



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

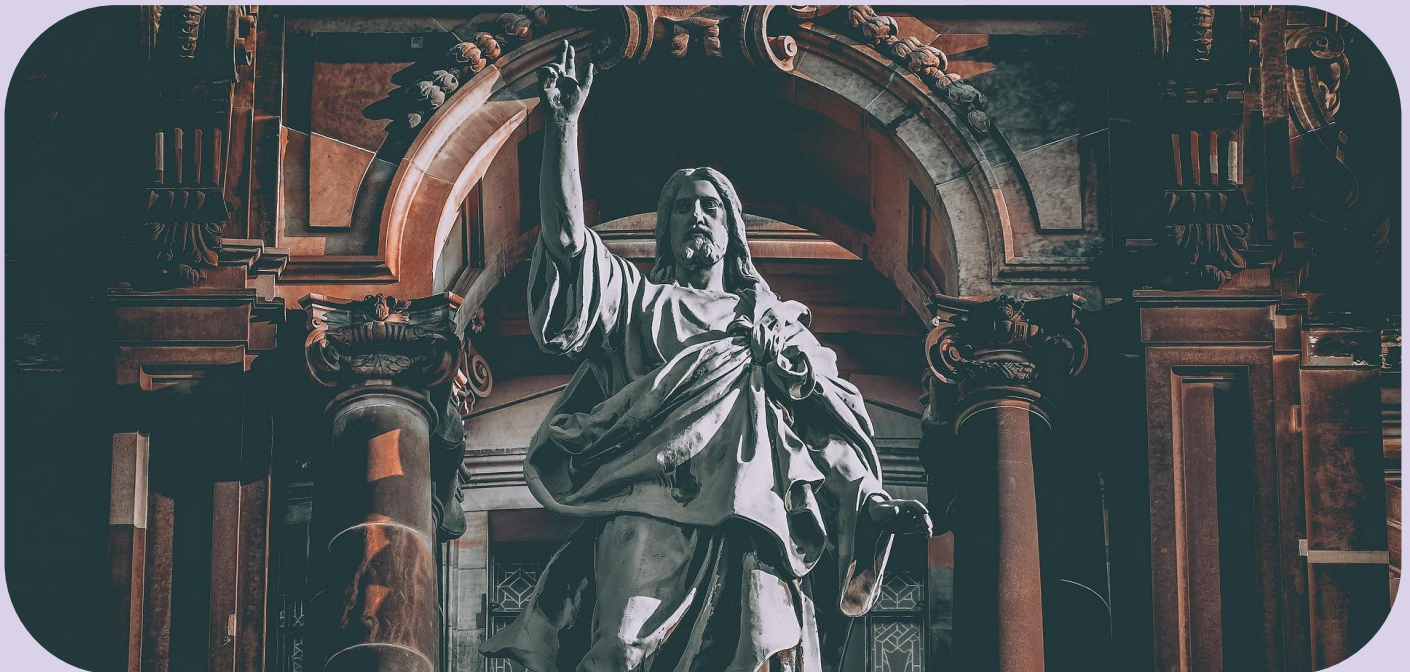
www.uccwalker.com

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..."

APRIL 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

Why Easter?



In all the times humans have walked upon the earth – I wonder – have humans changed? Over time there are changes in physique, health, longevity, location, population, and available resources. Again, the question is, has the essence of humanity changed? As thinking and feeling people are we much different than those who walked upon the earth in the first century or before, for instance? I don't think so.

As we read the ancient texts and try to imagine Abraham and Sarah wandering, Moses leading the people who moved from slavery in Egypt to the promised land, and Jesus, the first followers, the disciples and the people of faith throughout the first century – I firmly think that they are ancestors who are like those in whom we dwell and abide with in the 21st century. They too experienced chaos, darkness, hard times. They knew about failed leadership and struggles to get along with one another. They had families and communities who gathered and tried their best to be in healthy relationships with one another. There were times when they failed, fought wars over limited resources and misunderstandings, experienced famine and drought. Over time they built communities and nations, they dreamed dreams and saw visions. We are the ones who follow in their footsteps.

As we approach Easter, can we once again discover why it is that we celebrate Easter? The holy books and scripture throughout time were written out of the experiences of life and death, hope and tragedy, violence and loss, unexplainable events and mystery. These writing emerged as people transitioned from oral traditions to the ability to record and write down their stories. I think many of these stories were grounded in the diversity of the human experience – from loss and grief to joy and ecstasy, from hard reality to the mystery of this cosmic life all creation participates in.

We celebrate Easter because it speaks to experience and all our life cycles – from conception to birth – from infancy to becoming elders, from life, life abundant to death. Our Easter faith speaks to our fears and frustrations allowing us to move beyond self(ish) concerns to the concerns of the whole, all humanity. Our Easter faith reassures us that in all we do and all we experience that we are loved, we are safe, we are made whole in the never-ending presence of the continuing forces of Creator creating still, Spirit always breathing life into us, and Christ who is our constant companion – calling an guiding us to still waters while confronting all the challenges life throws at us. We no longer need to fear death!

