



# **THE GOOD NEWS!**

**Community Church of Walker  
United Church of Christ**

**P.O. Box 267**

**Hwy 371 & Tianna Drive**

**Walker, MN 56484**

**(218) 547-1093**

**commchurchucc@arvig.net**

**www.uccwalker.com**



## **Our Mission**

**To offer a welcoming church home to all,  
where friendships grow, spiritual needs are met, community concerns  
are addressed and where "God is Still Speaking..."**

# **AUGUST 2022**

# *Blessed*

BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF MERCIES  
AND GOD OF ALL COMFORT, WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR AFFLICTION, SO  
THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE IN ANY AFFLICTION, WITH  
THE COMFORT WITH WHICH WE OURSELVES ARE COMFORTED BY GOD.



**2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4**

**In-person worship is on Sundays at 10:00am.**

**Contact Pastor Michael at 218-280-1401 or  
email [mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com](mailto:mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com) if you have questions or suggestions.**

## FROM PASTOR MICHAEL



### *Being A People of Integrity*

Yes, these are the waning days of summer – already we are approaching the beginning of August. On occasion I have seen leaves turning color forewarning the observer – it is time to prepare for shorter and cooler days as we move toward the beauty and splendor of fall, while at the same time anticipating the wonder of winter.

It has been a really spectacular summer. Some sweltering days, some rain to keep things growing, and so many warm days that have allowed us to be in the out-of-doors and on the lakes. Families have gathered, friends have come together, and there have been so many opportunities to hear good music and meet new friends.

While many have enjoyed the wonders of a northern Minnesota summer (including mosquitoes and black flies – it can't all be perfect) there have been undercurrents flowing uneasily on this planet we call "earth." As the Webb telescope reveals the wonder of the whole cosmos and creation, cracks appear on our polar caps and ice is rapidly melting at unheard rates. While Minnesota has had reasonable weather, parts of Europe and the western United States are breaking records for heat, fire, and catastrophic conditions. Climate change gallops forward unabated. As we fill our gas tanks, we note the price is going down (\$4.09 per gallon as I write this), but inflation continues to challenge our budgets to the extreme. National politics in all three branches vacillate between being dysfunctional and in gridlock, or destructive to the health of our democracy – with occasional glimmers of some decent work completed by our legislators. As a nation we continue to experience gun violence daily, racial inequities, an expanding gap between wealth and poverty . . . and we do not know where all this ends or what one can do to reduce the tensions and inequities. How do we find the path forward where we are able to walk together as we seek solutions to so many problems that face us . . . every day!

What to do? I would challenge us to always be a people of continuing and expanding faith. Have faith in one who does not walk away from us. Have faith in the one who has set forth a vision to love always, forgive abundantly, and always act in compassionate ways leading to justice for all who dwell in God's creation. Yes, the problems seem unsurmountable – and many will not be solved in one, or two, or three election cycles. God has been with God's creation in times of abundance and scarcity, prosperity and poverty, freedom and oppression, hope, and despair. Over and over the people Israel moved from being a landed people to being a people scattered in exile – and finally the diaspora. Know that as we take on the long view for the generations come, God walks with us and waits for us at the end of the road. Our kind words, our empathetic actions, our courageous decisions become the building blocks and mortar of a foundation building the KIN-dom of the Divine. Because of the presence of Creator, the wisdom of Christ, and the creativity of Spirit – we will be effective, making an enormous difference. Don't give up!

While you follow in the ways of faith, pause – smell, hear, and see all the wonders of God's creation. Love yourself as you love creation and your neighbor. As Parker Palmer has written, "Self-care is never a selfish act—it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer to others." May it be so!

In the ways of Creator, Christ, and Spirit – Pastor Michael

These minutes are **PENDING APPROVAL** at the next Council Meeting.

