



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..."

NOVEMBER 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



What to do Next?

We have cast our votes. We await the results – which may take time to know who the winners and losers are. But what we know to be true is that the sun will come up tomorrow no matter what the outcome. We know that we are in a relationship with those who stand on both sides of the political fence. Families have been divided by politics. We have all know the brokenness of the divisive rhetoric that has been going on for years – far too long! This is the time to move forward with faith, hope, and love!

What to do? The religious scribe who is suspicious of Jesus but willing to engage with Jesus approaches Jesus asking:

“Which is the foremost of all the commandments?” 29 Jesus replied, “This is the foremost: ‘Hear, O Israel, God, our God, is one. 30 You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:28b-31

The scribe agrees, “Well spoken, Teacher! What you have said is true” and Jesus says of the scribe “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

What to do? First, we are called to hear – to hear from the holy one, from God, from that Spirit that speaks to us through Jesus. We are encouraged to be a people of faith and trust in the one who has called us into being, who names us as God’s beloved.

Second, we are called to honor and uphold the wisdom of God – to embrace the holy “with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” These are acts of faith, trust, and willingness to believe and follow in the ways of God, the ways of Christ.

Then, we don’t stop with our love of Creator/Christ/Spirit – but we act that out by loving our neighbor as yourself.

Jesus spoke wisdom to the scribe that was not original, for it comes from the writings of Torah and the Wisdom writings, and the Prophets. Jesus reaffirms love, to love God, to love yourself, and to love neighbor – to love Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and even to love your enemy – no exceptions!

The 19th chapter of Leviticus informs these greatest commandments and helps us to know what we are called to do in these days to come.

11 Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not cheat your neighbor. 12 Do not swear by my Name with the intent to deceive, for if you do, you profane my Name. I am YHWH. 13 Do not oppress your neighbors or rob them. Do not hold back the hired hand’s wages until the next day. 14 Do not insult deaf people, or put obstacles in the way of blind people. Revere YHWH, your God. 15 Do not be corrupt in administering justice. Do not show partiality to the poor or give honor to the great. Judge your neighbor with fairness. 16 Do not go about slandering others. Do not profit by the blood of your neighbor. I am YHWH. 17 Do not nurse hatred for a neighbor. If you are angry with your neighbor, speak frankly about it, to avoid storing up ill feelings. 18 Never seek revenge or hold a grudge toward your relatives. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am YHWH.

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Another translation of verse 19:18b, by Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig, might be, "Be loving toward your neighbor as one who is like yourself."

Next steps for each of us today and days to come – it's simple – love your neighbor, move into the future with love, and possibility.

Vern Bader says this differently – "We may not see eye to eye – but we can walk side by side, hand in hand!" So it is that we will walk side by side into the future with hope, faith, and love – and the greatest of these is love!

In the ways of Christ, Pastor Michael

Thank you cards received this month

We wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude for allowing us to host the concert last month at Community Church to support our local scholarship fund. Your generosity in providing the space was instrumental in making the event a success. A special thank you as well to the Women's Fellowship for their hard work for providing and serving delicious treats. Their contribution added a wonderful touch to the evening.

Sincerely,
Lynda Barker, Jean Bezicka &
CY PEO Chapter

We are very blessed to receive your donation. My wife and I enjoyed watching Ryan and the group singing. We are very busy now having helped over 30 Veterans and their families in August and September. With help from the LORD and local people we were able to deliver over \$35,000 in donations to help pay bills for our brothers & sisters. Thank You!
Russ Philston

Homeless and Wounded Warriors-MN wishes to extend their hearty thank you for your generous donation. Without your support our mission could not fulfill itself and many warriors and their families would go without the much needed assistance they need to survive and thrive. You are truly a blessing! Thank you!
From all of us at Homeless & Wounded Warriors - MN

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**



Community Church of Walker – United Church of Christ

Council Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2024

Present: Pastor Michael Small, Moderator Bonnie Bailey, Esther Covert, Chris Kolp, Joanne Detwiler, Deb Farrell, Doris Johnson, Marge Koch, Ryan Pels, Linda Barber, Bev Jorland, Sue Grage, Gay Jacobson.

Moderator Bonnie Bailey called the meeting to order at 11:10.

Pastor Michael led us in prayer to begin the meeting.

