



The Church Bell

The First Reformed Church
Walden, New York

Church Bell, Volume 71, Issue 4

July & August 2026

70 Scofield Street, Walden NY 12586

... 845-778-5405

... frchurch@frontiernet.net

... <https://waldenfirstreformed.org/>



Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

We hope that each one of you has a wonderful July and August filled with family time and a time to relax, as some of the church programs begin to slow down. We hope your days are filled enjoying a local park or a trip to your favorite lake or beach. Fun times enjoying your favorite ice cream cone ☐ with your family and friends. A time to just quietly spend time in God's presence and the beauty of your surroundings.

VBS will be held from July 27-31, we welcome each of you to participate in a time of learning more about God's Love. We will start dinner at 5:30 PM and then do all of the exciting VBS activities until 8:15 PM. The program is based on the key verse: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13). This is always a wonderful time of worship, singing and playing together filled with plenty of smiles and creative enjoyment.

The Search Committee continues to meet regularly, please keep them in your daily prayers, as they search for a new lead pastor. We are thankful for so many of you joining in the church life and sharing your gifts and time. May you feel God's Love embracing you in your daily life.

*In God's Love,
Susan Kennedy*



Property Update

KEEPING OUR CHURCH HOME STRONG

Meeting every Wednesday • More hands always welcome



PUNCH LIST

- ☒ Stairway repair
- ☒ SchoolTime A/C
- ☒ Conference Rm A/C
- ☒ BPSA roof + windows



Property Update

Our property team continues to meet faithfully every Wednesday, rolling up our sleeves to keep our church home safe, comfortable, and welcoming for everyone who walks through our doors.

One of our larger undertakings lately has been repairing and reinforcing the stairway connecting the Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary — a project that's now well underway.

We've also taken care of a few other items around the building:

- Installed air conditioners for School Time

- Installed an air conditioner in the Conference Room

- Evaluated ceiling issues in the BPSA room

- Evaluated the windows in the BPSA room

It might not look like a lot on paper, but for roughly half of this stretch, we didn't have a full crew — so every item on this list represents real dedication from a handful of faithful hands.

We could always use more help! If you have time, a particular skill, or simply a willingness to pitch in, we'd love to have you join us on Wednesdays.

Thank you,
Jerry Hanen



Thanks!!!

As we close out a worship year, there are many to thank for making our worship services so meaningful.

Thanks to our faithful choir members: Karen Lendle, Jan Goutell, Judy Bonasio, Jan Hanen, Yves Delphin, John Harrington, Jim O'Connell, Joe Weikel. They have accepted challenges I have put in front of them. They have offered suggestions to make our singing better. They have worked hard and faithfully.

Our praise team has enhanced worship all year long. Thanks to Bill Freeman, Jan Hanen, Jan Goutell, Phil Goutell, and Joe Weikel.

Jerry Hanen and Bill Freeman have masterminded and monitored the audio and visual aspects of our worship services.

Many thanks to Jerry, Bill, and John Harrington for keeping the sanctuary in tip-top shape whether it is banners, candles, or altar vestments.

John Harrington has stepped into the role of preparing Communion in Joe's absence as well as circulating during prayer intentions.

Jim Reichle has taken over responsibility for the acolytes.

Even as the saying goes "it takes a village to raise a child", it takes a devoted team to make our worship services run so smoothly.

A special thanks to Joe in Macedonia. He has continued to keep a smooth flow for pulpit supply as well as working with those ministers to develop the bulletins.

Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow!!!!

Submitted by Bunnie Reichle



Dear Family,

At Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they find their strength in God. They will become Challengers and discover how with God, they can do all things.

After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, the Challengers make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal each Lift Lesson to equip your Challengers for an active life with God. Your Challengers will also discover our Mountain Motto (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they have discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Challengers will hear about our mission project as they respond to God's call for action!

Join us at First Reformed Church, 70 Scofield Street, Walden

Monday, July 27, 2026, to Friday, July 31, 2026, 5:30 PM to 8:15 PM

Call the church office and leave a message 845-778-5405 or Bunnie Reichle 845-222-4833 for more information.