## **COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER COUNCIL MINUTES**

**July 19, 2022**

Present: Gay Jacobson (moderator), Bonnie Bailey (vice moderator), Esther Covert (clerk), Joanne Detweiler (financial secretary), Deb Ferrell (treasurer), Sue Standeven (historian), Doris Johnson (benevolence board), Ruth Niederman (spiritual life board), Gary Jacobson (board of trustees), Wendy Paul (memorials board), Joanna Aamodt (music board), Linda Barber (minister church relations board), Marge Koch (Christian Ed board), Michael Small (pastor)

Absent: Jo Horak

Moderator Gay Jacobson called the meeting to order.

Pastor Small opened the meeting with a prayer.

As our new moderator, Gay provided us with a brief but information-rich introduction to herself. Suffice to say, she has had an interesting life and is more than qualified to be our moderator and lead our congregation now and into the future.

Gay outlined three norms she wishes to establish as moderator – all are intended to promote an efficient and smooth execution of the council meetings.

1. Timeliness: meetings will start on time at 7 pm and end on time at 8 pm.
2. No side conversations while someone is talking and has the floor. This is especially important for those attending virtually by Zoom; but also important to show respect for anyone who is speaking.
3. Minutes should be to Pastor Small by noon on Thursday following the council meeting.

**Minutes from the June 21, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Deb moved and Doris seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

The treasurer's written report was reviewed.

The following boards provided a verbal report:

Spiritual Life: Ruth is the chair. Could use more members. Deb said she would help anytime, in particular with serving communion. We will continue to use the individually packaged communion cups/wafer until they are all used up, then the plan is to return to the regular serving of communion.

Music Board: Joanna and Linda will be co-chairs. Ken Barber held a workshop/training on the new outdoor sound system. A notebook has been created with instructions and information. Linda and Joanna have gone through the training. Anyone else interested in learning how to set up and use this sound equipment can contact Ken. An outdoor service will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Joann Pels will be providing special music on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Board of Trustees: Gary Jacobson is the chair. He reported as follows.

1. New possibility to hang bell will be pursued with a different metal fabricator (Klave) in Walker.
2. Tim has spoken with Brian Gray regarding some deterioration on one of the stone support structures. Brian recommended talking to a contractor and getting a concrete

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

rim poured around it. He feels it is cosmetic at this point and not structural.

3. Tim and Ryan will assess the open vent outside the boiler room.

4. The sign refurbishing is underway. New shingles are being put on. The new sign insert is being laid out at Amity graphics.

5. Re-staining of the church. A list of possible businesses were generated by the members. They will be contacted and asked to consider submitting a bid.

6. We need a better overview of our finances and budget before proceeding with any major projects. That will be one of the next considerations for the BOT.

7. Welcome new board member Ryan Pels.

Women's Fellowship: Next Women's Fellowship Meeting will be Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Quilts of Love Project will resume on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, and again on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hope to be joined by the quilters of Hope Lutheran and St. Agnes, as we work to complete our 22 quilts. All who wish to participate are WELCOME as we show others that we care about them. Beth Alderson is our Team Leader.

**Esther moved and Bonnie seconded to accept all reports as presented and/or submitted. Motion carried.**

#### Pastor's Update

- Our new secretary is Sabbastian Wilson-Webb. Details of his job duties (including picking up the mail from our PO box and sorting it) are still being worked out. He will keep office hours on Thursdays. Pastor will be working with Sabbastian on our Website and on a Facebook page for our church.

- The next book study will be *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. It will start after Labor Day. All members will receive a Zoom invite.

- Pastor is looking forward to meeting with the boards as we start our new fiscal year.

- He will be gone August 28<sup>th</sup>, Spiritual Life will arrange for pulpit supply.

- Pastor noted that one of the issues for our church is "identity." He is looking forward to working with the council on this during the coming year.

- Pastor noted that this has been a most challenging month – both in terms of personal and family health and the needs of our congregation. He is grateful for the support and caring shown by our congregation for him and his family personally.

#### Other notes and announcements

The family of Meryle O'Conner has invited the congregation to a celebration for Merle's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday (which is on July 29<sup>th</sup>). The party/open house will be at 6:30 pm on July 30<sup>th</sup> at Merle's home. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Nancy Jacobson has turned 92 and is doing well at May Creek.

August 31<sup>st</sup> is a Fifth Sunday.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>.

Pastor closed the meeting in prayer.

