

# WALKERVILLE WESLEYAN CHURCH PROFILE



May 27, 2022

Version 1.1

## SNAPSHOT OF WWC

Walkerville Wesleyan Church (WWC) is nestled in the rural community of Walkerville, in Oceana County located in West Michigan. The ministry of WWC is to a low-income, highly agricultural and outdoor sports minded area. We host community events such as Wild Game Dinners, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Sales, Trick-or-Treat, school athletic practices, baccalaureates and prom dinners in our facility. Our facilities are rented by the community for wedding receptions, family reunions, birthday parties, baby and bridal showers.



NOTE: In the 2010 census, there are 26,570 people in Oceana County. The Association of Religious Data Archives show 25 religious' bodies with 9, 580 adherents. This leaves 16,990 unclaimed persons in Oceana County. **What a mission field!**

## THE WALKERVILLE COMMUNITY

The Walkerville area is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts, nature lovers, and folks who enjoy rural living. Outdoor hunting



and fishing activities for all ages are abundant in all four seasons. This includes



snowmobiling, four-wheeling, boating, forest trails, camping, and hiking/walking opportunities. The area has numerous inland lakes and streams and gives opportunity

for bird watching, National Parks access, plenty of woodlands and wetlands, roadside fruit/vegetable stands and farmers' markets.

The Walkerville Wesleyan community, ministers mainly to the two counties of Oceana and Newago, and includes people who consider WWC their spiritual home that live in Colfax, Crystal, Elbridge, Leavitt, Troy, and Beaver



Townships. Walkerville itself has a village park with playground and pavilion, convenience store, Kwik Mart/gas station, fire-station, public school, K-12, walking paths, and is in Leavitt Township. It's just a short drive to well-known attractions such as Lake Michigan, Silver Lake Sand Dunes, Pentwater, Little Point Sable and Big Point Sable light houses,

the SS Badger car ferry which runs round trip to Wisconsin. Brand-name stores, craft stores and well-known restaurants are 30 to 45 minutes away.



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## VISION, MISSION, IMAGE

### *VISION*

**Resolved**, that the goals of the Walkerville Wesleyan Church shall be dictated by the Holy Spirit working in the members and through the Word of God. We seek no other mandate. In support of this resolution, we express our intention to: SELF GIVE

1. Seek with diligence to know and to do the will of God.
2. Encourage one another as we work together
3. Love one another as Christ has loved us and given himself for us
4. Follow with passion and commitment as God unfolds his plan
5. Go into our world to bring the water of life to the thirsty and dying
6. Invest tithes, offerings and time
7. Visit light upon this dark world
8. Experience sacrificial living

As we seek the direction of the Holy Spirit, we will move forward with the known, revealed will of God as per the instructions of the Master in Matthew 28:19 & 20 "Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world."

Of equal importance are the two parts of this mandate. We will develop programs to address both needs

1. Evangelism to the community and world  
Outreach is a fluid concept. We will do what we know to do and keep our minds open to new ways to propagate the gospel.
2. Discipleship in the body of believers  
We will develop programs to teach doctrine, train good spiritual habits and nourish the new man/woman unto the perfection of the image of Christ in the believers, as the Spirit leads.
3. Acknowledging that there are nearly 22,000 people living within a ten-mile radius of WWC, we have the opportunity to determine our level of commitment going forward. Will we be a one percenter, five percenter, or ten percenter?



We choose to be a

1. Praying church Matthew 26:41 & Mark 13:33
2. Preaching church Mark 16:15
3. Power infused church I Corinthians 4:20 & Ephesians 3:20
4. People oriented church Luke 19:10
5. Purpose driven church Romans 1:16,17 & I Corinthians 9:17
6. Productive church Matthew 25:15-28
7. Passionate church Romans 9:12-18, in imitation of our Master, Jesus Christ

### **MISSION**

In support of the above we propose the following:

“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” ~ Matthew 28:19

### **IMAGE**

Walkerville Wesleyan Church will be a Body of Christ in mind, body and soul by being the eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet and heart of God to bring as many of his children home as possible.

