



**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@gmail.com](mailto:commchurchucc@gmail.com)



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

**CCOWUCC Update and News**

**By Michael Small**

**For The Week of: November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Members and Friends,**

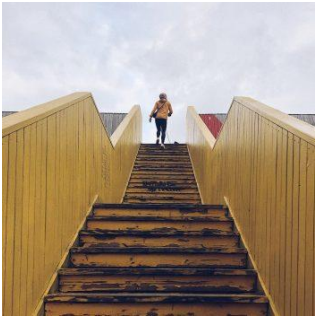


Photo Credit: Daniel Thiele

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

***"I am thankful for my struggle because without it, I wouldn't have stumbled upon my strength."***

**— ALEX ELLE**

**DAILY QUESTION**

***Is there an area of my life where I'm having trouble moving forward? How might cultivating hope open a pathway for me?***

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

1. **The Church is OPEN and fully functional!** After several days of exploration and work – thanks to Tim Johnson and Ryan Pels – the water is flowing appropriately throughout the church. It was a process of discovery and understanding that is still unfolding. It will be a learning process and we maintain the system and are watchful for faucets and toilets that are needlessly running unabated. Please, contact the Pastor or a member of the Board of Trustees if plumbing is not working. **Also, two new toilets were installed in the Women's bathroom downstairs.** On the "To Do" list is maintaining water softener and attention to older fixtures.

2. **Prayer concerns:**

- **Sue S.** is back in the hospital, may Sue knowing healing, comfort, strength, and patience.
- **Chris K.'s brother David B.** is in ICU and intubated to assist in breathing – fighting for life, may all be surrounded with healing, peace, comfort.
- **Ken B.'s** father is in the care of Hospice, may the family know peace and comfort.
- **Nancy J.** has fallen – prayers for comfort and a peaceful journey to be reunited with those who have gone before.



For all of those named above and more, may they presence of God and the power of prayer!



- **For those who experience loneliness** – may they be comforted with compassion and companionship.
- **For those who are struggling with darkness and fear**, may they see light and know God's reassurance.
- **For those who are angry and vengeful** may they know the power and the presence of God's peace and presence.
- **For those in positions of leadership and power**, may they

walk paths of servanthood for the good and just for those they are called to serve.

- **And for those who are abundantly blessed**, may they. . . may we be empowered by a Spirit of wisdom, discernment, gratitude, and generosity to be about inclusion for all and reconciliation for those who are broken and separated from loved ones, friends and family.
- As we seek to follow in the ways of Christ may we understand, and act out, and live as KIN, as brother and sister, as healthy family to and with ALL HUMANKIND AND ALL OF CREATION – **WE ARE INEXTRICABLY CONNECTED – ONE TO THE OTHER!**
- “<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).

3. **The November 26<sup>th</sup> service** featured the music leadership of **Sabbastian Wilson Webb** playing the keyboard and presenting special music. Thank you Sabbastian! We were blessed with Sabbastian's keyboard skills that soothed and comforted, his voice, and his flexibility by playing a hymn that he had not practiced. The Pastor announced the wrong Hymn! – Apologies.



The service focused the Reign of Christ, Christ the King – and the Realm of God. We ask when encounter the Holy One, “When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> The ruler will answer them, ‘The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.’”

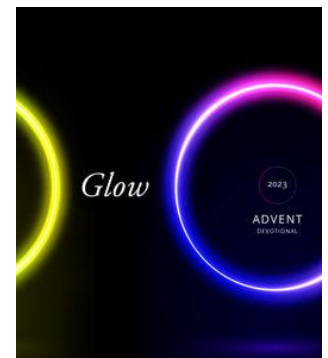


The worship service may be accessed on the church website [www.uccwalker.com](http://www.uccwalker.com) of by clicking the QR. code with your device.

#### 4. **2023 Advent Daily Devotional Available! The "O!" of Wonder**

**You may pick up “Glow” at the church or order a \*.pdf version for \$3.00 by going to <https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/collections/advent-resources/products/glow-2023-advent-christmastide-devotional>**

- The **Glow Of Advent** is a watchfire's embers as a new day begins to dawn.
- The **Glow Of Advent** is the flush of a pregnant body coursing with 50% more blood than usual.



- The **Glow Of Advent** is the beauty of dusty shepherd faces reflecting the splendor of a swaddled child.
- The **Glow Of Advent** is the peace of candlelit faces singing, "O Come, All Ye Faithful."
- The **Glow Of Advent** is spelled with the "O!" of yearning and, then, with the "O!" of realization as we grasp the season's meaning: everything has changed.
- Once again for 2023, 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. The **Glow Of Advent** includes:
  - candle-lighting liturgies for home use,
  - daily readings with scripture and prayer.

