



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..."

JULY 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

Change



For those of you reading this – we all have lived through some amazing, miraculous changes.

- Once the only phone was a party-line dial-up phone (black only).
 - Now small colorful cell phones that are computer, camera, word processor and can fit in a pocket or purse.
- Once we were **only able to listen** (while using our imaginations) to Jack Benny, Milton Berle and dramas such as The Shadow and daily news on the huge box tube radio.
 - Now we can view multiple channels on a flat screen hanging on the wall or on a cell phone, tablet, computer.
- News came to us in the form of newspapers.
 - News comes from multiple sources with “alternative truths”.
- Communication with loved ones was done by mail, phone calls, pictures taken by cameras, and in-person gatherings.
 - Communication is done instantly by text, Instagram, FaceTime, Facebook, Snapchat, and other social media platforms.
- Medical discoveries and interventions have prolonged life – life expectancy increases.
- Technology has brought us more efficient appliances (remember the wringer washer), vehicles, electric cars and Artificial Intelligence.
- Foods, products, things purchased are better made and generally safer.
- Networks of social media and communications easily connect us to the other side of the world and even to those who are traveling in outer space.
- Church and worship were experienced as faith communities gathered in-person.
 - Church and worship are experienced on-line with numerous choices available.

Change seems to be fluid and exponential. We have adapted, we have learned to embrace (and sometimes curse) the changes around us.

Community Church of Walker has . . . and is the midst of change. Universally, throughout all our denominations and those of differing faiths . . . all of us are facing profound changes. We are growing older. The younger generation, though spiritual, or people of faith do not find the way church is done to be helpful.

God is, I think, continuing to call us to be church. What church will look like for the generations to come will be different, and I suspect it will be profound.

May we be willing to engage in a process of asking the questions:

- What is God calling us to be at CCOWUCC?
- Who is God calling us to be?
- Who is God calling us to stand alongside, abide with, and lift up?
- How can our building be a gift to the community?
- How can we reimagine our relationship with Creator, Christ, and Spirit, and how can we reimagine our church?

Though change is hard, difficult, and hard to imagine or accept – we have been there before, and God will sustain us in the winding journey ahead!

Thanks be to God, Pastor Michael

GAZEBO MEMORIAL WALKWAY

Have you visited the Community Church's Gazebo memorial walkway this spring? Please take a walk, enjoy the view and look at the memorial stones. See how many you remember that were so important to many of us and missed dearly.

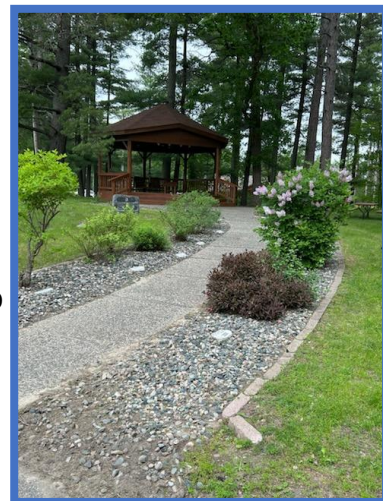
Some members interested in finding a way to revitalize our walkway area and include those that have passed in the past few years have met several times to think of ideas on how to add to our memorial walkway. We are open to suggestions. We have been unable to find similar rock stones that are in place now. We recently added Darlene Stilson's granite stone and



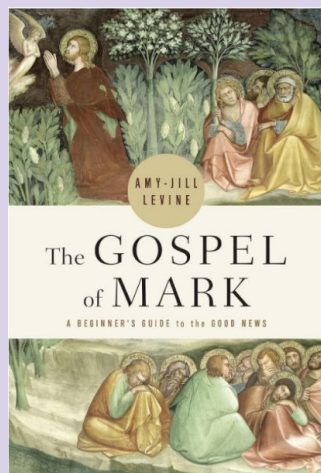
placed it next to Dick Stilson. Please take a look at Darlene's granite stone. If you are interested in placing a stone or memorial please contact one of the people listed and share on what you have in mind. We do not purchase the memorial stone and would of course need the church's permission on what is being placed. We do have the phone number for the Northland Monument by Longville if you are interested in seeing what they have to offer for a stone.

