



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..."

JUNE 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



So . . . What's the Point?

While flying to Portland in May, the person next to me (I was in an aisle seat – thank goodness) asked me “Where do you live . . . What do you do?” Friends, depending on my mood, I struggle with the latter portion of the question. Clergy friends have said their response this question, “Well, I work with a carpenter.” Sort of true, but not really. When responding, as I did, “I am a clergy person working in Northern Minnesota” I am aware of the consequences of that statement. It will inevitably shake the conversation, for better or worse. Regrettably, the person at once responded “Praised the Lord!” thankful to be sitting next to a person of faith, as if I had become a

blessing, a life raft for his trip across country. Little did I know the cloth covered package with zipper he held upon his lap was his Bible. After a few words I put my headphones on and watched some movies. Before landing, he prayed for me. Theologically, we differed while at the same time being persons of faith.

Conversations abound – “What’s the point of faith? What’s the point?” I can honestly say, for well over two thousand years people of faith or no faith have been debating these questions. Out of that debate has come creeds, statements of faith, arguments about the existence of God and for believers how to best emulate Christ in the world today, right now!

As I have moved toward semi-retirement, working part-time at Community Church of Walker – once again, both at the beginning of my ministry and the twilight of ministry – the people of CCOWUCC continue to teach me about faith, the church, and the fresh winds of the Spirit breathing life into me and our community.

Set aside the creeds, the statements of faith, the theologies and all the biblical interpretations and it all boils down to relationship, community being first shaped by love that listens, hears, sees – and then loving action with compassion and sometimes forgiveness.

In John 14:8-9, during Jesus’ farewell words, Phillip asks Jesus, “Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.” Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you don’t know me? Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God. How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’?”

I am thinking, Jesus may have said something like, “Phillip, you saw God when I gave living water to the woman at the well, when I healed the one who had been blind from birth, when I fed the 5,000, when I walked on water and stilled the storm, when I brought the children to me, when I overturned the tables in the temple, when I drove out demons, when I had compassion for Jerusalem and wept, when I wept at the tomb of Lazarus and then called him out, when I touched and healed the leper, when I healed the woman who had been bleeding for years, when I told the one waiting for healing of his legs all of his life – take your mat and get up, when I lay down my life for all of humanity and creation . . . When I have loved you, washed your feet, and more – IN ALL OF THIS PHILIP – YOU HAVE SEEN AND KNOWN GOD!”

What’s the point? Our first step in entering ANY RELATIONSHIP (and we are called to many) to engage first with the lens of unconditional and simple love, then take the next step, enter into more and diverse relationships, build communities shaped by love and action, build up the kingdom, the realm of God.

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How do we do that? We worship on Sundays with celebration as it flourishes with abundant life. Creating a Plant Sale with Pie and Conversation where Joy and Conversation abounds, providing music on a Sunday evening in the Gazebo where all are welcome to come, sing, experience joy and wonder and have a bit of ice cream. We do that by supporting others who are about building up the community, building up the beloved people of God – all all are beloved.

Phillip asks, “Show us God.” And Jesus says, “you know God because you know me.” This is “An intimate Pentecost” as Alyce McKenzie puts it. There are no pyrotechnics like in Acts. There is no fire, doves, people acting weird. No one would suggest these guys sitting around the table are drunk. This promise of the Holy Spirit comes with nothing more than a relationship.

May it be so.

Pastor Michael

Upcoming Themes and Texts for Sunday Worship

June 1, 7th Sunday of Easter: Breaking Chains | Acts 16:16-34

June 8, Pentecost Sunday: Gathered and Scattered | Acts 2:1-21

June 15, Trinity Sunday: Father's Day

June 22, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost: In God's Presence | 1 Kings 19:1-15a

June 29, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost: Pick Up the Mantle | 1 Kings 1-2, 6-14



The Tears of Things

Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage

In his first major work since *The Universal Christ*, New York Times bestselling author Richard Rohr offers a wholehearted and hope-filled model for the world today, grounded in the timeless wisdom of the Hebrew prophets.

Faith Conversations

1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:00 pm

2nd and 4th Tuesdays 6:00 pm

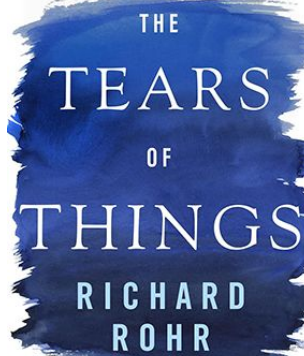
Light Meal at 5:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86300205336?pwd=bKo75mJWnSbbFeF7gtDdPspwi7tCxc.1>

Meeting ID: 863 0020 5336 - Passcode: 455643

PROPHETIC WISDOM FOR
AN AGE OF OUTRAGE



New York Times bestselling author of *The Universal Christ*

CCOWUCC Council

Unapproved Minutes — May 18, 2025

PRESENT: Pastor Michael, Bonnie Bailey, Esther Covert, Joann Detwiler, Deb Farrell, Chris Kolp, Linda Barber, Marge Koch, Ryan Pels, Jo Pels, Wendy Paul, Bev Jorland.

