

GCW

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...”

SEPTEMBER 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

Transition — Re-Imagination



The landscape of “church” is fluid and changing. Over half of the churches in the Minnesota Conference experience fewer than 50 people in worship – when long ago our churches were full.

Ours is a faith that knows the cycles of birth, life, life-abundant, aging, death, and resurrection. We trust that in all things, for those who are faithful, for those who seek to follow in the ways of Christ – God is always doing a new thing – there is more to come.

We are reminded that Jesus ministered to those he encountered, meeting them on the road, by the sea, in the desert, in synagogue, in temple, in the fields, in foreign territory, by the lakeside, and in their homes. He fed thousands and he made the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, the sick to be healed, the thirsty to be given drink, and the child rise from death to life. And yet the corps of his ministry were only twelve disciples, twelve young men – fisherman and farmers empowered by God/Spirit/Christ to become more than they could imagine.

The mandate of church is not cut out of the corporate model that seeks to get bigger, measures success by numbers, and power and influence. Instead, the church is cut out of the servant model that highlights relationship, building up the inclusive community of the beloved, seeking out the lost, healing the sick and making whole those who are broken – trusting in the Spirit of God to be present in all that we do.

For many who are in the “business” of church these times can be discouraging. It feels like we are just hanging on. But, I trust that the Spirit of God is calling us into the future to be God’s presence in the world building up the community of God. God is not calling us to simply focus on making our buildings bigger, or even filling our pews, making sure that our Sunday school rooms are full – but God is calling us to build up the Realm of God – and we may use the buildings along the way to make this possible. But God is calling us to dream dreams, and see visions, and to re-imagine how we can be faithful in our time and in our place. God is calling us to resurrection, to be a new people doing a new thing by loving, kindness, compassion, relationship, forgiveness, justice making, restoration of those things and people who are broken by life’s circumstances.

Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ is called to Re-imagine who and what God is calling us to do, to be, and to become.

Together, we are called to be intentional about our future, being faithful as we trust God to lead us. We are called to think outside the box with who we are, the resources we have, and the possibilities that are before us. The Church Council has agreed to work with the Rev. Cindy Mueller – Associate Conference Minister for Transition for the Minnesota Conference UCC.


In the next couple of weeks, you will receive a survey/instrument that will be tabulated by Cindy along with other information concerning CCOWUCC’s status. You will be asked to return the survey in two weeks.

On Sunday, October 13, following worship, members and friends will gather with Cindy to begin the ongoing experience of thinking about what God is calling us to do and who the Christ is calling us be.

With God’s blessing may be a people who reimagine as we live out this time of transition.

In Christ, Pastor Michael

**A Huge Thank You!!!
to SUE GRAGE and
The MANY Who Helped**

Good Works 
Bazaar / Rummage Sale

Good News Coffee House

Sunday, September 22nd

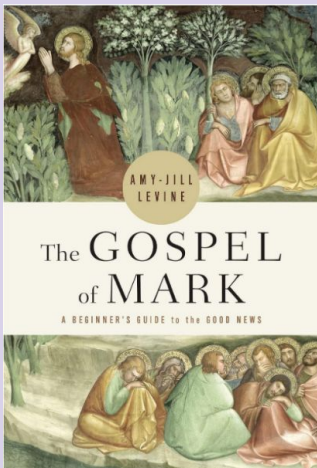
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Doyle Turner

**Donations will support the
local P.E.O**

Book – Video Conversation on Wednesdays in September



**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

- Each Session will be done **in-person and virtually via zoom**. Zoom details will be sent out at a later date.
- A light meal will precede the evening session at 6:00 p.m.

Sessions	Text	Date	Time
The Little Apocalypse	Mark 13	9/18/2024	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Judas Iscariot and the Naked Man	Mark 14 – 15	9/25/2024	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Community Church of Walker – United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2024

Present: Pastor Michael Small, Chris Kolp, Marge Koch, Doris Johnson, Deb Farrell, Wendy Paul, Gay Jacobson

Via Zoom: Bonnie Bailey, Ryan Pels, Linda Barber, Bev Jorland

Moderator, Bonnie Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:03.

