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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...”

MAY 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



Awakening!

On my list of books to read is one written by a colleague Catherine Duncan called *Everyday Awakening: Five Practices for Living Fully, Feeling Deeply, and Coming into Your Heart and Soul*.

Awakening! Isn't that what we are experiencing as days lengthen with the power of the sun, the earth warms, perennials break through the soil, trees bud, lakes are open, and the winds blow. It is as if winds and rain from the south are filled with Spirit of God, coming once again, to baptize the earth with sunshine, moonshine, rains – waters that bring forth life, light that creates life abundant!

The earth, the land, the lakes that seemed dormant have come to life – they have awakened. With gratitude, these are the predictable cycles of nature, yearly reminding us that there is a natural rhythm to the cosmos – from conception/creation to birth, growth, awakening, life, death . . . re-birth, growth, awakening, life, death, and this pattern is repeated eternally!

As we approach summer with the return of snowbirds, the Gazebo Concerts, the opportunities for worship, study, prayer may we awaken to how God is calling us to be in the world, this place we call home!

During our times together I invite you to place six biblical texts on your plate. Read them – again and again. Hear the words speaking to you and calling you to the work of awakening to the Realm, the Kingdom of God in our midst. These recommendations come from author and editor Jim Wallis.

BACK TO THE TEXTS (from Wallis, Jim. *The False White Gospel* (p. 231). St. Martin's Publishing Group.)

Genesis 1:26: “Then God said, let us make humankind in our own image, according to our own likeness.” Do we believe that all of us were created after God’s own image and likeness—or not?

Luke 10:25–37: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Do we believe that our love for our neighbors who are different from us determines our love for God—or not?

John 8:32: “You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.” Do we believe that not knowing the truth and submitting to lies will take away our freedom—or not?

Matthew 25:31–46: “As you have done to the least of these, you have done to me.” Do we believe these words in this last teaching of Jesus, before he went into Jerusalem; that how we treat the poor and vulnerable is literally how we treat Christ himself—or not?

Matthew 5:9: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” Do we believe that the peacemakers, not the dividers, are God’s real children—or not?

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Galatians 3:28: “There is no longer Jew or Gentile, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ.” Do we believe these words of the apostle Paul; that we are not just old tribes but meant to become a new community—or not?

Awaken my friends, awaken to the ways and truth of Jesus as seek to speak and live truth, laying the foundation for the Realm of God in our midst. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Michael

May this culture be so! In Christ, Pastor Michael

Road Construction

As you travel to and from the church be aware of the road construction. Take care and drive safely.



Book Conversation – Begins Wednesday

Light Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Conversation 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m

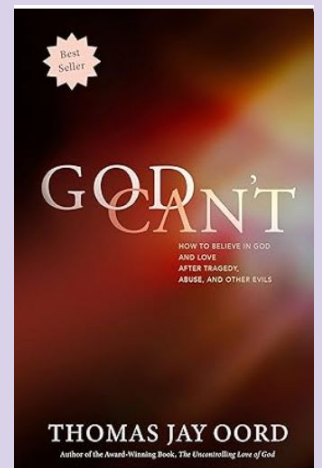
In-person and Virtual via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82457978032?pwd=ajlXR1I5TWNaaW1wMVZWbkSrV1NPUT09>