Review of minutes from 8/27/24: Doris J. made the comment that the name was incorrect for the bell tower; it is Klebe not Clayton, Akeley was misspelled: Linda B. made the motion to approve the minutes with the corrections, Bev J. second, motion carried.

Review of written reports:

- Joanne D. shared the income was \$3,460 not \$3,480 as listed. Donations: One person has stipulated that \$10 of their donation be put in discretionary fund. Esther C. asked about the money in Memorials for the Handicapped door. The door has been paid for so will ask Wendy P to transfer the funds from the handicapped door memorial to the general fund to repay part of the expenses. Esther C. will contact Wendy P about the money that is just sitting in an account to move to interest bearing account. Bev J. made a motion to accept written reports, Linda B. second, motion carried.

Review of oral reports: Trustees:

- Ryan P shared that the insurance for the church will rise from 2.1 M to 3 M.
- Esther C shared the special assessment for the repair on the driveway (the hole) and we are responsible \$27,000. It was asked if our property value raised \$27,000 due to the repair. It's still under review so we'll wait and see.
- Trustees recommend we pay \$3,000 a year with 3% interest for the repair.
- Roof repair: nothing to report.

Pastor Michael said that he's contacted a couple of insurance companies, but has not been able to get other estimates yet.

Music:

- Linda B: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb is our pianist with the resignation of Leisa Bragg.
- The Coffee House has a concert by Doyle Turner with all proceeds going to P.O.E. Scholarship that will be given to a female WHA student. There was \$550 in donations.
- The next Coffee House concert will be by Grant on Oct 20 with donations going to the Special Olympics.
- Esther C has talked with Don and Rene McKercher on November 17th.
- The way we serve snacks and coffee will be different. Instead of plates of treats put on each table, the coffee and treats will be on the back table and people can help themselves.
- Julie and Murray Bright want to do a concert on February 16 in honor of Valentines. In April will begin again.
- Music Committee will continue to pick music.

Benevolence: Doris J: Neighbors in Need mission will be October 13th.

Spiritual Life: Sue G: Every month is covered for candles, ushers, greeters, Communion.

Directory is finished and being distributed.

Christian Ed. Joanne D: They need to have a meeting and will be set up this week.

Women's Fellowship.

- Esther C: Potato bar Oct 13. Cindy will meet with us after people have eaten.
- Next Women's Fellowship meeting October 8th at 1:00. The donations collected from the potato bar for school supplies for the Walker school.
- The donations that the rummage sale proceeds will go to are the Walker Area Food Shelf, The Door, St. Joseph Hospice, Faith in Action.
- When Ryan P and friends did the last concert at the gazebo, the donations went to Wounded Warriors: \$750. Homeless Wounded Warriors:
- Deb F made the motion to accept oral reports, Bev J second, motion carried.

Events:

- There will be a wedding for a family member of the WELLS church that uses our building on Monday evenings. Wedding rehearsal will be at 5:00 on 10/4. The wedding will take place at 3:00 on 10/5. Pastor Michael will open the church for them at noon. We are charging them \$450 with \$150 of that for cleaning.

There was discussion about the boxelder bugs and contact a bug control guy to spray for bugs.

Mike Schmidt will record for the coffee house. October 20th at 6:00.

New Business:

Dylan Nelson will be used again this year for Snow removal.

Fall cleanup: Ryan P. will put the tables up on the gazebo.

Next meeting: November 3 at 12:00 for October/November meeting.

Moved to adjourn after prayer.

Bev J made the motion that we adjourn after Pastor Michael's closing prayer, Linda B second, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00

Gay Jacobson

Good News Coffee House

Larry Kimball

Sunday November 17th

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.



All Donations to Walker Area Food Shelf

***Sponsored by Music Board
and Women's Fellowship***

First Sunday of Advent – December 1, 2024 Devotional Coming Soon!



*The Christmas message is messy!
Silent night. But the news shouts at us.
Holy night. Why are we so tired?
All is calm. Who's calm?? How is anyone calm?!
All is bright. Our hopes are too weary to shine.*

Far from a pristine porcelain creche or an immaculate Hallmark story, the Christmas message of "God with us" is messy. The amniotic sac that bursts open, angels interrupt a good night's sleep, crusty shepherds and foreign stargazers intermingle, a family flees political persecution ... and there is God, in the flesh.