Call Mark Carstensen 218-212-7853 for information.

You may call and leave a message with Chris Kolp 218-252-0102 or Gay Jacobson 865-898-9818 so we can help with the planning and placement of a memorial stone.



Book – Video Conversation Introduced on 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 1	Time 2
Restoring Purity and Wholeness	Mark 5 – 7	7/10/2024	1 – 2 p.m.	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Sacrifice, Ransom, Prophet, Messiah	Mark 8 – 10	7/17/2024	1 – 2 p.m.	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Fig Trees and Tenants	Mark 11 – 12	7/31/2024	1 – 2 p.m.	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
The Little Apocalypse	Mark 13	8/7/2024	1 – 2 p.m.	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Judas Iscariot and the Naked Man	Mark 14 – 15	8/14/2024	1 – 2 p.m.	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

- 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 12 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
June 25, 2024

Present: Moderator Bonnie Bailey, Pastor Michael Small, Joanne Detwiler, Ruth Niedermann, Doris Johnson, Deb Farrell, Wendy Paul, Ryan Pels, and Esther Covert.

Via zoom: Gay Jacobson

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Bonnie Bailey at 6:02

Pastor Michael led us in prayer to begin the meeting.

Review of 5/21/24 minutes. Comment: Upcoming memorial services should have a last name for Nancy and Duane. It was agreed upon. There was memorial service for Nancy Jacobson on 5/31/24. The memorial service for Duane Grage was 6/22/24.

Question about the window washing being approved. Pastor Michael explained that it was decided after the Council meeting, with the Trustees approving Austin Moe to wash the windows for a total of \$1,000 inside and outside.

Nominating committee? Will be addressed later in the meeting.

Question about memorial funds; there is some memorial money in three categories. The bills have been paid so Wendy P will write a check to the UCC general fund. Ryan P moved that the checks be given to Deb F for deposit and Joanne D. second. Motion carried.

Review of all written reports: Financial: Deb F. Ruth asked about the transferred money from savings to checking. Deb explained why it was done and Ruth said it doesn't say that.

Joanne D. Explained that May 19 there is an automatic deposit from a pledge. She doesn't get notification at the time like she has with weekly. It was decided that it should be included in the monthly total. She will correct the pledges.

Pastor Michael had a question for Wendy P about the memorial account, the moneys that Wendy P will write checks to the general to replace some of the funds used to pay the bills.

Question: Are we going to do anything with the bell tower? Ryan has been talking with someone and will follow up with the cost of the bell tower repair.

Review of all oral reports:

Trustees: Ryan Pels. The bathroom is not flooding.

Water Softener is doing what it's supposed to do.

Cleaned all the Gazebo furniture and wiped away the pollen.

The drain is working again.

We need to consider changing the Council meetings from the 3rd Tuesday to either the 2nd or 4th. After discussion, Deb F made the motion to change our meetings to the 4th Tuesday. Doris J. second. Motion carried. The Council meetings will be the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00.

Question about the status of elevator repairs. Michael will be follow up. There is no safety issue. Next schedule visit for the elevator the repairs will be made.

Women's fellowship: Esther C.

- Workday was successful. Gary Bilben donated pizza.
- Workday has been planned for July 17 to clean and inventory the kitchen and storage room.
- Rummage sale is set for Friday, Sept 6 from 8:00-6:00 and Sept 7 8:00-12:00. Esther asked if it would be okay for people that want to donate furniture put it up to in the conference room beginning in late July. Pastor Michael said he did not see an issue with that. We can have our Council meeting in the Fellowship hall. Esther C. made the motion that the conference room can be used for furniture for the rummage sale. Wendy P. second. Motion carried.
- Esther shared that we want to get the heavy brown tables in the shed out and replace them with the white plastic tables. The brown tables are too heavy for any of us to move and we have to have Sentence to Serve help. There was much discussion and it was decided that we should first see if any non-profit would be interested in them and if not then see if we can sell them. The preference would be to give them to a non-profit. Esther C. made the motion to either sell or give away the wooden brown tables. Ruth N. second. Motion carried.
- The new officers for Women's Fellowship are: Gay J. president, Jo P. vice president, Doris J. secretary, and Ruth N. treasurer. We will continue to meet on Tuesdays.