**Deb moved. Joanne seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:56. (Way to go Gay! Thank you for a nicely run meeting.)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Esther Covert, Clerk



## WORSHIP MINISTRY ~ AUGUST

### GREETERS

August 7 Doris Johnson  
August 14 JoAnn Rand  
August 21 Jo Pels  
August 28 Sue Standeven

### LITURGISTS

August 7 Bev Jorland  
August 14 Sonja Huber  
August 21 Deb Farrell  
August 28 Gay Jacobson

### AUDIO

Esther Covert

### VIDEO

Gary Jacobson & Aurora Diehl

### MUSIC

Leisa Bragg



### CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

### ALTAR & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Sue Standeven

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Let us pray together for:*

- \* COVID-19 victims, their families, and all the men and women fighting this virus.
- \* All the natural disaster victims worldwide.
- \* The victims and their families lost to acts of violence.
- \* Peace in Ukraine and Middle East .
- \* The men and women in the Armed Forces and National Guard who have been called to duty.

We pray for the health of all our members, friends, and loved-ones. Special prayers go out to: Gene, Kathy, Shaleen, Drew, Lorraine, Joanne and her son Andrew, Alison.

## Gazebo Concert Series

The Gazebo Concert Series will be held again this summer from June 19 - August 28 (Sunday Nights at 7pm for about an hour) in the community Church of Christ's gazebo in Walker, Mn. Because risk of Covid-19 spreading is low in outdoor activities, we believe that with safety measures in place, risk of disease spread would be very low. To do this safely we ask that you help minimize health risks by following the guidelines for Covid-19. Realize we cannot guarantee that there will be no spread of COVID-19.

Come out, bring a lawn chair, and enjoy an evening of great music under the pines. Concerts will be in the church (following the Covid protocol at the time of the concert) if weather is bad.  
There will be a free will offering for the musicians.

### THIS SUMMER'S LINE UP!



#### August 7 - Larry Kimball and Carole Robinson

Larry Kimball is performing this year with Carole Robinson of rural LaPorte. Larry will play acoustic guitar and sing folk songs, as usual. Carole will play acoustic guitar and sing much better, but there is nothing usual about her performance! Her breakout hit "Grandma" has garnered over 300,000 hits on social media! This after picking up the guitar less than 2 years ago! Carole wowed the crowds on her Texas Snowbird Tour this past winter and will bring that same magic to the Gazebo!



#### August 14 - Murray and Julie Bright with Heather Cruse

Murray and Julie Bright, known locally as "On the Brightside", continue to perform in Walker and surrounding communities, focusing on music from a by-gone era (Ellington, Sinatra, and the like). Murray, native to Walker, is a retired attorney and has a bachelor's degree in vocal music. Julie, a native of Denver, holds a masters degree in music education and recently retired from 38 years as a music educator. Heather, also a native to Walker, is a very highly regarded vocalist in the Walker and surrounding area. Heather and the Brights are commonly part of the music offerings at Hope Lutheran Church and will be performing at various venues this summer.



#### August 21 - Doyle Turner and Sarah Morris

Doyle Turner is a Northern MN singer/songwriter who mixes elements of folk, rock, and americana. Growing up in Naytahwaush, MN, he is a proud Anishinaabe person and a member of the White Earth Nation. Firmly rooted in Cash and Kristofferson, Doyle's songs feature lyrics that find you where you are with a warm voice that guides you back home. He has produced or performed on over nine recordings and collaborates with artists state-wide. His latest single "Star Gazing" was released in March. He is working on a new album for release Sept. 17th, 2022. Check out [www.doyleturner.com](http://www.doyleturner.com).



Sarah Morris - 2018 Kerrville New Folk winner: twice-named Midwest Country Music Organization's Songwriter of the year, Sarah Morris' endearingly honest, expertly penned songs deliberately miss the forest for the trees. Armed with a rainy-day ache in her sunlit voice, she weaves a winding path of masterful storytelling and timeless Americana melody that invites audiences to join her in. Sarah has shared stages with greats like JD Souther, earned international airplay, and reached notable positions on the Americana Music Association and Euro Americana charts. Sarah released her fifth album, *All Mine*, in late February, 2020.