Pastor Michael led us in prayer to begin the meeting.

Review/approve minutes of 7/23/24 meeting. No corrections or additions. Deb Farrell moved that the we approve the minutes as written, Wendy Paul second, motion carried.

Review/approve written reports: Bev moved to accept the written reports as written, Gay Jacobson second, motion carried

Review/approve oral reports

Old Business:

Update Rummage Sale: We made around \$900 on the presale day, August 23.

Trustees: Ryan Pels

- Update on Bell Tower: Clayton has a plan to bolt in to the three posts and will need a crane to set the bell up there.
- Hot water heater: Ryan Pels had an extra hot water heater, Tim Johnson put it in and it works well.
- Dishwasher blew fuses and Ryan repaired.
- Results of roof inspection and status of insurance claim Ryan will talk to Grant at the bank.
- Invitation to Rev. Cindy Muller, date: Pastor Michael shared information about Cindy's purpose. Send an assessment to all participants of the church. Give a window of two weeks to fill out the assessment. After she receives all the information she will meet with us. If we want to meet soon, October 13th after church.
- Pastor Michael, asked if we want to do this soon? The assessments will be sent the middle of Sept. This will become a first step of where we see the church in the future. She is coming to help us to be clear about what we want to do. We are a church in transition. Perhaps ask Women's Fellowship if they'd be interested of planning a potluck so people can eat during the meeting.
- Deb Farrell moved to have the meeting on the 13th of Oct, Bev Jorland second. Motion carried.

The directory needs to be finished so we will have the addresses for the assessments. Michael will meet with Sabbastian to get the directory finished.

Benevolence Report: Doris Johnson shared that Chris Kolp and Doris Johnson met with Joyce Day from the shelter The Level Ground to share with our congregation about how it works. She will come on September 22 at the beginning of our service.

Music Committee: Linda Barber shared they had a meeting. They discussed having two coffee house concerts featuring Doyle Turner on September 22 with donations going to PEO scholarship, Mike Kerrigan perform on October 29 with donations going to the Special Olympics. Perhaps have a coffee house during the winter a couple of times in the afternoon because it gets dark so early.

Spiritual Life had a meeting: Jo Pels and Sue Grage will chair the committee. Will share the responsibilities.

Women's Fellowship: Gay Jacobson reported on our last meeting.

- Most of the meeting was used to discuss the rummage sale.
- Ruth Niedermann asked if anyone willing to help with the recycled cards. Anyone interested come to the church on September 17 @1:00.
- Charities set for our rummage sale, Food Shelf of Walker, Ackley ARC, Family Safety Network. Further discussions about Hospice or Faith in Action as possible charities.
- Next Fellowship lunch will be a Potato Bar on September 29th. We'll have baked potatoes with all the toppings available. Donations will again, go to the Walker schools for backpack supplies.

"Reconciliation Task Force" The committee met and will meet quarterly to go over the budgets.

Chris Kolp made the motion to accept the oral reports as presented, Gay Jacobson second, motion passed.

Thanks to all who made the gazebo concerts a huge success. Thanks to everyone that was a part of the concerts.

A wedding is scheduled at church on October 5, 2024.

New Business

Michael: Do we need to get another estimate for our insurance? He will ask Church Mutual, and UCC,

Pastor Report: Look forward to the process of discussing our future plans for our church. Michael will be gone 16 th of Oct to the 28 th . Sue Grage and Dan Batson will preach on those Sunday's.

Food Shelf: Bev Jorland, September is our UCC's month to volunteer at the Food Shelf. Chris Kolp, Linda Barber, Jo Pels, Gay Jacobson. Anyone else call Bev.

Ryan moved that the meeting will be adjourned immediately after Pastor's prayer, Linda second motion carried.

Next meeting September 29 th after church.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.

Respectfully submitted by Gay Jacobson, Clerk.

