



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...”**

JANUARY 2023



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



2023 – New Beginnings

It was 1999 when a parishioner approached me and said, “I guess I won’t be able to die!” Quizzically, I asked, “What makes you say that?” She said, “When my husband died years ago, we also put on the headstone my name, birthdate, and then for the date of death it read ‘19__’ to be filled after my death.” Obviously, she would not pass until we were well into the 2000’s, therefore she could not die. Of course, we laughed, and celebrated her long and healthy life.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the “Year of our Lord 2023”! Will this be a year of new beginnings? Will this be the year when we finally turn the proverbial corner? Will this be the year when we experience the end of our warring ways? Will this be the year when we are really kinder, gentler, more loving, and more forgiving? Can we be intentional about making this a year of many new beginnings? Or, will we just fall back on old patterns, and old ways – stuck because those ways that seem to be carved into a headstone that speaks about past and . . . death.

I am optimistic, I know that I, that we, we together we can do better. Just this past month I was looking at the stunning images of the Webb telescope. New and exciting discoveries are being made daily. Only last month scientists had an amazing breakthrough. *“At 1 a.m. on 5 December, researchers at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) in California finally did it, focusing 2.05 megajoules of laser light onto a tiny capsule of fusion fuel and sparking an explosion that produced 3.15 MJ of energy—the equivalent of about three sticks of dynamite.”¹* The implications are astounding, we are on the verge of creating truly clean energy. And I sense a spirit in the generations to come of creativity, brilliance, and the will to be about the changes needed to make earth a place of health and equity for all. Yes, I think the arc of the moral universe is bending toward equity, health, mercy, and justice for all. Let us all lean into that moral arc!

Of the United Church of Christ, the foundational principles are, in part, are “That they may all be one”, “Never place a period where God has placed a comma”, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey – you are welcome here”, the three loves of the UCC “Love of Neighbor, Children, and Creation”, and that we are “United in Christ’s love, we seek justice for all – A Just World for ALL!” It really is about radical welcome and hospitality seen through the lens of unconditional love and extravagant forgiveness FOR ALL! (including ourselves).

The values and beliefs of those participating in the UCC and the many other communities of faith give me great confidence and optimism for the future. With the daily scientific breakthroughs of our time, combined with all of our communities of faith (both those who are ancient long-standing and those who are emerging), combined with the mysterious presence of the divine, combined with the dreams and visions of our elders and our youth, loved ones and strangers, indigenous and immigrant – we have the tools to navigate into the stormy waters of all the challenges we face – and come to the other side – a future with promise for all.

2023 – it is a time for new beginnings – let us make it so with a spirit of gratitude and joy!

In the ways and spirit of Christ, Pastor Michael

¹ <https://www.science.org/content/article/historic-explosion-long-sought-fusion-breakthrough>

WORSHIP MINISTRY ~ JANUARY

GREETERS

January 1 Sue Standeven
January 8 JoAnn Rand
January 15 Earle & Ruth Niedermann
January 22 Steve Bilben
January 29 Chris Kolp

LITURGISTS

January 1 Gay Jacobson
January 8 Bev Jorland
January 15 Deb Farrell
January 22 Chris Kolp
January 29 Gay Jacobson

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Gary Jacobson & Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTAR & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Joanne Pels



Recycled Cards

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



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The January meeting take place on January 17th at 7:00 pm over Zoom.

Thank You!

I am thankful for the members and friends of Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ.

You are a people of generosity and hospitality. Not only do you generously support the church, but you also support me and my family.

I am reminded of this during the season of Christmas. Thanks for all your gifts.

Pastor Michael



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.

St. Mark's WELS to Worship at CCOWUCC

The Church Council agreed at its December meeting to welcome St. Mark's WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) to use our worship space on the second Monday of each month – 6:30-8:30 pm, beginning January 8th. Community Church of Walker UCC will become a “Preaching/Mission Station for St. Mark's of Bemidji. The worship service will be led by Pastor Ben Zemzow for about five families who reside in the Walker area. While worshipping Pastor Michael or another will be in the building for questions and guidance.