*This Advent, sort through the mess to find the message! Join the Stillspeaking Writers' Group and contributors in the daily readings of *The Mess in the Messiah*. Each day includes a scripture reading, reflection and prayer, beginning with the first Sunday of Advent (Dec 1) through the celebration of Epiphany (Jan 6). Also included: guidance for lighting a weekly Advent wreath in your home.*

Copies of this ***The Mess in the Messiah – Advent-Christmastide Devotional*** will be available at the church mid- November.

The Mess in the Messiah PDF

A PDF download of the Advent-Christmastide Devotional can be purchased for \$3.00 (hard copy is \$5.00) to read digitally, to print for oneself, or to give to a friend. Purchase one PDF per reader. Upon purchasing, a link will be emailed to you for downloading the PDF. You may order the electronic version by going to https://thepilgrimpress.com/products/the-mess-in-the-messiah-2024-advent-devotional?mc_cid=fe89313236&mc_eid=d1b072adb7.

November Texts and Themes for Sunday Worship

- November 3, 2024 (All Saints Day): Mark 12:28-34 | "You Shall Love"
- November 10, 2024: Mark 12:38-44 | "Abundance and Poverty"
- November 17, 2024: Mark 13:1-8 | "All Thrown Down"
- November 24, 2024 (Reign of Christ): John 18:33-37 | "Testify to the Truth"



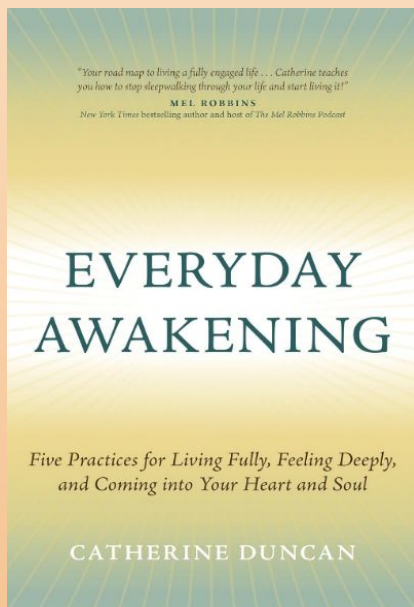
Book Conversation In-Person and On-Line Begins
Wednesday November 6th
Soup at 6:00 p.m.
Conversations begin at 6:30 p.m.

Online

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86243166965?pwd=dPV1fSfP3mpTeZDFrqnBgHicUhEH6C.1>

Meeting ID: 862 4316 6965 - Passcode: 242188



Everyday Awakening: Five Practices for Living Fully, Feeling Deeply, and Coming into Your Heart and Soul by Catherine Duncan (Author) Format: Kindle Edition

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.

Did You Know?

Our Church's History



1979-1980

In January, Rev. Johnson taped a series of inspirational messages to be broadcast over KGIG Pequot Lakes. The PYF had a ski trip to Buena Vista on February 21st. Rev. Johnson was installed as Masonic Grand Chaplain on March 30th for the State of Minnesota. PYF attended an Overnight Lock-In at Brainerd YMCA on April 20th. They also waited tables at the Cass County Izaak Walton League Banquet on April 22nd. On May 6th, the choir wore new robes purchased from the White Bear Lake Congregational Church. The organ dedication program and service started at 10:30 a.m. on June 10. Circle Four served a buffet luncheon from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. There was special music by the Walker Barbershoppers. Circle Four had a pop concession at the airport dedication on June 24. July 8 was the dedication of the new addition to Union Church at Hackensack at 2:30 p.m. On July 15, PYF had a potluck beach party at Norway Beach. Rev. Johnson was honored by the Walker Masonic Lodge at the High School cafeteria, on July 22nd. He was Grand Chaplain of Grand Lodge of Minnesota. The PYF left for a four day canoe trip and camp out at Rev's cabin on August 5.

A tribute to Ethel Peterson for her many years of faithful musical service was given at the Sunday a.m. Service on October 7th. Guest Ministers during the year were the Reverends Robert Meissner, Francis Pirazzini, Harold Malmborg. Marvin Kruse and John Fisher.

