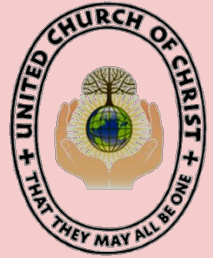




THE GOOD NEWS!



**Community Church of Walker
United Church of Christ**

P.O. Box 267
Hwy 371 & Tianna Drive
Walker, MN 56484

(218) 547-1093

commchurchucc@gmail.com

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..."

FEBRUARY 2024



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



How is it . . . That We Grow and Learn . . . Even in our Elder Years?

As I write this we are warming from a cold snap, reminding us that there is winter in Minnesota. Together let us warm up to each other as we walk alongside each other as we discover the ways of faith. Think about it, how is it that you have walked your journey of faith? From your first memories to now, how has that faith changed?

There are some who think Sunday School is only for children and when baptized and confirmed that's it! No more Sunday School. In fact, faith formation is a life-long process, and too often as adults and elders we think, perhaps feel, there is little more that we need know/discover. We know it all, or at least we know enough to be a person of faith, a Christian.

James W. Fowler in his seminal 1995 book *Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning* suggests 7 (seven) stages of faith¹:

- **Stage 0 – Primal Undifferentiated Faith (Ages Birth-2):** This stage is very much like Erik Erikson's first stage of "trust versus mistrust."
- **Stage 1 – "Intuitive-Projective" Faith (Ages 3-7).** Children at this stage have acquired language and the ability to work with symbols to express thoughts.
- **Stage 2 – Mythic-Literal Faith (Ages 7-12).** Children at this stage have a belief in justice and fairness in religious matters, a sense of reciprocity in the workings of the universe (e.g. doing good will result in a good result, doing bad will cause a bad thing to happen) and an anthropomorphic image of God (e.g. a man with a long white beard who lives in the clouds).
- **Stage 3 – "Synthetic-Conventional" Faith (Ages 12 to Adult).** This stage is characterized by the identification of the adolescent/adult with a religious institution, belief system, or authority, and the growth of a personal religious or spiritual identity.
- **Stage 4 – "Individuative-Reflective Faith" (Ages Mid-Twenties to Late Thirties).** This stage is often characterized by angst and struggle as the individual takes personal responsibility for her beliefs or feelings.
- **Stage 5 – "Conjunctive" Faith (Mid-Life Crisis).** A person at this stage acknowledges paradoxes and the mysteries attendant on transcendent values.

Continues on Page 3

¹ For more information see

<https://www.institute4learning.com/2020/06/12/the-stages-of-faith-according-to-james-w-fowler/>

Continued from Page 2

- **Stage 6 – “Universalizing” Faith (or “Enlightenment”). (Later Adulthood).** This stage is only rarely achieved by individuals. A person at this stage is not hemmed in by differences in religious or spiritual beliefs among people in the world, but regards all beings as worthy of compassion and deep understanding. Here, individuals “walk the talk” of the great religious traditions (e.g. “the kingdom of God is within you”).

The Christian Education Board has set before the members and friends of Community Church of Walker UCC a request, challenge, and opportunity. They want to work with you, again walk alongside you, and grow and learn with you. They are asking how can we be about Faith Formation together? Would you please send your suggestions to the Christian Education Board and we will work together to develop programs.

Below is a description of Faith Formation in the United Church of Christ.

A Reflection on Faith Formation

*Yet, O Lord, you are our God;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. –Isaiah 64:8*

Faith formation is at the heart of what the Christian life is all about. In many ways, we engage in the practices of our daily lives and the rituals of our faith communities—through worship, mission, working for justice and peace, evangelism, and education—so that our faith may be nurtured, enlivened, sustained, and *formed*. In this regard, the imagery offered by the prophet Isaiah of Potter God forming humanity, God’s created own, is an appropriate vision for how we might view the ministry of faith formation.

In the United Church of Christ, we can understand faith formation to be “an engaged process of learning and practice integrated throughout all aspects of congregational and daily life.” This definition highlights the initiative and action we must take in our own faith formation. In essence, we become clay so that we are formed and transformed by the Holy and by one another. But throughout all of our doing and being, we are reminded that God’s “hands” are continually present in our efforts to gain both “head” knowledge found in education and learning and “heart” wisdom discovered through prayer, ritual, and practice.

So, it is indeed most fitting to say that faith formation is at the heart of what our living and being is all about; but without the hands that guide what we are continually becoming, the process is incomplete. May this webpage offer some helpful tools from which you and others can “become clay” and be reminded of God’s formational presence along life’s journey.

