



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

## Updates February 1, 2026

### Celebrations

#### February

##### Birthdays

15 <sup>th</sup> : Nancy Macneill	18 <sup>th</sup> : Sierra Caruso
20 <sup>th</sup> : Fran Robinson	25 <sup>th</sup> : Cooper Evans

### On the Calendar

**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; **Annual Meeting** in the parlor, following worship

**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

**Wednesday, February 18:** Ash Wednesday Service 4:00 pm

**Sunday, February 22:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School

**Tuesday/Thursday, February 24 & 26:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Thursday, February 26:** Ministry Committee Meeting 2:00 pm

**Friday, February 27:** Operations Committee Meeting 4:30 pm

**Saturday, February 28:** Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 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 in the parlor on Sunday, 2/8/26, 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.

## 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  
January 20 & 22  
January 27 & 29  
February 3 & 5  
February 10 & 12

February 24 & 26  
March 3 & 5  
March 10 & 12  
March 17 & 19  
March 24 & 26  
Mar 31 & Apr 2

April 14 & 16  
April 21 & 23  
April 28 & 30  
May 5 & 7  
May 12 & 14  
May 19 & 21

If you have any questions call the church at  
607-865-4066

Wear comfortable clothes and bring water with you.

## Ash Wednesday



*God always forgives us*

Begin the Lenten season with  
prayer and reflection as we  
receive ashes, a symbol of  
repentance and renewal.

February 18th, 4:00 pm

## Previous Sermons and Liturgy

### ❖ January 18, 2026

► Worship Canceled

### ❖ January 25, 2026

► Worship Canceled

## A Devotional from Pastor Janet

### Putting Away Baby Jesus by Talitha Arnold

*For we have not a great high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. - Hebrews 4:15 (NRSV)*

The baby Jesus finally got put away. I hadn't planned on extending the 12 Days of Christmas to four weeks before boxing up shepherds, kings, and angels, but some years are like that.

Sometimes the journey of faith is like that, too. It takes longer to put baby Jesus away and get back to the adult things of life—like congregational budget meetings and planning for Lent.

Yet, as strange as it may sound, it's good news that baby Jesus must get put away every year. Stores and malls have to move on to other important holidays, like Groundhog Day and Super Bowl Sunday. But we Christians put away the baby Jesus for a different reason:

Our faith calls us to encounter the *adult* Jesus, not just the child. The grown-up Jesus who told stories that challenged people to think about God, themselves, and this world in new ways. The one who cried out for justice and gave his life for others. Long after our culture has stopped oohing and aahing over the cute baby in the cowshed, we're called into a relationship with the Jesus who lived a fully human life with adult joys and adult sorrows, who had grown-up dreams and knew grown-up defeat, even death itself.

Four weeks after Christmas, the good news is the baby grew up, put away his toys, and took on the adult life that you and I lead. Because he did, we can be assured in our grown-up lives that the living, life-giving presence of God is still with us, with our church, and with this world, now and always.

### Prayer

Baby Jesus, thank you for growing up. Amen.

## Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller

Bill Schriver

The family of Sandra Jackson

Nadene Kopetz

The family of Jon MacNeill

Randy Stanton

The family of Barbara Daniels