



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“No matter who you are, or where you are, you are welcome here!” “No matter who you are, or where you are, you are welcome here!”

CCOWUCC Update and News By Michael Small

For The Week of: November 4 2024



Words for the Eve of an Election

by Talitha Arnold who is the Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe (UCC), Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” - Romans 13:9 (NRSV)

Morris Udall, long-time Congressional Representative from Arizona, was known for his dry wit. Once in an interminable House debate, Udall observed, “Everything that could be said about this bill has been said.” Then with a wry smile, he continued, “But not everyone has said it”—and proceeded to speak his mind.

On the eve of tomorrow’s election, everything—and more—that could be said about candidates and issues has probably been said. Yet there is one thing I believe needs to be said over and over again as we choose candidates up and down the ballot and vote on propositions, amendments, and other policy issues. It comes from today’s scripture. It’s also found in the teachings of Jesus and the commandments of Moses.



“Love your neighbor as yourself.”


By the time Paul included these words in his Letter to the Romans, he’d written countless letters to young churches about what their faith called them to do. He’d also written twelve chapters of a new and complicated theology to Christians living in the heart of the Empire. What new word could he possibly offer them about what it meant to be a Christian in their time?

Paul didn’t offer a new word. He simply affirmed one of the oldest teachings of his faith. Thousands of years later, those words still have a claim on us: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

It’s really all that needs to be said about this or any election—if only we all would say it.

Prayer

God, root us and our country in love for neighbor, all our neighbors. Amen.

- ❖ **Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost – November 3rd** – Jesus says – “ ‘Hear, O Israel, God, our God, is one. You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29b-31) My friends, Vote – Vote with Love! The worship service may be viewed on the church website  www.walkerucc.com or by clicking on the QR Code.

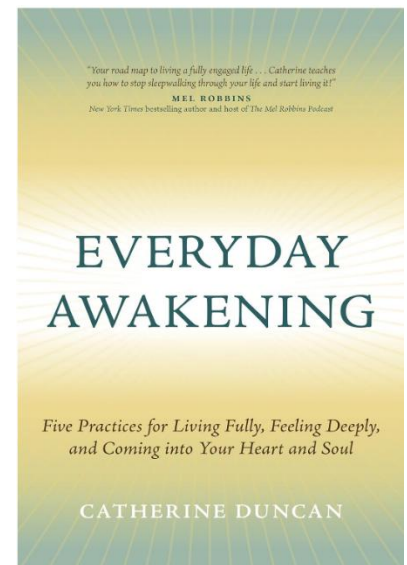
- ❖ **Prayers from United Church of Christ:** – “God of the ages, always renewing, we come before you with emotions running high—righteous anger, yes; fear of the unknown, certainly. The road ahead feels uncertain, and the task of building a better world can overwhelm us. Yet, we trust that even in our differences, you call us to work together for good. In this moment, remind us not to be voices of despair, but messengers of hope, bearing witness to your justice and compassion in the public square. May this election move us toward deeper understanding, revealing who we are as your children and what we are called to become. Amen.” – Rev. Michael Vollbrecht, Lawrence, KS Colonial Church in Prairie Village, Kansas Read other prayers by going to www.ucc.org.



Book Conversation November 6th
Soup - 6:00 pm
Conversation - 6:30 pm

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.



Bell Practice
Wednesday
November 6th
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- ❖ **November 10th 2024 Worship Information – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
 - Theme: *Abundance and Poverty*
 - Revised Common Lectionary for 11/10/2024

- Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127 OR 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146
- Hebrews 9:24-28 • Mark 12:38-44

- **Focus Prayer:** Creator, help us to recognize and reflect your abundance, provision, and generosity. Amen.
- **Focus Reading: Mark 12:38-42** *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (p. 90). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



FALSE SPIRITUAL LEADERS

³⁸ During his teachings he said, “Be on the lookout for the scroll keepers who like to show off by walking around in their fancy regalia, who want to be noticed at the trading posts, ³⁹ who take the best seats at the gathering houses and the places of honor at the feasts. ⁴⁰ With many words they make a big show of their prayers, and trick widows into giving them their homes and possessions. They will come to a worse end than others.”

