



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..."

JUNE 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



A Story to Tell

Often, I am for a loss of words when reflecting upon all that is happening and how God is calling each of us to be God's servants – building up the realm of God, here, now, in this place. The Kingdom of God has come and is coming – and we are a part of it – and with it comes life, abundant life. I am thankful for all of you as you join in this journey. We are called to tell the story of God's good news. Jim Burklo has been helpful to me along the way. I hope his words below are helpful to you as we navigate this time together.

In the ways of Christ, Pastor Michael

A New Story

By Jim Burklo

Last week, I was in Philadelphia – and I wandered over to Independence Square to gaze at the stunning portraits of the central figures of the American Revolution on display at the old Second Bank of the United States. The personalities of the founders of the country came alive for me in those old paintings. As I read the biographies shown below the pictures, I saw that each of them experienced a unique version of the story of the American revolution. Each one of them experienced a different slice of that history. Each of them had a somewhat different set of aspirations for the country. Each had a different understanding of what it meant to be united and what it meant to be states! None of them could have foretold what would become of the new nation they had created.

Today our nation faces a dire threat to the survival of the democracy those people established. And it seems to me that part of what is needed to save our democracy is a new story of America. A story that is inspiring and redemptive and transformative, and at the same time is realistic and honest and unvarnished. A gospel story for America, you might say. One that lifts up the truly enlightened vision of the people who founded the United States, while recognizing that those people were far from living up to their own ideals. A story of America that remembers the fits and starts and back-slides and forward pushes we've made to fulfill that original vision in ways going far beyond what those founders could have imagined in their historical and cultural context.

In the media today, I hear two conflicting versions of America's story. In one version, America is the product of a "virgin birth", with its founders inspired by God to set our nation forward toward a manifest destiny of greatness and goodness. Another version is that of a nation founded by white settler colonialist oppressors of native Americans and Black people, establishing a legacy of racism and capitalist domination that persists to this day.

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We need an alternative that is both based in fact and imbued with inspiration. We need a new story so that we can claim a new kind of patriotism, a love of country that honors what is good in our story and moves us to right what is wrong in it. A patriotism that propels us into action for liberty and justice for all, not a patriotism that worships a fantasized past. We need a new American story, putting together both the dim and the bright pieces in a way that extrapolates from the best of our founders' visions, aiming us to better and to beyond what they could have imagined.

Gazing at those portraits of the real people - noble, yet flawed - inspired, yet culturally constrained - who cobbled together a form of government unique in its time, I gained a new level of respect for them, as well as a new level of respect for Americans today who are striving to make our country live up to the highest in our founders' ideals. For each of those founders, until their dying days, the United States was a canvas not nearly as finished as the ones on which their portraits were painted. Nor is that canvas finished today.

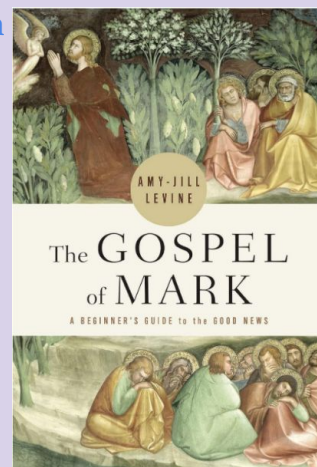
Let us take up our brushes and do our part to complete the picture, to add to the story, to honor and love our country with our action for a more perfect union...

Book Conversation – Begins Wednesday June 12th

The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News

By Amy-Jill Levine

Discover the Good News in the Bible's earliest Gospel



Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus with scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she examines John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables. The Good News of the gospel message comes alive in this book as readers see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. The book features an in-depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels.

Two Separate Gatherings for This Conversation

Sessions	Text	Date	Time	Time
The Good News	Mark 1 – 4	6/12/2024	1:00 – 2:00	6:00 – 7:30
Restoring Purity and Wholeness	Mark 5 – 7	6/19/2024	1:00 – 2:00	6:00 – 7:30
Sacrifice, Ransom, Prophet, Messiah	Mark 8 – 10	6/26/2024	1:00 – 2:00	6:00 – 7:30
July 4th Holiday Break				
Fig Trees and Tenants	Mark 11 – 12	7/10/2024	1:00 – 2:00	6:00 – 7:30
The Little Apocalypse	Mark 13	7/17/2024	1:00 – 2:00	6:00 – 7:30
Judas Iscariot and the Naked Man	Mark 14 – 15	7/24/2024	1:00 – 2:00	TBD

- Each Session will be done **in-person and virtually via zoom**. Zoom details will be sent out at a later date.
- The Sessions will begin by viewing a 20-minute Video Presentation by the author – Amy-Jill Levine. Discussion will follow the DVD presentation.
- A light meal will precede the evening session at 6:00 p.m.

