

# Encourager

## Walker Baptist Church

April/May 2024



[www.walkerbc.org](http://www.walkerbc.org)

*Activities described in the Encourager and on the calendar are subject to change. The online calendar is kept up to date when changes occur. You can access the updated version on the website.*

*“Let us not give up meeting together. . . but let us encourage one another--- and all the more as you see the day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:25*



Church family, we are getting closer and closer to the completion of our long-anticipated sanctuary renovation project. Latest estimates are that we should be back in the sanctuary by the end of April. We're hoping to have a celebration service shortly after that. Please be on the lookout for special announcements and e-mails as we get closer.

There have been some adjustments that we have had to make along the way. Our original plan to stain the backs of the pews just didn't work out as we had hoped, so the pews will now be re-padded and upholstered on both the seat and the back. The rest of the pew will be painted to match the trim color on the doors and windows. Energy efficient replacement windows have been ordered and should be installed soon. New carpet will also appear in the main hallways and office areas. Lights and handrails are also being updated.

The growing excitement isn't reserved just for the changes in the sanctuary. We can sense that movement of God and we can see lives being changed and people added to our church family, and that's even MORE exciting than the prospect of a beautiful new worship space. The church building is, after all, just a building; an inanimate collection of wood, metal, plastic, fabric, and who knows what other materials!

And that got me to thinking... (don't you just love it when a preacher says that!). We are not unlike the individual pieces of the sanctuary remodel project. Each element, each design piece, each tool, each item, they're all brought together in such a way that the whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts. Take all those pieces and throw them into a big pile in the middle of the room, and all you have is a pile of stuff. Assemble those pieces based on their design and intended purpose, and you have something beautiful and useful. In this case, a worship space where people can gather and bring their praises to God and unite their voices as one.

The space becomes a designated rallying point for the people of God, where people of all ages, backgrounds, talents, and interests can come together for a singular purpose – to glorify God. Like nails, and screws, and boards, and fabric, and light bulbs, we each have a role to play in the life of our church. Hundreds of individual missions that, when brought together in the name of Jesus, make a local church, dedicated to the larger call to fulfill the Great Commission.

I'm grateful to be a part of this church body. Aren't you? I'm also thrilled to sense that we are on the verge of seeing God accomplish a great work here at Walker. We've been feeling it for some time now, and it feels like God is ready to break out in a big way. You won't want to miss out on any of it!

Two challenges for all of us... [1] Talk to someone about Jesus, and [2] invite someone to church.

See you Sunday!

Chuck

## What's New??

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)*

By the time you read this article, we will be just a few vital steps from completing the sanctuary renovation. It will be a greatly appreciated update to the building and a meaningful enhancement to our worship and ministry. All of us should express our appreciation to the people who worked and sacrificed more time than we realize to make this all happen. There will be something for everyone to like, and focusing on that will be what my grandmother (who taught my preschool Sunday School class) used to call "the *happy way*." Say what you will... it stuck with me.

As fresh and exciting as the renovated sanctuary will be, along with all of the other improvements which are taking place with the building, there is something else new that God is doing which is even more exciting by far. If we stopped here and took a guess, I think you would all get it right. Nevertheless, the outward, visible, and obvious changes grab our attention, and they are impossible to miss. There is fresh paint and a new floor in the sanctuary which somehow manages to feel soft and solid at the same time. The stage is much larger. We have a new sound booth. The pews are going to be familiar, yet totally different from before. Even the lighting has been changed.

But what about the *real* Walker Baptist Church – the Church Family... Do you see us changing? I do – and in a good way. Walker still has many long-time members, some of whom actually helped to build parts of the church, literally. I just spent an hour looking (again) through scrapbooks in the Sunday School office which feature pictures of younger versions of some our members – building the children's wing, for instance. Those books show all kinds of ministry activities and events that have taken place over the years. Our faithful, long-term members are the reason Walker is here today, and we should never take that for granted.

But look around and who else do you see? You see the many others God has brought our way – or *back* our way. These incredibly loving and gifted people did not want to just come sit in church on Sundays. They came with a desire to serve – and they have been serving!! We have been greatly blessed by the brothers and sisters in Christ which He has brought our way over the past years.

And have you noticed that there is not an "old" Walker and a "new" Walker? Members who have been at this church several decades are opening their arms to those God is bringing our way and warmly welcoming them into the family. There is no "us" and "them." There is only "us." And "we" are united with our corporate worship and in our ministry goals – all designed to fulfill the mission, "Pray. Love. Serve."

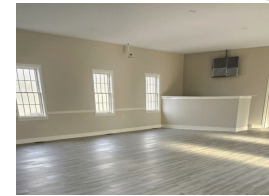
God is doing a new thing – right in front of our eyes. He is helping us to grow, making a way for us in the wilderness and making streams of refreshment in the wasteland. Yes, it's going to be fun to sit on a cushioned pew which actually has *new* foam inside. Fresh colors will create an entirely new atmosphere which all of us should be able to enjoy for a long time. As we do, though, let's be sure we make the *church family* the focus of our hearts' finest attention, even while we demonstrate a healthy and lasting gratitude for the *church facilities*.