This year, 1979, Community Church was able to retire the debt on both the church and parsonage, besides remodeling the parsonage to make the home more comfortable for the Johnson family. The Inter-Church Council with Willi Richards as Chairman recommended a salary increase for the Parish Secretary, Milt Uglem. This year also, a Postal Permit was obtained for mailing the Newsletter. James Shaw was hired to be the Parish Youth Worker for the two Churches. Milt Uglem, Parish secretary, summed up his position with this statement: "The basic idea of the parish secretary's office is to mind the store during the absences of the minister, serve the congregations and work toward helping make the Parish a productive, smooth working operation. There are times when I suspect I am doing that."



Ethel Peterson

This year a "Saddle Bag" program was used for assessing the income for the coming year. Many of the people who served the church and worked to enhance the Spirit of the church were as follows: Music Committee; Vi Freesman, Chairman, Madge Stittsworth and Lois Fisher, Choir Director; Elaine Brown, Organists; Florence Garven, Elaine Brown, Ann Winegar, Eleanore Adamek. Their goal for the year, "Special Music for every Sunday". Musical guests were Junior Choir from Lake City, Minnesota, The Sweet Adelines, The Golden Street Quartet and our own members who furnished special music. Deaconesses this year were as follows: Merle O'Conner. Chairman, Emily Willard, Helen Hanson, Betty Fisher, Ruby Haugen and Hazel Cleghorn. Milt Uglem served the church this year as Chairman of the Deacons. Members serving were as follows: LeRoy Copp, Bruce Haugen, Clifford Bilben, Donald Splichal and Charles Dempewolf. Two deacons will be in charge of securing ushers, two deacons will focus on membership and two will be in charge of guest ministries and visitors registration and hospitality.

The Sunday School gave our church a tremendous outlook on the work done through the guidance of our Christian Education Superintendent, Leola Uglem. The superintendent and teachers, with the help of Jim Shaw, gave two parties for their students, a Christmas party and a Valentine's ice skating party. Every Wednesday morning for three hours, Released Time students studied a companion curriculum entitled "Interpreting the Word", which makes use of what they learned in Sunday School. With Willi Richards as Superintendent until after Christmas, there was a full staff for Sunday School and Released Time. The goal for the coming year - to instruct the children and the youth in the Christian Way of Life. Board of Trustees for this year were as follows: Irma Mallory (Chairman), Helen Francis, Gus Kriens. Stan Bilben, Bill Koch. Carl Erickson.

NOVEMBER DATES TO CELEBRATE

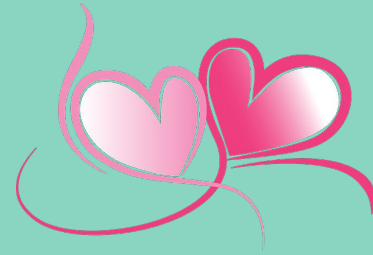
Birthdays

- 1 Ken Huber
- 21 Matthew Paul
Karen Pooley
- 22 Pat Bartness
- 23 Beverly Lloyd
Deb Farrell
- 24 Wendy Paul
- 25 Chris Kolp
- 27 Joanne Detwiler



Anniversaries

- 6 Bruce and Ruby Haugen
- 19 Matt and Wendy Paul



WORSHIP MINISTRY — NOVEMBER

GREETERS

November 3	Gay Jacobson
November 10	TBA
November 17	Chris Kolp
November 24	TBA

LITURGISTS

Sonja Huber
Deb Farrell
Bev Jorland
Chris Kolp

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir & Bells
Ryan & Jo Pels
Larry Kimball
Celebrate

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Sabbastian Wilson-Webb



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Marge Koch



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Secretary: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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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 December 2024 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, November 22nd, 2024**

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	1 FRIDAY	2 SATURDAY
3 10:00am Worship Service Church Council meeting after the service	4	5 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	6	7	8	9
10 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	11 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service 6:00-7:00pm Good New Coffee House — Larry Kimball	18	19	20	21	22 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	23
24 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship Time after the service	25 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30



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Return Service Requested

A photograph of two lit candles in ornate crystal holders. The candles are red and white, and the flames are bright yellow. The background is a dark, textured surface with warm, golden lights, possibly tinsel or a fireplace. In the foreground, there are two round, textured objects, possibly gourds or pumpkins, with some gold glitter on them.

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