Walton First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Updates November 17, 2026

Celebrations

November

Birthdays

1st: Nora Kellogg
4th: Cookie Richards
15th: Nolan Evans
18th: Emily Richards
26th: Chris Ogden

December

Birthdays

1st: Warren Kelly
2nd: Glen LePinnet
3rd: Edie Morales
6th: Loraine Dávila
9th: Haley Clark
10th: Chris Clark
20th: Todd Ogden
25th: Beth Ogden
28th: Moira Walter

Remembrances

November

Heavenly Birthdays

14th: John Meredith
25th: David Carroll

Day of Resurrection

8th: Rosemarie Montague-Tiesler

December

Heavenly Birthdays

1st: Rosemarie Montague-Tiesler
12th: Leonard Parkinson

Day of Resurrection

9th: Bill Thomson

On the Calendar

Friday, November 20: Elijah's Closet Annual Christmas Bazaar begins
Saturday, November 21: Community Harvest Dinner in the Parlor 11:30 am-1:00 pm, takeouts at 12:30 pm, if available
Sunday, November 22: Thanksgiving Sunday; Morning Prayer with Christmas Carols & Hanging of the Greens 10:15 am, lunch will be provided
Mon-Fri, November 23-27: Church office will be closed
Tuesday, November 24: Community Thanksgiving Service at FCC/UCC 6:30 pm
Sunday, November 29: No Worship Service; Rosemarie Montague-Tiesler's Memorial Service at the Castle on the Delaware, officiated by Pastor Janet 10:30 am
Sunday, December 6: Sanctuary Worship 10:15 am; Sunday School
Sunday, December 13: Sanctuary Worship and Communion 10:15 am; Sunday School; Coffee Hour, hosted by Jenny Clark & family; Brief Prudential Board meeting



Elijah's Closet

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

Board Updates

We will be collecting a special offering in memory of your loved ones to purchase poinsettias for our Christmas Eve Service. Envelopes will be available by the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary beginning November 21st. Please contact April if you need one mailed to you.

We will be designing and printing our own offering envelopes again this year. If you would like to use these, please request them from April. Be sure to include the frequency you would prefer, i.e. monthly or weekly.

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



All free will offerings will be donated to the Walton Thanksgiving Day Basket Giveaway

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***

Previous Sermons and Liturgy

- **November 1, 2026**
  - ►Sermon: "BLESSINGS"
  - ►Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:1-3
  - ►Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12
- **November 8, 2026**
  - ►Sermon: How Much Oil?
  - ►Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
  - ►Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

❖ **November 15, 2026**
- ►Sermon: Talent
- ►Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- ►Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Devotionals from Pastor Janet

Down by Mary Luti

Then Jesus came to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented." - Matthew 3:13-15 (NRSV)

John is rattled. "This isn't right," he sputters. "I shouldn't baptize you, Jesus. You should baptize me."

But Jesus says, "Baptize me anyway. It fulfills God's purpose."

God's purpose that the one who needs no washing should be washed. That the one sent to us should be a sibling, not a judge. That creation should be healed not from high up, but from down low.

So John consents.

This isn't the only time the Gospels report a protest against divine humility. Remember the Last Supper? "No, no," poor Peter cries when Jesus arrives at his feet with towel and bowl. "This is wrong, I should wash you!"

But Jesus says, "You can't be mine unless you let me serve you, unless you've been bewildered by my bended knee."

So Peter consents.

Sometimes I think Christian life consists not so much in right thinking and good deeds, but in a flustered objection to divine humility and a daily consent to the unthinkable. We're meant to be a disoriented people, permanently upended by the undignified ministrations of a servant God.

So that if we immerse ourselves in our neighbors' need, if we bend to wash their feet, it's not for duty's sake. It's because we've lost our bearings, the old ones that always urged us up. Now, we who have been so vastly loved, so sweetly served, have no bearings at all. Except for Christ. Who heads us down.

Prayer
Bewilder us, Jesus, with your bended knee. Make your downward way our own.

How You Living? by Kenneth L. Samuel

Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain. Though it linger[s], wait for it; it will certainly come ... [and] the righteous person will live by faithfulness." - Habakkuk 2:2-4 abridged (NIV)

Have you ever been asked: "How you living?"

Our answer to the question usually involves details about what's going on in our lives: how we're feeling about things, what's keeping us busy lately, what we're working on next, etc.

While we can get away with answering the question with pleasant chatter, we cannot get away from the question itself. At critical points in each of our lives, each of us has to take the question and all the subsequent questions seriously.

How are you making it through life's unexpected upsets and upheavals? How do you keep moving through the valleys and shadows of death? What gives you strength to stay steadfast in the midst set-backs? Is there a future you invested in?

In other words: "How you living?"

The prophet Habakkuk's prescriptive answer is this: "The righteous live by faith."

The righteous live by faith in Unconditional Love that justifies them in the face of laws that condemn them.

The righteous live by faith in Amazing Grace that sustains them when all their strength is drained from them.

The righteous live by faith in the God of justice, who is no respecter of person.

The righteous live by faith in God's promise of abundant life, which gives them power to live, power to die, and power to live again.

Is there any better way to live?

Prayer
Thank you God for faith that gives life meaning and fullness and purpose. Amen.

Lifted in Prayer

Lorraine Miller	Pastor Janet	Roy Tiesler
Courtney Tempel		Bruce Ellis
Betty Johnston	Nadene Kopetz	Dorothy Welch
The family of Julie Mettler		The family of Brian Harrington
The family of Rosemarie Montague-Tiesler		The family of Brian Robinson
The family of Susan Northrup Earl		The family of Tina Kirschner
The family of Betty Tompkins		The family of Donald Tompkins