



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..."

MAY 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



Seasons

By the time you read this, hopefully all the snow will be gone, the trees will begin budding and blossoming, the ice on the lakes will be breaking up allowing us to see loons sitting on the waves and we will be able to float upon the lakes. These are the seasons that we so enjoy, watch, experience and sometimes they challenge us. So too, there are seasons in the church – we are currently in the season of Easter, resurrection, new hope, and possibilities beyond our imaginations.

What is the season we are living through now. I suspect we, you and me, and the world are on the cusp of a paradigmatic shift, from the “old ways” to something that I hope will usher in a kinder, gentler, more prophetic time. It is springtime. The risk, though, is that the world can become overwhelmed and destroyed by those who are resisting this springtime birth to a way of being. And I admit, I may not be witness to its completion.

In our time and culture there is a virulent like infection that is leading to misbehavior and destructive choices. It causes people to move only from fear, not hope. It causes people to shut doors, build walls, and respond with stupidity and hate. The highest values are “my rights, my way”, rather than seeing and responding to the needs of the whole. A young person’s basketball rolls onto the neighbor’s lawn – the response is to shoot the father and wound the child. A cheerleader gets in the wrong car, goes back to her own car, rolls down the window to apologize – she and her friend are shot. A young woman drives into the wrong driveway, is backing out, she is shot and killed. Yes, these are extreme examples – but it seems they occur almost daily.

On the other hand, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar sold his four championship rings and three MVP awards among other memorabilia items years ago. At the time, the sale was worth \$2.8 million, which Abdul-Jabbar used to help support a youth education program. Students walk out of classrooms to stand at the Capitol building in Tennessee to encourage their legislators to pass common sense gun laws – for theirs and others’ safety. Churches throughout Minnesota and the nation are making commitments to “go green” and reduce their carbon footprint to combat a changing and destructive climate. A soldier in Rwanda’s civil war burned a village. Through the “Truth and Reconciliation” process, with the help of the villagers he/they are rebuilding buildings destroyed by him. Yes, these are just a few examples of the “God” work being done throughout the world. These are the examples of the paradigm shift we are living through.

1st Peter, chapter 2 speaks to the pain and suffering of being enslaved, oppressed, and treated cruelly. We are called to respond. ²¹ “It was for this that you were called, since Christ suffered for you in just this way and left you an example. You must follow in the footsteps of Christ, ²² who did no wrong, who spoke no deceit, ²³ who did not return insults when insulted, who, when made to suffer, did not counter with threats. Instead, Christ trusted the One who judges justly.”

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In a recent **Sermon Brainwave** from Luther Seminary, Matt Skinner reminds us to not fetishize suffering. Joy J. Moore in the same conversation says – *“When I look at what my ancestors experienced and what they have dealt with, out of a Christian accountability they did not take action against their perpetrators. That becomes a more hopeful word for those who claim to be Christian and who want to carry a gun. Who claim to be Christian and want to storm the steps of a capitol. Who claim to be Christian and want to kidnap a governor. Who claim to be Christian and want to cancel people. I just wonder what it would look like if extending the invitation for people to, in the presence of their enemies, to let God give them their sustenance. To let the risen Christ offer them abundant life and not be seduced by the perishable gold and of this world.”*

May you and me, with the leadership of Creator, Christ, and Spirit usher in this paradigm shift that moves us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly upon the earth, with each other and with God. This paradigm shift, of course, is movement into the realm (kingdom) of God.

In the ways of Christ, Pastor Michael

Book Conversation

Book Conversation Continues on Wednesday, May 3 and 10 – 7:00pm

Crazy Faith: It's Only Crazy Until it Happens

By Michael Todd



Of this book it is written *From the author of Relationship Goals . . . Will you be remembered as a person who claimed to follow God but liked to play it safe? Or as a person who lived your life out on the limb and trusted God enough to live in crazy faith?*

We will be doing the Second Chapter “**Baby Faith**” **Book Conversation will be on Wednesday, May 3rd and 10th at 7:00pm. 6:00pm will be a light meal. This will be an in-person and Zoom conversation. Join by Zoom** by going to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87581494871?pwd=YXJLZGxmajVtK2xxVTNySk0rNXdyZz09> Meeting ID: 875 8149 4871, Passcode: 730295

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The March meeting will take place on May 23rd at 7:00pm over Zoom.