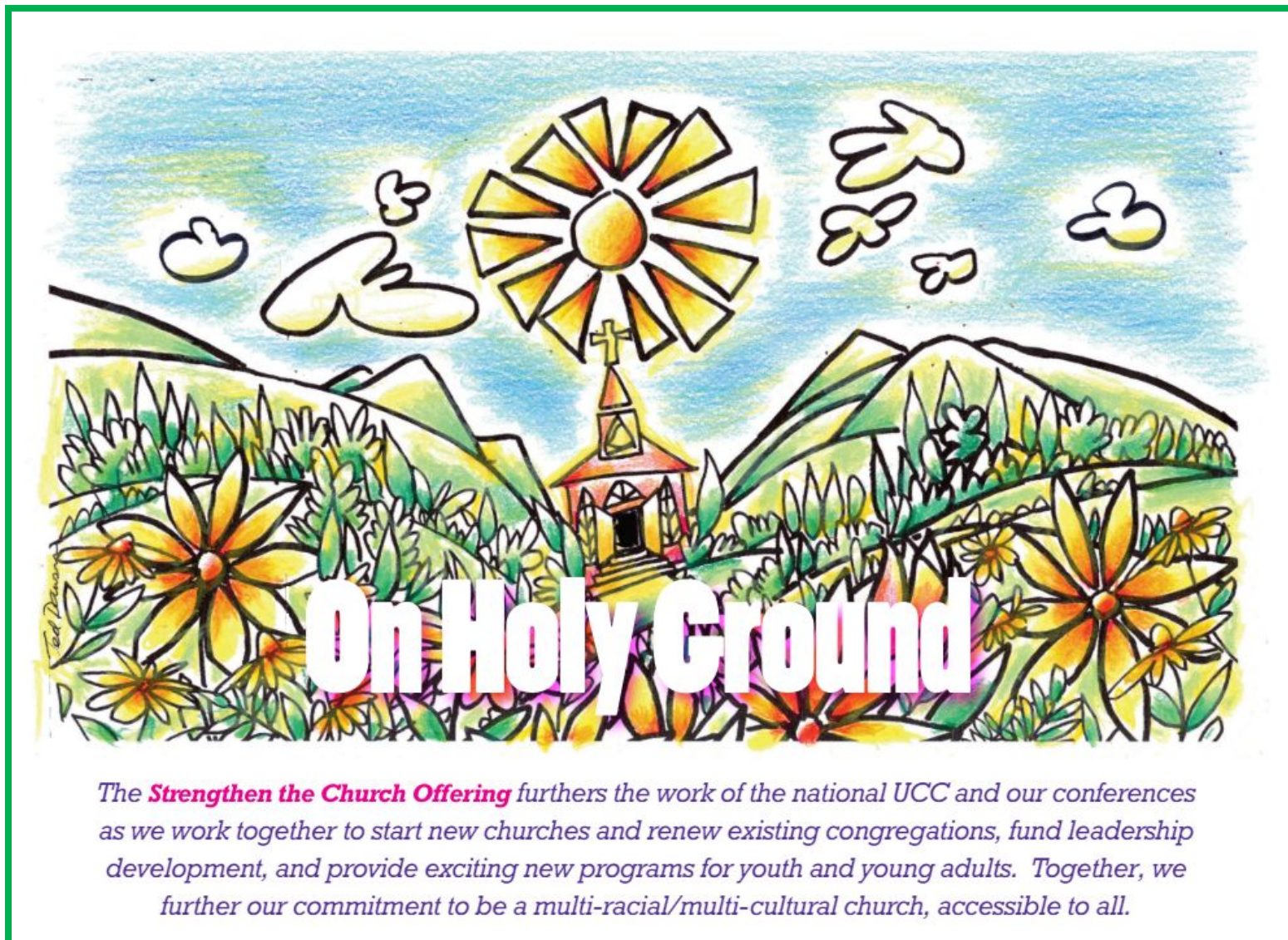
Meeting ID: 824 5797 8032, Passcode: 613246

May 1	Chapter 3 – <i>God Feels our Pain</i>
May 8	Chapter 4 – <i>God Works to Heal</i>
May 15	Chapter 5 – <i>God Squeezes Good from Bad</i>
May 22	Chapter 6 – <i>God Needs Our Cooperation & Postscript</i>



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 single handedly. God can't stop evildoers, whether human, animal, organism, or inanimate objects and forces.

Strengthen The Church Offering **Received on Pentecost Sunday - May 19th**



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

This month's meeting will take place on May 14th at 6:00pm over Zoom.

Coffee House Concert – with Coffee, Music, and Treats

May 19th – 6:00 p.m.

In-Person and Streamed Live on YouTube and Facebook



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.

