



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...”**

SEPTEMBER 2022



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

**Contact Pastor Michael at 218-280-1401 or
email mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com if you have questions or suggestions.**

FROM PASTOR MICHAEL



A Measuring Stick

One of the traditions of the Annual Mule Lake Association meeting is that an elderly resident who lives near the narrows on Mule Lake does a yearly report. He is getting frail. This year he had to have help getting to the front for his presentation. In his hand was a long, 48" white tube with markings on it. Mule Lake has no inlet or outlet. The lake relies on natural springs and annual rain fall. He tells us the lake level over the years has had a 44" + variance. All who were gathered wait and listen for the yearly update. It was reported that Mule Lake was at a normal to high level for lake level. We could all breathe a sense of relief. We're okay, not too high, not too low – just about right.

I wish I could carry with me a measuring stick to measure the health of our personhood, communities, states, nation, and world. Many have an annual physical or wellness check-up to evaluate one's health. There are gauges in our cars and many other electronic alarms to measure the health and well-being of our many devices. Thermostats measure temperatures inside and out. I have a "Six-Lead Kardia" device that does a 30-second EKG of my heart and its rhythms.

As Great Britain faced one its greatest challenges Winston Churchill on June 16, 1941 used the well-known phrase "United we stand. Divided we fall!" in a broadcast from London to the US on receiving an Honorary Degree from the University of Rochester.

"But Jesus . . . said to them, 'Any realm divided against itself will be ruined, and any town or household divided against itself cannot stand.'" (Matthew 12:25) In his farewell discourse in the Gospel of John, Jesus prays, "20 I don't pray for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 *that all may be one, as you, Abba, are in me and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.*" (John 17:20-21)

The questions are, "What is true? What are the facts?" Perhaps a more inciteful question is "What are the outcomes of our actions and words?" I do have a subjective measuring stick of sorts.

- Do my words build up . . . or do they tear down?
- Are my words and actions loving and kind . . . or are they spiteful and filled with venomous hatred?
- Does the church, school, community, or institution work tirelessly for the inclusion of as many as possible . . . or do they put up roadblocks becoming exclusive to the few, or the chosen?
- Do I leave a conversation, gathering, meeting, or even worship service hopeful, energized, and ready for the next day . . . or do I leave exhausted with feelings of despair and sadness – saying "I am never going to do that again?"
- Are we singing in harmony "Give peace a chance . . . We shall overcome" . . . or singing songs filled with hate, anger, and revenge?
- Is the taste of the fruit sweet, the harvest, and pleasing – life-giving. . . or sour and noxious – death-dealing?

Frankly, both you and me, **WE KNOW THE TRUTH!** We can easily identify those who lead with hope, possibility, and love . . . and we can identify those who lead with hatred and anger. It's not hard to know or experience.

May we always be about building up the kin-dom of the Holy One(s), the realms of love, kindness, fairness, forgiveness, and inclusion. May CCOWUCC always be that place where truth is spoken with compassion and honestly to one another and to the communities we live in. Those who speak out of any kind of hate, they are in the minority though their voices are sometimes the loudest. Let us embrace even those with words in love.

"Yes, they will know we are Christians **BY OUR LOVE!**" *In Love, Pastor Michael*

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

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER COUNCIL MINUTES

Church Council Meeting – August 16, 2022

Members Present: Joanna Aamodt, Bonnie Bailey, Esther Covert, Deb Ferrell, Joanne Detweiler, Gay Jacobson, Doris Johnson, Gary Jacobson, Chris Kolp, Ruth Niederman, Sue Standeven, Pastor Michael Small

Moderator Gay Jacobson called the meeting to order.

Pastor Small opened with a prayer.

July 19, 2022 minutes were reviewed. One correction was noted. Linda Barber is a member and co-chair of the Music Board and not the Minister Church Relations Board.

It was moved by Ruth and Seconded by Doris to approve the minutes with the one noted correction. Motion carried.

The following written reports were reviewed: The Treasurer's Report, The Financial Secretary's Report and the Board of Trustees.

It was moved by Deb and seconded by Ruth to accept the written reports. Motion carried.

