

GCN

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..."

OCTOBER 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

Are You Ready?



This election season has seemed an eternity. Through print, electronic, social medias we have been bombarded with messages loudly advocating for one candidate over and above another. The cacophony of these blaring messages (noises) has been deafening, with a specific and conflicting view of “truth”. Thank goodness for the ability to mute the sound, turn off the media, or set the paper aside, close our eyes and in prayer breathe in and breathe out. This too shall pass!

In a little more than a month (November 5th) each of us will have the wonderfully profound opportunity to vote. My hope is that **everyone of us will vote** – with no regard to party affiliation. As each of us prepare for this honor, we need to do the research. (I have already downloaded a sample ballot by going to the MN website <https://myballotmn.sos.mn.gov/>. In Minnesota we can vote now by absentee ballot!) Go beyond what you hear or see in those 30-second soundbites. Seek out a variety of resources (liberal, conservative, neutral). Read, do your research – especially on judges, local officials, board members, and township offices. Be informed about those on the ballot and the constitutional amendment.

And even more – when you determine the values, beliefs, positions, hopes, and fears of the candidates make your decision through the lens of your faith, belief, values, and hopes. Below are some of the lenses I look through (from Wallis, Jim. *The False White Gospel* (p. 232). St. Martin's Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)

- 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?
- Mathew 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?
- 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?

May we all courageously and with integrity move through this election process – seeking to live out of our faith – and trusting in the presence of God – no matter the outcome! For God is doing a new thing on this day, the days to come, and through each of us.

In the ways of Christ, Michael

Good News Coffee House

Sunday, October 20th

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Grant Raddatz

All Donations to Special Olympics

Sponsored by Music Board and Women's Fellowship



October/November Church Council Meeting

Sunday, November 1st
Following Fellowship

Virtually and In-Person



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89680314539?pwd=QTIUQ0dKR21JQ3JUMHNzZnRkZFF5UT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8031 4539

Passcode: 858735



United Church of Christ counters Project 2025 with aim to ‘welcome all, love all, seek justice for all’

by [Kayla Berkey](#) | published on Sep 12, 2024

Project 2025 has become well known as a set of extreme policies which could threaten basic freedoms and harshly impact some of the country’s most vulnerable people. The United Church of Christ has published a response with an alternative vision – one that uplifts values of inclusion, dignity, and freedom.

[Countering Project 2025 With Love: A UCC Response](#) is a new resource to assist in responding to some of the most extreme policies in [Project 2025](#) from a faith perspective. It asserts that Project 2025 stands in direct opposition to the UCC’s values and work, and it highlights more loving ways to approach topics like LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive care and abortion, environmental justice, and racial justice, among others.

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister and President, highlights that this resource reflects the UCC’s commitment to seek justice for all. “We have long been a voice in the public square declaring the love of God for all people and present with those whose rights were threatened or diminished,” Thompson said. “As a community of faith, we continue to seek a just world for all. Project 2025 envisions a world where the civil and human rights of many are suppressed by economic and social policies. “





Guest Preachers

While Pastor Michael and Sheila travel (October 15th - 29th) south for a wedding Sheila is officiating in Sandersville GA, and then some time with family in Destin, Florida, Community Church of Walker will receive the "Good News" from some very good friends.

- o **October 20 - Rev. Dan Batson**
- o **October 27 - Sue Grage**



All-Church Meeting With The Rev. Cindy Mueller

**Associate Conference Minister
Minnesota Conference UCC
Minister for Churches in Transition**

**Sunday, October 13th - Following
Potato Bar**



Cindy will help us to begin the process of re-imagination - what and who is God calling us to be? This will be an ongoing process over the next year as we listen to one another and the Spirit, speak, dream, and imagine. It is written "In the days to come—it is our God who speaks—I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophesy, your young people will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams." (Acts 2:17) **May it be so!**

UCC issues appeal for those impacted by widespread destruction of Hurricane Helene

by [Kayla Berkey](#) | published on Sep 30, 2024

The United Church of Christ has [launched an appeal and opportunities to support recovery efforts](#) following the devastating path Hurricane Helene has left across the Southeast United States.

Now four days after hitting landfall in Florida's Big Bend region, Helene has caused a death toll of [at least 120 people](#) and hundreds still missing across the six states impacted. People in affected areas have faced communications blackouts, washed-out roads, mudslides, and a [lack of drinkable water](#).

“Our hearts break for those who are suffering from the devastation Hurricane Helene left behind,” said the Rev. Shari Prestemon, Acting Associate General Minister and Co-Executive of Global Ministries. “The shock and loss so many are now experiencing is immense, and recovery will be agonizingly slow. Our prayers, our giving, and our service will be needed for the long term as we accompany communities on their journey toward healing and hope.”

How to help now

[The UCC Appeal for Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts](#) invites people to offer monetary contributions toward hurricane relief, and/or to join volunteer efforts with [Crisis Cleanup phone banking](#) – which allows people to remotely assist with connecting crisis need to relief services – and for assembling [hygiene and cleanup buckets](#).

Prayer in the aftermath

Shari Prestemon has offered the following prayer in response to Hurricane Helene:

O God of infinite grace and generous love, our hearts tremble to see the destruction wrought by Hurricane Helene. We lift our prayers to you.

Hold close all those whose homes and communities, businesses and places of worship have been overcome by water and wind, who awakened to upended lives and tossed landscapes.

