

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..."

MARCH 2025



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

You Must Love



When asked what is “the foremost commandment”, or “which tribal law stands first” Jesus bases his answer on the ancient She-ma (Deuteronomy 6:5-9). The response Jesus spoke is below (two different versions)

28 One of the religious scholars who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them, now came up and put a question to him: “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.” (from *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (p. 2208). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

28 One of the scroll keepers overheard Creator Sets Free (Jesus) opposing the Upright Ones. When he heard the good answer he had given, he asked him, “Which instruction in our tribal law stands first?”

29 “The first and greatest instruction is this,” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) answered. “Hear me, O tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel), there is only one Great Spirit and Maker of us all. 30 You must love the Great Spirit with your whole being—with the strength of your arms, the thoughts of your mind, and the courage of your heart.’ 32 31 “The second instruction is like the first,” he added. “You must love your fellow human beings in the same way you love yourselves. There is no other instruction greater than these.” (from Wildman, Terry M. *First Nations Version* (p. 89). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

In such a time as this, perhaps this is what each of us should recite as we awaken and as we prepare for rest. Perhaps every gathering within the life of the church should begin with these sacred, yet incredible and easy words.

- ***You must love the Great Spirit with your whole being—***
 - ***with the strength of your arms,***
 - ***the thoughts of your mind,***
 - ***and the courage of your heart.’***
- ***You must love your fellow human beings in the same way you love yourselves.***

May our days and our ways be shaped by these words that we may together be a people who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with each other and God upon this creation.

Thanks be to God – In the Ways of Christ, Pastor Michael

An Introduction to Everything [in] Between a Lenten Series in Luke's Gospel



As Pastor, I am so excited to use the programs of *Sanctified Art* (sanctifiedart.org) to shape our journey through Lent to the beginning of Eastertide. Devotional Cards, a Devotional Booklet, and educational resources will be presented to guide us. I hope you will share in this adventure!

Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), the series flows through several familiar stories—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more. Many of these stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination, carrying cultural relevance and lore.

- For example, have you ever identified yourself as either a “Mary” or a “Martha?”
- The “Good Samaritan” title alone could reference a hospital, a charitable organization, a type of law, or a good deed.
- Perhaps you grew up singing “Zacchaeus was a wee little man” in Sunday School. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

As we studied these scriptures, we were struck by how Jesus’ ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. As modern readers, we sometimes lose the “shock factor” behind Jesus’ words, as his teaching tactics likely felt extreme for those in his context.

- He described a stigmatized Samaritan as a good neighbor.
- He emphasized the value of 1 sheep in a herd of 100.
- He dined with a tax collector who amassed wealth through extortion.
- While dying on the cross, he told a convicted criminal he would soon find paradise.

Jesus intentionally highlighted the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. When we study these stories in their historical and cultural context, we see how they mirror the cultural and political divides many of us experience in our families, churches, and communities today.

This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This theme may resonate with anyone who is in discernment or trying to find their way through an undefined space. It will speak to anyone who feels as if they are living in a divided world. It is for those who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it.

This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between. This series was developed by Sanctified Art and is used with permission. Learn more about their work at www.sanctifiedart.org.

Community Church of Walker — United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes - February 2nd, 2025 (Not yet approved by council)

Present: Bonnie Bailey, Pastor Michael Small, Deb Farrell, Esther Covert, Joanne Detwiler, Doris Johnson, Chris Kolp, Wendy Paul, Bev Jorland, Jo Pels, Joanna Aamadt, and Gay Jacobson.

The meeting was called to order by moderator Bonnie at 11:39 after needed copies made and distributed.

Motion made by Gay Jacobson, seconded by Bev Jorland to approve minutes from last meeting, 11/13/24. Approved.

Motion by Jo Pels, seconded by Wendy Paul, that written reports be approved. Vote to approve.

During discussion of reports, Wendy brought up fact that Britta Rand will be graduating this year. We discussed having a reception and cake for her and presenting her with a money gift for her continuing education, as we did for her sister, Erica. No definite decision reached, including on where money should be accessed, possibly Donna Carlson fund under Mission Outreach.

Mission Outreach further discussion was held, culminating in agreement to withdraw \$1,000 from Mission Outreach fund to donate to food shelf now, as that service has an immediate need. Motion made by Bonnie Bailey, seconded by JoAnn Detwiler, motion approved.