We seek to be a place of hospitality and this action lives out the “New Beginnings” written about in Pastor Michael article. Yes, we are all united in Christ – even with different beliefs. May we always be a place of welcome as we live out the ways and actions of Christ.

**These minutes are pending approval at the next Council Meeting.*

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER COUNCIL MINUTES

Due to the “Winter Storm of a Generation”, this space will be filled at a later date.

While we cannot yet accommodate remote updates of printed newsletters, please check back next week on our website at <https://uccwalker.com/> for a digital update of *The Good News!*



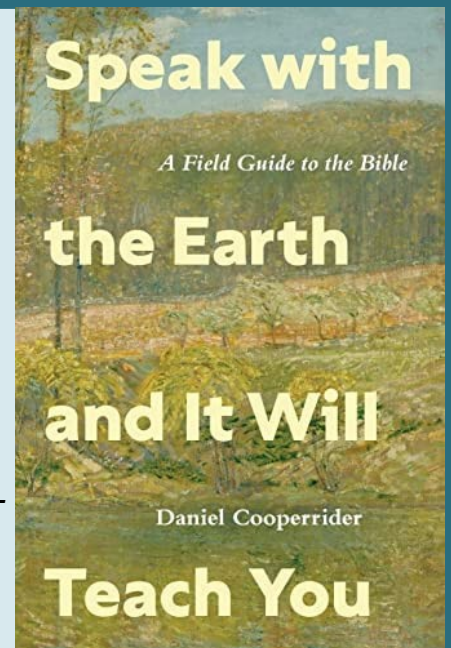
Book Conversation to Begin

Speak with the Earth and it Will Teach You by Daniel Cooperrider

A Zoom invitation will be sent out for book conversation set to begin at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 11th. This will be a weekly meeting. Potential reads are *Speak with the Earth and it Will Teach You* by Daniel Cooperrider – a UCC pastor residing outside of Madison WI. Of this book it is written – “I don’t think it is enough appreciated how much an outdoor book the Bible is,” wrote Wendell Berry, and author Daniel Cooperrider illustrates his point with beautiful narrative-like a stroll through the woods.

Speak with the Earth analyzes the Bible’s treatment of nature and intersperses this analysis with the author’s own reflections on experiences in nature. Organized in sections touching on the four elements, the book engages with the multifaceted relationship between the Bible and nature through various media, including art, theology, the natural sciences, history, and lived experience. A timely work on the gift of the Earth that makes a strong case for environmental conservation as a cornerstone of religious life.

This book is published by the UCC’s Pilgrim Press and is available (December 21st) through Amazon. The Kindle version is \$11.81 and the paperback is \$24.95.



Other suggestions are *Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization* by Neil deGrasse Tyson, or *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle* by Jon Meacham.



Women's Fellowship

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes to all in 2023! It has been a winter to remember so far - both beautiful snow scenes and scary snowy roads. Prayers for all travelers are in our hearts.!

Women's Fellowship has made December donations to our six charities:

1. Boys and Girls Club,
2. Walker Area Food Shelf,
3. Faith In Action,
4. St. Joseph Hospice,
5. Family Safety Network,
6. and the new ARRC Emergency Shelter.

We also give financial donations to church staff and support personnel to acknowledge their work. Most funds came from the Good Works Sale in August 2022.

Thanks again to all who participated in this amazing church project. You made a difference in our world!

Upcoming Events

Removal Of The Greens

January 5th, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM.

Hot soup & fixings served. STS plans to assist—weather permitting.

Quilts of Love

January 10th & 24th, 1:00 PM

We hope to wrap up our project for the Emergency Shelter.
You do not need to be a quilter to attend. Good work & fun!

Women's Fellowship

January 17th, 1:00 PM

Spring plans to discuss.
All welcome to join us for bubbly fun & treats.

Blessings and Joys to all in 2023!

The Women's Fellowship Team.