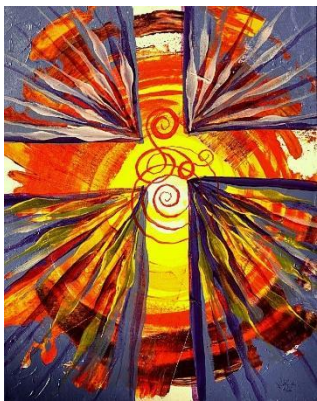
In Memory of those who have died – Memorial Day 2023 – 2024

Name	Birth	Death	Celebration
Robert "Bob" Jerry Horak	October 11, 1942	June 2, 2023	August 19, 2023
Jon Karl "Jack" Gyldenvand	June 8, 1947	August 15, 2023	September 12, 2023
Ruby Jane (Wittmeier) Haugen	August 16, 1941	September 7, 2023	September 16, 2023
Nancy Jacobson	June 30, 1930	November 27, 2023	May 31, 2024
Myron "Mike" Barber	April 18, 2028	January 2, 2024	April 20, 2024
Duane Grage	June 24, 1936	April 10, 2024	June 22, 2024
Deb Wilkening	October 18, 1963	April 13, 2024	April 19, 2024

From Minnesota Conference UCC

**Share Your Opinion! Faith Formation Through Outdoor Ministry
May 11th – 1:00 p.m. at Rendezvous Brewery in Hackensack
A Listening-Session**

"As we continue to live into a pandemic-informed reality and as our local congregations discern how to foster faithful, vibrant, and relevant ministries within their changing communities, the Conference needs to assess how **faith formation and outdoor ministries** can better nurture, equip, and support local congregations, their leaders, and members. Help us improve the Minnesota Conference's Outdoor and Faith Formation ministries by participating in our online survey."



Pentecost Sunday – May 19 – 10:00 a.m.

Pentecost – often thought to be the birth of the Christian Church when the Spirit of God descended upon the disciples and others – enabling them to build the church by healing, preaching, building up the Realm of God, and following in the ways of Christ.

Music leadership will be done by Sabbastian Wilson-Webb. May this be a service of joy, wonder, call, and affirmation – that we may all be led by the Spirit!

Proposed 2024 Gazebo Concert Series

- June 9, 2024 **ACOUSTOFIDDLE (Paul Nye and Jeff Menten)**
- June 16, 2024 **Doyle Turner**
- June 23, 2024 **Deb and Steve Harley**
- June 30, 2024 **Julie and Bill Kaiser**
- July 7, 2024 **Sabbastian Wilson-Webb**
- July 14, 2024 **Golden Harbor Quartet**
- July 21, 2024 **After 5**
- July 27, 2024 **Charley and Mama Wags**
- August 4, 2024 **Larry Kimball and Friends**
- August 11, 2024 **Steve Reiter**
- August 18, 2024 **Abello**
- August 25, 2024 **Pels and Friends**



Did You Know?



Our Church's History



DESSERT IS READY!

and in the meantime a Pulpit Committee was appointed and a diligent search made for a minister. Upon severance of his pastoral duties, Rev. Hammond was made Minister Emeritus of the Community Church. During October and November 1957, Rev. Suzanna Olson served as Interim Pastor, serving both the Walker and Hackensack parishes. On November 25, 1957, a call was extended to Rev. Harold A. Mercier to become permanent pastor of the "Yoked Parish" of Walker and Hackensack.

1956

On November 3, 1956, Rev. Hammond tendered his resignation after thirty-six years of service in the Walker Church. The congregation was reluctant to accept his resignation and urged him to continue as pastor until such time as he felt it absolutely necessary to retire. He consented to serve until such time as another pastor could be found.

Left to Right

- EDNA LICKE
- GLADYS LA MUSGA
- MOLLIE KRUEGER
- PHYLLIS OMAN
- ALICE JAMES
- EDITH LA ROSA

1957

April 14, 1957, the members of the Church voted to unite with the Hackensack Congregation in hiring of a minister. Up until September 1, 1957, Rev. Hammond, together with guest speakers, served the Walker Church,

1958

Early in the year of 1958, a Church Council was organized, its duty being to handle routine business or refer such business to the proper board or committee. One of the first duties performed by the newly organized council was the preparation of a constitution and by-laws and a revision of the membership list. On January 12, 1958, a Men's Fellowship was reactivated with eighteen members, Jake Licke being elected president, and Dr. H. Brown, secretary-treasurer. On March 23, 1958, Rev. Harold A. Mercier was installed as pastor of the Yoked Parish of Walker and Hackensack.

