a (NRSV)

I am deeply grateful for the timeless wisdom of our faith and especially for today's psalm. Written 30 centuries ago for the coronation of a king, Psalm 72 is a prayer for any leader at any time.

"Give the leader your justice, O God," the psalm begins—or as Eugene Peterson's *The Message* translates it, "Give the gift of wise rule." The psalm continues its prayer: May this leader advocate for the poor, provide rescue to those in need, save anyone at risk from violence, be compassionate to those who are alone, and crush the oppressors. ("Come down hard on cruel tyrants," in Peterson's version.)

The psalmist affirms that a leader must exercise their power with gentleness and consideration, "like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth" (72:6). Throughout a leader's term of office, the psalmist prays, may there be an abundance of goodness and peace. The psalmist ends by encouraging the people to pray for the leader "without ceasing."

I agree. In this fraught and messy time, we need to pray for our leaders—whoever they are. Psalm 72 is a good place to start.

Prayer

God of all nations, help us heed your psalm. Give our leaders—and us—your justice, your compassion for the poor, and your passion for peace. Amen.

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller

Barbara Daniels

Nadene Kopetz

The family of Deb Babcock

The family of Mark Barnes

The family of Dorothy Emery

The family of Stephen Ball

Pastor Janet

Cynthia Miller

Carolyn Lewis

The family of Iva Healey

The family of Bea Bennett

The family of Helen Williams

The family of Bill Bundy