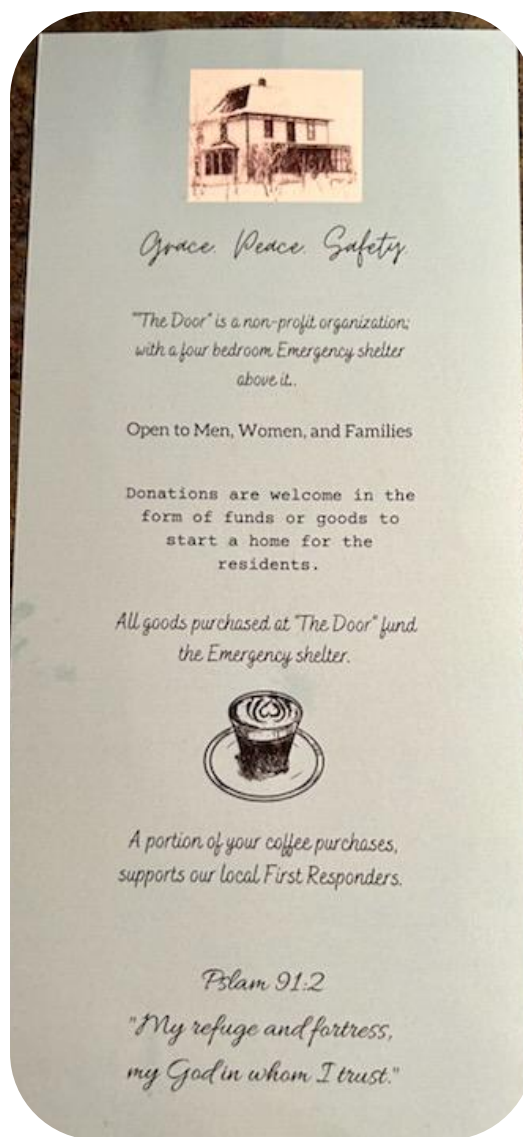
The Door

On Sunday, September 22nd, Joyce Day will be speaking to the congregation about an emergency family shelter in Laporte.

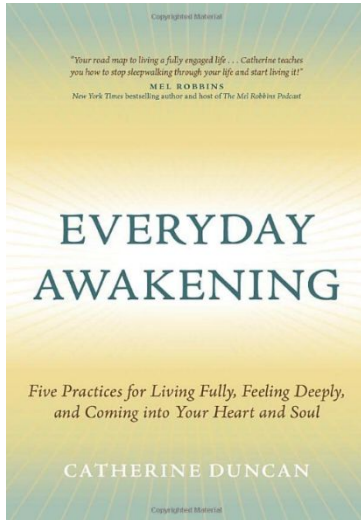
Joyce owns and operates a coffee shop called "The Door" that helps to support the Shelter (Level Ground) but also depends on donations to keep the shelter operating. Our 5th Sunday collection on September 29th will be given to The Door as a charitable donation.

If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause, please make your check payable to Walker Community Church, with a notation to that effect on your check. Thank you in advance.

Benevolence Committee members, Chris Kolp and Doris Johnson



Two Proposed Book Conversations



“Everyday Awakening is your road map to living a fully engaged life.” – MEL ROBBINS, New York Times bestselling author and host of The Mel Robbins Podcast

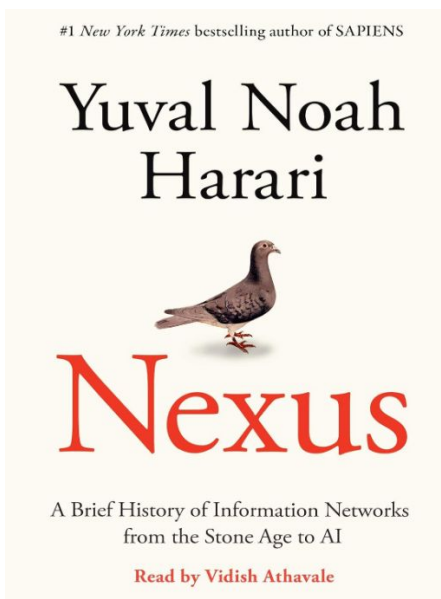
In a fast-paced, turbulent world, it’s often hard to feel vibrantly alive. Constantly living from our minds has led to overwhelming feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression—often manifesting as chronic health conditions. **We’re yearning for more peace, love, meaning, and embodied aliveness. We’re yearning for awakening.**

Awakening is often portrayed as mysterious, complicated, and dramatic or something that requires traveling to a distant country and sitting at the feet of an enlightened guru. But it’s actually something we can choose to do, by engaging five simple and profound practices: * Coming back to the present moment, * Connecting with something greater, * Growing our trust, * Embodying love, * Holding openness.

