



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: Prateek Gautam

CCOWUCC Update and News
By Michael Small
For The Week of: [April 29, 2024](#)

WORD FOR THE DAY
- FROM GRATEFUL.ORG

“Keep inviolate an area of light and peace within you.”
— CORAZON AQUINO

DAILY QUESTION

What supports me in honoring the full spectrum of my feelings?

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

Inaugral “Good News Coffee House” A Grand Success

Ryan and Joanne Pels kicked off the first ever, now to be known as, the **Good News Coffee House**, on a rainy/cold Sunday evening in the Fellowship Hall at CCOWUCC! A special thank you to Women’s



Fellowship who provided coffee, cider, and sweet goodies for this special gathering and to Ken Barber who built the stage. **Over \$400.00 was generously raised for the *World Central Kitchen*.**
Thanks to all who gave!



The Good News Coffee House was streamed live on FaceBook and YouTube. It may be viewed on the church website – www.uccwalker.com or by clicking th QR code to the left.

The next Good News Coffee House will be on Sunday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m. – featuring Ken and Linda Barber.

- ❖ **The Fifth Sunday of Easter** – Jesus proclaims to his followers – “I AM vine”! As followers of Jesus we are entwined with him and our task is to bear good and plentiful fruit. Celebrate enhanced the worship service with music that soothed and challenged. The service may be viewed on the church website www.uccwalker.com or by clicking on the QR code.



Strengthen The Church Offering – May 19th



We traditionally celebrate the birth of the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, with this offering to Strengthen the Church. However, we encourage churches to choose a Sunday to receive the offering when you anticipate the greatest response. Churches may choose other Sundays: Mother's Day, the last day of Sunday School this spring, or a church anniversary.

Prayers from United Church of Christ: – “Holy God, of peace, provider of light – thank you for making peace possible. Thank you for placing within our hearts a deep yearning for Your peace, the kind of peace that means justice, enough for everyone, an end to all those isms that divide us. We pray that Your light might shine a path for us as we pursue Your peace, and that we might find along the way, the inner peace that fuels and re-fuels our continued journeys toward peace together. In your most Holy Name we pray. Amen.” – Julia Gaughan, Kansas

” – 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).

❖ May 5th Worship Information – Sixth Sunday of Easter

- **Theme: *Chosen and Appointed***

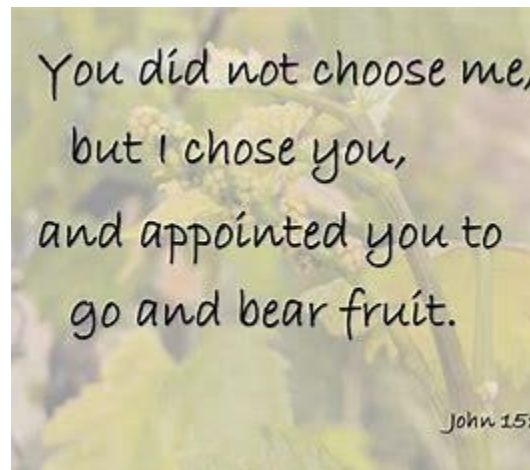
- **All readings for this Sunday:**

• Acts 10:44-48 • Psalm 98 • 1 John 5:1-6 • John 15:9-17

- **Focus Prayer:** Holy One, thank you for abiding with us, loving us, choosing to befriend us, and for appointing us to bear fruit. Amen

- **Focus Reading: John 15:9-17**

⁹ As my Abba has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Live on in my love.
¹⁰ And you will live on in my love
if you keep my commandments,
just as I live on in Abba God's love
and have kept God's commandments.
¹¹ I tell you all this that my joy may be yours,
and your joy may be complete.
¹² This is my commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
¹³ There is no greater love
than to lay down one's life for one's friends.
¹⁴ And you are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
¹⁵ I no longer speak of you as subordinates,
because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business.
Instead I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learned from Abba God.



¹⁶ It was not you who chose me;
it was I who chose you
to go forth and bear fruit.

Your fruit must endure,
so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name
God will give you.

¹⁷ This command I give you:
that you love one another.



- **Focus Questions:**

- Have you ever been appointed to a position? What was it like?
- How are people chosen...for a role or a purpose?
- Do you consider yourself chosen, appointed, or both as a person of faith?
- How do you understand Jesus as friend?
- What is the impact of God's abiding presence in your life?

- **Special Music:**

- **Liturgist: Gay Jacobson, Greeter: Joanne Detwiler**

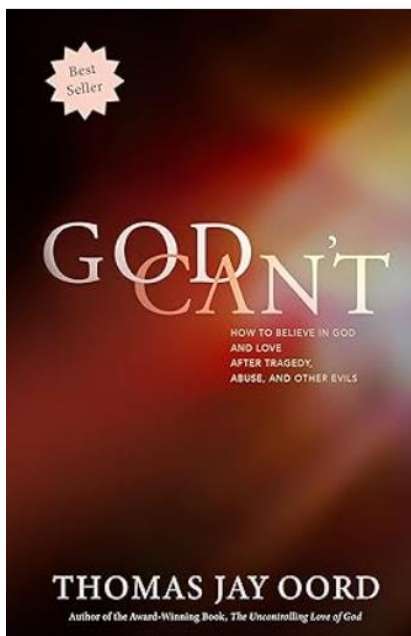
❖ **Women's Fellowship** meeting To Be Announced.

❖ **Book Conversation – Wednesday May 8th** – Light Meal at 6:00 p.m. Conversation 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. In-person and Virtual via zoom. On May 8th we will discuss Chapter Two – **God Works to Heal**.

- 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 – 5/8/2024 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 Good News Coffee House Concert**

- 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**

- 4/29 Kameron Artley
- 5/4 Kris Koch
- 5/8 Kathy Hopen
- 5/9 Marge Koch
- 5/10 Linda Barber



❖ **Anniversaries**

- 5/1 Don and Doris Splichal
- 5/10 Jim and Marilyn Vogt
- 5/17 John and Joanna Aamodt

❖ **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>

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>

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>

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

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/>

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