Joanna Aamadt voiced concern over quality of sound recordings of the choir. She volunteered to organize a meeting of choir members and sound technicians at the church.

Motion made by Jo Pels, second by Esther to approve oral reports. Voted to accept.

Old business review began with Jo reporting on behalf with Ryan (who is out of town but will e-mail his reports to Bonnie, Pastor Michael, and Bev) on the update on property insurance, roof repairs, and dishwasher problems. All are still pending and will be further reported on when Ryan returns.

The Good News Coffee House schedule shows Paul Nye and friend Janey Stohlhammer will be performing Sunday afternoon, February 2. (They did, and money donated was designated for the food shelf)

A meeting date, probably on a Sunday, will be set for a follow-up meeting on the topic of reenvisioning our church future.

Reported that the Vitalant blood drive went smoothly. The RALLY (Reclaiming and Advancing Leech Lake Youth (meeting of 11/17/24 was to collect and coordinate services and offerings of activities to area youth). People had many ideas, and they will be further discussed in future.

There was adequate help for holiday cleanup and it proceeded quickly and smoothly.

New business discussed included news from the pastor of the need for an audit of accounts, which should be done annually, but has not been done officially for a long time, if ever. Doris Johnson volunteered to help. Date not set.

People remembered or had heard various things about controls of outside flood light on sculpture, including manual control outside, or automatic timer. Ryan has been observing the lights, which don't seem consistent.

Pastor Michael told us he may be gone for his granddaughter's first birthday celebration on May 4, and that he and Sheila will be on a cruise from September 30- October 8.

We have had some shifting of officers, as Joann Detwiler has resigned from the duties of financial secretary in order to focus more on Christian Education. Gay will move from secretary to financial secretary, and Bev Jorland will become secretary. Jo Pels motioned, and Chris Kolp seconded the motion that we accept these changes in officers. Accepted by the council.

March 2 the director of the area food shelf will make a 10–15-minute presentation preceding the service.

Joanne D. made a motion to adjourn after our closing prayer and Gay seconded. Agreed, with next meeting to be March 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Jorland – Clerk

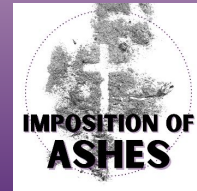
**Pancake Supper
Shrove Tuesday
a.k.a. Fat Tuesday
March 4th 5:00 - 6:45 pm**

Donations of Money or Food Items will be given to the Walker Area Food Shelf
All Are Welcome



**Imposition of Ashes
Between 5:45 pm and 6:45 pm
Tuesday March 4th**

To Begin the Journey of Lent
"Everything [in] Between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes"



**Church Potluck Following Worship
Fourth Sunday of Each Month
With Presentation/Forum**

March 23 Topic to Be Announced

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship and Board of Christian Education

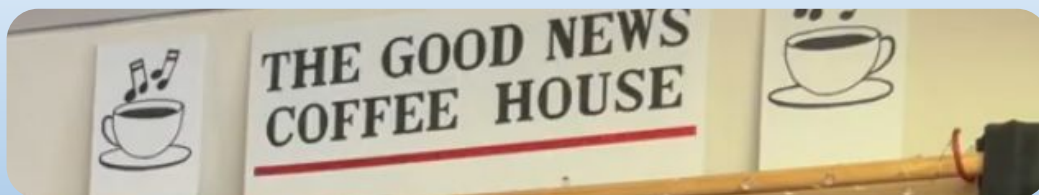


The Fellowship Following Church Services

For many, the fabulous Fellowship following church service is as much a part of the Sunday experience as the music and the sermon. This tradition is one that is fun, delectable, and inspiring. It nurtures not only our bodies, but also our relationships as members of a church family.

If you would like to help us provide a welcoming environment after the service, **please read further.**

Most Fellowship is hosted by two people or households. It does not have to be elaborate or complicated or expensive. If you have never served Fellowship, but would like to join in the fun, please call **Bonnie Bailey (218-766-5259)** or **Chris Kolp (218-252-0102)**. They will help you to sign up, partner with an experienced person (i.e., someone who knows how to run our coffee maker!) and give some guidance on what to serve.