Everyday Awakening integrates the best of spirituality, neuroscience, psychology, and therapy so you can change how you embrace every day, every moment, and every choice.

Drawing from decades of her personal and professional experience in healthcare, spiritual care, and complementary healing, **Catherine Duncan** offers a wealth of options—including breathwork, meditations, grounding rituals, and other exercises—for bringing each of the five practices into your daily life. You will begin to move from stress to presence, from your mind into your heart and soul.

Your Everyday Awakening is right in front of you.



From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Sapiens* comes the groundbreaking story of how information networks have made, and unmade, our world.

For the last 100,000 years, we Sapiens have accumulated enormous power. But despite all our discoveries, inventions, and conquests, we now find ourselves in an existential crisis. The world is on the verge of ecological collapse. Misinformation abounds. And we are rushing headlong into the age of AI—a new information network that threatens to annihilate us. For all that we have accomplished, why are we so self-destructive?

Nexus looks through the long lens of human history to consider how the flow of information has shaped us, and our world. Taking us from the Stone Age, through the canonization of the Bible, early modern witch-hunts, Stalinism, Nazism, and the resurgence of populism today, Yuval Noah Harari asks us to consider the complex relationship between information and truth, bureaucracy and mythology, wisdom and power. He

explores how different societies and political systems throughout history have wielded information to achieve their goals, for good and ill. And he addresses the urgent choices we face as non-human intelligence threatens our very existence.

Information is not the raw material of truth; neither is it a mere weapon. *Nexus* explores the hopeful middle ground between these extremes, and in doing so, rediscovers our shared humanity.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

This month’s meeting will take place on September 29th after worship in-person and over Zoom.

Did You Know?

Our Church's History



1973

On January 11, 1973, a Mayor's Prayer Breakfast was held at Community Church. Mrs. J. Onstenk of Hulsenboom, Holland, furnished special music on February 18 and 25, 1973. On March 6, 1973 a Memorial Service was held at the Community Church for Rev. Harold Mercier who passed away in the Bemidji Hospital on March 4. He had served as Pastor of the Walker Community Church and the Union Congregational Church at Hackensack from December 1, 1957 until his retirement in 1970. Officiating at the Memorial service at the Walker Community were the Reverends Arden Johnson, Carl Hanson and John Coffey. Memorial Services were also held on Wednesday, March 7, 1973, at the Family Plot in Massachusetts. The March Fellowship meeting was held in the newly remodeled family room in the parsonage. Dr. Perazzini, our new Conference Minister, met with area church congregations at the Walker Church on April 13. A potluck dinner followed. The new constitution was ready for approval on May 13, 1973. On August 12, 1973 special music was furnished by Lauretta Lahr. Rev Harold Malmborg, Sr. served as guest minister. The Parish Youth Fellowship had a canoe/camping trip on the Big Fork River on August 20, 1973. On September 17, 1973, the new constitution and by-laws were adopted with thirty-one members present. The budget for the year October 15, 1973, to October 15, 1974; was fixed at \$16,707.00. On December 13, 1973 the State Conference was re-organized. Our affiliation was to be changed from "The Northeast Association" to the "Western Working Association".

