



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

Updates April 1, 2026

**Celebrations**

**April**

Birthdays

10<sup>th</sup>: Ann LePinnet  
11<sup>th</sup>: Libby Kelly  
13<sup>th</sup>: Heather Ogden  
19<sup>th</sup>: Ron Richards  
26<sup>th</sup>: Debbie Caruso

Anniversaries

14<sup>th</sup>: John & Janet Brienza

**Remembrances**

**April**

Heavenly Birthdays

8<sup>th</sup>: Don Ogden  
21<sup>st</sup>: Hanna Schwengber

Day of Resurrection

5<sup>th</sup>: Margaret Cooke  
14<sup>th</sup>: Hanna Schwengber

**On the Calendar**

**Thursday, April 2:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm; **Maundy Thursday Communion and Worship** 4:30 pm

**Friday, April 3:** **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** 3:30 pm

**Sunday, April 5:** Walton Ministerial Association "Son-Rise" Service at More Park 6:30 am; **Easter Sunday Sanctuary Worship and Communion** 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School; "Risen" Free Movie Night at Riverside Alliance Church 7:30 pm

**Sunday, April 12:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School

**Tuesday/Thursday, April 14 & April 16:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Thursday, April 16:** Ministry Committee Meeting 3:30 pm

**Friday, April 17:** Operations Committee Meeting 4:30 pm

**Sunday, April 19:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Prudential Board Meeting

**Tuesday/Thursday, April 21 & April 23:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Sunday, April 26:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

**Tuesday/Thursday, April 28 & April 30:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Elijah's Closet**

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

## Board Updates



Is on **break** for re-organization  
beginning April 1st



### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Palm Sunday**  
Sanctuary Worship at 10:15 am, Coffee Hour to follow

**Maundy Thursday**  
Holy Thursday Communion and Worship at 4:30 pm

**Good Friday**  
Tenebrae Service at 3:30 pm  
*Tenebrae is a religious service of Western Christianity held during Good Friday and characterized by gradual extinguishing of candles, and by a "loud noise" taking place in total darkness at the end of the service which represents the placement of Christ in the tomb. It is a somber service to lead toward a spiritual preparation of the Easter Day Glory!*

**Easter Sunday**  
Celebrate Christ's resurrection with Sanctuary Worship and Communion at 10:15 am

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.

## Member Updates

### 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.

Help us TAP CANCER OUT!



In the coming months, Chaz, Keygan, and Kanaan will be fighting. However, this is no ordinary fight. We are taking part in the Tap Cancer Out BJJ Open and along with our family, teammates and competitors, we'll be fighting for those who are in the fight of their lives. We're raising funds in support of Tap Cancer Out, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and their incredible cancer-fighting beneficiary organizations.



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](mailto:secretary@uccwalton.com)

## Highlights



Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week



## Previous Sermons and Liturgy

### ❖ March 22, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: Weeping
- ▶ Scripture Reading: Romans 8:6-11
- ▶ Gospel Reading: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

### ❖ March 29, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: The Colt of a Donkey
- ▶ Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- ▶ Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

## Devotionals from Pastor Janet

### **The Triduum** by Pastor Janet Schwengber

Commemorating the events of the Lord's passion, death, and Resurrection is a tradition of the Church stretching back to the earliest of days with Christians re-telling the story of Jesus to one another and to converts. When Constantine recognized the Christian Faith, his mother the Empress Helena, travelled to the Holy land between 326-328 and visited some of the sites revered as Holy by Christians, particularly in Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Jerusalem. The oldest churches built as Christian churches date from that time.

*The liturgies of the Triduum, illuminated by centuries of artistry, music, and prayer, are the central acts of the global observance of Holy Week. They take us through the Institution of the Holy Eucharist and Christ's betrayal (Maundy Thursday), the Crucifixion (Good Friday), and the culmination of God's salvific project: the Resurrection (Holy Saturday).*

The liturgies of the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter) have their roots in the historic liturgies of the church in Jerusalem. Since the death and resurrection of Christ, pilgrims have always desired to worship in the Holy City during this most holy week. To accommodate those who could not make their pilgrimage, the Church developed these local liturgies to live into the life of Christ, and now these liturgies, illuminated by centuries of artistry, music, and prayer, are the central acts of the global observance of Holy Week.

The Triduum is the most solemn time of the Christian year. The Latin Triduum means “three days”, three days of constant prayer and observance of what the church is teaching and why it is a church of the resurrection. It started in the early Christian Church and therefor has been often viewed as Catholic. Since WWI many protestant churches started to adopt this austere time of worship and celebration, especially starting with Germany.

Today, we too, celebrate this time by having communion on Maundy Thursday, various different services on Good Friday and often the early Easter Vigil. Maureen and I would often go the Weston Priory in Vermont to celebrate these three days. It was a time of healing and a time of knowing that we are a people of the resurrection.

I pray that our time during our celebration of the Triduum is healing for all of you!

### **Ridiculous King** - a meditation by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

The tattered little man rides his donkey, as if a king. Onlookers humor us. “Hail!” they laugh, pouring another beer. He is the farthest from their minds.

But he is not far from their hearts. He is there, calmly enduring our evil, the raggedy dreamer peacefully overpowering the world’s deep sickness. He is there, enthroned in our broken depths, his spirit rising in the worst of us, smiling, with light in his eyes. He is there, laughable, standing firm amidst all that is wrong with the world, still loving, still undefeated. Nothing, not the most powerful armies or heartless tyrants, nor the most profound evil or the forces of death itself, can stop him from putting an arm around your shoulder.

This is his reign, our ridiculous king, still wounded, bearing his cross, still rising from the grave, raising us out of ours, defeating our evil before we begin, conferring upon us by divine decree his perfect, gentle blessing, giving us life that nothing can conquer and—if we will receive it—the grace to be faithful subjects in his miraculous domain.

*The energy of darkness, incarnated through deceit, abuse, cruelty, manipulation, selfishness, fear, and condemnation may win a battle - but not the war because the light of love and truth still shines in the darkness and the darkness has not and will not overcome it. **Existence** is resistance. **Presence** is power. **Joy** is rebellion. True joy is not the absence of sorrow; it is the presence of **God**.*

### **Lifted in Prayer**

Lorraine Miller  
Bill Meredith  
The family of Gay Bowker  
The family of Grace Banks

Lynn Robinson Jr.  
The family of Richard Tyler  
The family of Mary Pause