Call to order by Moderator Bonnie at 11:40

Opening Prayer: Pastor Michael

Motion by Deb, second by Chris to accept last meeting's minutes.

Review/Approve oral reports, with discussion of effectiveness of ads for gazebo concerts, and summer gazebo schedule, with concerts starting June 8, ending August 31. Financial reports may not be quite up to date yet.

Motion to accept by Bev, seconded by Marge.

OLD BUSINESS

-roof and gutter repairs will be voted on by trustees, including type of shingles and color, with those in attendance favoring higher grade shingles which will reduce insurance cost, and agreeing that gutter guards are probably not necessary.

-Esther will follow up on cost of dishwasher replacement, and offered funds left by her mother to go toward cost

-benevolence 5th Sunday collection of June 29th will also be given to Jackpine Stables along with other donations collected for them at one time

-plant and pie sale work and donation sign ups in place in narthex

-Britta Rand gift and reception on 6/8, with gift of \$500, as was given to her sister Erica when she was a senior

-audit in June will be done by Bonnie and Doris

NEW BUSINESS

-spring clean-up June 6th from 10-12, before gazebo concerts begin

-annual budget requests are to be submitted to Esther and in Trustee's box by end of May, and previous figures can be used if no changes needed

-annual reports due by June 26

-council meeting for June on 22nd

-July council meeting July 13

-annual meeting July 20

Pastor's Reports

-current book study linked to prophets

-he will talk to Mike Schmidt about connecting our organ to the sound board

-Dan Batson has expressed interest in attending the Minnesota Conference of UCC June 13th and 14th

Jo made motion seconded by Marge to adjourn at 12:45



Gazebo Concerts 2025

**Live music every Sunday
throughout the summer**

Rain or shine

7:00-8:00pm

Free-will offering



SCHEDULE

June	8	Bumps on a Log - Garrett and Grant Raddatz
June	15	Ryan Pels & Friends
June	22	Charley Wagner
June	29	Steve Reiter
July	6	Sabbastian Wilson-Webb
July	13	Steve and Deb Harley
July	20	Bill and Julie Kaiser
July	27	Doyle Turner
August	3	Acoust-o-fiddle (Jeff Menten & Paul Nye)
August	10	Momma Wags and Boomer (Larry Kimball)
August	17	The Abello Family
August	24	After 5 Hooley-gans
August	31	Kristy and Starseed

JUNE DATES TO CELEBRATE

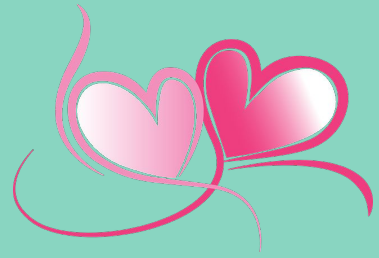
Birthdays

- 4 Marilyn Vogt
Rev. Enno Limvere
- 10 Sheila Hunter
- 15 Matthew Artley
- 17 Beverly Jorland
- 20 Bruce Haugen
- 21 Melanie Wolfe
- 26 Lynn Kennelly



Anniversaries

- 21 Ryan and Joanne Pels



WORSHIP MINISTRY — JUNE

		GREETERS	LITURGISTS	SPECIAL MUSIC
June	1	Deb Farrell	Bev Jorland	Community Choir
June	8	Chris Kolp	Sonja Huber	Sabbastian Wilson-Webb
June	15	Sue Standeven	Deb Farrell	Shelli & Tim Johnson w/ Kenny Conger
June	22	Jo Pels	Bev Jorland	The EmBELLishments
June	29	Chris Kolp	Joanna Aamodt	Ryan and Jo Pels

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Sabbastian Wilson-Webb



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Bev Jorland



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is a monthly newsletter publication of the
Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ
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Pastor Michael Small

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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

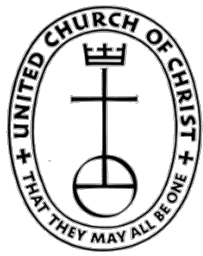
Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

Custodian: Ryan and Joanne Pels

**Articles for the July 2025 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, June 20th, 2025**

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Book Conversation 5:30pm Meal 6:00-7:00pm Conversation 7:00pm Bell Practice (The EmBELLishments)	1:00-4:00pm Michael on Air @ KAXE/KBXE			10am-12pm Outdoor Cleanup	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00am Worship Service w/ Communion 11:00am Fellowship	6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	Book Conversation 5:30pm Meal 6:00-7:00pm Conversation 7:00pm Bell Practice (The EmBELLishments)		Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting	Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting	Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Father's Day 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship	Book Conversation 5:30pm Meal 6:00-7:00pm Conversation 7:00pm Bell Practice (The EmBELLishments)				11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Stewardship Sunday 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship 11:30am-12:45pm Church Council	6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	Book Conversation 5:30pm Meal 6:00-7:00pm Conversation 7:00pm Bell Practice (The EmBELLishments)		Annual Reports Due		
29	30					
5 th Sunday Offering 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship & Potluck - Steve Erickson reflects upon Dietrich Bonhoeffer						



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Return Service Requested



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