The following oral board reports were presented:

Women's Fellowship: The Quilts of Love group will meet Tuesday, August 23 at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a meeting of Women's Fellowship on August 30 at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Music Board: There are two more Gazebo Concerts – August 21 and 28. The Choir has sung twice. A question was brought to the Council – in the event that a group that performs at the Gazebo Concert Series chooses not keep any or all of the donations they received, *Where Should those Funds be Credited or Re-directed?*

It was moved by Deb that any funds donated back to the church, without designation or specification by the Concert performers, should be credited to the Music Board's Budget. Seconded by Joanne. Motion Carried.

Benevolence Board: A collection for Neighbors-in-Need will be held on October 2nd. An announcement and insert in the Bulletin will be arranged with Sabbastian.

Memorials Board:

- A memorial plaque has been obtained and will be hung by the AED in memory of Chick Knight and Bill Koch.
- A generous gift from the estate of Barbara L. Coffman (Steve Bilben's sister) was received. She passed away on April 12, 2022. She was born in Walker, August 6, 1944, and was baptized in the Community Church of Walker, as were three older and one younger siblings. Her father, Cliff, was born in Walker and was married in the same church where he was an active member until his passing 83 years later. This donation from Barb's estate can be used as the church council and trustees determine.
- A third gift from the Estate of Dick and Dorothy Pride has been received. It was noted that this was

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

the final disbursement from their estate and like the previous two, its use is unrestricted.

- Both of these recent gifts will be deposited in the church's savings account.

Trustees Report

•Gary Jacobson gave the trustees report focusing on staining our church. The Trustees met with (via zoom) with Pat Jones who is a paint/stain contractor. He gave a bid for the entire church, scraping and painting the window trim and fascia, staining the entire church a lighter color, and highlighting the sculpture. Vic Fields also provided a bid for the south and ½ east side just to stain. Pat Jones bid for everything was \$24,155 and Vic Field's bid was \$10,550 for those specific sections. There was a great deal of discussion and the board agreed that the entire building should be done at one time. The trustees are going to ask Vic for an additional bid for the entire church; however, it needs to be done soon so the project can be completed. There were board member concerns about whether the color could actually be lightened and the sculpture highlighted.

Spiritual Life:

- On August 6th Earl Niederman held a training for newer members and other interested parties on the tasks and duties of the Spiritual Life Board.
- Spiritual Life has also asked for help with storage issues including items that keep showing up in the flower room but have nothing to do with Spiritual Life and items being stored in the hall behind the stone wall which then crowds their access to the flower room. It was noted that the music room is also full and cannot accommodate its own storage needs.
- Outdoor services will be held August 21 and September 18 (weather permitting).
- Pastor Small will be gone on Sunday August 28 and Sue Grage will provide Pulpit Supply.
- Joanne Pels has been appointed to the Spiritual Life Board. Welcome Joanne!

Deb moved to accept the Oral Board Reports. Sue seconded. Motion Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Bonnie asked if a box could be put in the narthex to collect donations for the Wolfe Center and the Homeless Day Center in Bemidji. It was approved by consensus.

Gay addressed the new initiative by the Walker Area Food Shelf. In addition to growing needs (60+ households weekly and 275 children just the first two weeks of August), the Second Harvest Food Bank is experiencing shortages and increasing costs. The initiative is to ask each church to solicit donations for specific needs the Food Bank is unable to meet. The items assigned to our church will be disseminated by a handout. Our items are: canned vegetables, cream soups, chicken noodle soup and laundry detergent.

Pastor Michael noted that he is now doing an **UPDATE on Mondays**. This is sent to everyone for whom he has an email address.

Next meeting is September 20, 2022.

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Deb moved and Joanne seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

WORSHIP MINISTRY ~ SEPTEMBER

GREETERS

September 4 Kathi & Jack Hopen
 September 11 Earl & Ruth
 Niedermann
 September 18 Marge Koch
 September 25 Ken & Sonja Huber

LITURGISTS

September 4 Gay Jacobson
 September 11 Sonja Huber
 September 18 Bev Jorland
 September 25 Deb Farrell

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Gary Jacobson & Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTAR &

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Beth Alderson

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.