Easter faith means we live life with the knowledge and hope of resurrection. No matter how dark and horrible life may be – we are always a resurrection people living life to the fullest without fear of death or destruction. As resurrection people we are called to be about healing for those who hurt the most, feeding for those who are hungry, reconciling for those who are in broken relationship, peacemaking for those who are at war, knitting together those who have been torn asunder, and being a people who radiate light for those who are lost in the darkness of despair.

As Eastern people we are always called to demonstrate, live out, embrace life and life abundant in all the places we journey. May we be these people with one another, with the stranger and the lost, with the poor and oppressed, with each other and with all of God's creation. You, we, all of us are a Easter people always expanding and opening the circle of God's beloved. Thanks be to od!

May it be so – in the ways of Christ – Pastor Michael

Seder Meal

All are invited to participate in the ritual Seder Meal, celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 17th – 5:00 p.m. at Union UCC in Hackensack. Please sign-up at the CCOWUCC.



The **Passover Seder**^[a] is a ritual feast at the beginning of the Jewish celebration of the Passover event. Seder customs include telling the story, discussing the story, drinking four cups of wine. Eating matzah, partaking of symbolic foods, and reclining in celebration of freedom. The Seder is among the most commonly celebrated Jewish rituals, performed by Jews all over the world.

Pastor Michael Takes Personal Leave Days

Life is filled with surprises and bends in the road. Recently Pastor Michael's twin sister Mary was diagnosed *Triple Negative Breast Cancer* – a very aggressive form of cancer. Here chemotherapy began on April 1. Pastor Michael is traveling to Portland OR to be with Mary the last two weeks of April (April 21st – May 1st). Dan Batson will preach on Sunday, April 27th. Please hold Pastor Michael and his twin Mary in your prayers as they spend time with one another.

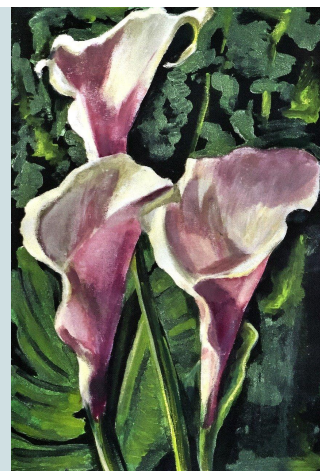
Jerry Bixby

March 16, 1936 ~ January 21, 2025

Celebration of Life Service

May 17, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

Community Church of Walker UCC



CCOWUCC Council

Unapproved Minutes – March 16, 2025

Present: Pastor Michael, Bonnie Bailey, Joanne Detwiler, Deb Farrell, Doris Johnson, Ryan Pels, Chris Kolp, Joanna Aamodt, Gay Jacobson

Call to order by Moderator Bonnie at 11:32.

Prayer: Pastor Michael

Review of minutes: Gay made the motion to accept the minutes as written, Doris second motion carried.

Review of written reports. Chris made the motion to accept the written reports, Esther second, motion carried.

Oral reports:

Trustees: Ryan- checked dishwasher- changed breaker

- Roof - insurance sent a picture of the roof to Ryan

- Gutters - Ryan and Jo used Flex Seal but we need new gutters.

Christian Ed: They have plans for our Pot luck lunches that will encourage conversation and sharing.

Women's fellowship: we are planning a St Patrick lunch on 3/23.

We are planning a plant and pie sale for late May. More information will follow.

Coffee House schedule:

Garrett Raddatz March 23 @ 3:00

Jo and Ryan Pels - April

Abello - either family or older kids - May

Deb made the motion to accept oral reports, Joanne second, motion carried.

New business: Most items were discussed during oral reports. Bonnie: schedule audit. Bonnie and Doris will be part of the audit committee.

Britta Rand would like to be recognized by the church. A date will be decided.

New Business:

- Lenten studies/plans: pastor Michael will lead the study of Lent. He has ordered a Lenten Journey book and scripture cards for every family.

- Seder Meal planning with Union on Wednesday, March 19. Sheila and Gay will attend but anyone can join us.

- Jerry Bixby funeral will be held at the church and Bonnie is talking with Gloria about reception.

- Outreach/visitation outreach. Discussion about how we can provide more support to our church community members.

- Spring plant and pie sale: discussed during oral reports.

- Holy Week plan: Palm Sunday- April 13, Seder Meal - Thursday, April 17 @ 5:00 Union Church, Easter - Sunday, April 20.

Any interest in a pollinator garden. Deb and Gay will be part of the committee.

Other new business: coffee maker is not working properly. Discussion of what might be done.

A member of the WELS church will rent the fellowship hall for a baby shower. May 4, 2-6 pm.

Joanna made the motion to adjourn after Pastor Michael prayer.

Next meeting May 15th.

Closing prayer.

Adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted by Gay Jacobson for Bev Jorland.

Meryle Marjorie Booth O'Connor

July 29, 1929 ~ March 27, 2025

Celebration of Life

Community Church of Walker UCC

Saturday April 12, 2025

10:00 a.m. Visitation,

Service 11:00 a.m.

