



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!”



Photo Credit: Eden Reforestation Projects

CCOWUCC Update and News
By Michael Small
For The Week of: [April 22, 2024](#)

WORD FOR THE DAY
- FROM GRATEFUL.ORG

“Gratitude is most powerful as a response to the Earth because it provides an opening to reciprocity, to the act of giving back, to living in a way that the Earth will be grateful for us.”

— ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

DAILY QUESTION

How do I love trees? Let me count the ways...

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

- ❖ **The Fourth Sunday of Easter** – Jesus proclaims to his followers – “I AM the Shepherd”! A shepherd whose voice is heard by many, a shepherd whose voice we know. Doyle Turner was the guest musician and was outstanding! The service may be viewed on the church website www.uccwalker.com or by clicking on the QR code.



- ❖ **Passover for the Jewish People Begins at sundown on April 22nd** and ends after nightfall on April 30th in the United States. The first Passover Seder will be on April 22 after nightfall, and the second Seder will be on April 23 after nightfall.



- ❖ ***Please surround Jewish people in prayer as they celebrate Passover – this most sacred time.*** Passover is a festival of freedom. It commemorates the Israelites’ Exodus from Egypt, and their transition from slavery to freedom. The main ritual of Passover is the seder, which

occurs on the first two night (in Israel just the first night) of the holiday — a festive meal that involves the re-telling of the Exodus through stories and song and the consumption of ritual foods, including matzah and maror (bitter herbs).

- ❖ **Prayers from United Church of Christ:**

“Creator of starshine and giver of light, let us stoke the fires of love for one another. May you help guide our world towards peace. Amen.” – Leslie Lauderdale, IL from www.ucc.org.

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6-7).

❖ April 21st Worship Information – Fifth Sunday of Easter

- **Theme: Power to Lay it Down!**
- **All readings for this Sunday:**
 - Acts 8:26-40 • Psalm 22:25-31 • 1 John 4:7-21
 - John 15:1-8
- **Focus Prayer:** Vine Grower and Vine, keep your branches connected to you and prune us to bear much fruit. Amen.



- **Focus Reading: John 10:11-18**

- 11 I am the good shepherd.
A good shepherd would die for the sheep.
- 12 The hired hand, who is neither shepherd
nor owner of the sheep,
catches sight of the wolf coming
and runs away,
leaving the sheep to be scattered
or snatched by the wolf.
- 13 That's because the hired hand works only for pay
and has no concern for the sheep.
- 14 I am the good shepherd.
I know my sheep
and my sheep know me,
in the same way Abba God knows me
and I know God—
and for these sheep
I will lay down my life.
- 16 I have other sheep
that don't belong to this fold—
I must lead them too,



- and they will hear my voice.
And then there will be one flock,
one shepherd.
- 17 This is why Abba God loves me—
because I lay down my life,
only to take it up again.
- 18 No one takes my life from me;
I lay it down freely.
I have the power to lay it down,
and I have the power to take it up again.
This command I received from my Abba."

- **Focus Questions:**

- What is pruning?
- What needs pruning in your life, your faith community, or the world?
- What does it mean to abide in Jesus?

- What threatens to disconnect you from the Vine?
- What fruit do you bear and where do you bear it?

- **Special Music to be done by Celebrate (Chris Kolp and Ken and Linda Barber)**

- **Liturgist: Chris Kolp, Greeter: Sue Graze**

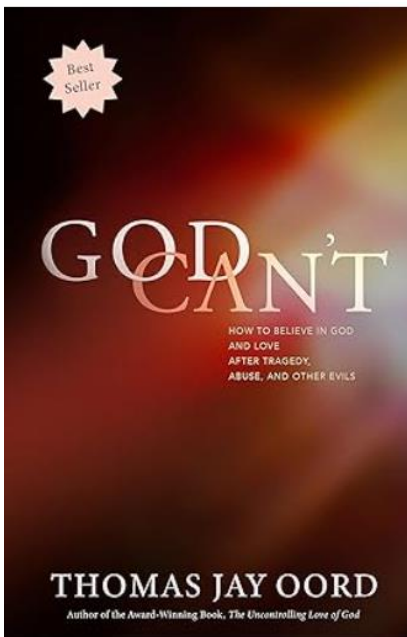
❖ **Women's Fellowship** meeting To Be Announced.

❖ **Book Conversation – Begins Wednesday April 24th** – Light Meal at 6:00 p.m. Conversation 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. In-person and Virtual via zoom. On April 10th we will discuss Chapter Two – **God Feels Our Pain.**

- Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82457978032?pwd=ajlXR1I5TWNaaW1wMVZWbksrV1NPUT09>

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 uncontrolling. 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.

❖ **HANDBELL PRACTICE – Wednesday – 4/17/2024 at 7:45 p.m.**

❖ **Church Council will meet on **Tuesday, May 21st** 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

❖ Spring Coffee House Concerts

- At 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 28th, 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 **Thanks to Ken Barber for the building the Coffee House Stage** 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 19th, 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

- 4/22 Lauren Farrell
- 4/29 Kameron Artley



❖ Anniversaries

- 4/25 Tim and Shelli Johnson

❖ Information for bulletin needs to be at the church by Tuesday morning 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

❖ **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
6288 Louisiana N. #111
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Sue and Duane Grage
309 Birch Court
Park Rapids MN 56470

Linda and Ken Barber
9234 Crooks Loop NW
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

E-mail:
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
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>

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