Top Row L to R

- DONALD WILLARD
- JOHN CARLSON
- CARL JOHNSTON

Front Row

- MARGARET MOORE
- SANDRA BILBEN
- ROBERTA MOORE
- ILA JEAN ANDERSON
- JOYCE ANDERSON
- PATSY NELSON

REV. HAMMOND



CONFIRMATION CLASS 1957



Left to Right

- JOE O'CONNOR
- BRAD BARKER
- RANDY FISHER
- VI FREESEMANN
- JEANNE O'CONNOR

VI FREEZMAN & SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The service was a very impressive one and was attended by the Hackensack Congregation and many visiting pastors and laymen throughout the State. One of the most important problems of the year was to provide adequate and needed living quarters for the pastor and his family. Property in Quam's First Addition to Walker was purchased from Orville Ellis. A new parsonage was built under the supervision and direction of Mr. Alston Alto, the cost of the property and building being \$1,500.00. \$5,000.00 of this amount was raised by subscription and the balance taken care of by a loan secured by a mortgage on the building. The new parsonage was ready for occupancy in October 1958, and on November 30 an Open House was held and the new building dedicated.

MAY DATES TO CELEBRATE

Birthdays



- 2 Jessie Barber
- 4 Kris Koch
- 8 Kathy Hopen
- 9 Marge Koch
- 10 Linda Barber
- 16 Sue Standeven
- 18 Rebecca Lloyd
Benjamin Lloyd
- 19 Kameron Koch
- 22 Shaleen Black
- 31 Sara Koch

Anniversaries

- 1 Don and Doris Splichal
- 10 Jim and Marilyn Vogt
- 17 John and Joanna Aamodt
- 27 Denis and Shaleen Black



WORSHIP MINISTRY — MAY

GREETERS

- May 5 Joanne Detwiler
- May 12 Gay Jacobson
- May 19 Sue Grage
- May 26 Jo Pels

LITURGISTS

- May 5 Gay Jacobson
- May 12 Deb Farrell
- May 19 Bev Jorland
- May 26 Sonja Huber

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Earl & Ruth Niedermann



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is a monthly newsletter publication of the
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Mailing address: P.O. Box 267
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Phone: (218) 547-1093 **Email:** commchurchucc@gmail.com

Website: www.uccwalker.com

Pastor Michael Small

Mailing address: P.O. Box 38, Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone: (218) 280-1401 **Email:** mjsmall.ucc@gmail.com

Secretary: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

Office Hours: 10:00am-2:00pm on Thursdays

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: Joanne Detwiler

Board of Memorials Chair: Wendy Paul

Board of Music Chair: Linda Barber

Board of Spiritual Life Chair: Ruth Niedermann

Women's Fellowship Chair: Sue Grage

Minister/Church Relations Board Members:

Deb Farrell, Bev Jorland, Doris Johnson, Bonnie Bailey

Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

Custodian: Ryan and Joanne Pels

**Articles for the April 2023 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, May 24th, 2024**

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	1 WEDNESDAY	2 THURSDAY	3 FRIDAY	4 SATURDAY
5 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 6:00-7:00pm Coffee House – Linda & Ken Barber	6	7 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	8 <u>Book Conversation</u> 6:00pm Meal 6:45pm Conversation	9	10	11
12 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	13 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	14 6:00pm Council Meeting on Zoom	15 11:00am Deadline for Adding to Council Agenda <u>Book Conversation</u> 6:00pm Meal 6:45pm Conversation	16	17	18
19 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	20	21	22 <u>Book Conversation</u> 6:00pm Meal 6:45pm Conversation	23	24 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	25
26 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	27 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	28	29	30	31	



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Return Service Requested



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