Good News Coffee House

Garrett Raddatz

Sunday March 23rd
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

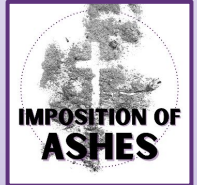


Complimentary beverages and treats. **All Donations to Walker Area Food Shelf**

Sponsored by the Music Board and Women's Fellowship

Weekly Themes for Lent

Daily Devotional Cards and Devotional Booklet will be made available for Lent



March 4, 2025	Pancake Supper and Imposition of Ashes	5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
*March 5, 2025	Ash Wednesday <i>Luke 9:51-62</i>	"Everything in Between: Intention and Action" <i>Jesus sets out for Jerusalem</i>
March 9, 2025	1 st Sunday of Lent <i>Luke 10:25-37</i>	"Everything in Between: Stranger and Neighbor" <i>Parable of the Good Samaritan</i>
March 16, 2025	2 nd Sunday of Lent <i>Luke 10:38-42</i>	"Everything in Between: Faith and Works" <i>Mary and Martha host Jesus</i>
March 23, 2025	3 rd Sunday of Lent <i>Luke 13:6-9</i>	"Everything in Between: Rest and Growth" <i>Parable of the Fig Tree</i>
March 30, 2025	4 th Sunday of Lent <i>Luke 15:1-7</i>	"Everything in Between: Lost and Found" <i>Parable of the Lost Sheep</i>
April 6, 2025	5 th Sunday of Lent <i>Luke 19:1-10</i>	"Everything in Between: Righteousness and Mercy" <i>Zacchaeus greets Jesus</i>
April 13, 2025	Palm/Passion <i>Luke 19:29-40</i>	"Everything in Between: Shouting and Silence" <i>Jesus Enters Jerusalem</i>
April 17, 2025	Seder Ritual/Meal	5:00 pm at <u>Union UCC Hackensack MN</u>
*April 17, 2025	Maundy Thursday <i>Luke 22:1-27</i>	"Everything in Between: Power and Humility" <i>Last Supper</i>
April 20, 2025	Easter <i>Luke 24:1-12</i>	"Everything in Between: Grief and Hope" <i>The Woman Grieve a Peter Run to the Tomb</i>

*These two services will not occur – see Devotional Booklet for themes and more information

Monthly Church Lunches

The Women's Fellowship has decided to hold a church lunch every 4th Sunday. This event is not a traditional potluck. It is a "structured potluck." It is not the intention that everyone who attends should bring something. They are structured so that only about a third of the attendees bring something each time. This allows us to spread the food preparation tasks around, assures an appropriate variety of food, and also prevents an excess of food.

Please, please, please. Join us each and every time, whether you are bringing something or not. It's nice to attend a meal and not have to bring something. That is also why we put out a basket for donations. Those donations are sometimes used by Women's Fellowship to purchase kitchen supplies and sometimes they go to a special cause, usually a local nonprofit.

If you would like to be included in those who are asked to provide a dish to share, please call Bonnie Bailey (218-766-5259) or Joanne Detwiler (218-507-0494). They will help you decide what you can contribute based on our needs and what you enjoy preparing. No pressure.

Special Note: During each potluck gathering, we will have either a presentation by a church or community member or a faith topic to be discussed informally at our tables. Contact Christian Ed (Joanne Detwiler, Esther Covert, Wendy Paul, Marge Koch) with suggestions you have for presentations or faith topics.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2-11-2025

In attendance at today's meeting was Gay, Sue Grage, Ruth, Joanne Detwiler, Jo Pels, Esther, Pastor Michael and Doris J.

-Sue Grage opened our meeting with devotions and prayer.

-Secretary's report was read and approved with a motion from Sue and a 2nd by Ruth. Correspondence in the form of thank you notes from several individuals was noted.

-Treasurer's report was presented. It was approved with a motion by Joanne Detwiler and a 2nd by Jo Pels.

-OLD BUSINESS: We discussed the fact that we have still not put labels on drawers and cabinets in the kitchen and storage cabinets. We will choose a date later to get this done, possibly in May.

-NEW BUSINESS: We had a discussion about the Sunday fellowship hour and how it could be changed so more people would be willing to serve and/or attend. Esther is going to formulate a newsletter that will go out to the congregation asking for suggestions.