Register at: <https://myvbs.org/frcwalden>

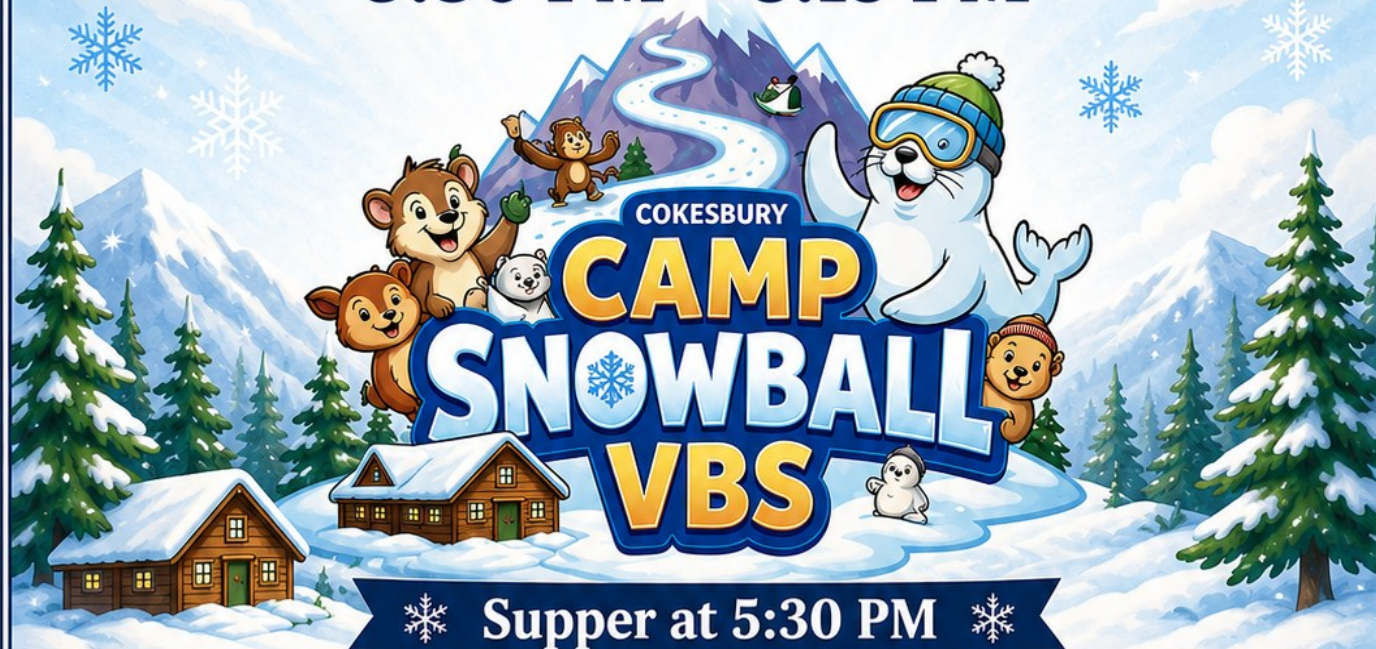
See you in July.

Bunnie Reichle, Director

First Reformed Walden

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 27 – July 31
5:30 PM – 8:15 PM



❄️ Supper at 5:30 PM ❄️

🎵 Songs • 📖 Bible Stories • ✂️ Crafts • 🎲 Games

❄️ Use the link to register your child ❄️
<https://www.myvbs.org/FRCWalden/>



The First Reformed Church

📍 70 Scofield Street
Walden, NY 12586
☎ 845-778-5405
✉ frchurch@frontiernet.net
🌐 waldenfirstreformed.org

*Join us for an
incredible week of faith,
fun, and friendship!*

Everyone
Welcome!





VBS 2026 Student Registration Form

Student's Name _____

Parent/Family/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

Work _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Last school grade completed _____

Home Church (if any) _____

Friends of your child attending VBS

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other:

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Photo Release: _____ Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian's signature:

Date _____



Worship

All glory, praise, honor, and thanksgiving to God the Father for His providence in Jesus Christ!

We pray you're enjoying these summer months — a season when many of us head out for vacations and time with family and friends at picnics, swimming pools, the mountains, the beach, fireworks, baseball games, camping, and a host of other warm-weather adventures.

Outdoor Worship Services

With warmer weather comes one of our favorite summer traditions: worshipping outdoors. This year, the worship team is planning two outdoor services, both beginning at our normal 10 AM start time:

- Sunday, July 12
- Sunday, August 9

Angel Santana Jr. will be preaching both services, and he plans to broadcast them to his Facebook page, with a link shared on our FRCWalden Facebook page, as well as on the other platforms he uses in his ministry and podcast work.

As in years past, these services will be held on the Church lawn, weather permitting. If conditions aren't right for an outdoor gathering, we'll simply move indoors. Please bring your lawn chairs and a blanket for the kids — but most importantly, bring the joy of the Lord and a friend as we gather to worship God amid His creation.



Indoor Services & Facebook

Our regular Sunday services will, of course, continue to be held indoors and broadcast live on our Facebook page: facebook.com/FRCWalden

Fellowship Time

We will gather for fellowship in our Fellowship Hall immediately following each Sunday service throughout the summer.