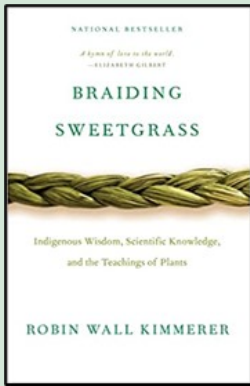
BOOK CONVERSATION

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants

By Robin Wall Kimmerer

**will begin on Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00 pm.
This book conversation will be done hybrid – Zoom and at the church.**

This book may be purchased on Amazon.com.
Paperback is at \$14.22, Kindle is at \$9.99.



Beginning Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00 pm you are invited to participate in a Virtual/In-Person conversation about *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise” (Elizabeth Gilbert).

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.

Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88042978090?pwd=cWtRejKxcCtEcndxVFBZVE80SzBCdz09> to participate virtually. Meeting ID: 880 4297 8090. Passcode: 684925



Alert! Neighbors In Need Offering October 2

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 2, supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

BEHOLD! With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need

Please give generously.



More information to come in October 2022 newsletter!

SEPTEMBER DATES TO CELEBRATE

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jenny (Puffer) Cyr
- 5 Benjamin Koch
- 10 Rosanna Walker
- 11 Vera Demars
- 14 Phyllis Hallene
- 16 Gay Jacobson
- 17 Lexie Barber
- 18 Barb Brownlow
- 19 Don Splichal
- 21 Dick Brownlow
- 22 Kaitlin Farrell
- David Hamilton
- 27 Beth Alderson
- 28 Bob Maroney
- 30 Bob Winegar



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rick and Jeri Runquist
- 28 Jeff and Cheryl McAllister
- 30 Randy and Melinda Bentley



WATCH FOR ***“Monday Morning CCOWUCC Update”***

Pastor Michael on Monday mornings is sending out (via email) and posting on the webpage a CCOWUCC Update. In the update will be some reflections and information concerning upcoming events – immediate and some long term. If you have items you want to include, please send that information to commchurchucc@gmail.com. Looking forward to sharing!

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) 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.

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Pastor Michael Small


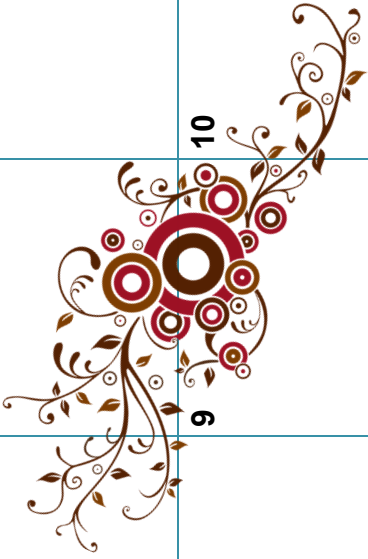
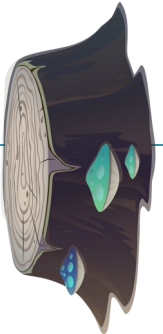
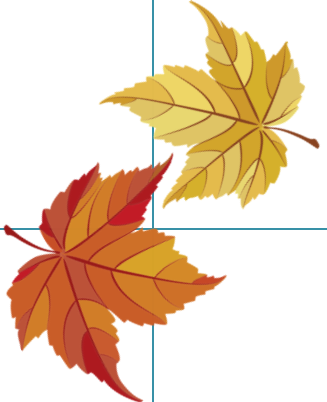
Mailing address: P.O. Box 38, Hackensack, MN 56452
Phone: (218) 280-1401 **Email:** mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com

Secretary: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb
Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday & Thursday
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 October 2022 edition of The Good News! newsletter
need to be emailed by 11:00AM Thursday, September 22nd, 2022**

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	5 Labor Day 	6 1:00pm Quilts of Love	7	8	9 	10
11 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	12	13	14 11:00am Deadline for adding to Council Agenda	15	16	17
18 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	19	20 7:00pm Council Meeting	21	22 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	23	24
25 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	26	27 	28	29	30 	



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Return Service Requested



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