Another Voice **“You Say . . .”**

The Rev. Anna D. Small

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you are down SNAP that feeds the young and their mothers.*

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you force transgender youth to fit your view of who they should be, but not who they are.*

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you strive to silence the voices of those with whom you disagree and so strive to erase us.*

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you work to erase history where you enslaved, murdered, stole land and committed cultural genocide to create land of the brave and free.*

*You say you are pro-life,
but don't push for a living wage for all, forcing parents to work two jobs or more to feed their family and pay bills.*

*You say you are pro-life and God-fearing,
but where in the bible does it say owning an AR-15 is more important than a child's life.*

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you endorse the death penalty.*

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you weaken laws protecting children from working in dangerous jobs.*

*You say you are pro-life and God loving,
yet you do not follow Matthew 25.*

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you do not subsidize daycare and preschool and pay teachers adequately so that all children might thrive.*

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you choose to ignore climate change and how we're destroying God's creation.*

*You say you are pro-life,
yet you turn away refugee children, or put them in cages.*

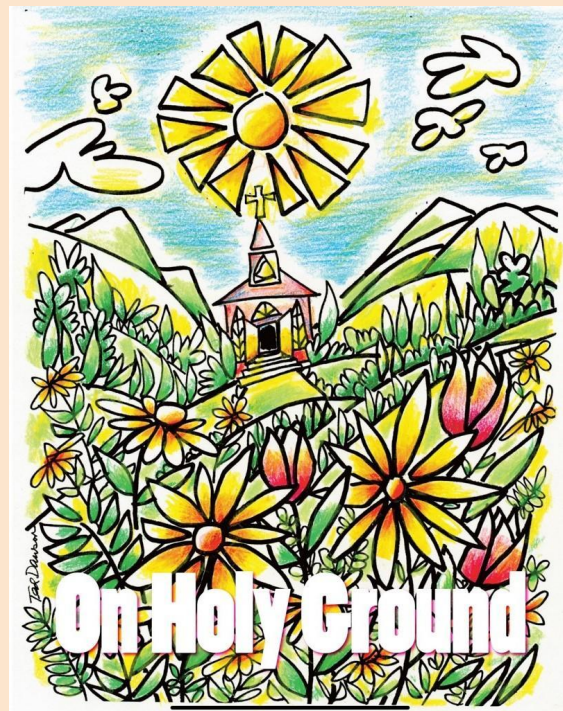
*You say you are pro-life,
yet you are against ensuring affordable healthcare for pregnant women before and after they give birth.*

See the life that is dying all around us because we do not care. See that God is in us all and we are called to care for all that is.

Strengthen the Church – an All UCC Offering June 4th 2023

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Offering will be taken on Sunday, June 4, 2023.



A Note of Thanks from Joanne Detwiler

I want to thank all of you for sustaining my son, Andrew, in prayer since April 4th last year. I was relatively new to Community Church when he had a fall, a hematoma, two brain surgeries, and difficulty maintaining sobriety. The prognosis was grim as he lay in a Minneapolis trauma unit unable to move a muscle...until one day, he opened one eye! Recovery had begun.

I took pictures of our bulletin with his name in prayer, shared with him every wish and prayer that you and others shared with me. With grit, grace, and perseverance, Andrew is walking, talking, sober, and looking forward to getting back to work...after one last surgery on May 5th. He will be fitted with a skull prosthesis to replace sections that needed to be removed earlier.