In the ways of Christ, Pastor Michael

Community Church of Walker UCC

Christian Education

Faith Formation

The Christian Education Board has met to develop ideas for education, discussion, and discernment in the coming year at our church and to listen. We would appreciate your input.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- **Faith Formation** is an ongoing and ever-changing process – from birth to death. It is a journey both shared and done alone.
- **One's Faith** is not static, but dynamic, evolving, moving, changing.
- **One's Faith Experience** is unique to each person. With faith one both knows truth, questions, and doubt, and the presence or the absence of the Holy.
- **Faith is known** in the community of the beloved ***only as the stories of faith formation*** are told, shared, affirmed, and challenged.
- **Shared Faith** enhances and stimulates the faith formation of all and builds and expands the community.

QUESTIONS:

- How would you describe your faith journey?
- What are the ways your faith has changed, grown, or diminished?
- What informs your faith formation?
- What is missing from your faith formation?
- What would be most helpful to continue and enhance your faith journey?

SOME SUGGESTIONS:

- Structured ways to share personal faith stories – conversation starters.
- Quarterly presentations about current topics from individuals or groups of interest.
- Periodic discussion topics during Fellowship hour (i.e., response to sermon).
- Book conversations and bible conversations

Please share areas of interest you would like included in Christian Education events and programs held at the church, on-line, or elsewhere.

- How would you like to have topics of interest presented or developed?
- Would you like to have education shared and opened to the wider community?
- What would be the best times and days to gather?

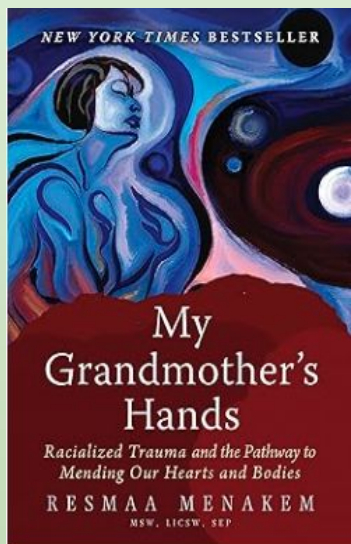
Please send comments to:

- CCOWUCC P.O. Box 267, Walker MN 56484 or commchurchucc@gmail.com
- Joanne Detwiller, 11 Tianna Ct., Walker MN 56484 detwilermavis@gmail.com.

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 14th (Valentines Day) we begin our Lenten journey with participating in a service of ***The Imposition of Ashes***. The service will begin at 7:00 pm.





My Grandmother's Hands Book Study by Minnesota Conference UCC – You Are Invited!

February 5 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

A study of Resmaa Menakem's groundbreaking book about generational, embodied racism and white supremacy

Monday evenings, February 5, 12, 19, 26; 6 – 7:30 pm via Zoom. This will fulfill the Anti-Racism/Diversity Requirement for authorized ministers in the Minnesota Conference. Facilitated by Rev. Kelly Gallagher, ACM Minnesota Conference.

Register at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/tuaht68> (Check with Pastor Michael if you wish to participate)

Book Overview from *Thriftbooks*

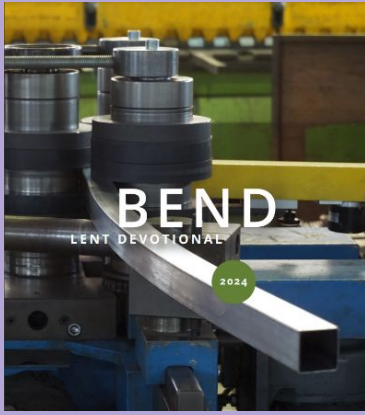
In this groundbreaking book, therapist Resmaa Menakem examines the damage caused by racism in America from the perspective of trauma and body-centered psychology. The body is where our instincts reside and where we fight, flee, or freeze, and it endures the trauma inflicted by the ills that plague society. Menakem argues this destruction will continue until Americans learn to heal the generational anguish of white supremacy, which is deeply embedded in all our bodies. Our collective agony doesn't just affect African Americans. White Americans suffer their own secondary trauma as well. So do blue Americans – our police.

