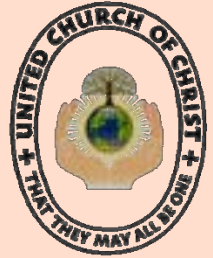




THE GOOD NEWS!



**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..."

AUGUST 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

America Is...



Social media, news reports, newspapers, television, and radio, and conversations with one another constantly focus on the good (rarely), the bad (continually), and the ugly (“if it bleeds it reads”) of what is occurring in America and the world and who it is we are and who it is we are becoming. If one is only informed by the headlines, or casually listens, looks, and hears one could conclude that America and all of humanity consists of:

- leaders and people who pursue self-interests while ignoring deep problems faced by the U.S. and the world
- leadership and people who consistently ignore the common good for all the people
- a justice system who favors the powerful, those with wealth and privilege, and maintains a questionable status quo
- fraudulent practices of local and national leadership making the rich richer and the poor without
- streets and communities infected with violence
- neighbors and people who live in fear of one another
- immigrants who are illegal and taking advantage of the system and who are out to inflict harm upon us
- a world of “Us” versus “Them”
- and a nation and world who are on the downside facing a bleak future.

On the other hand, as people of faith, we proclaim and seek to live out a different narrative – one that proclaims that in the face, eyes, body, and presence of each person, in spite of ethnicity, religious beliefs, social status, economic status, sexual orientation, legal status, nationality – we are encountering and called be in relationship with all those who are made in the image of God – just like us. In the other we see a brother or sister, a mother or father, a neighbor, a stranger, one who may become friend, and one who is related to us – woven together by the vision and love of God who calls all – God’s beloved!

As people of faith, rather than being shrouded with fear, darkness, anxiety, and despair, we live out lives that are grounded in hope and possibility. We seek to follow the ways of Jesus Christ – building up relationships, standing with those who hurt, feeding those who are hungry, welcoming the alien, stranger, and immigrant – living our lives through the lens of love and possibility – not a lens of fear and suspicion. We seek to live justly, clothe ourselves with kindness, and walk humbly with one another and God.

Driving across the country with my sister I was incredibly surprised to discover a surprisingly different America. Without exception we discovered people who were kind, curious, generous, caring, hard-working. Even as we drove the roads of America, we saw no violence or angry outbursts – instead vehicles moving safely and with courtesy. At no time did we experience fear and suspicion. Each day as we drove, and night as we rested – we experienced joy, wonder, kindness and the willingness of others to reach out and help us when needed.

Also, driving the freeways of America (originally funded by the Department of Defense to move troops rapidly when needed) I was reminded of the dedication and genius of the American people who built these roads – allowing us to move quickly through the valleys and mountains, the plains and the hills of America.

Continues on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

Driving from Minneapolis to Kelso Washington I daily witnessed the beauty and wonder of God's creation. This is a beautiful, complex, extraordinary country – farmland, desert, valleys, clear waters, rivers, streams, hills and mountains. Out of this land sprouts growth, life, and life abundant. Communities large and small were always places of welcome and hospitality – and yes, we were the stranger. On our journey across America, I found an America and a people who instilled hope and possibility.

Yes – America and the world face enormous challenges. Yes, leadership and each of us are not always at our best. Yes, there is corruption, too often folks who are interested only in self. And yes, it could be easy to become disengaged, withdrawn, and become discouraged. Obviously there is enormous pain in this world. But, in reality, I think there is far more good, possibility, promise in this nation and throughout the world.

May we move through our anger and despair to a place of new possibilities. Moving into a new order can feel scary and chaotic. As we move forward may it be with love – love for all, love of creation still happening, love of the Creator, love of self, and love of neighbor. May it be so!

In the ways of Christ, Pastor Michael



August Church Council Meeting Sunday, August 17 Following Fellowship

Virtually and In-Person



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86736378740?pwd=XdEsLMWrrzEWaVgJn9U35sHaQ8ojaed.1>

Meeting ID: 867 3637 8740 - Passcode: 676424



Faith Conversations

Mondays at 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



August 11 - Chapter 9 "Ezekiel: Redemption & The Grace of God"
August 18 - Chapter 10: "It All Comes Down to Love"

Special Announcement from the Moderator of MN Conference UCC

Dear Minnesota Conference UCC,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan as our Conference Minister candidate. Please review the following documents to learn more about Rev. Dr. Sadagopan and the selection process:

- [Summary of Rev. Dr. Sadagopan's experience](#)
- [Review of selection process](#)



The Search Committee made its recommendation to the Board of Directors and we are overjoyed to bring this nomination to a special meeting of the Conference on Tuesday, August 12. This hybrid event (onsite and online) will be held at Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ beginning with a light lunch at noon followed by worship and business meeting at 1:00 pm.

During this time of transition, the search process has allowed us to tap into our deep sense of love, pride, commitment, and call that is felt and expressed throughout the many ministries of our conference. We are glad to be at this moment and encourage you to join us for this special meeting!

Please mark this date and register below.

Register for Event

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/g36cg3b?mode=preview&source_id=ef9aae0f-03b7-493c-911e-e5d6d408d124&source_type=em&c=

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

With hope,

Rev. Sara E. Morse, Moderator

Sheila Hunter and Michael Small Swap Pulpits

Sunday, August 10 there will be a change of venue. Sheila is currently providing pulpit supply for Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Outing MN (Where Pastor Michael served as Interim). Our Savior's has asked if there could be a swap of pastors for one Sunday – so it is that Michael and Sheila will swap pulpits reminding us that we are united in Christ and called to serve as one.