Healing Service

Our next healing service is set for Sunday, August 30. The worship team will continue holding these special services on the fifth Sunday of any month that has one.

With Gratitude

We are so blessed, and we deeply appreciate everyone who contributes their time and talents to our worship services. There are truly too many to name — those who greet our congregants, ring the church bell to call the neighborhood to worship, serve as acolytes, read scripture, share their musical gifts, sing in the choir and Praise Team, run live sound, prepare PowerPoint slides and livestream productions, create and print bulletins, decorate the sanctuary with banners, flowers, and balloons, and prepare refreshments for fellowship time. So many hands are at work to bring our worship together, and we thank God for these willing spirits. We can always use more — as the saying goes, "many hands make light work"! :) We ask you to prayerfully consider how you might contribute to worship, offering your gifts and talents to the glory of God. We would welcome your offering with great joy! If the Spirit moves you, please reach out to Bunnie Reichle, myself, or Sabrina in the Church Office to let us know how you'd like to lend a helping hand.

With love in Christ Jesus,
Joe Weikel



Hymns for Our Independence Day Celebration & Summer Worship

In keeping with the grand celebration of 250 years since our nation's birth, Reverend Sampson will be preaching for us on the Fifth of July. To mark the occasion, the Worship Team has chosen a fitting and familiar Closing Hymn: **#418, "America the Beautiful,"** with words written by Katharine Lee Bates in 1893 and music composed by Samuel A. Ward in 1882. Its four verses lift up the splendor of our nation's landscapes and the hope that God's grace would crown our country with brotherhood, virtue, and liberty under law.

For an equally fitting Departing Hymn that day, we've chosen **#417, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" (verse 1)**, written by Samuel F. Smith in 1832 and rooted in the spirit of Psalm 33:12 and Matthew 4:24–26. It's a brief, heartfelt tribute to the freedom won by those who came before us.



For the remaining Sundays in July, our Closing Hymn will be **#G43, "Lord, Be Glorified,"** written and composed by Bob Kilpatrick in 1952. Its four short verses carry a simple, repeated prayer — that God would be glorified in our lives, our song, His Church, and His world.

Our Departing Hymn for the month of July will be **#G17, "Step by Step,"** written and composed by Beaker (20th century). It's a gentle song of devotion, expressing trust that God will lead us one step at a time as we follow Him all our days.

For August, our Closing Hymn will be the well-loved **#G86, "Thy Word,"** written and composed by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith in 1984. Drawing on the imagery of Scripture as a lamp and a light, it speaks to trusting God's Word for guidance through fear and uncertainty, and pledges faithfulness to Him to the end.

Our Departing Hymn for August is one of my personal favorites: **#G41, "He Is Exalted,"** written and composed by Twila Paris. It's a joyful declaration of God's eternal reign, calling heaven and earth to rejoice in His holy name.

(Full lyrics for hymns can be found in our hymnals, weekly slides, and the bulletin when worshipping outdoors.)

With love in Christ Jesus,
Joe Weikel

—★ CELEBRATING ★—
250TH
ANNIVERSARY
 —★ OF OUR NATION ★—
**250 YEARS OF LIBERTY,
 FAITH & FREEDOM**

★ ★ ★

We give thanks to God for the blessings of liberty
 in our nation and for the men and women
 who have faithfully served and continue to serve.
 May God continue to bless America
 and guide us with His wisdom and grace.

— SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026 —

PIANIST
Bunnie Reichle

PREACHING
Rev. Chaplain (COL) Ken Sampson, USA (Ret.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS
*Zechariah 9:9-12
 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

SERMON TITLE
"Foundation for Celebration"

**SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY
 WORSHIP SERVICE**
 10:00 AM

★ ★ ★
WORSHIP SERVICE
The First Reformed Church
 —★ in Walden ★—

ONE NATION
 UNDER GOD
 ★ ★ ★
 FAITH ★ LIBERTY
 FREEDOM

Chaplain Sampson's brief Bio: Chaplain Ken Sampson is a retired Army Chaplain, ordained in the Reformed Church in America (RCA). During his almost 30-year career, he served Infantry and Artillery units stateside and overseas, twice deployed to Afghanistan, taught World Religions at the Defense Language Institute, and ended as Senior Military Fellow--Ethics and Leadership, National Defense University. Coming originally from California, prior to the Army Chaplaincy he served for seven years as coach, Chaplain and Bible teacher at an RCA home mission, Southern Normal School, Brewton, Alabama. While at Southern Normal, he met and married his wife Kate, whose parents David and Birdie Boyce pastored RCA congregations in Somerville, NJ; Glenmont, NY; and Elmhurst, Queens. The Sampsons have two children, Michael (44) and Jenn (41). Chaplain Sampson worked part-time for eight-and-a-half years as Military Liaison with Guideposts Outreach, retiring in June 2022.