Thank you, thank you dear people for supporting me during this difficult year. You have sustained me, too.



The Women's Fellowship Report

Spring is playing peek-a-boo with us this year but we have Hope! We had several days of nice weather for the large Celebration of Life for Lindy Johnson on April 11th and 12th. Again, many people worked together to make this a memory filled event for family and friends. It was an unexpected need and God gave us the strength to fill the gap. Again, sympathy to family and friends of Lindy Johnson now and in days ahead.

May 21 — Quilts of Love Dedication Day

At the April 18th Fellowship meeting we proposed to have a Dedication Service for our Quilts of Love Project. All quilts (22) will be on display in the Fellowship Hall for several days prior to Sunday, May 22nd. A speaker from the ARCC Emergency Shelter will give an overview the program prior to the regular service. All individuals who worked on this project will have names and photos in the local paper to highlight this Community Support.

Many thanks to Beth Alderson, Quilt Master, who guided this effort. It was truly a labor of love!

August Update: Proposed Mini-Good Works Sale

Sue Grage has offered to lead a shorter sale with speciality items, plants, food and more. Start looking in those gardens, yards, and closets now! This would support our church and local charities. Details are in planning stages.

Our next Fellowship Meeting will be May 16th at 1:00 PM. All are welcome. Heard special refreshments may be served. Blessings to you and yours!

The Women's Fellowship Team

FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING

The Benevolence Committee wants your input! Are there worthy causes for this offering in our community that are deserving, or could benefit from, a Fifth Sunday Offering that you would recommend? Please contact Doris Johnson or Chris Kolp if you have suggestions. Thank you!

MAY DATES TO CELEBRATE

Birthdays

- 2 Jessie Barber
- 4 Kris Koch
- 8 Kathy Hopen
- 9 Marge Koch
- 10 Linda Barber
- 16 Sue Standeven
- 18 Rebecca Lloyd
Benjamin Lloyd
- 19 Kameron Koch
- 21 Sally Wulfekuhler
- 22 Shaleen Black
- 31 Sara Koch



Anniversaries

- 1 Don and Doris Splichal
- 10 Jim and Marilyn Vogt
- 17 John and Joanna Aamodt
- 27 Denis and Shaleen Black



WORSHIP MINISTRY — MAY

GREETERS

- 7 Doris Johnson
- 14 Jo Pels
- 21 Joanne Detwiler
- 28 TBA

LITURGISTS

- 7 Bev Jorland
- 14 Chris Kolp
- 21 Sonja Huber
- 28 Deb Farrell

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Earl & Ruth Niederman

THE GOOD NEWS!

is a monthly newsletter publication of the
Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ
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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: TBA

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 Niedermann

Women's Fellowship President: Jo Horak

Minister/Church Relations Board Members:

Deb Farrell, Bev Jorland, Doris Johnson, Bonnie Bailey

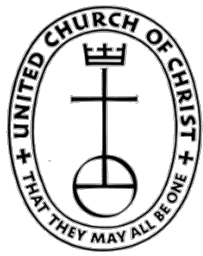
Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

Custodian: TBA

**Articles for the June 2023 edition of The Good News! newsletter
need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Thursday, May 18th, 2023**

MAY

SUNDAY	1 MONDAY	2 TUESDAY	3 WEDNESDAY	4 THURSDAY	5 FRIDAY	6 SATURDAY
	First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month		6:00pm Light Meal and Book Conversation In-person and on Zoom		Cinco de Mayo	
7 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	8 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	9	10 11:00am Deadline for Adding to Council Agenda 6:00pm Light Meal and Book Conversation In-person and on Zoom	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	15	16 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	17	18 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	19	20
21 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	22 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	23 7:00pm Council Meeting on Zoom	24	25	26	27
28 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	29 Memorial Day	30	31			



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Return Service Requested

A close-up photograph of several pink calla lilies with large, green, lanceolate leaves. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing a gradient from light pink to a deeper red. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

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