Sunday Worship

*Please note that Sunday's liturgy, texts, and the themes are developed by **Worship Ways** – a resource provided by the United Church of Christ – www.ucc.org. This makes possible relationship and unity in the UCC.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Text & Theme</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Liturgist and Greeter</u>
August 3	Luke 12:13-21 "Rich Toward God"	Choir	Joanna Aamodt Jo Pels
August 10	Luke 12:32-40 "Dressed for Action"	The EmBELLishments Sheila Hunter Preaching	Chris Kolp Doris Johnson
August 17	Luke 12:49-56 "Cast Fire"	Sabbastian Wilson-Webb	Deb Farrell Bev Jorland
August 24	Luke 13:10-17 "On the Sabbath"	Celebrate	Bev Jorland Linda Barber
August 31	Luke 14:1, 7-14 "Places of Honor"	Sue Grage	Joanna Aamodt Marge Koch

IT WON'T BE A PARTY WITHOUT YOU!!!!

(and this lady knows how to party!)

Save the afternoon of **August 23rd**... Sue G. is celebrating her 80th Birthday!

Live music from the "After Five" sensationals: Linda and Ken Barber – Kim and Tom Kusler. Songs from the 50's and 60's from 2-4 o'clock.

Lunch menu will be Sloppy Joe's, chips etc. Beverages include lemonade, ice tea, coffee, soft drinks...anything harder...bring your own!

Come as early as **1:00 PM** and stay as late as 'whenever'. An RSVP would be appreciated to kloklo92@gmail.com.

Party is hosted by daughter Kristin, sisters – Shannon and Pam.

Gazebo Concerts 2025



Live music every Sunday
throughout the summer

Rain or shine

7:00-8:00pm

Free-will offering

SCHEDULE

August	3	Acoust-o-fiddle (Jeff Menten & Paul Nye)
August	10	Momma Wags and Boomer (Larry Kimball)
August	17	“Figuring it Out” Abello Acoustics Band
August	24	After 5 Hooley-gans
August	31	Kristy and Starseed



AUGUST DATES TO CELEBRATE

Birthdays

1 Doris Johnson
 2 JoAnn Rand
 4 Steve Bilben
 5 Ken Barber
 6 Casey Fisher
 8 Aurora Diehl
 12 Merlin Taylor
 14 Esther Covert
 15 Doris Splichal
 Sonja Huber

17 Larry Wolfe
 18 Emilie Koch
 22 Alison Koch
 25 Sue Grage



Anniversaries

4 Larry and Melanie Wolfe
 6 Ken and Linda Barber
 7 Merlin and Lois Taylor
 9 Esther Covert and Bonnie Bailey
 23 Earl and Ruth Niedermann



WORSHIP MINISTRY — AUGUST

GREETERS

August 3 Jo Pels
 August 10 Doris Johnson
 August 17 Bev Jorland
 August 24 Linda Barber
 August 31 Marge Koch

LITURGISTS

Joanna Aamodt
 Chris Kolp
 Deb Farrell
 Bev Jorland
 Joanna Aamodt

SPECIAL MUSIC

Community Choir
 The EmBELLishments
 Sabbastian Wilson-Webb
 Celebrate
 Sue Grage

AUDIO

Esther Covert

VIDEO

Aurora Diehl

MUSIC

Sabbastian Wilson-Webb



CHOIR DIRECTOR

Joanna Aamodt

ALTER & COMMUNION PREPARATION

???



THE GOOD NEWS!

is a monthly newsletter publication of the
Community Church of Walker United Church of Christ
 Located at the corner of Hwy 371 & Tianna Drive
 Walker, MN 56484

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 Walker, MN 56484

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

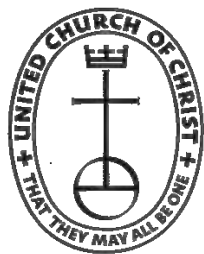
Choir Director: Joanna Aamodt

Custodian: Ryan and Joanne Pels

**Articles for the September 2025 edition of The Good News! newsletter
 need to be emailed by 11:00 AM Friday, August 22nd, 2025**

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	1	2	SATURDAY
3 10:00am Worship Service w/ Communion 11:00am Fellowship 6:00pm Gazebo Concert (Acousto-fiddle (Jeff Menten & Paul Nye)	4 <u>Book Conversation</u> 5:30pm Meal 6:00-7:00pm Conversation 7:00pm Bell Practice (The EmBELLishments)	5 1:00-4:00pm Michael on Air @ KAXE/KBXE	6	7	8	12	
10 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship 6:00pm Gazebo Concert (Momma Wags and Boomer (Larry Kimball)	11 <u>Book Conversation</u> 5:30pm Meal 6:00-7:00pm Conversation 7:00pm Bell Practice (The EmBELLishments) 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	
17 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship 11:30am-12:45pm Church Council 6:00pm Gazebo Concert ("Figuring it Out" Abello Acoustics Band))	18 <u>Book Conversation</u> 5:30pm Meal 6:00-7:00pm Conversation 7:00pm Bell Practice (The EmBELLishments)	19	20	21	22 11:00am Newsletter Submission Deadline	23	
24 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship 6:00pm Gazebo Concert (After 5 Hooley-gans)	25 <u>Book Conversation</u> 5:30pm Meal 6:00-7:00pm Conversation 7:00pm Bell Practice (The EmBELLishments) 6:30-8:30pm St. Mark's Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	
31 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship 6:00pm Gazebo Concert (Kirsty and Starseed)							



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Return Service Requested

The background of the lower half of the page is a photograph of a tree branch with several small, round apples. The apples are in various stages of ripening, with some being bright red and others being yellow or green. The leaves are green and slightly out of focus.

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