MISSIONS

Operation Christmas Child: Collection of items has been going very well and they continue to collect supplies for this mission through-out the year. Carol Ann Freeman & Diane Crist-Moore sort and organize and will let the congregation know soon what items are needed most. Contact Carol Ann Freeman with any questions you may have carol_ann.freeman@allianceu.edu.

English as a New Language: winding up teaching at the end of June and we will have a party at the Harrington's on June 29. Class will begin again Mid September - the 16th.

English as a Second Language: We had the pleasure of field trips to both The Walden House and Fox Hill in June. The students were interested in learning more about Walden and enjoyed the outings very much. Classes will be taught through June with a party at the Freeman home in July. Class will begin again Mid September - the 16th

Ukraine English Camp: The camp week is August 17-21. The teaching team is expected to be composed of 3 Hungarians 2 Ukrainians, 1 American and myself. The theme (My Town) and lessons have been decided and I am beginning to collect the items that are needed for teaching approx. 60 children.
**Pastor Jim O'Connell will commission Carol Ann Freeman when he preaches on August 2nd*

Backpack Snack Attack: Has finished for the school year and will start distribution again on 9/11/26. Totals for last distribution for the year: 118, HS – 11, MS - 37 (7 of these 37 bags went to ALC), Berea – 25, EC – 13, MES – 18, WES - 14. If you would like to know how you can volunteer to help this mission reach out to Angel Santana Sr.

Montgomery Food Pantry: is open on Tuesdays 10 to 12, and Wednesdays 6:30 to 8pm. First Reformed staffs the pantry in February, June, and October. Some of the volunteers for June were: Dan Moore, Diane Crist-Moore, John Harrington, Rebecca, and Joyce Heitz. If you are ever interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry please let Diane Crist-Moore know.
 The Montgomery Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned meats and beans. Donations can be dropped off in the boxes in front of the pantry.

Some Reminders & Information



Fellowship downstairs: will be continuing fellowship in the fellowship hall for the summer.

Soup & Bread: will begin again in October 4th.

Choir: If you are interested in joining choir or performing special music please contact Bunnie Reichle. Choir will resume practicing on Monday September 14th and the choir will sing during worship service, Sunday, September 13th.

Praise Team: rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in Crist Chapel. All are welcome. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument or if you would like more information please contact Joe Weikel.

Healing Service: next healing service will be during the worship service on Sunday, August 30th.

Bulletin: to request an announcement be listed in the bulletin please contact the church secretary. frchurch@frontiernet.net or 845-778-5405.

Facebook: If you or your team or group would like to request something church related be posted to the church Facebook, please email your request to Angel Santana Jr. email angelsantanajr@gmail.com

Newsletter: deadline for articles and calendar information for the next newsletter is August 14th.

Instagram: to request something church related be posted to the church Instagram account please send your request to Jerry Hanen. jerryhanen@gmail.com

Tax Exempt: if purchasing items on behalf of the church you may be able to contact the church financial officer Susan Kennedy to obtain a tax exempt form. 845-926-2819

Men's Breakfast: They continue to meet on Saturday with around 12 in attendance. The requested donation amount is \$5.00. The Men's Breakfast group donates financial gifts to local charities, pantries, and causes.

First Friday Family Nights: The last meeting for the school year was on June 5. And they will take a break through the summer and resume the gatherings in October.

Adult Bible Study: Ariana Den Bleyker will be starting an Adult Bible Study in the Fall. The study will be on the Fruits of the Spirit, and will be on Sundays at 8:30 am and will be either every Sunday or every other Sunday beginning in October. The study will be based on the book "A deeper look at the Fruit of the Spirit" and the author is Hazel Offner. There are study guides on Amazon.

Prayer Chain Ministry: place your information on the sign up sheet in the sanctuary to join the prayer chain ministry. The online form to sign up to be on the prayer chain can be found at <https://forms.gle/G6uqZGR8VheEYpXS7> Please reach out to Angel Santana Jr. with any questions. Prayer requests can be mailed to frcwepray@gmail.com

Consistory: Consistory is on Sabbath rest for the months of July & August. The next scheduled Consistory meeting will be in September.