**Community Church of Walker-United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting
May 21, 2024**

Present: Moderator Bonnie Bailey, Pastor Michael Small, Joanne Detwiler, Chris Kolp, Ruth Niedermann, Doris Johnson, Marge Koch, Wendy Paul, Gay Jacobson, Deb Farell

Via Zoon: Sue Grage, Linda Barber

Absent: Esther Covert, Ryan Pels, Joanna Aamodt, Bev Jorland

Moderator Bonnie Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:00

Opening Prayer: Pastor Michael led the Council in prayer.

Review of 4/16/24 minutes: Ruth N. moved to approve the minutes as written, Doris J second, motion carried.

Oral Reports:

Spiritual Life: Ruth N. they are waiting to see what we want to do about the candelabra. Deb F will see if there is anyone that will repair the candelabra in Fargo.

Women's Fellowship: Rummage sale is planned for Friday, September 6th from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 7th from 8:00 a.m. -12 noon. Next Women's Fellowship meeting will be June 11th at 1:00 p.m.

Christian Education meeting will be May 23 at 4:00 p.m.

Music Board: There will a meeting soon.

Memorial Stone: Chris S. – Darlene Stilson stone is here, and a time will be set to the when it is convenient for her daughter to attend for the placement.

Written Reports:

Financial: Deb F. There was a transfer from memorials, it was a mistake, should have transferred from savings. Will replace taken out of the Memorial Funds.

Treasurer: Joanne D

Benevolence: Doris J. The free will donations from the Coffee House brought in \$614 for Paws and Claws; Strengthen the Church: \$545; The next 5th Sunday, June 30. Decision to be decided about the charity to collect for. 1) Children's books for the New Library, 2) Deep Portage

Memorials: Wendy P. \$5000 made in interest

Old Business

- 1) Building maintenance issues: rain leaking near vent; parking lot repairs, the city will rectify the hole. Ryan has been checking on the leak. The hole is being repaired by the city.
- 2) Thanks to all who made the Coffee House concerts a big success!
- 3) Gazebo concerts begin 6/9 at 7:00 p.m.
- 4) Spring clean-up 6/7 at 10:00 a.m. Focus on Gazebo area and the rock area for stones.
- 5) Upcoming memorial services. Nancy May 31st at 11:30 a.m. and Duane June 22nd at Riverside Church at 11:00 a.m. big party afterwards.
- 6) Candelabra repair – Deb will follow up with this.
- 7) Annual Meeting July 21, 2024 Annual reports from officers and chairs by June 17th. Needs to be printed and ready for congregation by July 17.
- 8) Other old business?

New Business

- 1) Recent elevator inspection, some repairs need to be addressed. Overdo for fixing the issues. Forward the information to Larson to see what the repairs will cost. Will need an electrician for lighting for emergency lighting in the elevator.
- 2) Would it be possible to get buckets of rock for cleanup day to put around the plants.
- 3) Nominating Committee: Marge K, Doris J, Linda B, Chris K, Sue G, Bonnie B
- 4) Memorial plaque for Darlene Stillson
- 5) Outreach: Gay J. and Joanne D. are reaching out to folks that are homebound or have medical issues or just need to know the church cares.
- 6) Pastor Report: Constitution committee will meet on Tuesday, May 26th at 1:00 p.m.
Sheila and Michael will do a pulpit swap with Outing on June 30th. Michael will preach in Outing and Sheila will preach for us.
- 7) Music board: coffee house has been extremely successful.
Leisa B will step back from being the Music Coordinator. Pastor Michael will be selecting the hymns.
Stream is updated 1080 HD updated, Facebook page is up. Mike Schmidt has been working on the stream. During the Gazebo there will have two devices to stream gazebo concert.
Proposing two separate sessions of Gospel of Mark for beginners 20 min DVD and then a 40 minute discussion.
Michael attended a conference at the Rendezvous– no longer have outdoor ministry camps. There are outdoor ministry.... Spring retreat and fall retreat,
St Mark's will use the Gazebo for service
- 8) Any other new business?

Next Council meeting 6/18/24 6:00

Marge K. made the motion to adjourn after Pastor closes with prayer, Deb F. second, motion carried.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Gay Jacobson, Clerk

Gazebo Concerts 2024

We are in need of hosts to help set-up each event. There will be a sign-up sheet at church on Sunday June 2nd.



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



1959

On January 18, 1959, new hymnals were presented and dedicated. Some of these were given as memorials, the balance being furnished by the Ladies Fellowship. On January 25th, the newly drawn Constitution and By-Laws were formally adopted at the Annual Meeting. On May 11, 1959 Rev. W.E. hammond, Pastor Emeritus of the Community Church, passed away at the Bemidji Hospital after a long illness. Burial was in the family plot in Aitkin, Minnesota. One of the noteworthy events of 1959, was that Mrs. Harold Mercier was chosen a delegate from Minnesota to the second General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Oberlin, Ohio. Pilgrim Fellowship was formed during 1959, and the membership grew steadily.