1974

A Fathers and Sons' Banquet was held February 23, 1974; Robert Stokes, magician from Grand Rapids, Minnesota, was the entertainer. On March 18, 1974, it was reported that the Organ Fund was \$1,073.03. On April 21, 1974, the Spring Meeting of the Western Working Association was held at Federated Church, Fergus Falls, Minnesota. The Mother and Daughter Banquet was held on May 9. After being on the Conference Board of Directions for six years, Rev. Johnson attended his last meeting on May 23, 1974. In June, a youth group from Park Congregational Church of Toledo, Ohio, was in this area on a combination Canoe and Study Trip. The focus of their study was Indian Life, History, Culture, and Present Problems. Accommodations of the Church were extended to the group during their stay. September 7 and 14, 1974 were set as days to paint the parsonage. The budget for 1975 was set at \$11,689.00. Guest ministers in 1974 were the Reverends Ross Lamb, Harold Malmborg and Robert Meissner. The Women's Fellowship was in charge of Laity Sunday, October 20, 1974.

1975

April 9, 1975 was designated as Masonic Sunday. The Northeastern Cluster Leadership Development and Problem Clinic was held at Community Church on April 20, 1975. On June 29, 1975, special music was furnished by the Youth Choir of Bethel Lutheran Church of Little Falls, Minnesota. At the June 30, 1975 Council Meeting, one of the items decided was that only living flowers be used on the altar. The Women's Fellowship entertained the ladies of Hope Lutheran Church on July 17, 1975, a patriotic Bi-Centennial Theme was carried out. Rev. Johnson was elected Vice-Moderator for the Western Association on September 1, 1975. Recognition Day for Arvilla Luehr, was October 5, 1975 in appreciation for her years of service as Church Organist. A corsage was present by Dorothy Hagen and a plaque by Louis Tausch. At the Annual Meeting of the Church held in October, the budget for 1976 was fixed at \$11,650.00. Rev. Hoppe was the only guest minister this year.



Arvilla Luehr

SEPTEMBER DATES TO CELEBRATE

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 5 | Benjamin Koch | 19 | Don Splichal |
| 10 | Rosanna Walker | 21 | Dick Brownlow |
| 14 | Phyllis Hallene | 22 | Kaitlin Farrell |
| | Jack Hopen | 27 | Joanna Aamodt |
| 16 | Gay Jacobson | | Beth Alderson |
| 17 | Lexie Barber | 30 | A Bixley |
| 18 | Barb Brownlow | | Bob Winegar |



WORSHIP MINISTRY — SEPTEMBER

GREETERS

- September 1 Gay Jacobson
- September 8 Joanne Detwiler
- September 15 Marge Koch
- September 22 Beth Alderson
- September 29 Doris Johnson

LITURGISTS

- Sonja Huber
- Deb Farrell
- Joanna Aamodt
- Chris Kolp
- Bev Jorland

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Board of Spiritual Life



THE GOOD NEWS!

is a monthly newsletter publication of the
Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ
 Located at the corner of Hwy 371 & Tianna Drive
 Walker, MN 56484

Mailing address: P.O. Box 267
 Walker, MN 56484

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: Bev Jorland

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: Jo Pels

Women's Fellowship Chair: Sue Grage

Minister/Church Relations Board Members:

Deb Farrell, Bev Jorland, Doris Johnson

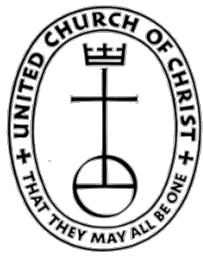
Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

Custodian: Ryan and Joanne Pels

**Articles for the October 2024 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, September 20th, 2024**

SEPTEMBER

1 SUNDAY	2 MONDAY	3 TUESDAY	4 WEDNESDAY	5 THURSDAY	6 FRIDAY	7 SATURDAY
10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service					Good Works Rummage Sale	Good Works Rummage Sale
8 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	9 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	10 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	11	12	13	14
15 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	16	17	18 7:30pm Bell Practice <u>Book Conversation</u> 6:00pm Meal 6:30pm Conversation	19	20 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	21
22 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 6:00-7:00pm Good New Coffee House — Doyle Turner	23 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	24 6:00pm Council Meeting on Zoom	25 7:30pm Bell Practice 11:00am Deadline for Adding to Council Agenda <u>Book Conversation</u> 6:00pm Meal 6:30pm Conversation	26	27	28
29 10:00am Worship Service Church Council meeting after the service	30					



Community Church of Walker
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 267
Walker, MN 56484

Return Service Requested



THE GOOD NEWS!

Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