



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates August 15, 2026

Celebrations

August		September
<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
3 rd : April Epps	2 nd : Glen & Ann LePinnet	16 th : Brian Caruso
8 th : Jenny Clark		20 th : David Kelly
23 rd : Charlene Gregory		21 st : Tracia Muller
29 th : Roy Tiesler		
30 th : Pastor Janet		

Remembrances

August	September	
<u>Heavenly Birthdays</u>	<u>Heavenly Birthdays</u>	<u>Day of Resurrection</u>
4 th : Maureen Kennedy	8 th : Bill Thomson	2 nd : Maureen Kennedy
5 th : Francis Kennedy	29 th : Ernest Schwengber	9 th : Ernest Schwengber

On the Calendar

Sunday, August 16: **No Worship**. See you at the Delaware County Fair Vesper Service!
Sunday, August 23: Sanctuary Worship with Ron Galley 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School
Friday, August 28: Operations Committee Meeting 4:00 pm
Sunday, August 30: Sanctuary Worship with Pastor Janet 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School;
Birthday Celebration for Pastor Janet
Sunday, September 6: **No Worship**. Happy Labor Day weekend!
Thursday, September 10: Ministry Committee Meeting 3:30 pm
Sunday, September 13: Sanctuary Worship with Pastor Janet 10:15 am; Sunday School
resumes; Prudential Board Meeting

Elijah's Closet

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

Board Updates

**** There will NOT be worship services on Sunday, August 16th or Sunday, September 6th ****

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

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

❖ August 2, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: Serve the Lord
- ▶ Scripture Reading: Isaiah 56:8-10
- ▶ Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-40

❖ August 9, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: Together in Love, Rev. Ryan Henderson
- ▶ Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17
- ▶ Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Devotionals from Pastor Janet

Prominent Women by Talitha Arnold

As a result, many of them [religious people of Berea] believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. - Acts 17:12 (NIV)

I wonder what the criteria was for the women of Berea to be “prominent.” The current Secretary of Defense wants to test for prominence—aka leadership—by measuring testosterone levels of all military personnel. Some Christian pastors likewise proclaim that the right chromosomes are crucial.

Yet contrary to such tests, neither Jesus nor Paul ever made hormones or chromosomes the plumbline for a person’s worth, capacity for leadership, or faithfulness. Jesus continually crossed cultural and religious lines to honor women’s intellect (Mary of Bethany) and wit (the Gentile woman advocating for her daughter). In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus and the disciples depended on Mary of Magdala and other “women of means” for financial support. Moreover, in all four Gospels, it was the women who stayed to the crucifixion’s bitter end, went first to the tomb, and were the first to experience the Risen Christ and proclaim the Resurrection.

Yes, those pesky lines in First Corinthians silencing women raise questions about Paul’s assessment of women. But scholars of all genders argue the passage was added later by someone other than the apostle. Like Jesus, Paul depended on women’s leadership—whether it was Lydia offering her house for the first church in Philippi, Prisca the tentmaker turned Christian teacher, Phoebe the diakonos (minister) of the Roman church, or the unnamed “prominent women” of Berea.

Truth is, without such prominent women, Christianity would never have made it past the first century. So, the next time you hear a Christian government official or religious leader question a woman's worth, leadership, or intellect, please gently refer them to the Bible they're likely holding.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for all the prominent people of all genders and generations who strengthen our faith and give us hope. Amen.

Needle's Eye by Mary Luti

Jesus said, "Go, sell everything you have, give to the poor, then follow me." At this he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle." - Mark 10:21-25, abridged (NIV)

A rich man asks Jesus how to inherit eternal life. He's sincere, but "inherit" is a telling word. It means getting a share, a portion. He hopes to add another portion to his already disproportionate share of material wealth and moral achievement. He's so accustomed to accumulating that he can only think of eternal life as an acquisition.

But eternal life is a person, not a portion. And that person loves him and welcomes him to intimacy. With a precondition: he'll have to make the same first move toward Jesus that God once made toward us in Christ: he must empty himself.

He can't do it. Jesus names the obstacle. It's wealth, and not just our attachment to it. Dispossession is indeed an inner attitude, a spiritual posture, but that's not all it is. To follow Jesus really means living life in the red.

They were all doing just that, but Jesus's disciples are still shocked by his severity. He doubles down, "It's easier for a camel..." To save the wealthy, God would have to do the impossible.

We always think someone else is wealthy, not us. Maybe examining that assumption should be our first response to this hard word. But that's not for me to say. No one can tell you what it means for you in practice to accept Jesus's invitation to life eternal.

Only you know what it would take to hope not in goodness and its satisfactions, much less in wealth and its acquisition, but only in what God may yet make possible in you by grace.

Prayer

I keep going away sad, Jesus. But keep inviting me. Grace may yet push me through the needle's eye.

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller
Randy Stanton
Roy Tiesler
Dana Baker
Nadene Kopetz

Pastor Janet
Sherrie Hobbie
Bruce Myer
Bruce Ellis
Dorothy Welch

Karen Eckhardt
Lynn Robinson
Theresa O'Leary
Betty Johnston