



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: May 22, 2023

Members and Friends,



Photo Credit: Tom Gainor

WORD FOR THE DAY - FROM GRATEFUL.ORG

“As they become known to and accepted by us, our feelings and the honest exploration of them become sanctuaries and spawning grounds for the most radical and daring of ideas.” — AUDRE LORDE

DAILY QUESTION

How does focusing on gratitude connect me to what matters in my life?

You may subscribe to the daily “Word for the Day” by going to <https://grateful.org>.

1. **Sunday, May 21st** was a day when we heard Jesus’ prayer for God to protect the followers of Jesus. That they would be followers of the Ways of Jesus. In a weary world – the ways of God provide hope and promise. The service may be seen on www.uccwalker.com or by clicking the QR code.



2. **MAY IS FOOD SHELF MONTH** for the members and friends of CCOWUCC. The fourth Tuesday volunteers will work from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Thanks for all the good work of those who volunteered during the month of May and thanks to Bev Jorland for coordinating these activities and representing CCOWUCC of the Board for the Walker Area Food Shelf.



3. **It is with sorrow** that we learned of the death of Jo Horak on Tuesday, May 16th. In death and dying Jo was surrounded by her family who sent her on with love and blessing. Please keep in your prayers Bob and daughters Kristy and Carrie, and their families. ***A Celebration of Life will be on Tuesday, June 13, 1:00 pm at CCOWUCC.***
4. **Surround and lift up in prayer** all those who are undergoing and anticipating cancer treatments – Kevin Wedel, Bob Horak, Ruby Haugen, Beth Alderson, Autumn (granddaughter of Bruce and Ruby Haugen). Also, those with on-going health concerns – Andrew, Marla Parks (sister of Linda Barber), Alison Koch, Duane Grage, Nancy Jacobson, Betty Fisher, Sue Standeven, Josh. Those who are healing from grief. Those who struggle. And may we always pray for love, forgiveness, and lift up life-giving prayers and actions.

5. **On Sunday May 28th – Memorial Day Weekend** we will remember those who have died over the past year. A rose for each will be on the communion table. As the one who has passed, the rose will be given to a member representing the family. The names we have thus far are;

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Celebration
Gene Alderson	01/19/1947	06/16/2022	06/27/2022
Lorraine Henselin	11/27/1930	09/09/2022	10/8/2022
Darlene Stilson	05/7/1933	11/26/2022	07/22/2023*
Sally Wulfekueher	05/21/1931	12/22/2022	01/22/2023
Vera Demars	11/11/1941	12/26/2022	01/6/2023
Gary Jacobson	06/6/1963	01/26/2023	03/18/2023
Rodney Burlingame (Linda Barber's Dad)	01/12/1936	03/24/2023	06/17/2023*
Lindy Johnson	01/12/1939	04/03/2023	04/12/2023
Jo Horak	10/09/1945	05/16/2023	06/13/2023*

*Services will occur in the days to come.

We remember and give thanks for the lives of these saints who have moved on to the other shore.

If there are persons who are missing from the above list would you contact Pastor Michael ASAP or by Wednesday at mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com or 218.280.1401. Thank you.

6. **Church Council will meet** on Tuesday, May 23rd at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be in-person and virtual via zoom. Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222500074?pwd=M0lmZmQ4VWkrRGgwQjhOMXVLVXJydz09> Meeting ID: 872 2250 0074, Passcode: 272892.
7. **Pastor Michael will be** traveling to Georgia on May 24th – returning with his wife Sheila on June 7th. Leading worship while Pastor Michael is gone will be Sue Grage on May 26th and Walt Rehberg on June 4th. Pastor Michael will be back in worship on June 13th.
8. **Sue Grage Preaching Sunday Mat 28th** Please note that the texts below are from the Revised Common Lectionary. Sue has the freedom to choose any or none. Be prepared on Sunday to be surprised!
9. **Sunday May 28th** Lectionary texts are:
 • Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30 • Psalm 104:24-34, 35b • 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
 or • Acts 2:1-21 • John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
10. **Sunday May 28th** the focus text comes from John 7:37-39.
³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, “Any who are thirsty, let them come to me and drink!
³⁸ Those who believe in me, as the scripture says, ‘From their innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ”
11. **Questions to ponder concerning the focus text for Sunday May 28th 2023:**
- How is your hydration level? Are you thirsty?
 - What biblical stories featuring water resonate with you?
 - How do you perceive the connection between water and Spirit?

