



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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“No matter who you are, or where you are, you are welcome here!”

**CCOWUCC Update and News For The Week of:
November 21 2022**

Members and Friends,



WORD FOR THE DAY 11/14/2022

- From grateful.org

*Choosing to have joy is not naively thinking everything will be easy.
It is courageously believing that there is still hope, even when
things get hard.*

— **MORGAN HARPER NICHOLS**

DAILY QUESTION

From whom have I received extraordinary gifts?

1. The **November 20th** worship service may be viewed at www.uccwalker.com. Yesterday we were not able to live stream – but the recording has been uploaded to our website. And along the way “odd and funny” things happen. It was only after the sermon that I became aware of the candles not being lit – reminding us that even when our routines are disrupted – life goes on. We listened to the very talented Julie and Murray Bright doing a wonderful rendition of “*In this Very Room*”. On this *Reign of Christ* Sunday, we were challenged by Jeremiah to be the shepherds of Justice and Righteousness even to the sheep who may bite.
2. **Prayers for** the LGBTQ+ community as they were tragically reminded that they are not always safe after the wounding of many and the death of five due to epidemic gun violence. Prayers for those on this day who will struggle in this time of thanksgiving – may they too know healing, wholeness, radical hospitality, and the dawn of a new day. And may we make it so.

As we move into this week of Thanksgiving – may we express our gratitude to the fullest – being thankful for friends, family, faith communities and all the challenges we may face. May we also recommit ourselves to the works of justice and righteousness for all.

May we be about love and forgiveness, and the presence of grace, courage, wisdom, and a spirit of kindness.

Prayers for Jo and Bob, for Andrew, for Bev L., for Alison, for Darlene, for Meryle.

3. Birthdays

- 11/21 – Matthew Paul, Karen Pooley

4. **Anniversaries**
 - 11/19 – Matt and Wendy Paul
5. **Hanging of the Greens will take place the week of November 28th. Time and date to be announced.**
6. **(Note – we will not meet until 11/30) Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants** A study guide is available at <https://www.wcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Big-Read-Study-Guide-2021.pdf>. The section “*Burning Sweetgrass*” will be covered.

Beginning November 30th, we will only MEET VIRTUALLY. You are invited to participate in a conversation about ***Braiding Sweetgrass at 6:30 pm.*** To join you may join Zoom Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88356090909?pwd=NUhQd0owNUxSR1R3ZEtlRFpkYmhQdz09> Meeting ID: 883 5609 0909 Passcode: 113919

7. **All readings for Sunday November 27th 2022 the first Sunday of Advent:**
 - Isaiah 2:1–5
 - Psalm 122
 - Romans 13:11–14
 - **Matthew 24:36–44**
8. **November 27th is the first Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday of Year A. The focus text from the gospel of Matthew speaks to *not knowing the time, the day, the hour of the coming of the promised one. Our task is to “be prepared”!***

Focus Reading: Matthew 24:36–44

³⁶ “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God.

³⁷ “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. ³⁸ In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. ³⁹ They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. ⁴⁰ Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming.

⁴³ “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

9. **Questions to ponder concerning Matthew 24:36–44**
 - Are you waiting on God to show up?
 - How do you anticipate the fulfillment of the realm of God?
 - What do you notice in the Body of Christ? In the world?
 - What do you hope for the realm?
 - How do you participate in the realization of those hopes?

10. Information for bulletin needs to be at the church by Tuesday morning
commchurchucc@arvig.net.

11. **Newsletter items to the church by Tuesday (11/22/22) morning. Send to commchurchucc@arvig.net. Thanks!**

12. **A Reminder!!!** – current bulletins, Churchly Happenings, and **Good News**, our monthly newsletter, and the **Weekly Update** may be found on the church website –
www.uccwalker.com

13. "UCC Advent Devotional – What's Left of the Night?"



The first Sunday of Advent will be November 27, 2022. You are invited to use the UCC Advent Devotional 2022.

"An attentive sentinel of the night can see that darkness harbors much more life and renewal than many presume. Certain plants and animals only come to life during the nocturnal hours. Seeds of insight are planted when daylight disappears. Hope blossoms when the morning star is not seen."

"All of us who yearn for brighter days could benefit from more appreciation of how life is sustained, fortified, and renewed in the dark."

Once again in 2022, the Stillspeaking Writers Group and contributors offer a daily devotional to guide us through the days of Advent and Christmastide, to the celebration of Epiphany.

Please note that 20 hard copies (one per family) have been ordered for CCOWUCC families. You also may order a *.PDF copy for \$3.00 by going to:
<https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/collections/resources-of-the-stillspeaking-writers-group/products/whats-left-of-the-night-2022-advent-christmastide-devotional>.

14. Addresses – You are invited to be in touch.

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Prayers and Blessings – Pastor Michael