Communion cups are available to those at home. If interested call: 845-778-5405 or email: frchurch@frontiernet.net

Printing & Copying: Please email the church office "print" requests along with attachment at least a few days before Sunday for the request to be completed by Sunday. And for "copying" requests first email the church office to describe the copying request and then leave the hard copies that need copied in the church office internal mailbox. The turn around time for copies depends on when the request is made and what is requested.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 Property team 6:00 Praise Team	2	3	4 7:30 Men's Breakfast Independence Day
5 Communion 10:00 Worship	6	7	8 9:00 Property team 6:00 Praise Team	9	10	11 7:30 Men's Breakfast
12 Outdoor Worship 10:00 Worship	13	14	15 9:00 Property team 6:00 Praise Team	16	17	18 7:30 Men's Breakfast
19 10:00 Worship	20	21	22 9:00 Property team 6:00 Praise Team	23	24	25 7:30 Men's Breakfast
26 10:00 Worship	27 5:30 to 8:15 VBS	28 5:30 to 8:15 VBS	29 5:30 to 8:15 VBS	30 5:30 to 8:15 VBS	31 5:30 to 8:15 VBS	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30 Men's Breakfast
2 Communion 10:00 Worship	3	4	5 9:00 Property team 6:00 Praise Team	6	7 Purple Heart Day  Articles & info for newsletter due	8 7:30 Men's Breakfast
9 Outdoor Worship 10:00 Worship	10	11	12 9:00 Property team 6:00 Praise Team	13	14	15 7:30 Men's Breakfast
16 10:00 Worship	17	18	19 9:00 Property team 6:00 Praise Team	20	21	22 7:30 Men's Breakfast
23 10:00 Worship	24	25	26 9:00 Property team 6:00 Praise Team	27	28	29 7:30 Men's Breakfast
30 10:00 Worship Healing Service	31					

Around the Congregation

Church Prayer List

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Please Pray for:

Rev. Jim O'Connell, Angel Santana Sr., Rev. Ed Hawkins, People of Ukraine, People of Gaza, People of Israel, Ariana Den Bleyker, Rev. Howie Dalton, Kevin Doyle, Mary Mentz, Military personnel, Jill McCormick's Family, Conor Spencer Family, Richie Lendle, Nick Petrolo, The home-bound, Those in nursing facilities.



Deposited General

Checking

April
13,692.20

May
11,380.03

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

July 11th

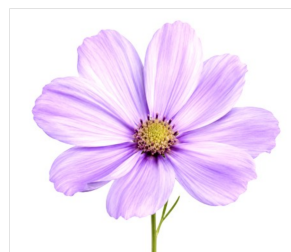
Philip & Janice Goutell

July 19th

Stephen & Jenny Kohn

August 2nd

Bill & Carol Ann Freeman



THE FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

70 Scofield Street, Walden, NY 12586
845-778-5405 • frchurch@frontiernet.net • waldenfirstreformed.org

CHURCH SUPERVISOR

Rev. Howie Dalton • 845-220-8002

ELDERS

Susan Kennedy • 845-926-2819
Joe Weikel • 845-820-2317
Bunnie Reichle • 845-222-4833
Jerry Hanen • 917-968-1535

DEACONS

Diane Crist Moore • 305-968-5627
Jan Goutell • 845-713-4839
Diane Karsten • 845-551-8821

Goodwill Envelopes:

January - Deacon Fund

February - Backpack Snack Attack

March - Operation Christmas Child

April - Hearts for Hungary

May - Discipleship

June - English as a Second Language

July - Deacons Fund

August - Backpack Snack Attack

September - OCC Shipping

October - Food Pantry

November - Operation Dalmatian

December - Hearts for Hungary

**HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY**

July



- 4 Angel Santana
- 7 Harold Bruggemann (grandson)
- 7 Leilani Estrada
- 12 Mary Crist Kohn
- 16 Helen Schoonmaker
- 31 Ava Barringer

August

- 1 Bob Schoonmaker
- 3 Sariah Estrada
- 5 Harold Bruggemann Jr.
- 5 Matthew Harrington
- 5 George Rowley
- 7 Ariana Den Bleyker
- 14 Nate Smith
- 16 Rev. Ed Hawkins
- 25 Valeria Weingartner
- 29 Edward Kennedy

Please contact the church office to let us know if we missed anyone's birthday or anniversary. Thank you. 845-778-5405

First Reformed Church
of Walden, New York

PRAYER CHAIN

Praying Together - One Call at a Time

WE CARE. WE PRAY. WE CONNECT. WE SUPPORT. WE LET EACH OTHER BEFORE THE LORD.

TO SIGN UP OR LEARN MORE, CONTACT:
Angel Santana Jr.
(845) 391-2312

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16