



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates September 15, 2026

Celebrations

September	October	
<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
16 th : Brian Caruso	7 th : Marc Evans	4 th : Chaz & April Epps
20 th : David Kelly	7 th : Ginny O'Dell	
21 st : Tracia Muller	10 th : Charlotte Kelly	
	11 th : Janet Brienza	
	17 th : Donna Truman	

Remembrances

September		October	
<u>Heavenly Birthdays</u>	<u>Day of Resurrection</u>	<u>Heavenly Birthdays</u>	<u>Day of Resurrection</u>
28 th : Bill Thomson	2 nd : Maureen Kennedy	12 th : Lynn Parkinson	1 st : Leroy Sawyer
29 th : Ernest Schwengber	9 th : Ernest Schwengber		26 th : John Meredith

On the Calendar

Thursday, September 17: Office hours 12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Sunday, September 20: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School
Thursday, September 24: Office closed
Sunday, September 27: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School
Tuesday/Thursday, September 29 & October 1: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Sunday, October 4: Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour
Tuesday/Thursday, October 6 & 8: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Saturday, October 10: Walton Fall Market 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Sunday, October 11: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; **No** Sunday School
Tuesday/Thursday, October 13 & 15: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Elijah's Closet

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

Board Updates

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

Rosemarie recently underwent surgery in UHS Wilson Hospital

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



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

Sept 29 & Oct 1
October 6 & 8
October 13 & 15
October 20 & 22
October 27 & 29
November 3 & 5

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

Wear comfortable clothes and bring water with you.

There will be paperwork to be filled out, so please come 20-30 minutes early to your **FIRST** class - even if you completed paperwork in the past.

Previous Sermons and Liturgy

❖ September 13, 2026

- ▶ Sermon: Prepare
- ▶ Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9
- ▶ Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Pastor's Pen

September by Pastor Janet Schwengber

My father was born in September 1902 and died September 1981. He was a very religious and gentle man. He loved poetry and often wrote some of his own. When I started college in September of 1962, I found a poem written by him placed in my wallet. It spoke of his love and pride of me. Recently, in September 2021 the person who was the love of my life died.

September is a month I often dislike. But it is the time of harvest, new beginnings in school, a time we celebrate laborers, a time we wait for changing new colors of our hills and trees. It is a month of mixed messages. Actually September, in Latin, means seven (*septem*). It was the seventh month in the Roman (Julian) calendar. The current Gregorian calendar kept it as the ninth month. Time and dates are actually "man-made". Nature shows us a calendar of her own.

At the time of Christ, the growth of plants and the harvest were used to tell the dates. It was when wine was made, dates and olives harvested, vegetables collected and stored for the lean months ahead. In the Jewish tradition, September is the time of *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year, which marks the start of the ten days of repentance leading to *Yom Kipper*, the time of prayer and reconciliation. It marks the time of spiritual development for the people of God.

Actually, September is a month leading all of us to new life, to balance, to change, to new cycles and prayer, it is the bridge between the summer warmth and winter cold. It is the month that holds the Autumn Equinox when day and night are balanced and equal. It prepares us to let go of old habits and develop new thoughts and gives us a new spiritual direction.

September is the poetry of our life; the time we wait for the incarnation of the Spirit of God to enter our lives. It is the time we begin to wait for the “Christ-mass” and new beginnings. It is life renewed and life taken from earth.

For me, September is a difficult time. But, it is a reminder of what is to come. I pray that you can join me in the spirit of new beginnings and recognize the spiritual poetry of love that September and God brings!

A Devotional from Pastor Janet

Listening for the Turtledove by Talitha Arnold

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. - Song of Songs 2:12-13 (NRSV)

Abundance. I think that’s what the Song of Songs is about. The abundance of flowers, beautiful sounds, and fragrances. To be sure, Christian scholars don’t agree as to whether that abundance is Christ’s love for the Church or the love between two people. Either way, joy and delight abound.

I often need that message. Whether in my human relationships or my relationship with the church—the one I serve or the Church Universal—it’s easy to focus on deficits instead of delights. Song of Songs reminds me to shift my perspective, open my soul, and pay attention.

Like the rest of the Hebrew Bible, Song of Songs was written in a desert land. Its vision of spring flowers and blossoming vines isn’t tulip time in Holland. Desert flowers are often tiny and hidden in the shade of trees and rocks. Even hillsides of poppies fade as temperatures rise. Seeing the desert’s abundant beauty requires intentionality.

So does hearing the voice of a turtledove. Unlike chirping sparrows, a turtledove coos low and softly. It’s easily drowned out by other noises. Listening closely for its gladsome song is a necessity—just as it is with the church.

My Sunday hadn’t started well—a staff member and two greeters were sick, it was hot, I’d forgotten to open the windows, etc. etc. etc. Alone in the kitchen before the

service, I was far from joyous. But then I heard people walking into the Sanctuary—their lilting voices sharing their delight at being together, coming for worship, enjoying another Sunday. It was the voice of the turtledoves heard in our land.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for your abundance.

Thank You from Pastor Janet

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I want to thank all of you for celebrating the day of my birthday on August 30th! Thank you for the cards (and puzzle!), good wishes, flowers, cake (and “little” zucchini bread!), ceramic hanger, and your presence with me! It was also my first time back with you for a full church service. Your presence and your worship with me is a grace filled gift to me; as Christ says “where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of you”. To be in worship with you is to be in the presence of Christ!

I do not know what this year will bring for all of us, but I do know that as we invoke the spirit of Christ in our congregation and acknowledge our “human condition” and ask for forgiveness, we will be blest with the Holy Spirit to guide us and enable us to be a grace filled ministry for our community.

I will try my best, with the blessings of the Spirit, to continue to lead and guide us to God’s calling. This year will be a year of many decisions and changes. As I celebrated my birthday with you my prayer is that God will guide us in the work for today and lead our feet to His holy dwelling place.

Thank you for your love and support to the God of our birth, please accept my love for the celebration of my “birth”!

Janet

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller	Pastor Janet	Karen Eckhardt
Roy Tiesler	Courtney Tempel	Bruce Ellis
Betty Johnston	Nadene Kopetz	Dorothy Welch
Rosemarie Tiesler		The family of Bruce Myer
The family of Joanna Richardson		The family of Barbara Bartlett
The family of Linda Daniels Johnson Stoltz		The family of Karen Feltman