



# 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**

**By Michael Small**

**For The Week of: [April 1, 2024](#)**



Photo Credit: Artur Rutkowski

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

*“If we consciously remind ourselves of our blessings, it should become harder to take them for granted and adapt to them.”*

**— ROBERT A. EMMONS**

### **DAILY QUESTION**

*What small change could I make to one of my everyday routines to create space for possibility?*

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

# **Easter – Resurrection Sunday – March 31**



**Bell Choir and Sabbastian Wilson Webb celebrate Easter Sunday.** Watch worship by going to [www.uccwalker.com](http://www.uccwalker.com) or clicking code.

**Christ Has Risen – Indeed!**



### MISSION MOMENT

#### “WELCOMING NEIGHBORS: REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS”

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees reports that there are currently almost 110 million people forcibly displaced from their homes. This figure includes at least 36.4 million refugees, in addition to another 6 million Palestinians. It is the highest number of displaced in recorded human history.

Most often, we think of displaced persons as those who have fled wars, violence, or persecution, but there are many other reasons for migration, such as lack of economic opportunity, lack of access to natural resources like water, food, and energy, and climate change.

In the Middle East and Europe, One Great Hour of Sharing supports programs of partners in Morocco, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, and Palestine which responds to the needs of those who have been forced from their homes. The Evangelical Church in Morocco is a church that is predominantly made up of people from more than 15 African countries.

It has opened its doors through its International Mutual Aid Committee (CEI) to provide basic immediate needs for new arrivals, who have come to Morocco from many of the same African countries as its members.

The migrants in Morocco have experienced much hardship before arriving there, such as human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. They are desperate to pass through the country to Europe, to rest and remain, worn out from their experience, or simply wish to return home. They arrive in need of physical and mental health care, and spiritual care.

The CEI attempts to address these needs, living out Jesus' teaching that, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). It offers care for newborn children and their mothers, medical assistance, vocational training, microloans for entrepreneurial projects, and scholarships for study.

In these ways, people who are in the greatest of need are able to enjoy something of the fullness of life, as the Evangelical Church in Morocco welcomes, loves, and cares for the most vulnerable of people.

Dr. Peter E. Makari, Ph.D., Global Relations Minister, Middle East and Europe, Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ



Migrant beneficiaries with the CEI team, near Agadir, Morocco



Local CEI coordinator in Agadir, Morocco

Order Additional OGHS Materials at [www.uccresources.com](http://www.uccresources.com)

#### ❖ April 7<sup>th</sup> Worship Information – Second Sunday of Easter

- **Theme:** *Peace Be With You*
- **All readings for Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>:**
  - Acts 4:32-35 • Psalm 133 • 1 John 1:1-2:2 • John 20:19-31
- **Focus Prayer:** God of Peace, may your peace be with us. May your peace be in us. May we be peace in the world. Amen.
- **Focus Reading: John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup> In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>20</sup> Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.



The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, <sup>21</sup> who said to them again, “Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I’m sending you.”

<sup>22</sup> After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said,

“Receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven.  
If you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or “Twin”—was absent when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples kept telling him, “We’ve seen Jesus!”

Thomas’ answer was, “I’ll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound.”

<sup>26</sup> On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, “Peace be with you.”

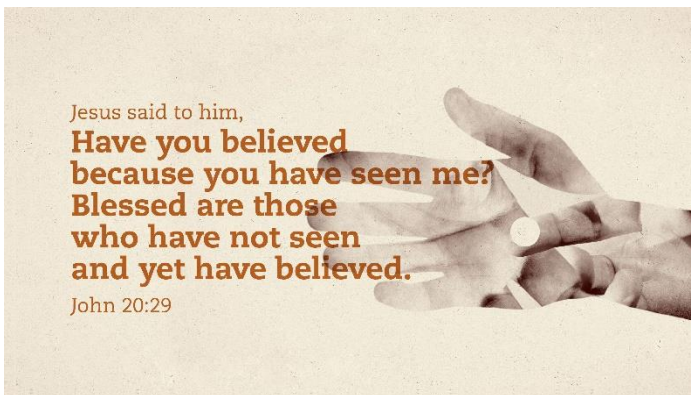
<sup>27</sup> Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, “Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don’t persist in your unbelief, but believe!”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said in response, “My Savior and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus then said,

“You’ve become a believer  
because you saw me.  
Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. <sup>31</sup> But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus’ Name.



- **Focus Questions:**

- What does it mean for peace to be with you?
- How do you express and confront your doubts?
- How has seeking evidence impacted your faith journey?
- How can faith communities make space for questions?
- Have you experienced an encounter with the Living God?

- **Special Music to be done by *Joanne Pels***

- **Liturgist: Bev Jorland, Greeter: Joanne Pels**

- ❖ **Prayers for:**

- For Son Shine breaking forth each and every morning – We give you thanks.
- For the mystery of life – life abundant lived out in each of us – We give you thanks.
- For Resurrection morning, the empty tomb, knowing Jesus has gone ahead of us, preparing the way for the presence of the Kingdom, the Realm of God – We give you thanks.