Grant your blessing to all those who will rush to help and heal in the immediate aftermath, to all those who will follow over time to recover and repair what has been lost.

Stir resilience among all those who will walk the long road to full recovery. Receive their tears. Absorb their shock. Console their grieving hearts.

Resurrect what's been broken and destroyed. Illuminate paths to the future when exhaustion and desolation overwhelm.

Move all of us to respond with hearts of compassion, acts of service, and generous giving.

O God, hear our petitions. And let our prayers endure and our response be sustained until fresh hope arises from the ruins. Amen.

Find the UCC Appeal for Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts [here](#).

Neighbors In Need Offering Received October 13th

M E N T A L H E A L T H J U S T I C E F O R A L L

Mental health is
a universal
human
right

“God will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth.” (Isaiah 42:4)

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2024
ucc.org/nin



The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive at Community Church of Walker UCC on October 13th, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Love of Church Unit to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Through the national **Love of Church Unit**, <https://tinyurl.com/2bfyatb>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), the Love of Church Unit continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.



Behold! With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at anytime:

ucc.org/nin

Did You Know?

Our Church's History



1976

During the year 1976, the Church observed the NATIONAL BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION in a number of ways. On March 25, 1976, Circle #4 of the Ladies Fellowship served a Colonial Supper. Beginning on April 4, 1976, each Sunday Worship Service during the year was begun With the singing of the hymn FAITH OF OUR FATHERS. Bi-Centennial thoughts and quotes of our forefathers and outstanding countrymen were inserted in our church bulletins. In many social functions of the church, customs, dress, food, etc. were carried out in the Spirit of '75 - '76. "Old Favorite" hymns were used as a means of recalling the religious spirit of our founding fathers. On March 5, 1976, World Day Of Prayer was held at Community Church. July 18, 1976, was the celebration of the 25th Ordination of our Pastor, Rev. Arden Johnson. The title of the sermon, given by Rev. Francis Pirazzini, was "The Resurrection Faith". In addition to bringing greetings and sharing his joy in being here, he took the opportunity of communicating information on matters which were our common concern in Churches of the Minnesota Conference. Open House honoring Rev. Johnson was from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Walker Church with the Hackensack Church assisting. August 11, 1976, there was a Sunday School Picnic at City Park. Present debt of the Church was \$21,845.00. On September 26, 1976, an amendment to the By-Laws was presented regarding the department of music. There shall be elected annually a music committee consisting of three members, one of who shall serve more than two consecutive years. The committee shall arrange and promote the musical ministry of the Church and care for its vestments and musical instruments. Rev. Johnson was appointed Moderator of the Western Association on October 3, 1976. Guest ministers during the year were the Reverends Hepner, Zentz and Malmborg. The proposed budget for 1977 was \$12,510.00.



Rev's Cabin
August 1977

L - R

JEFF WILSON
MELANIE NIEDERMAN
KRISTI WINEGAR



Rev's Cabin
August 1977

L - R

MARCIE JOHNSON
JEFF WILSON
ALLEN MENGIS
KRISTI WINEGAR

1978

On October 22, 1978, an Allen organ from Schmidt Music Co. in Fargo was on loan. The organ committee met this week With the representative and Rogers organ representative. On October 29, 1978 ground breaking service was held at Hackensack at 3:00 p.m. An InterChurch Council Meeting at Walker was held on November 2, 1978 to work out the job description for the new parish secretary. The inter-church council voted to hire Mr. Milt Uglem as parish secretary on November 25th, and he started working on the 26th. Pastor Johnson appeared on KNMT-TV each morning for a week in December on "Inspiration for Today". On December 27 - 29 the PYF took a Christmas trip to "Rev's" cabin.

OCTOBER DATES TO CELEBRATE

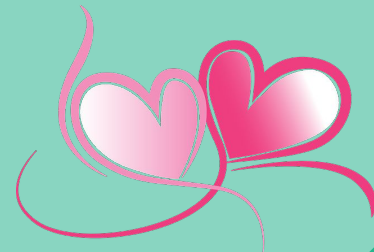
Birthdays

- 3 Shelli Johnson
- 8 Paul Artley
- 25 Emily Paul
- 26 Lori Koch



Anniversaries

- 3 Rev. Michael Small and Sheila Hunter
- 4 Kris and Sarah Koch
- 17 Kam and Lori Koch
- 29 Larry and Doris Johnson



WORSHIP MINISTRY — OCTOBER

GREETERS

- October 6 Gay Jacobson
- October 13 Earl & Ruth Niedermann
- October 20 Doris Johnson
- October 27 Ester Covert

LITURGISTS

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

- Chancel Choir
- Doyle Turner
- Celebrate
- Bell Choir

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Sabbastian Wilson-Webb



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Joanne Detwiler



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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: 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

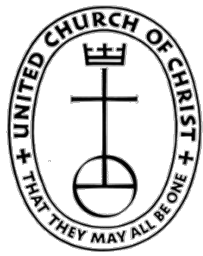
Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

Custodian: Ryan and Joanne Pels

**Articles for the November 2024 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, October 25th, 2024**

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	7	8 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	9	10	11	12
13 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time and Baked Potato Bar after the service All-Church Meeting With The Rev. Cindy Mueller after Potato Bar	14 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 6:00-7:00pm Good New Coffee House — Grant Raddatz	21	22	23	24	25 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	26
27 10:00am Worship Service Church Council meeting after the service	28 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	29	30	31		



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Return Service Requested



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