My Grandmother's Hands is a call to action for all of us to recognize that racism is not only about the head, but about the body, and introduces an alternative view of what we can do to grow beyond our entrenched racialized divide. Paves the way for a new, body-centered understanding of white supremacy—how it is literally in our blood and our nervous system. Offers a step-by-step healing process based on the latest neuroscience and somatic healing methods, in addition to incisive social commentary.

Resmaa Menakem, MSW, LICSW, SEP, is a leading voice in today's conversation on racialized trauma and the creator of Cultural Somatics, which utilizes the body and its natural resilience as mechanisms for growth. As a therapist and the founder of Justice Leadership Solutions, a leadership consulting firm, Resmaa dedicates his expertise to coaching leaders through civil unrest, organizational change, and community building.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

This month's meeting will take place on February 20th at 6:00pm over Zoom.



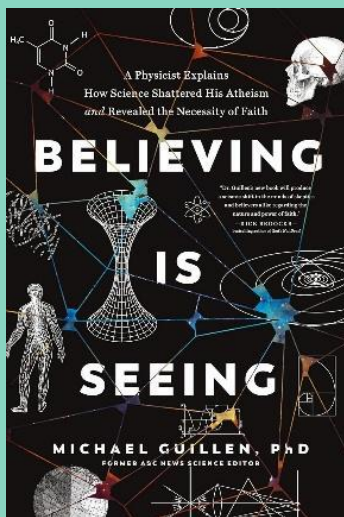
Bend – A UCC Lenten Devotional

The church year quickly moves from the very short season of Epiphany to the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. (*Almost the earliest date for Ash Wednesday. Easter will be on Sunday, March 31st*) A Daily UCC Lenten Devotional called ***Bend*** will be available to members and friends of CCOWUCC by Sunday, February 4th.

The editor of ***Bend*** “*Blessed are the flexible, for they will not get bent out of shape.*”

Bend may be ordered by going to <https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/bend-2024-lenten-devotional>. Printed copies are \$5.00, or you may order a *.pdf file that may be read on electronically for \$3.00. When ordering the *.pdf file you will receive the devotional immediately.

Book Conversation to Begin on Wednesday, February 7th 2024



The book conversation will begin at 6:00 p.m. with soup for those who are gathered with the conversation beginning in-person and on-line at 6:45 p.m.

Online participants may join by going to zoom. Join Zoom Meeting by clicking the link below or paste in your browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82457978032?pwd=ajlXRlI5TWNaZWlWlWVZWbksrVlNPUT09> Meeting ID: 824 5797 8032 – Passcode: 613246

Believing is Seeing by Michael Guillen. **Is your worldview enlightened enough to accommodate both science and God at the same time?**

Dr. Michael Guillen, a best-selling author, Emmy award-winning journalist and former physics instructor at Harvard, used to be an Atheist—until science changed his mind. Once of the opinion that people of faith are weak, small-minded folks who just don’t understand science, Dr. Guillen ultimately concluded that not only does science itself depend on faith, but faith is actually the *mightiest power in the universe*.

In *Believing Is Seeing*, Dr. Guillen recounts the fascinating story of his journey from Atheism to Christianity, citing the latest discoveries in neuroscience, physics, astronomy, and mathematics to pull back the curtain on the mystery of faith as no one ever has.

Is it true that “seeing is believing?” Or is it possible that reality can be perceived most clearly with the eyes of faith—and that truth is bigger than proof? Let Dr. Guillen be your guide as he brilliantly argues for a large and enlightened worldview consistent with both God and modern science.

Did You Know?

Our Church's History

1896-1919



On the 4th day of August, 1896, at the home of D. L. Bush, in the Village of Walker, a group of interested residents met to consider the formation of a Congregational Church. The Rev. J. H. Morley was chosen temporary Moderator and the Rev. T. Merrill Edmonds, temporary Scribe. Six pastors were present, two of whom were from Brainerd and one from Aitkin. It was voted that the temporary organization be made permanent, whereupon, in accordance with the provisions of Roy's Manual, the First Congregational Church of Walker was organized with the following Charter Members:

Daniel Ferguson, Mrs. John Bouck,
Mrs. Genevieve Bush, and Mrs. A. A. Oliver.

On September 11, 1896, the members met to elect officers and incorporate. The constitution as given in Roy's Manual, page 19, was read and adopted and in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the following officers were elected:

TRUSTEES:	P.P. Johnson, Daniel Ferguson, John Bouck
DEACONS:	Daniel Ferguson and P. P. Johnson
CLERK:	Mrs. John Bouck
TREASURER:	Daniel Ferguson

The corporate name adopted was:

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WALKER, MINNESOTA.

