



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates March 2, 2026

Celebrations

March

Birthdays

2nd: Betty Johnston 13th: Eliose Kelly

26th: Paige Clark

Remembrances

March

Heavenly Birthdays

12th: LeRoy Sawyer 18th: Margaret Cooke

On the Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

Monday & Tuesday, March 16 & 17: April will be out of the office

Tuesday/Thursday, March 17 & 19 Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Sunday, March 22: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

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

Saturday, March 28: Gathering Table 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, March 29: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour, hosted by
Rosemarie Tiesler

Tuesday/Thursday, March 31 & April 2: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Elijah's Closet

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

Board Updates

Coffee Hour has been rescheduled to Palm Sunday, March 29th, hosted by Rosemarie Tiesler. 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.



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

Previous Sermons and Liturgy

❖ February 22, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: Forty Days
- ▶ Scripture Reading: Romans 5:12-19
- ▶ Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

❖ March 1, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: In the Dark of Night
- ▶ Scripture Reading: Psalm 121
- ▶ Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17

Devotionals from Pastor Janet

Catch Me If You Can by Chris Mereschuk

The devil brought [Jesus] into Jerusalem and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here; for it's written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you' and 'they will take you up in their hands...'" Jesus answered, "It's been said, 'Don't test the Lord your God.'" - Luke 4:9-12 (CEB)

About 40 days from now in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus will beg God to spare him from death. God will be silent. Suffering on the cross the next day, Jesus will cry out in anguished abandonment. No angels will be commanded.

What if Jesus knew from the start that's how it would go, and that's why he didn't leap? Didn't test God not because of obedient faith, but because of deep doubt that God would send angels to catch him? It's painful—almost blasphemous, heretical—to think about. But maybe slightly relatable?

The devil quotes Psalm 91: assurance of God's protection of the faithful. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6: warning of God's wrath against lawbreakers. Both are truths. Yet, in times of temptation, trial, suffering, despair sometimes we want proof that God will intervene. Save us. Catch us. That God is willing. That God is able. Is it wrong to want the answer to that test?

Lent places us on the temple roof. Balanced on the pinnacle, teetering on the precipice between the death-dealing world and the life-giving Kingdom. In seasons of instability and unknown, surefooted faith battles with the call of the void. Perhaps there's a difference between a leap and a slip. Either way, I need God to catch me.

Prayer

I don't want to leap, God. I just want to know you can catch me.

Into the Silence by Yael Lachman

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. - Luke 4:1-2 (NRSV)

It's the first Sunday in Lent, and I'm sitting on a dilapidated sofa in the cottage where my youth group meets. We've just shared the story of Jesus being really hungry out in the wilderness, and we're discussing what it might mean for us to follow him this season. Someone mentions a friend who gives up chocolate for Lent. Someone else has a cousin who's giving up bread. And we wonder together if the story of Jesus in the wilderness isn't only about giving up certain foods, but also about giving up false ideas of who we are, so we can make room for who God is calling us to be.

So I ask the group: Do you have something you do when you want to listen for the voice of your soul? Or when you have an important decision to make? What helps you to know the difference between what is really true for you and what is not?

And here's what happens. Every teenager in the room says that yes, there is something they do when they need to listen to their own soul. And every single one of their personal rituals begins with what we might call a fast: "I turn off my phone and look out the window." "I turn off my phone and just listen to music." "I turn off my phone and go for a walk."

Outside, a gentle rain begins to fall. Inside, we share hot cocoa and granola bars, savoring the gift of friendship, and the comfort of old sofas, and an abundance of snacks. Because we're pretty sure that there are fasts we need and fasts we don't. And today, everybody knows the difference.

Prayer

Holy One, lead us into sacred silence that we might hear your call. Amen.

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller
The family of Katherine Kaufman
The family of Alice Taylor
The family of Michael McAdams

The family of John Comfort Jr.
The family of Cameron Schafer
The family of Steven Babcock
The family of Kenneth Roberts