- The EYES to look beyond the surface and see what God sees – the child He died for.
- The EARS to hear another’s life story – to understand how Jesus can meet their life needs.
- The MOUTH to lovingly speak words of life – that God would be glorified, and souls set free.
- The HANDS to do the work which God has called us to – that we might meet the needs of others.
- The FEET to take God’s love out of the church and into the community, homes, hospitals, jails, etc. ... - to all who need encouragement.
- The HEARTS to willingly sacrifice self that our hearts might beat as one hears – the heart of God.



## MEET OUR PASTOR



### ***Senior Pastor Robert Abbott***

February 13, 2022 – Current

Pastor Robert Abbott (known as Pastor Bob) has returned to Walkerville Wesleyan Church (WWC) as Lead Pastor after retiring from Atlas Pacific Engineering where he worked for 14 years as Senior Service Representative.

***Assistant Pastor to Pastor Jeff Lemire – WWC*** (Bi-Vocational) 2014 – 2021

***Senior Pastor*** - WWC (Bi-Vocational) 2009 – 2014

***Senior Pastor*** - Elbridge Community Church: Hart, MI. 2001-2006

***Senior Pastor*** - WWC – 1988 – 2001

During Pastor Bob's tenure the church grew spiritually, and in numbers. He led the building/relocation of WWC to its new, and current location at 144 S. Hamon St. in 1989 and completed the construction of a Fellowship Hall, additional classrooms, kitchen, and gymnasium in 2000.

***Senior Pastor – King's Chapel:*** Alexandria, Indiana 1986-1988

### **EDUCATION:**

Indiana Wesleyan University

BA Christian Ministries

May 14, 1988

### ***Note:***

Ordained – July 1990

North Michigan District of The Wesleyan Church



## CURRENT STAFF

### OTHER POSITIONS



**Lay Speaker & Worship Leader - Craig Cooper** (1992 – Current). Leads Sunday Worship, Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting, and VBS. He also leads a Bible Study for a small group. He has filled the pulpit upon request and full-fills outside ministry opportunities. Craig has been part of the Church since his youth and has held several roles.

**Pianists:** Three pianists rotate playing for Sunday Worship and Wednesday Night Prayer Meetings. Our pianists are: Linda Cooper, Suellen Hren, and Corinne Norton.

**The Visitation program:** Created to meet one of the mandates in our Vision Statement. Our program ensures we follow-up with people who have visited our church.

**Sister in Service small group:** This group of ladies provides first time visitors with a gift. They also coordinate the card ministry.

**Christian Ed program and team:** Also created to fulfill a mandate in our Vision Statement.



We have redesigned our Christian Education program to be similar to Summer VBS for all ages and all year. All ages study the Bible, worship God, eat, and play together. We have volunteers that teach, cook

potluck items, lead activities, lead family outings, help in kitchen, and pray for the church. We have seen growth in our youth numbers. This is a church-wide participation program.



## FACILITIES (WWC Carries No Debt)

### CHURCH BUILDING

- Address: 144 S Hamon Street, Walkerville, MI 49459
- 5,600 Square Feet
- Sanctuary - seats 150 (64 x 40 feet)



- Foyer
- 7 Classrooms
- Library
- Nursery
- Three offices (Pastor, Office Manager, Treasurer)
- Two storage rooms in front of Sanctuary
- Two Utility Rooms
- Four Restrooms
- Fellowship Hall



- Gymnasium – carpeted with full sized basketball court
- Licensed Kitchen with serving window, stoves, dish washer
- Sanctuary with initial rooms were completed 1989.
- Gym and Fellowship Hall addition built in 2000.

### GARAGE

- Large one stall garage - located on South Side of Gymnasium

### PARKING LOT & OPEN GRASS AREAS



- South Parking lot is graveled and is currently the main parking lot for the Church
- North and West Grassy areas are used for activities and additional parking
- The parking areas are in need of improvements. We have a Parking Lot Fund.