-We have chosen the 4th Sunday of each month for our potluck. Our February potluck will be sloppy Joes and salads.

-We have once again been invited by the Union Church in Hackensack to participate in their Seder meal in April. Details will be discussed and shared for all who are interested in attending.

-There has been some interest shown by members of Union to share some events with us. We will try to arrange a meeting to discuss what things we could share and iron out a few details. We talked about sharing information of their upcoming events by putting that information in our weekly bulletins or weekly happenings.

-We discussed some ideas for upcoming fund raisers. Esther has an outlet for selling bigger items via Marketplace in Bemidji. Talk to Esther if you have something you would like to donate and sell.

We talked about having a plant sale possibly the end of May. This will be discussed further at our March 11th meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Doris Johnson, Secretary

Shared by Sue Grage at Women's Fellowship

A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless us with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that we may live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with enough anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God's creations
So that we may work for justice, responsible freedom, and peace
And confront with care those who think present efforts are sufficient.

May God bless us with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war,
So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with just enough
foolishness

To believe that we can make a
difference in the world,
So that we can do what others claim
cannot be done:

To bring justice and kindness to all our
children and all our neighbors who are
poor,
The least, the left out, and the lost.
Amen.



VISIO DIVINA BIBLE STUDY

GUIDED VISUAL MEDITATION & PRAYER

Visio Divina, latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images. Use this lesson plan to blend visual meditation with group discussion and bible study.

Visio Divina Bible Study

A Time For Guided Visual Meditation and Prayer

Tuesday Nights
March 11th, 18th, 25th
April 1st, April 8th

Soup and Study
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Join Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83346140455?pwd=CIUJv9Ob8SQOYADNmyWkKFSCfp1n9T.1>

Meeting ID: 833 4614 0455

Passcode: 723285

Welcome Diana Pratt,
Board Member of Walker Area Food Shelf
to Worship, March 2nd

March Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 16
Following Fellowship

Virtually and In-Person

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86736378740?pwd=XdEsLMWrzEWaVgJn9U35sHaQ8ojaed.1>

Meeting ID: 867 3637 8740

Passcode: 676424



MARCH DATES TO CELEBRATE

Birthdays

- 13 Bonnie Bailey
- 17 Daniel Paul
- 24 Betty Fisher



WORSHIP MINISTRY — MARCH

	GREETERS	LITURGISTS	SPECIAL MUSIC
March 2	Dan Batson	Chris Kolp	Choir & Sara Chaffee-Bates
March 5	TBA	Bev Jorland	TBA
March 9	Chris Kolp	Joanna Aamodt	TBA
March 16	Gay Jacobson	Bev Jorland	Celebrate
March 23	Ruth & Earl Niedermann	Deb Farrell	The EmBELLishments
March 30	Joanne Pels	Chris Kolp	TBA

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Sabbastian Wilson-Webb



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Beth Alderson



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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: *Vacant*

Clerk: Bev Jorland

Treasurer: Deb Farrell

Financial Secretary: Gay Jacobson

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: Gay Jacobson

Minister/Church Relations Board Members:

Deb Farrell, Bev Jorland, Doris Johnson

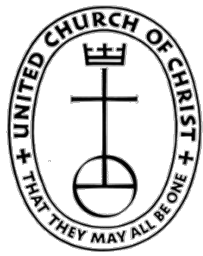
Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

Custodian: Ryan and Joanne Pels

**Articles for the April 2025 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, March 21st, 2025**

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	1 SATURDAY
<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service w/ Communion Kristine James of Walker Food Shelf speaks during worship 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00 – 4:00 pm Pastor Michael on air KAXE/KBXE 5:00 – 6:30 pm Shrove (Fat) Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30 – 7:00 pm Imposition of Ashes</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Beginning of Lent</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:00am– 1:00pm Chili Cook Off (proceeds go to Walker Area Food Shelf) – At the Walker American Legion Post 134 (main level)</p>
<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Fellowship 5:30–6:30 pm Visio Divina Bible Study (in-person & Zoom)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship 11:30am-12:45pm Church Council</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30–6:30 pm Visio Divina Bible Study (in-person & Zoom)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Potluck & Conversation 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Garret Raddatz – Good News Coffee House</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30–6:30 pm Visio Divina Bible Study (in-person & Zoom)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>31</p>					



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Return Service Requested



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