



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

P.O. Box 267, Walker, MN 56484 (218) 547-1093

[www.uccwalker.com](http://www.uccwalker.com) [commchurchucc@arvig.net](mailto:commchurchucc@arvig.net)



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

**CCOWUCC Update and News**

**By Michael Small**

**For The Week of: [September 18, 2023](#)**

**Members and Friends,**



**WORD FOR THE DAY  
- FROM GRATEFUL.ORG**

*“When you experience mercy, you learn things that are hard to learn otherwise. You see things you can’t otherwise see; you hear things you can’t otherwise hear. You begin to recognize the humanity that resides in each of us.”*

— BRYAN STEVENSON

**DAILY QUESTION**

*What possibilities open up when I think of awe as an experience I can choose daily?*

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

1. **The September 17<sup>th</sup> Worship** spoke to the call to and the need to forgive over and over and over again. It is a call by Jesus to live out a culture that emulates the words “*forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*” Music was given by Leisa Bragg and her sister Roxann Bragg Fromm sang “*Let it Be*” and “*Day by Day*”. The worship service may be accessed on the church website [www.uccwalker.com](http://www.uccwalker.com) or by clicking the QR code with your device.



2. **The Potato Bar Was a Success!** – Thanks to all who participated in the Potato Bar after worship on Sunday. It was delicious and there was great conversation. Almost \$400 was raised for school supplies for children in the Walker-Hackensack-Onigum-Akeley school. **A special thanks for those who prepared the meal and desserts. It is always good to gather as God’s people in this bountiful place of land and lakes.**



3. **Continue in Prayer for One Another**

*“<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray constantly, <sup>18</sup> and give thanks for everything—for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-18). Keep in your prayers Bruce Haugen and his family for comfort, grace, and healing after the loss of Ruby.

4. **Church Council will meet** on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 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.

5. **FALL HOLIDAY RUMMAGE SALE! Is Happening** on **Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon.**

**Donations will be accepted.** Please bring your items to the church. Contact Sue Grage for more information (218.366.2202). The church will be open for deliveries September 25<sup>th</sup> – September 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. At the same time members and friends will have the opportunity to set up the sale.



Come and shop at the **the Fall Holiday Rummage Sale** at Community Church of Walker UCC will feature **Christmas/Holiday items, Seasonal Winter-Wear Clothing, Home Items (sheets, blankets, drapes, etc.), Furniture, and "Sonjas Sacks Fifth Avenue Store"**.

6. **Pastor Michael to take some time away.** On Thursday, 9/21 – 9/24, Pastor Michael and Sheila will fly to Portland Oregon for a family wedding and gathering. From 9/24 – 9/28 Pastor Michael and Sheila will be in the Twin Cities with family, celebrating the graduation of their son Micah Hunter Small who will be "pinned" in a ceremony at Herzing University as he concludes his program to become an Registered Nurse (RN) and a full-time "Nurse in Training" at Hennepin Healthcare (AKA HCMC) in Minneapolis.
7. **Sue Grage to preach** on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at CCOWUCC at 10:00 a.m. I am thankful for the generosity of Sue and Duane – and their **many talents**. Please greet Sue and Sunday with a warm welcome and gratitude for all she gives to the church!

8. **Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>** Lectionary texts are:  
• Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 • Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8  
• Philippians 1:21-30 • Matthew 20:1-16

9. **Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>** the focus text comes from **Matthew 20:1-16**

<sup>1</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> "About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, <sup>4</sup> and said to them, 'You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.'  
<sup>5</sup> At that they left.

"Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. <sup>6</sup> Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'

<sup>7</sup> " 'No one has hired us,' they replied. "The owner said, 'You go to my vineyard, too.'

<sup>8</sup> "When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, 'Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.'  
<sup>9</sup> When those hired late in the afternoon

came up, they received a full day's pay, <sup>10</sup> and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage.

<sup>11</sup> "Thereupon they complained to the owner, <sup>12</sup> 'This last group did only an hour's work, but you've put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.'

<sup>13</sup> " 'My friends,' said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, 'I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn't you?' <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you.

<sup>15</sup> I'm free to do as I please with my money, aren't I? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

<sup>16</sup> "Thus the last will be first and the first will be last."

9. **Focus Prayer:** Equalizing God, release us from jealousy, scarcity, and fairness. Amen.

10. **Questions to ponder concerning the focus text for Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2023:**

- How do you define fairness?
- How does fairness differ from justice?
- How does it differ from grace?
- Why is grace central to the gospel message?
- How does inequality manifest in your community?
- In what areas can you relinquish privilege for generosity?

10. **Birthdays**

- 9/18 Emilie Koch
- 9/22 Alison Koch
- 9/25 Sue Grage

11. **Anniversaries**

- 9/23 Earl and Ruth Niedermann

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Meeting ID: 872 2250 0074, Passcode: 272892.

13. ***Book Conversation – In-Person and Zoom - American Idolatry – How Christian Nationalism Betrays The Gospel and Threatens The Church By Andrew L. Whitehead***

**Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** you are invited to participate in the book conversation of ***American Idolatry***. Let Pastor Michael know by calling 218.280.1401, or emailing [mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com](mailto:mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com).

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063540404?pwd=NTBZcDhYMnRJQ1Q5UnhiYVpqM0k3QT09>,  
Meeting ID: 860 6354 0404, Passcode: 481678

*American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church* **may be purchased through** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) \$17.99 Digital, hardcover \$22.49. More buying choices through Amazon used books at \$18.49. May also be purchased at local book stores – List price \$24.99.

14. **Information for bulletin** needs to be at the church by Tuesday morning  
[commchurchucc@arvig.net](mailto:commchurchucc@arvig.net).
15. **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](http://www.uccwalker.com)
16. **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.
17. Addresses – You are invited to be in touch.

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

Sue and Duane Grage  
 309 Birch Court  
 Park Rapids MN 56470

Bruce Haugen  
 P.O. Box 546  
 Walker MN 56484

Gyldenvand Family  
 203 6<sup>th</sup> Street South # 303  
 Moorehead MN 56560

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

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

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

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

Rep. Matt Bliss (R) District: 02B

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

Senator Tina Smith (DFL) U.S. MN

311 State 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)

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

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

***Prayers and Blessings – Pastor Michael***