- What rituals using water resonate with you?
- What rituals may you be inspired to create?

12. **Church Council will meet** on Tuesday, May 23rd at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be in-person and virtual via zoom. Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222500074?pwd=M0lmZmQ4VWkrRGgwQjhOMXVlVXJydz09> Meeting ID: 872 2250 0074, Passcode: 272892.

13. **No Book Conversation Continues on Wednesday, May 24th**

14. **St. Mark's WELS meets at CCOWUCC** serving as a "Worship Station". They will continue to meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month between 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

15. **Newsletter Deadline is TODAY!**

16. **Birthdays**

- 5/22 Shaleen Black
- 5/31 Sara Koch

17. **Anniversaries**

- 27 Denis and Shaleen Black

Strengthen the Church Offering June 4th – Give Generously



Acknowledging Holy Ground

The **Strengthen the Church Offering** supports the work of our conference and the national United Church of Christ to become a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all. The offering funds leadership development, youth and young adult ministries, and new and renewing congregations.

What does it mean for us to become a multi-racial/multi-cultural church? United Church Camps, Inc., an outdoor ministry related to the Wisconsin Conference UCC, took this question to heart. It renamed its oldest outdoor ministry site as the Daycholah Center, incorporating the Ho-Chunk name for Green Lake, chosen to honor the Ho-Chunk people who were the original keepers of this land.

The process began at the 2019 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. The conference adopted a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. The Doctrine was used to justify the seizure of land from indigenous people. Conversation between Ho-Chunk UCC members and

stairs to the pulpit and replaced them with circular ramps, honoring a God who still speaks through preachers and laity who do not stand.

Plymouth Congregational in Kansas is holy ground, a church where one of our unhoused siblings welcomed me to "their church" after worship, before heading back outside by choice with his bags and dog. This reminds us that those unhoused should still have a home with us.

Saint John's UCC in St. Louis is holy ground, a church that partners with the community to feed and clothe those in need of help, and whose members take communion to their surrounding neighbors as an extension of Christ's table of grace.

Trinity UCC in Chicago is holy ground, partnering with the food security network to import organic fruit and vegetables in a neighborhood robbed of access to healthy food options.

Wherever you are this morning, take the time to see how God is moving through the work and witness of those who gather and know that you are, we all are, on holy ground.

The **Strengthen the Church Offering** reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.



18. **Walt Rehberg to Preach on June 4th.**

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

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

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

Meryle O'Connor
Waterford Estates
6288 Louisiana N. #111
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Duane Grage
309 Birch Court
Park Rapids MN 56470

Ruby Haugen
P.O. Box 546
Walker MN 56484

Bob Horak
P.O. Box 702
Walker MN 56484

Betty Fisher
4222 Larch Street NE
Bemidji MN 56601

Nancy Jacobson
P.O. Box 521
Walker MN 56484

Alison Koch
1803 South Court Street
Fergus Falls MN 56537

Sue Standeven
203 Ross Place North
Apt. 105
Walker MN 56484

Kevin Wedel
107 Highland Ave. W.
Apartment 102
Walker MN 56484

Beth Alderson
8058 Onigum Road NW
Walker MN 56484

Democracy works best if we speak with one another. Whatever your opinion, I encourage each of you to be in contact with your representatives. Communicating is an on-going and two-way process of sharing gratitude and wisdom.

Below is listed state and national elected leadership for the Walker Area.

If you do not reside in the Walker area, go to <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/> to obtain information on the elected state leadership for your location.

Senator Steve Green (R) (Dis.02)
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., # 2319
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-297-8063

Office of Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
<https://mn.gov/governor/connect/contact-us/contact-form.jsp>

Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL) MN
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
phone: 202-224-3244
fax: 202-228-2186

E-mail:
sen.steve.green@senate.mn
<https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15458>

<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/>

Rep. Matt Bliss (R) District: 02B
311 State Office Building

Rep. Pete Stauber (R) U.S. House # 8
145 Cannon HOB

Senator Tina Smith (DFL) U.S. MN
720 Hart Senate Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5516
Toll Free: 877-838-5537
E-mail:
rep.matt.bliss@house.mn.gov
[https://www.house.mn.gov/
members/profile/15458](https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15458)

Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6211
<https://stauber.house.gov/>

Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5641
<https://www.smith.senate.gov/>

Prayers and Blessings – Pastor Michael