Until the church edifice was built, a Sunday School was conducted in the waiting room of the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot.

In the fall of 1896, a loan of \$500.00 was obtained from the Congregational Church Building Society, for the construction of a church on Lots 31 and 32, Block 21, Original Plat of the Village of Walker. The building was completed and dedicated in the same year, being the first church to be built in the Village of Walker.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
BUILT FALL OF 1896 --- PARSONAGE BUILT IN THE SPRING OF 1898
AT THE PRESENT TIME, LARAE'S HAIR STYLING
IS AT THIS LOCATION.**

Continues on Page 8

Continued from Page 7

In the spring of 1898, the parsonage was built on the North 66 feet of Lots 31 and 32, Block 21, and another loan, in the amount of \$250.00 was made from the Congregational Church Building Society.

On December 8, 1896, the Rev. W.A. Kennedy was called as the first Pastor, at a yearly salary of \$650.00. He served from December 8, 1896 to June 6, 1897. He was followed by Ira Hambelton, who served from June 7, 1897 to August 15, 1897.

On June 10, 1897, a resolution was adopted by the Church body to become a member of the Duluth Association of Congregational Churches.

On September 14, 1897, a meeting of the Church members was called for the purpose of extending a call to Frank Bown for three months from August 15, 1897, at \$40.00 per month (and more if it can be raised), \$20.00 to be paid by the Home Missionary Society.

At the same meeting it was moved to call a Council for the ordination of Frank Bown. The Ordinating Council was called to order by the Reverend J. S. Smith, of Wadena, Minnesota, who was named Temporary Moderator of the meeting. The Reverend B. M. Bird, of Brainerd, Minnesota, was made Temporary Scribe. A majority of the churches invited, being present, the Temporary Organization was declared Permanent and the Council then voted to proceed with the service of ordination. The following churches were represented:

Pastor J. B. Smith,	Wadena, Minnesota
Pastor C. W. Gallagher	Brainerd, Minnesota
Pastor M. B. Bird	Brainerd, Minnesota
Pastor F. A. Summer	Little Falls, Minnesota

Following the ordination service, a call was extended for the Reverend Frank Bown to serve as Pastor of the Walker Congregational Church. He served from August 15, 1897, to June 2, 1899, when, due to health reasons, he tendered his resignation. He was succeeded by the Reverend Geo. Michael, who served from January 1, 1900 to May 1st, 1909.

Starting with a membership of four at the time of organization of the church, the number increased to ninety-nine by the year 1919.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH BUILT IN 1907
AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE POST OFFICE IS
LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THIS LOCATION

FEBRUARY DATES TO CELEBRATE

Birthdays

5 Ruth Niedermann
 25 Dawn Canada
 26 Bev Meyer
 27 Erika Rand



Anniversaries

3 Bob and Ann Winegar



WORSHIP MINISTRY — FEBRUARY

GREETERS

February 2 Linda Barber
 February 11 Chris Kolp
 February 18 Steve Bilben
 February 25 Beth Alderson

LITURGISTS

February 2 Gay Jacobson
 February 11 Deb Farrell
 February 18 Chris Kolp
 February 25 Bev Jorland

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Earl & Ruth Niedermann



THE GOOD NEWS!

is a monthly newsletter publication of the
Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ
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Secretary: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday & Thursday

Email: commchurchucc@gmail.com

Phone: 218-547-1093 (leave a message)

Church Moderator: Bonnie Bailey

Vice-Moderator: Sue Grage

Clerk: Gay Jacobson

Treasurer: Deb Farrell

Financial Secretary: Joanne Detwiler

Historian: Chris Kolp

Board of Trustees Chair: Ryan Pels

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 Chair: TBA (**Acting Chair:** Sue Grage)

Minister/Church Relations Board Members:

Deb Farrell, Bev Jorland, Doris Johnson, Bonnie Bailey

Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

Custodian: TBA

**Articles for the March 2023 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, February 23rd, 2023**

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	1 THURSDAY <i>First Day of Black History Month</i>	2 FRIDAY	3 SATURDAY
4 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	5 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	6	7 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	8	9	10
11 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 11:00am Deadline for Adding to Council Agenda 6:00pm Soup and Conversation	15	16	17
18 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	19 <i>President's Day</i> 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	20 6:00pm Council Meeting on Zoom	21	22	23 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	24
25 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	26	27	28	29		



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Return Service Requested



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