### PARSONAGE

- Address: 173 Elizabeth Street, Walkerville, Mi 49459
- Located Corner of Elizabeth & North Street and near School's athletic fields and playgrounds



- Home in need of TLC
- 4 Bedrooms
- 2 Full baths
- Large kitchen with stove, dishwasher, fridge



- Large family room with hide-a-bed
- Deck with wheel chair access and steps
- Window air-conditioner
- Full basement
- Washer and dryer in basement
- Small Excel propane tank for Stove
- Heating Fuel for furnace
- City water and electric



## WHO WE ARE

### Sunday Worship

9:30 – Adult Bible Study/Small Group

10:30 - Church Services with Junior Church

12:45 – 2:15 – Sunday School Classes and Activities for all ages

Pre-School – 6th grade

6th-12<sup>th</sup> grade

Adult

Small Group Bible Study

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study – 7pm

Communion: First Sunday of the month

Nursery available the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.

An Emergency Prayer Chain with phone tree and e-mail distribution list is available for our members. The Senior Pastor approves Prayer Chain content.

Christian Ed Sunday School Classes are following Answers in Genesis – ABC Digital.

The WWC website, [WalkervilleWesleyanChurch.org](http://WalkervilleWesleyanChurch.org), provides links to our most current Worship Service and Events, Social Media Links, Event Pictures, “Plan a Visit” information, Holiday Sunday Information, VBS and About Us (Vision, Mission, Image) and staff.

Our Facebook Page has 420 followers. Services and afternoon Bible studies are on our Page as Facebook LIVE recordings.

Facebook Group for Church attendees: membership is by invitation. Eighty-one people are currently in this group; we use this to send reminders and to share uplifting posts.

Our Instagram Page has 66 followers and only 144 posts. This has not been a high priority, but is growing since it is easy to make Instagram posts while posting on Facebook.

We host Sisters In Service (SIS) group. These are women serving community, church and family. Women mentoring and encouraging one another. Women sharing strengths and skills to help others. Women growing in the Word of God through Bible Study. They provide the 1<sup>st</sup> Time Visitor gifts and Card Ministry.

We support the following: Love INC (In the Name of Christ) of Oceana County, Adult & Teen Challenge.

Between 6/2013 and 5/2022 we had 21 weddings, 4 baptisms, 26 new members.



## OUR COMMUNITY

Long known as part of the large Ojibwe territory, Oceana County was founded by European Americans in 1848. It lies in the Eastern Time Zone and is part of the 2nd Congressional District of Michigan

The Village of Walkerville, in Leavitt Township, is located in northern Oceana County. At the time of the 2010 census the population was 247, unemployment rate 8.0%, a median income of \$36,458, and a median priced home was \$113,800. The population is predominately white with a Hispanic/Latino (of any race) population of 17.8%. Also in 2010, 17.8% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Located in northern Oceana County, and bordered on the west by Lake Michigan, the small community of Walkerville is supported mainly by diverse agricultural employers: cherries, apples, asparagus; animal feeding facilities and tourism. The economy was originally built on the lumber trade; later developed for agriculture and is currently known as the “Asparagus Capital of the World”. The annual Asparagus Festival, held in the County Seat of Hart, includes a parade and the crowning of the Asparagus Queen. Surrounded by the Manistee National Forest and adjacent to several lakes and fishing streams the location gives access to hunting, fishing, hiking, boating and all types of water activities.



Walkerville Public Schools, Home of the Wildcats, is a public school district located in Walkerville. We have 264 students K–12 with a student-teacher ratio of 16:1. The district employs 18 teachers in one K-12 building.



Walkerville Schools serve approximately 220-230 students during the school year with about 45 additional students during the Fall & Spring months. These families generally move to southwestern states during the winter months to continue various farm employment opportunities. Since we are a small school, our teachers know their students well and work to both provide, or relieve, challenges to help each student reach their unique potential. [walkervillewildcats.com](http://walkervillewildcats.com).