Discussion about the outside flowers was addressed. Gay J will water on her way to work or Jo P. will take care of them when she's at the church.

- Benevolence report: Doris J: May's 5th Sunday donation will be given to the Walker Public Library to buy children's books. There was discussion about when the library might open. Probably late August or September.
- The next 5th Sunday will be in September.
- Next special collection will be October Neighbors in Need and December Christmas fund. December will also have a 5th Sunday.

Christian Ed: Joanne D. shared that Ann Nolan is willing do a talk on dementia. It will be done during fellowship. We need to find a date that will work for her. Possibly the end of July or beginning of Aug.

Spiritual Life: Ruth is resigning from the committee. Ruth and Michael and anyone else that wants to will meet July 2 at 9:00 to discuss the directory. There are numerous people that Ruth has not been able to get in touch with to check address and phone numbers.

Annual reports needed now so Sabbastian can get them ready before the Annual meeting.

Esther moved, Deb second to approve all oral reports.

There was a question about any information on the candelabra repair. There isn't anything yet.

Annual meeting July 21st.

Stewardship Sunday letter needs to be ready for Sunday July 7th.

Nominating report is complete. Bonnie, Chris, Marge, Sue G, and Linda B

Moderator: Bonnie Bailey

Vice Moderator: Bev Jorland

Clerk: Gay Jacobson

Financial: Deb Farrell

Treasurer: Joanne Detwiler

Trustee: Ryan Pels, Esther Covert, Tim Johnson, and Steve Bilben. There is one spot open for this next year.

Music: Linda B, Esther C, Joanna Aamodt,

Christian Life: Joanne Detwiler, Marge Koch, Esther Covert,

Spiritual Life: Bonnie B, Marge K, Bev J, Beth A, Jo P, Earl N,

Nominating Committee Report of Officers and Boards 2024-2025

<u>MODERATOR</u>	Bonnie Bailey	<u>UNTIL</u>
		6/30/25
<u>VICE-MODERATOR</u>	Bev Jorland	6/30/25
<u>CHURCH CLERK</u>	Gay Jacobson	6/30/25
<u>TREASURER</u>	Deb Farrell	
<u>FINANCIAL SECRETARY</u>	Joanne Detwiler	
<u>HISTORIAN</u>	Chris Kolp	
<u>BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE</u>		<u>UNTIL</u>
1) Doris Johnson – Chair		6/30/26
2) Chris Kolp		6/30/27
<u>BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED</u>		<u>UNTIL</u>
1) Esther Covert		6/30/25
2) Marge Koch		6/30/25
3) Joanne Detwiler		6/30/26
4) Wendy Paul		6/30/27
<u>BOARD OF MINISTER/CHURCH RELATIONS</u>		<u>UNTIL</u>
1) Deb Farrell		6/30/25
2) Doris Johnson		6/30/25
3) Bev Jorland – as Vice Moderator		6/30/25
<u>BOARD OF MUSIC</u>		<u>UNTIL</u>
1) Linda Barber		6/30/25
2) Joanna Aamodt		6/30/27
3) Esther Covert		6/30/27
4) Sue Grage		6/30/27
<u>BOARD OF SPIRITUAL LIFE</u>		<u>UNTIL</u>
1) Earl Niedermann		6/30/25
2) Beth Alderson		6/30/25
3) Joanne Pels		6/30/25
4) Sue Grage		6/30/25
5) Bev Jorland		6/30/26
6) Joanne Detwiler		6/30/26
7) Marge Koch		6/30/27
8) Bonnie Bailey		6/30/27
<u>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</u>		<u>UNTIL</u>
1) Tim Johnson		6/30/26
2) Esther Covert		6/30/26
3) Steve Bilben		6/30/27
4) Ryan Pels		6/30/27
5) _____		6/30/27

