



Walton First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

Updates May 15, 2026

**Celebrations**

May		June	
<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Lorraine Miller 8 <sup>th</sup> : Mary Carroll 25 <sup>th</sup> : Kari Batson	4 <sup>th</sup> : Chris & Jenny Clark 17 <sup>th</sup> : Ron Richards & Loraine Dávila	3 <sup>rd</sup> : Diane Meredith 8 <sup>th</sup> : Judy Kipp 11 <sup>th</sup> : Chrissy Evans 15 <sup>th</sup> : Judy Ogden 18 <sup>th</sup> : Kanaan Epps 22 <sup>nd</sup> : Chaz Epps 29 <sup>th</sup> : Dorothy Welch	15 <sup>th</sup> : Brian & Deb Caruso

**Remembrances**

May	June
<u>Day of Resurrection</u> 8 <sup>th</sup> : Lynn Parkinson	<u>Day of Resurrection</u> 9 <sup>th</sup> : Leonard Parkinson

**On the Calendar**

- Sunday, May 17:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Painting of Kids' Club Room with pizza for lunch; Spring Block Party at UPC 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 19:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- Thursday, May 21:** Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm; Burial Services for Don Ogden at the Walton Cemetery 1:00 pm
- Sunday, May 24:** Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School; **Coffee Hour**
- Sunday, May 31:** Children's Day Service 10:15 am
- Thursday, June 4:** Ministry Committee Meeting 3:30 pm
- Saturday, June 6:** Porchfest
- Sunday, June 7:** Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School; **Coffee Hour**
- Sunday, June 14:** Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Church Kids' Club Meeting; Baccalaureate Service 6:00 pm

# Elijah's Closet

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

## Board Updates

Communion and Coffee Hour have been moved to Pentecost Sunday on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

### Church Kids' Club

New this year, the children of the church are invited to attend our newly formed group: The Church Kid's Club. We will meet the last Sunday of the month, following the regular Sunday School calendar, for "Sunday Snack Chats".

The kids discussed the missions of this group, which include: helping our church to grow, doing community services, events and fundraising, and being ambassadors to any new or returning youth to our church.

At this time, the children have put together an Amazon "wish list" for some of the supplies they will need to create their club space. If you are interested in helping to purchase some of these items, please click the [link](#) or scan the QR code:



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)

## Previous Sermons and Liturgy

### ❖ May 3, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: How Can We Know the Way?
- ▶ Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10
- ▶ Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

### ❖ May 10, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: Within One Another
- ▶ Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22
- ▶ Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

## Pastor's Pen

### **Pentecost** by Pastor Janet Schwengber

Traditionally people in churches wear red on Pentecost. It is a church celebration of when the flames of fire were seen on the heads of people. The winds blew and it was a day much different than others.

Pentecost (Pent = 5) is fifty days after Easter. It is also ten days after the ascension of Jesus into heaven. At that time Jesus told the disciples and followers to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to be sent to them. They did as he said and when the day arrived it was very unusual. The disciples were able to preach loudly, and boldly and people of different languages heard them in their language.

We often refer to this day as the "birth of the church"; I guess we have to have a beginning. But truthfully, the church was established with Jesus and the time he preached and taught among the people (which is the Gospel that means Good News). Jesus did say that he must leave so the Holy Spirit can come and aide and direct the church on earth. He is speaking about the spiritual life we all must seek and unite our lives with the God of our beginnings.

One of the most amazing happenings of the day of Pentecost is the fact that the timid and frightened followers of Jesus (remember how they hid in a closed room when Jesus was killed?) were able to come out and proclaim the Gospel and the resurrection to the people. These simple, mostly uneducated disciples were truly inspired by the Spirit of truth and certainly felt compelled to share it. This is the church! We should raise our spiritual awareness with the help of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News to everyone.

The church has lasted 2026 years and it will continue, no one can put the flames out! The church of today must, once again, regain its commitment to God with the help of the Holy Spirit. We cannot do it alone, that is why we have "congregation" but we must work harder at "coming out" and once again proclaim the Good News to everyone. After all, if we are a disciple of Christ, we cannot fail!

## A Devotional from Pastor Janet

### **Hannah's Prayer** by Kaji Douša

*Now Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips moved; her voice was not heard. So, Eli took her for a drunkard. - 1 Samuel 1:13 (as translated by Wilda C. Gafney for [Year B](#))*

I look at the Eli/Hannah interchange, and it reminds me of my worst nightmare in prayer. Hannah's story is something like this: Her dreams were shattered. She'd had expectations for the way her life would go ... and it wasn't. And those expectations weren't just that; they were requirements for a woman.

She was going through it. And she took up her courage—or maybe she was resigned—and said: I'm headed into that sanctuary. And I'm laying it all at the altar. I have to.

The guy in charge wasn't going for it. He made fun of her. Or at best, he criticized her. As some clergy love to do. Thousands of years later, it's people like him who make it so hard for so many people to even dare step into a sanctuary in the first place. Was it hard for you to step foot through a church's door? It's that Eli Legacy that did that. That taught you your words of prayer were not enough. When what really happened is that Eli just didn't get, couldn't, or wouldn't grasp Hannah's language of prayer.

There are a lot of reasons people step away from houses of worship. If this resonates, let me just say that I get it. But more importantly, God gets it. What I want you to know is that when God had to choose between the religious authority and the person praying, God didn't choose the structure. God chose the person. God chose Hannah. God's not gonna choose the institution, ever, over you.

But that doesn't mean giving up on church. Church is a collection of humans, a gathering of imperfect people. The church's job is to approach our call to serve with humility, never making the Eli mistake of expecting the church's way to be yours.

### **Prayer**

Help me, O God, to keep the prayer alive. In your holy name. Amen.

### **Lifted in Prayer**

Lorraine Miller

Charles Grossmann

The family of Joyce Wall

The family of Frank Fisher

Pastor Janet

Bill Meredith

The family of Evelyn Reiff

The family of Glenda McEntee