School of Choice (education funds follow the student) opportunities are facilitated for eight local school districts (Walkerville, Hart, Pentwater, Shelby, Mason County Central, Mason County Eastern, Baldwin & Ludington) through the West Shore Educational Service District (ESD). West Shore ESD also provides CTE (Career & Technical Education) credits in numerous



fields for approximately 500 students/day from Mason, Lake, Oceana & Manistee Counties. The ESD works closely with Ferris State University, West Shore, Baker and Davenport Colleges to provide college credits for students who are taking CTE programs. [wsesd.org](http://wsesd.org)

Health care is an immense factor for any individual/family. We have two health care systems represented in our community, Mercy Health Care, based in Muskegon

[Mercy-Health-Lakeshore-Campus.org](http://Mercy-Health-Lakeshore-Campus.org) and Spectrum Health Care from Grand Rapids, ( [Spectrum-Health-Ludington-Hospital](http://Spectrum-Health-Ludington-Hospital) and [Spectrum-Health-Gerber-Memorial in Fremont](http://Spectrum-Health-Gerber-Memorial-in-Fremont) )

. There are many Physicians in our area, both family practice and those who specialize in one area of medicine. Physicians located in Shelby tend to be connected with Mercy, as is the local hospital there. Hart physicians are split, some with Mercy, others with Spectrum. Physicians in Ludington and Fremont are predominately linked to Spectrum.

When an emergent situation arises In the Walkerville area, 911 dispatches Walkerville Fire & Rescue first, then on a situational basis, calls for an ambulance. This Fire & Rescue team of dedicated, local individuals are either certified EMT (emergency medical technician) or certified MFR (medical first response). They are familiar with area families, roads, and conditions, they normally arrive first on the scene and have the situation well in hand, ready for transport via ambulance.



Walkerville Thrives, a non-profit community development group, serving six townships from Oceana and Newago Counties: Colfax, Crystal, Elbridge, Leavitt, Troy and Beaver. For more information visit their website <https://WalkervilleThrives.org>

Our area is supported by Silver Lake Sand Dunes Area Chambers of Commerce and Visitor Bureau. Please see their website: [ThinkDunes.com](http://ThinkDunes.com).



## LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Our area has activities to do all year! Start with a hike by picking up a Walking the Ville brochure to find walking routes around Walkerville. Off road vehicles will find DNR roads to enjoy. Visit our quaint Sale Barn and do some picking for treasures. Stop by the flowing well at the Leavitt Township Hall for a drink of water. Enjoy the area foods, and gas/convenience stores. Buy some local maple syrup in the spring, and honey, fruits, and vegetables in season. Have family fun at Walkerville's Village Park with its playground and pavilion. Visit our in-land lakes and streams and take a short ride to the shores of Lake Michigan. Discover



bald eagles, whitetail deer, sandhill cranes, muskrats and beaver, coyote and fox, turkeys, and an occasional black bear in their natural habitats. Photographers will find the area's tranquility and beauty provide year-round photo opportunities.



We are a short drive from well know attraction, such as: Manistee National Forest and Walkinshaw Wetland National Preserve, Lake Michigan, Silver Lake Sand Dunes, Mac Wood's Dune Rides, Pentwater, Lewis Farm & Petting Zoo, Country Dairy, Michigan Adventure, Double JJ Ranch, Little Point Sable and Big Point Sable Light Houses, Lake Express Car Ferry (Muskegon), and SS Badger Car Ferry (Ludington).

### WWC PAST & PRESENT

The beginning and founding of Walkerville Wesleyan Church began in 1882 with the first parishioners meeting at the Stetson School house located on Harrison Road. Walkerville had not been incorporated yet. In 1887, the church was organized with 15 charter members. In 1893, a new church was built in the Village of Walkerville. In 1989, the current sanctuary and classrooms were built on West Hamon Street. A fellowship hall, gymnasium and kitchen, were added to facilitate outreach and youth development as well as a place for community use for events in 2000. Currently, we have 31 members with an average age of 65. On average we have 35 to 40 attendees for Sunday Worship and 12 attendees on Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting. There are currently 12 youth in attendance or active.



## CLOSING

**Every ending ...**

**Is a new beginning!**