- For family, friends, the beloved, the stranger – all called to be in relationship – We give you thanks.
- For food, shelter, transportation, mobility – We give you thanks.
- For a world where we see, hear, taste, smell, touch – with eyes, ears, hands – We give you thanks.
- For media, though at times it overwhelms and brings confusion and challenge, media that connect us one to the other over land and seas – We give you thanks.
- For leaders – We give you thanks.
- God we pray for healing and wholeness for all creation:
  - For those who suffer physically, emotionally, mentally – bless them,
  - For those who grieve – give to them hope,
  - For those afflicted by violence, poverty, despair – the light of peace.
- For those who are called to lead, discernment, wisdom, courage.
- For all – resurrection and new beginnings.
- Christ has Risen – Risen Indeed!

❖ ***“<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).***

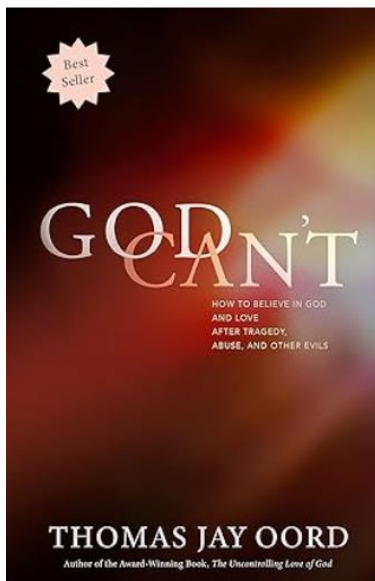
❖ ***Women’s Fellowship*** meets on Tuesday, April 9 at 1:00 p.m.

❖ ***Book Conversation – Begins Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>*** – Light Meal at 6:00 p.m. Conversation 6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. In-person and Virtual via zoom. On April 10<sup>th</sup> we will discuss the preface – ***A Solution to Evil***, and Chapter One – ***God Can’t Prevent Evil***.

❖ Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82457978032?pwd=ajlXR1I5TWNaZW1wMVZlZkksrV1NPUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 5797 8032, Passcode: 613246



***God Can't: How to Believe in God and Love after Tragedy, Abuse, and Other Evils*** by Thomas Jay Oord

Hurting people ask heart-felt questions about God and suffering. Some "answers" they receive appeal to mystery: "God's ways are not our ways". Some answers say God allows evil for a greater purpose. Some say evil is God's punishment.

The usual answers fail. They don't support the truth that God loves everyone all the time. **God Can't** gives a believable answer to why a good and powerful God doesn't prevent evil.

Author **Thomas Jay Oord** says God's love is inherently uncontrollable. God loves everyone and everything, so God can't control anyone or anything. This means God cannot prevent evil singlehandedly. God can't stop evildoers, whether human, animal, organism, or inanimate objects

and forces.

In **God Can't**, Oord gives a plausible reason why some are healed, but many others are not. God always works to heal everyone, but sometimes our bodies, organisms, or other creatures do not

cooperate with God's healing work. Or the conditions of creation are not right for the healing God wants to do.

### ❖ Spring Coffee House Concerts

- At 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, CCOWUCC will embark on one of two **Spring Coffee House Concerts**. The first concert will feature Ryan and Joanne Pels with all donations going to *World Central Kitchen (WCK)*. World Central Kitchen is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters. WCK is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises.
- At 6:00 p.m. on Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>, Linda and Ken Barber will present the second **Spring Coffee House Concert** with all donations going to Paws and Claws in Hackensack MN. The mission of Paws and Claws is mission is *to save animal lives, educate youth and complete families*.



### ❖ Birthdays

- 4/5 John Aamodt  
Britta Rand
- 4/7 Jesse Kolp
- 4/9 Jacob Wolfe
- 4/11 Peg Jennings
- 4/22 Lauren Farrell
- 4/29 Kameron Artley



### ❖ Anniversaries

- 4/25 Tim and Shelli Johnson

- ❖ **Church Council will meet** on **Tuesday, April 16<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

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

- ❖ **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)

- ❖ **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.

- ❖ Addresses – You are invited to be in touch.

Meryle O'Connor  
Waterford Estates

Sue and Duane Grage  
309 Birch Court

Linda and Ken Barber  
9234 Crooks Loop NW

6288 Louisiana N. #111  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Park Rapids MN 56470

Walker MN 56484

Sue Standeven  
203 Ross Pl. N. #105  
Walker MN 56484

Betty Fisher  
4222 Larch Street NE  
Bemidji MN 56601

Gay 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  
<https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15458>

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

Rep. Matt Bliss (R) District: 02B  
311 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5516  
Toll Free: 877-838-5537

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/>

E-mail:  
rep.matt.bliss@house.mn.gov  
<https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15458>

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