JANUARY DATES TO CELEBRATE

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gloria Bixley
- 10 Jim Vogt
- 16 Sara (Artley) Boyer
- 21 Ann Winegar
- 25 Joanne Pels
- 31 Leisa Bragg

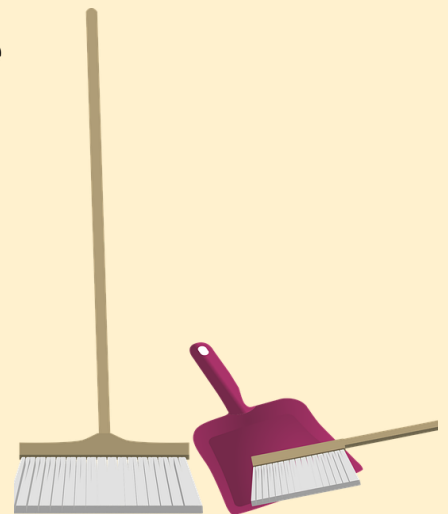


CHURCH TO BE CLOSED FOR CLEANING

The Church Council has contracted with Chem-Dry of the Northwoods to clean both the downstairs and upstairs of the church on Monday, January 16th.

In order for carpets to dry out the church ***will be closed to ALL ACTIVITY from Monday January 16th through Wednesday January 19th.***

This deep cleaning is long overdue. Also, all of the pew pads will be cleaned. For questions please contact Gay Jacobson, Moderator.



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is a monthly newsletter publication of the
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Pastor Michael Small


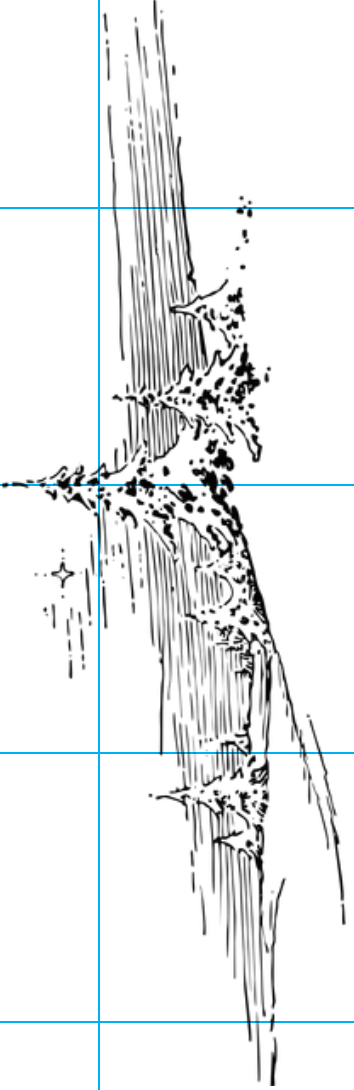
Mailing address: P.O. Box 38, Hackensack, MN 56452
Phone: (218) 280-1401 **Email:** mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com

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: Gary Jacobson
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: Ruth Neidermann
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 February 2023 edition of The Good News! newsletter
need to be emailed by 11:00AM Tuesday, January 19th, 2023*

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	2	3	4	5 10:00am-3:00pm Removal of the Greens	6	7
8 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	9 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	10 1:00pm Quilts of Love??	11 All Day Blood Drive 11:00am Deadline for Add- ing to Council Agenda 7:00-8:00pm Book Conver- sation on Zoom	12	13	14
15 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service Board of Trustees Meeting after the service	16 Church Closed for Cleaning	17 Church Closed for Cleaning 1:00pm Women's Fellow- ship (Ask for location) 7:00pm Council Meeting over Zoom	18 Church Closed for Cleaning 7:00-8:00pm Book Conver- sation on Zoom	19 Church Closed for Cleaning 11:00am Newsletter Sub- mission Deadline	20	21
22 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	23	24 1:00pm Quilts of Love??	25 7:00-8:00pm Book Conver- sation on Zoom	26	27	28
29 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	30 	31 				



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Return Service Requested



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