5. **The Hanging of the Greens for the Season of Advent will be December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**All are invited to participate in this festive occasion – preparing the church for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.** We will be joined by **Sentenced To Serve** of Cass County as we decorate the church. Lunch will be served.



6. **All Church Potluck to Follow Worship on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**



Begin the season of Advent by joining together for a meal together following worship. (*Please note the Minnesota Vikings ARE NOT PLAYING ON 12/3*) Bring a favorite dish, salad, side dish, dessert, hors d'oeuvres, or others. (Note – Main Dish will be provided!) Most importantly – bring yourselves and be in conversation and relationship with one another.

7. **The First Sunday of Advent December 3<sup>rd</sup>** all readings for this Sunday:

• Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • Mark 13:24-27

8. **The First Sunday of Advent December 3<sup>rd</sup>** the focus text comes from **Isaiah 64:1-9**

- 1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would shake before you!
- 2 As fire kindles the brushwood and the fire makes water boil,  
make your Name known to your adversaries,  
and let the nations tremble before you!
- 3 When you did awesome things that we could not have expected,  
you came down, and the mountains quaked in your presence!
- 4 From ages past no ear has ever heard,  
no eye has ever seen any God but you  
intervening for those who wait for you!
- 5 Oh, that you would find us doing right,  
that we would be mindful of you in our ways!  
You are angry because we are sinful;  
we sinned for so long—how can we be saved?
- 6 All of us became unclean and soiled,  
even our good deeds are polluted.  
We have all withered like leaves,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
- 7 No one calls upon your Name,  
there is none who clings to you,  
for you hid your face from us  
and delivered us into the hands of our sins
- 8 Yet you are our mother and father, YHWH;



we are the clay and you are the potter,  
we are all the work of your hands.

- <sup>9</sup> Don't let your anger go beyond measure, O God,  
don't remember our sins forever,  
for we are all your people.

9. **Focus Prayer for The First Sunday of Advent December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Awesome God, Tear open the heavens and display your awesome deeds through our work and witness. Amen.

10. **Questions to ponder concerning the focus text for The First Sunday of Advent December 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

- Does the ground beneath you seem shaky in this season?
- What does it mean to return from exile yet not be restored?
- What do you lament?
- How do you imagine God tearing open the heavens?
- What awesome deeds shape your testimony of God's faithfulness and enduring presence?

11. **Birthdays**

- 11/24 Wendy Paul
- 11/25 Chris Kolp
- 11/27 Joanne Detwiler
- 12/10 Nathan Kalli
- 12/12 Rev. Michael Small
- 12/12 Vern Bader
- 12/14 Larry Johnson
- 12/18 Tim Johnson
- 12/21 Denis Black
- 12/25 Earl Niedermann



12. **Anniversaries**

- 12/27 Steve and Chris Kolp
- 12/28 Jack and Kathy Hopen

13. **Church Council will meet** on **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm. This meeting will be **in-person and virtual via zoom**. Zoom access.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89680314539?pwd=QTIUQ0dKR21JQ3JUMHNzZnRkZFF5UT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8031 4539, Passcode: 858735

14. **Information for bulletin** needs to be at the church by Tuesday morning  
[commchurchucc@arvig.net](mailto:commchurchucc@arvig.net).

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

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** you are invited to participate in the book conversation of **American Idolatry**. We focus on chapter 8 – **Remaking American Christianity!**

## Zoom Access

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063540404?pwd=NTBZcDhYMnRJQ1Q5UnhiYVpqM0k3QT09>,

Meeting ID: 860 6354 0404, Passcode: 481678

### 16. **FUTURE DATES TO BE AWARE OF AND PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR**



- **Friday – December 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Concert
- **Sunday – December 24<sup>th</sup>** morning worship replaced by stream of Christmas Concert, Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.
- **Sunday – December 31<sup>st</sup>** - Lessons and Carols for Peace and Justice, Christmas Carols, and prophetic voices and words

17. **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)

18. **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.

19. 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

Sue Standeven  
203 Ross Pl. N. #105  
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

Beth Alderson  
8058 Onigum Road NW  
Walker MN 56484

Kevin Wedel  
107 Highland Ave. W.  
Apartment 102  
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](mailto:sen.steve.green@senate.mn)

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

[https://www.house.mn.gov/  
members/profile/15458](https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15458)

Rep. Matt Bliss (R) District: 02B  
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)

Rep. Pete Stauber (R) U.S. House # 8  
145 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-6211  
<https://stauber.house.gov/>

Senator Tina Smith (DFL) U.S. MN  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-5641  
<https://www.smith.senate.gov/>

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