A SACRIFICIAL GIFT



⁴¹ Creator Sets Free (*Jesus*) found a place to sit across from the storehouse of the sacred lodge. He watched as people came to put their gifts on the offering blanket. The ones with many possessions were putting down more than others. ⁴² Then he saw a poor widow come to the blanket and place two small, poorly beaded earrings on it, worth almost nothing.

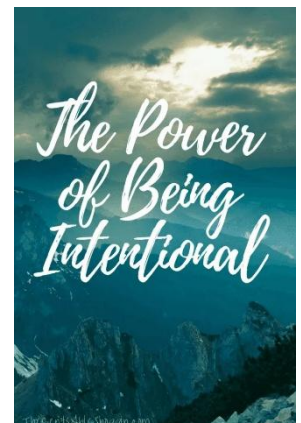
⁴³ He gathered his followers around him and told them about the widow’s gift. “I speak from my heart,” he said, “this widow has given more than all the others. ⁴⁴ What they gave was only a small part of their many possessions, but this poor widow has given all she had left to live on.”

- **Focus Questions:**
 - What is abundance?
 - How do you experience abundance in your life and/or community?
 - What is the relationship between abundance and generosity?
 - What is the relationship between abundance and poverty?
 - Why have we (collectively) not eradicated poverty given the abundance in the world?
- **Special Music: Jo and Ryan Pels – Liturgist: Deb Farrell – Greeter:**

A Conversation – “Becoming Intentional About Our Future” Following Worship and Fellowship – Sunday, November 10th

The Church Council invites all who wish to participate in a follow-up conversation after the “Re-Imaging Conversation” with the Rev. Cindy Muller. We will address our “next steps” as we move forward into the future trusting in God to lead us.

You are welcome!



Women's Fellowship
Meets Tuesday November 12th
at 1:00 p.m.



Good News Coffee House

Larry Kimball and Friends

Sunday November 17th

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**All Donations will be donated to the
Walker Area Food Shelf**

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



❖ **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 11/1 Ken Huber
- 11/21 Matthew Paul, Karen Pooley
- 11/22 Pat Bartness
- 11/23 Beverly Lloyd, Deb Farrell
- 11/24 Wendy Paul
- 11/25 Chris Kolp
- 11/27 Joanne Detwiler

❖ **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 11/19 Wendy and Matt Paul

❖ **A Reminder!!!** – current bulletins, Churchly Happenings, and **Good News, Good News** - our monthly newsletter, and the **Weekly Update** may be found on the church website – www.uccwalker.com

❖ **St. Mark's WELS meets at CCOWUCC** serving as a "Worship Station". They will continue to meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month between 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

❖ Addresses – You are invited to be in touch.

Meryle O'Connor
Waterford Estates
6288 Louisiana N. #111
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Betty Fisher
4222 Larch Street NE
Bemidji MN 56601

Kevin Wedel
107 Highland Ave. W.
Apartment 102
Walker MN 56484

Alison Koch
1803 South Court Street
Fergus Falls MN 56537

❖ ***Democracy works best if we speak with one another. Whatever your opinion, I encourage each of you to be in contact with your representatives. Communicating is an on-going and two-way process of sharing gratitude and wisdom.***

Below is listed state and national elected leadership for the Walker Area.

If you do not reside in the Walker area, go to <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/> to obtain information on the elected state leadership for your location.

Senator Steve Green (R) (Dis.02)
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., # 2319
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-297-8063

E-mail:
sen.steve.green@senate.mn
<https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15458>

Office of Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
<https://mn.gov/governor/connect/contact-us/contact-form.jsp>

Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL) MN
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
phone: 202-224-3244
fax: 202-228-2186

<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/>

Rep. Matt Bliss (R) District: 02B
311 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5516
Toll Free: 877-838-5537
E-mail:
rep.matt.bliss@house.mn.gov
<https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15458>

Rep. Pete Stauber (R) U.S. House # 8
145 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6211
<https://stauber.house.gov/>

Senator Tina Smith (DFL) U.S. MN
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5641
<https://www.smith.senate.gov/>

Prayers and Blessings – Pastor Michael