



Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates October 15, 2026

Celebrations

October		November	
<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
7 th : Marc Evans	4 th : Chaz & April Epps	1 st : Nora Kellogg	18 th : Roy & Rosemarie Tiesler
7 th : Ginny O'Dell		4 th : Cookie Richards	
10 th : Charlotte Kelly		15 th : Nolan Evans	
11 th : Janet Brienza		18 th : Emily Richards	
17 th : Donna Truman		26 th : Chris Ogden	

Remembrances

October		November
<u>Heavenly Birthdays</u>	<u>Day of Resurrection</u>	<u>Heavenly Birthdays</u>
12 th : Lynn Parkinson	1 st : Leroy Sawyer	14 th : John Meredith
	26 th : John Meredith	25 th : David Carroll

On the Calendar

Thursday, October 15: Ministry Committee Meeting 3:30 pm

Friday, October 16: Operations Committee Meeting 4:30 pm

Sunday, October 18: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School; Prudential Board Meeting

Tuesday/Thursday, October 20 & 22: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Sunday, October 25: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

Tuesday/Thursday, October 27 & 29: Chair Yoga 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Sunday, November 1: Sanctuary Worship and **Communion** 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour and Congregational Chat

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

Saturday, November 7: Chili Cook Off at Riverside Alliance Church

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

Sunday, November 15: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School

Elijah's Closet

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

Board Updates

With Pastor Janet's blessing, we have formed a search committee to begin the process for finding a pastor. We are working with Rev. Ryan Henderson from the NY Conference. One of the early steps is to survey the congregation to gather information about your hopes, needs and concerns. We will host a "Congregational Chat" during the November 1st coffee hour after worship for informal conversation over coffee and goodies. We will use your ideas to develop a church profile, and then our "vacancy notice" will be posted online by the UCC.

If you cannot attend the Chat, please share your thoughts with a member of the search committee--Ann LePinnet, Charlene Gregory, Chrissy Evans, Diane Meredith. Or email the information to our Program Director, April: Secretary@uccwalton.com

If you are willing to host the Nov.1st coffee hour, please let April know. (Daylight Savings Time ends on Nov. 1, so set your clocks back! 😊)

Your support is appreciated!

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 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

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 20 & 22

October 6 & 8 October 27 & 29

October 13 & 15 November 3 & 5

FREE CLASSES - no registration required. Come to 1 or come to all.

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

❖ October 4, 2026

- Sermon: The Cornerstone of Life
- Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14
- Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

❖ October 11, 2026

- Sermon: Rejoice!
- Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:1-9
- Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

Devotionals from Pastor Janet

The Immoral of the Story by Mary Luti

[Jesus said,] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy sold all he had and bought that field." - Matthew 13:44 (NIV)

I once heard a sermon about this short parable during which, inexplicably, the preacher got hung up on its “questionable ethics.”

You don’t spot a Rembrandt at a yard sale, he said, buy it for five dollars, resell it for a zillion, and keep the profit for yourself. Finders aren’t always keepers. The man who discovered that treasure should’ve given it back to its original owner.

He stopped just short of telling us how disappointed he was in Jesus for condoning theft. He also stopped short of the point. And the good news.

Parables don’t have morals. They aren’t clear lessons about right and wrong. They are, as someone once described them, hand grenades Jesus tosses into your imagination to blow up your exhaustion and electrify your heart with the sudden stupendous prospect of a world turned upside down.

A commentary on this passage notes that, lacking banks, people in Jesus’s day sometimes buried their valuables. And sometimes someone else found them. The poor had no chance of amassing wealth, but they had a slim chance of stumbling upon it. Jesus’s listeners could feel in their flesh just how radically their lives would change if they did.

And *that?* Jesus says, *that* exhilaration, that explosion of possibility, that joy? That’s what God’s realm is like.

Iffy morals didn’t bother Jesus’s audience. They were too electrified to worry about property rights. If you are, too, you get the point. And the good news.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, detonate life-altering possibility in our imaginations. Light us up with the transforming joy of something new. We can be moral later.

We Carry This by Kaji Douša

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all you that are weary... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matthew 11:28a, 30 (NRSV)

“My yoke is easy and my burden is light,” Jesus said. Then what’s that on my back?

A number of people I meet imagine that faith means less work and strain. But that wasn’t Jesus’s promise. He said we would not carry it alone.

A yoke is a shared means of bearing responsibility. It’s designed so that the weight is distributed, so that no single body absorbs all the strain. When Jesus speaks of a yoke, Jesus is speaking about companionship with a shared direction.

That means some of what you are carrying right now may not be yours to carry by yourself. Some of what feels heavy may be a sign that the work is holy but you need to find someone you can entrust to share the load.

Part of spiritual maturity is building a spirit of discernment that reveals who to celebrate with and who to collaborate with, too. They may not be the same person. Your spirit of discernment can reveal who to struggle with and who to trust with what God is doing in you.

God will give you appropriate companions for your walk. Some of the work is learning to recognize them. The rest of the work may just be healing enough to let them do it.

Jesus’s yoke is easy because it comes with provision, presence and people. So if you’re collapsing? The first thing to do is to figure out why. Asking those questions will shape you, alongside others who can carry the yoke beside you. Someone else, in other words, is going through their own expression of the same thing.

If you are carrying too much, pause and ask: is this Jesus’s yoke, something I picked up alone, or something someone else dumped on me? Who might God already be placing next to me?

Prayer

God of shared strength, help me to recognize the yoke you offer and the companions you provide. Teach me to carry what is mine, and to trust others – and especially you – with the rest. Amen.

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller
Courtney Tempel
Betty Johnston
Rosemarie Tiesler
The family of Audrey Wood

Pastor Janet
Loraine Davila
Nadene Kopetz
Lynn Robinson

Roy Tiesler
Bruce Ellis
Dorothy Welch
Tracy Kellogg