BOARD OF MEMORIALS

- 1) Wendy Paul
- 2) JoAnn Rand
- 3) Bonnie Bailey

UNTIL

6/30/25
6/30/25
6/30/25

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2024

- 1) Bonnie Bailey
- 2) Linda Barber
- 3) Sue Grage
- 4) Marge Koch
- 5) Chris Kolp

Doris made the motion to accept the Nominating report as given, Deb second. Motion Carried.

Pastor Michael report. Conference was well attended.

- Resolution was passed moved to change the bylaws. The MN conference will establish a ***Committee to Dismantle White Supremacy***. This Committee will seek to dismantle the systemic ways that White Supremacy permeates what we do, how we act, who we include, and the actions we take. The MN Conference is aware that it is easy to pass a resolution but not necessarily followed through.
- Artificial Intelligence – it is suggested that each church needs to have in place policies and procedures concerning AI and also social media.
- Michael reflected upon the time when he first served as an Associate Pastor at CCOWUCC and Union UCC in 1984. The church was full on a July 4th holiday. The trend in all churches is declining significantly.
- The Rev. Cindy Mueller serves as the **Minister for Congregations in Transition** with the MN Conference UCC. She helps local churches in transition to either refocus, revitalize, or perhaps close. Does the council think we should work with Cindy to see if we have a use for the church building or for our church? How can our space be used for the community. She is from Big Lake. It was decided that this should be asked at the Annual meeting to see if people are willing to participate. We just don't want to find ourselves in a place where we have no money nor members.

Michael will be out of the pulpit October 20 and October 27.

Sheila will preach on Sunday this Sunday, June 30th.

Adjourn and prayer... Wendy P made the motion to adjourn after prayer Deb F second. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26

Next meeting July 25 at 6:00

Respectfully Submitted by Gay Jacobson, Clerk

Gazebo Concerts 2024



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



1964

The proposed budget (including payment on mortgage) for 1964 was \$13,487.00. On January 12, 1964, the new pews were ordered. They were to be installed by Easter Sunday. The first service held in the new Church was the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 5:30 am. On May 10, 1964 architect reported approval of the completed building and also the trustees were authorized to go ahead with the parking lot and landscaping. May 24, 1964, the new church was dedicated by the Sunday School at 9:30 am. The Youth Fellowship conducted the Sunday Services on June 7, 1964. The Dedication of the new church was on June 28, 1964, at 11:00 am. Rev. Carl Hanson, Minister of the Congregational Conference of the United Church of Christ, conducted the morning service, and the Fraternal Service at 7:30 pm. Rev. Alton M. Motter, Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Churches, was the speaker. At the November 22nd, 1964 Annual Meeting, Rev. Mercier suggested that the Congregation should give serious thought and effort to securing a new Pastor as he was approaching retirement.

1965

The proposed budget for 1965 was \$13,200.00. \$800.00 was set aside for landscaping (\$500.00 by Mr. & Mrs. Willis Hawkins and \$300.00 by the Ladies Fellowship). Due to the destruction of the Walker School by fire on February 28, 1965, the basement of the church was rented to the School District until April 23, 1967. The fall meeting of the N.E. Association of the Conference was held on September 27, 1965 at the Walker Church; a pot-luck supper followed.