Lunch follows service



Meryle Marjorie Booth O'Connor lived a full and adventurous life. She passed to her heavenly home on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Meryle called Walker home for over 70 years and moved to Brooklyn Park in 2022 after selling her long-time home to Super One.

Meryle enjoyed new experiences, travel, sewing, quilting, walking, and spending time with loved ones. She was friendly and could converse with anyone. Meryle deeply valued her faith and cherished her community.

Meryle was born in Gemmel, Minnesota on July 29, 1929. She attended and graduated from Greenway High School in Coleraine, Minnesota. She attended beauty school in Duluth and then came to Walker and worked at Ah-gwah-ching before being hired by Lou Carlson to do hair. In 1951 she married Gerald (Jerry) O'Connor and in 1952 she opened her "Home Beauty Shop" and had that business for 43 years before retiring.

Meryle is survived by her brother Keith (Idaho) and her 5 children, Joe (Starla), Jeanne (Jim), Janet (Duane), Jim (Jackie) and Susan; Nine grandchildren Jennifer, Michael, Jamie, Jenna, Blane, Logan, Erin, Ian and Christopher; Eight great-grandchildren Hannah, Annabelle, Peyton, Carson, Jace, Matthew, Zach and Jackson; and many nieces and nephews.

Meryle was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years Jerry; her parents Hugh and Laurel Booth; her sisters Aletta and Kathleen; and her grandson Brian.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 12th at the Community Church in Walker at 11:00 AM, with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Memorials are preferred to be the Walker Area Joint Fire Department, the Walker Food Shelf or Community Church of Walker. Cards can be sent to: Jeanne Ullmer, 6911 58th Ave N, Crystal, MN 55428.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Received Sunday - April 13, 2025

Be the Light

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16 [The Message]

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous [Parent] in heaven."



BE THE LIGHT

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Mission Moment

YWCA of Palestine – Jalazone Kindergarten and Community Center

What better way to support a more sustainable and hopeful future than to support and educate future generations? The YWCA of Palestine, a United Church of Christ partner through Global Ministries and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, has engaged local Palestinian communities since 1893.

Today, it offers programs of economic empowerment, women's rights, youth leadership, and children's education. An example of the latter is the YWCA's nursery schools and kindergartens in refugee camps, schools the YWCA has run for decades. In addition to regular classes, the YWCA offers skill-based camps such as photography and sports, as well as other extra-curricular activities at its schools.

In the occupied Palestinian West Bank, roughly one-fourth of the 900,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations live in 19 refugee camps. The YWCA kindergarten in the Jalazone Refugee Camp near Ramallah is a sign of hope for a community that has endured over 75 years of displacement.

The school and connected community center address the needs of over 80 children and their families within the camp. In a place that is often subjected to raids and night-time patrols by the Israeli military, children are not immune from the trauma the residents of the camp experience. As a result, the YWCA has added awareness and counselling sessions to regular classes to help improve the psychological well-being of the children there.

The opportunities that the YWCA affords the community through the kindergarten benefit the children, their families, and the teachers as well, providing a safe space for play and employing techniques to cope with the stress of daily life living in sub-par circumstances of a refugee camp under military occupation.

The pride the children have when they dress up for their graduation ceremony is palpable. They enjoy the celebration of their accomplishment, and anticipate their next stages of education and life better able and prepared for the challenges they will face.



APRIL DATES TO CELEBRATE

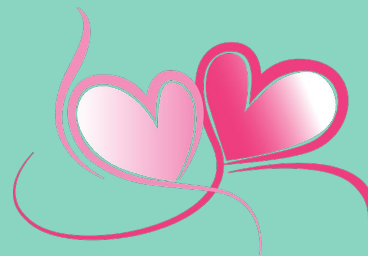
Birthdays

- 5 John Aamodt
Britta Rand
- 7 Jesse Kolp
- 9 Jacob Wolfe
- 11 Peg Jennings
- 22 Lauren Farrell
- 29 Kameron Artley



Anniversaries

- 25 Tim and Shelli Johnson



WORSHIP MINISTRY — APRIL

April 6
April 13
(Easter) April 20
April 27

GREETERS

Dan Batson
Sue Standeven
Gay Jacobson
Doris Johnson

LITURGISTS

Bev Jorland
Joanna Aamodt
Deb Farrell
Sonja Huber

SPECIAL MUSIC

Choir & Sara Chaffee-Bates
The EmBELLishments
Bells, Choir, & TBD
Ken and Linda Barber

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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Mailing address: P.O. Box 267
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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: *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 May 2025 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, April 25th, 2025**

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 10:00am Worship Service w/ Communion 11:00am Fellowship	7	8 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	9	10	11	12 Meylle O'Connor Celebration of Life 10:00 Visitation 11:00 Service
13 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship	14 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	15	16	17 5:00pm Seder Meal at Union UCC in Hackensack	18	19
20 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship 11:30am-12:45pm Church Council	21	22	23	24	25 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	26
27 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship	28 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	29	30			



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Return Service Requested

The background of the entire page is a photograph of cherry blossoms. The blossoms are white with yellow centers and are in various stages of bloom. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue sky.

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