1960

In 1960, the membership gave serious thought to an expansion program. Several options were considered. Early morning services were commenced on June 26, 1960, with a 7:30 a.m. service and a second service held at 11:00 a.m. This schedule was used during the summer to accommodate the increased tourist attendance. A Dedication Service was held on July 31, 1960, for the dedication of the "Willam E. Hammond Memorial Chimes". Presentation of the memorial was made by J.N. Licke Rev. Harold Maimborg who read the scripture and gave the prayer of dedication and acceptance of the memorial. On October 30, 1960, the Trustees and members of the Church Council presented to the church membership an offer by the John Andrus family to provide gratis, three acres of land for a site for a new church; the offer was gratefully accepted. During the year, a series of Sunday night meetings were held to discuss pros and cons on the adoption of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ for the Union Merger with the Northern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

1961

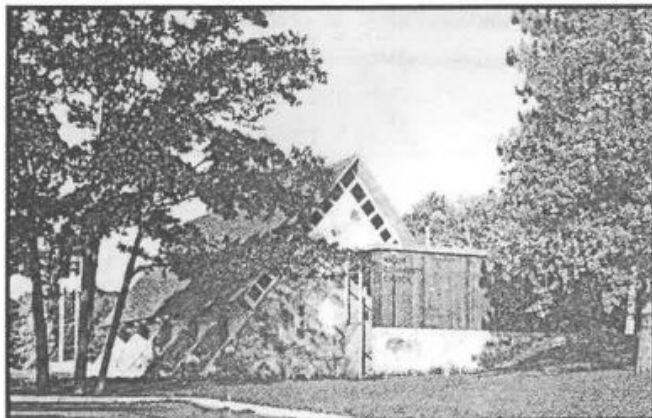
On September 24, 1961, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried, to build a new church rather than repair the old one. On November 25, the building committee recommended the Andrus Site for the new building. The proposed budget for 1962 was \$9,307.00.

1962

At the Council meeting, on March 1962, Mrs. Henry Hagen was appointed director of a building fund drive. In April, Mr. Leo Baldwin, of the Congregational Conference, met with the membership to assist in the organization of such a drive. In June, 1962, Jyring & Whiteman of Hibbing, Minnesota, were hired as architects, and were instructed to draw plans and specifications for the new building. Survey of the Church Site was made in September by the County Surveyor and Mr. Louis Tausch. Carl Steadland made up the final plat. The total tract contained 3.65 acres. On September 25, 1962, at 10 a.m., a State Conference Meeting was held in St. Paul to change from "Congregational Conference of Minnesota" to Minnesota Conference of the "United Church of Christ". On November 7, 1962, Articles of Agreement to consolidate, the "Congregational Conference of Minnesota" and the "Northern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church", to form the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, were formally signed at the Conference Office in Minneapolis. Under four departments, the Conference will carry on its work in Christian Education, Church Ministry, Lay Life and Work, and Our Christian World Mission.

1963

January 13, 1963, the architects were instructed to draw final plans for approval. Deed to the Church Site was received from the Andrus Family. On June 2, 1963, the old parsonage was sold to J.L. Licke. Groundbreaking services for the new church were held on June 16, 1963. On August 8, 1963, the Trustees authorized issuance of a church mortgage on the church building, amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. On November 15, 1963 a church mortgage was executed and filed with First National Bank of Walker. The amount of the loan was \$46,000.00.



WALKER COMMUNITY CHURCH BUILT 1963

JUNE DATES TO CELEBRATE

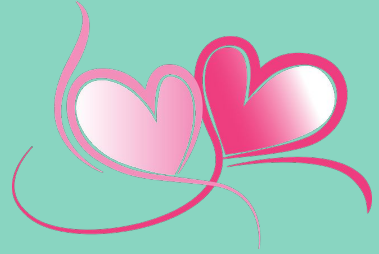
Birthdays

- 4 Marilyn Vogt
Rev. Enno Limvere
- 10 Sheila Hunter
- 15 Matthew Artley
- 17 Beverly Jorland
- 20 Bruce Haugen
- 21 Melanie Wolfe
- 26 Lynn Kennelly



Anniversaries

- 21 Ryan and Joanne Pels



WORSHIP MINISTRY — JUNE

GREETERS

- June 2 Gay Jacobson
- June 9 Sue Grage
- June 16 Beth Alderson
- June 23 Marge Koch
- June 30 Chris Kolp

LITURGISTS

- June 2 Bev Jorland
- June 9 Gay Jacobson
- June 16 Chris Kolp
- June 23 Sonja Huber
- June 30 Joanna Aamodt

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt



ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Bev Jorland



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is a monthly newsletter publication of the
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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

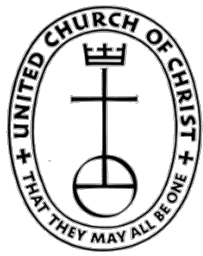
Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

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, June 21st, 2024**

JUNE

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



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Return Service Requested



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