1966

During 1966, the outdoor bulletin board was constructed and installed. The parsonage was repainted and the interior decorated. Alston Alto submitted a price of \$2,916.00 for concrete work to be done around the church building. The Bell Tower is to be constructed at a cost of \$970.00. Name plates were placed on the pews. Rev. Thomas B. Cox and Rev. Mattson were guest ministers during the year. Ladies Fellowship Guest Day was held on July 21, 1966.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS MARCH 1965

1967

The Corner Stone from the Old Church was placed in the Bell Tower during 1967. A Memorial Plaque for Rev. Hammond was placed on the Bell Tower Base and dedicated. On September 25, 1967, the Association Meeting was held at the Walker Church. The church area was blacktopped at a cost of \$3,670.70. Ladies Fellowship Guest Day was on July 20, 1967. All women of the area were invited as well as ministers and wives. Father Pakiz started a Youth Program among all churches in Walker. A pulpit committee was appointed to locate a new minister. A "Book of Remembrances" was ordered and was to be placed in the Church entry.

1968

During the year of 1968, redwood traffic signs were put on the church grounds. These signs were made by Don Cooke. Pews were ordered for the north side of the Church at a cost of \$2,024.00. Rev. Mattson and Rev. Cox were guest ministers.

1969

In 1969, the Highway Department seeded the bank on the south side of the Church grounds. The Pulpit Committee reported that Dr. Hanson, of the Minnesota Conference, would meet with them in October and give help in finding a minister. On November 23, 1969, Rev. Don Schmidt, Assistant Conference Minister, filled the pulpit. He suggested a survey or self-study of our Church's growth, future plans, needs, etc. A potluck dinner followed the service and further helpful discussion was held with Rev. Schmidt.

JULY DATES TO CELEBRATE

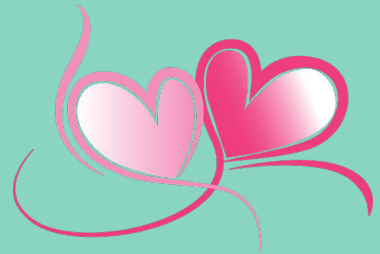
Birthdays

3	Steve Kolp
19	Ross Kolp
24	Lois Taylor
	Kevin Wedell
26	Ryan Pels
29	Meryle O'Connor



Anniversaries

12	Dick and Barb Brownlow
19	Ken and Sonja Huber



WORSHIP MINISTRY — JULY

GREETERS

July 7	Sue Grage
July 14	Linda Barber
July 21	Dec Farrell
July 28	Walt & Barb Rehberg

LITURGISTS

July 7	Sonja Huber
July 14	Bev Jorland
July 21	Joanna Aamodt
July 28	Gay Jacobson

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Earl & Ruth Niedermann



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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: Bev Jorland

Clerk: Gay Jacobson

Treasurer: Deb Farrell

Financial Secretary: Joanne Detwiler

Historian: Chris Kolp

Board of Trustees Chair: Tim Johnson

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: Earl Niedermann

Women's Fellowship Chair: Sue Grage

Minister/Church Relations Board Members:

Deb Farrell, Bev Jorland, Doris Johnson

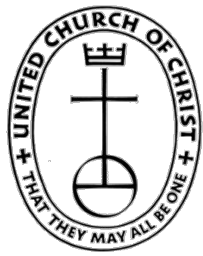
Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

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, July 21st, 2024**

JULY

SUNDAY	1	MONDAY	2	TUESDAY	3	WEDNESDAY	4	THURSDAY	5	FRIDAY	6	SATURDAY
7 Stewardship Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 7:00pm Gazebo Concert — Sabbastian Wilson-Webb	8 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service		9		10 <u>Book Conversation</u> Session 1 1:00pm Conversation Session 2 6:00pm Meal 6:30pm Conversation	11	12	13				
14 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 7:00pm Gazebo Concert — Golden Harbor Quartet	15		16		17 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	18	19	20				
21 10:00am Worship Service Annual Meeting following worship 7:00pm Gazebo Concert — After 5	22 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service		23 6:00pm Council Meeting on Zoom		24		25	26 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	27			
28 10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm Gazebo Concert — Charley and Mama Wags	29		30		31 <u>Book Conversation</u> Session 1 1:00pm Conversation Session 2 6:00pm Meal 6:30pm Conversation							



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Return Service Requested



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