#### August 28 - Caleigh (Lenore, Dee and April)

Caleigh (Kay-lee) is a Minnesota band whose sound is earthy and eclectic. The three female musicians present a fusion of world folk, Celtic, Bluegrass, old-time and original compositions. Caleigh has shared their 26-year musical journey with audiences throughout Minnesota and fans worldwide via the Internet.

## AUGUST DATES TO CELEBRATE



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 JoAnn Rand
- 4 Amanda McAllister
- 5 Ken Barber
- 6 Casey Fisher
- 12 Merlin Taylor
- 14 Esther Covert
- 15 Doris Splichal  
Sonja Huber
- 16 Ruby Haugen
- 17 Larry Wolfe
- 18 Emilie Koch
- 22 Alison Koch

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Greg and Juliane Proper
- 4 Larry and Melanie Wolfe
- 6 Ken and Linda Barber
- 7 Merlin and Lois Taylor
- 9 Esther Covert and Bonnie Bailey
- 23 Earl and Ruth Niedermann



## *Recycled Cards*

**Cards For All Occasions Are For  
Sale In The Fellowship Hall**



## Prayer Chain

Are you aware that there is an active Prayer Chain at Community Church of Walker UCC. It is done primarily via email, though one may choose to be called.

Here is how the Prayer Chain works. If you want a "Prayer Chain" sent out please call or write to Pastor Michael, (218.280.1401 or [mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com](mailto:mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com)) If the prayers are for an individual or family, before passing information onto Pastor Michael, verify with the individual or family that we have their permission to share the prayer concern. When information is sent to Pastor, it will be sent out on email, and those wishing to be called will be called.

If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, please call/write Pastor Michael or leave a message on the church phone, 218.547.1093.

# *The Good News!*

is a monthly newsletter publication of the  
**Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ**  
Located at the corner of Highway 371 & Tianna Drive  
Walker, MN 56484

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 267  
Walker, MN 56484

**Phone:** (218) 547-1093 **Email:** commchurchucc@arvig.net  
**Website:** www.uccwalker.com

## **Pastor Michael Small**

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**Phone:** (218) 280-1401 **Email:** mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com

**Email:** commchurchucc@arvig.net **Phone:** 218-547-1093



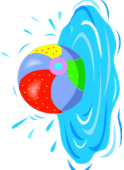


**Secretary:** Sabbastian Wilson-Webb  
**Office Hours:** 9:00am-2:00pm Thursday  
**Remote Hours:** 9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday  
**Email:** commchurchucc@arvig.net  
**Phone:** 218-547-1093 (leave a message)

**Church Moderator:** Gay Jacobson  
**Vice-Moderator:** Bonnie Bailey  
**Clerk:** Esther Covert  
**Treasurer:** Deb Farrell  
**Financial Secretary:** Joanne Detwiler  
**Historian:** Sue Standeven  
**Board of Trustees Chair:** Esther Covert  
**Board of Benevolence Chair:** Doris Johnson  
**Board of Christian Education Chair:** TBA  
**Board of Memorials Chair:** Wendy Paul  
**Board of Music Chair:** Linda Barber  
**Board of Spiritual Life Chair:** Marge Koch  
**Women's Fellowship President:** Jo Horak  
**Minister/Church Relations Board Members:**  
Deb Farrell, Bev Jorland, Doris Johnson, Bonnie Bailey  
**Choir Director:** Joanna Aamodt  
**Custodian:** TBA

*Articles for the September 2022 edition of The Good News! newsletter  
need to be emailed by 11:00AM Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022*



# AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 7:00pm Gazebo Concert: Larry Kimball and Carole Robinson	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:00pm Quilts of Love	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 7:00pm Gazebo Concert: Murray and Julie Bright with Heather Cruse	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11:00am Deadline for adding to Council Agenda	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 7:00pm Gazebo Concert: Doyle Turner and Sarah Morris	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline 1:00pm Quilts of Love 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 7:00pm Gazebo Concert: Caleigh	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			



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Return Service Requested



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