Walking with You,

*Andy*



## BEHIND THE SCENES



SANCTUARY RENOVATION



VALENTINE BANQUET



BEGIN ANEW



EASTER BLOCK PARTY



WEDNESDAY CLASSES

Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

One of the many wonderful sounds of Spring is the song of Tennessee’s state bird, the mockingbird, singing joyfully all day long. I’ve been outside doing work around our house several days this week, and I am amazed at the way that mockingbirds can alter their voice so drastically to accurately mimic the songs of other birds. It got me thinking about what the Bible says about the company that we keep and how it affects us. Proverbs 13:20 NIV says:

Walk with the wise and become wise,  
for a companion of fools suffers harm.

It is all too common in this day and age to meet people who say that they are “spiritual but not religious” or give other reasons why they don’t attend church. There are many places in the Bible that speak of the dangers that befall those who don’t surround themselves with other believers. It is very easy to fall into the patterns of the company you keep, whether good or bad. If you spend the majority of your time under the influence of people who aren’t particularly concerned about the things of God, it is far more likely that you will fall into their ways than it is that they will fall into yours if you aren’t plugged into God’s Word. If that struggle speaks to you, I would encourage you to come back to church!

To those who do regularly attend church, I would encourage you to be the kind of people that bear the image of Christ to both the saved and the lost. Avoid gossip, judgement, and cliquy behavior, and rather spur each other onwards, treat people with love and compassion, and reach outside of your comfort zone to bring others closer to Jesus. Like the mockingbird, all of us have a “song to sing,” so to speak, so make yours one that counts you among the wise and saves others from harm.

Speaking of singing, our children’s ministry at Walker has grown tremendously in the past year, and they are a lot of fun to sing and play music with! On an average Wednesday night, we used to only have one or two kids coming to our grade school activities, and now we have six to eight coming regularly in addition to the two or three that come to our preschool activities and two more in nursery that join us for song time. This is massive growth for our church, and I want to say a special thank you to all of the Sunday school and Wednesday night teachers as well as the many others who have helped with events and support!

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



**SAVE THE DATES**  
**JUNE 17-21, 2024**  
**6-8:30pm**  
**VACATION**  
**BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**Ages 0 - 5th grade**



**VOLUNTEER PLANNING MEETINGS**  
**MAY 4th @ 10 AM or MAY 5th @ 4 PM**  
Plan to attend one of these meetings

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER MENUS**

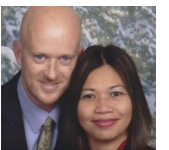
APRIL 3	APRIL 10	APRIL 17	APRIL 24
Chicken Tenders French Fries Salad Dessert	Beef Enchiladas w/ enchilada sauce Chicken Enchiladas w/ sour cream sauce Refried Beans Spanish Rice Salad/ Dessert	Pizza Pizza Pizza Salad Dessert	Turkey Wraps Pasta Salad Fresh Fruit Dessert
MAY 1	MAY 8	MAY 15	MAY 22
Breaded Fried Catfish Hush Puppies White Beans Cole Slaw Dessert	Grilled Chicken Breast Twice Baked Potato Casserole Roasted Vegetables Salad Dessert	Sandwich Bar Chips Dessert	Hamburgers & Hot Dogs French Fries Dessert  Last supper until August



**BUILDING A MINISTRY IN  
BULACAN, PHILIPPINES**

**MAY 26, 2024, 10:15 am Worship Service**

**Guest Speakers: Bruce and Grace Godwin**



Please begin praying for the youth and leaders who will be attending

FUGE CAMPS 2024

# CENTRIFUGE

JUNE 3-8, 2024

UNION UNIVERSITY  
JACKSON, TN

REVIVAL GENERATION

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

APRIL 7-14, 2024



Every year, SBC churches observe the Week of Prayer for North American missions by praying for missionaries, their ministries and their families. Because these missionaries make Jesus known in places all over the United States, Mexico and Canada where there's little or no gospel witness, they experience opposition and battle loneliness and discouragement. Please read the guide for specific prayer requests.



Walker Baptist Church  
(public site)  
\*\*\*\*  
WBC Members & Friends Group  
(must join for access)

### STAFF

Chuck McElhannon	Senior Pastor
Andy Wolverton	Associate Pastor
Wally Whidby	Youth Pastor
Troy Guttormson	Worship Pastor

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Church	ask@walkerbc.org
Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
Andy	andy@walkerbc.org
Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
Troy	troy@walkerbc.org



## GREETERS

**April 7, 14**

**Sandy & Austin Godwin**

**April 21, 28**

**Glenda Daniel**

**May 5, 12, 19, 26**

**Mary & Bobby Hargrove**

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

April 7	Linda Garnette, Kody Leonard	May 5	Faye Campbell, Louise Austin
April 14	Rachel Pugliese, Janice Vaughn	May 12	Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho
April 21	Sandy Godwin, Austin Godwin	May 19	Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum
April 28	Freda Joslin, Kody Leonard	May 26	Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard

If you are not able to keep your date, please try and trade with someone. If you need assistance please call or text Jennifer Leonard at 615-604-9457

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

April 7	Marvin Cox	May 5	Tom Massey
April 14	Chris Wheeler	May 12	Bill Reitmeyer
April 21	Wally Whidby	May 19	Bobby Hargrove
April 28	Ed Madden	May 26	Troy Guttormson

# April 2024

## REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 10:15 AM WORSHIP SERVICE  
 (live and online)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Zoe Bost 	2	3	4 Isabella Grace Buckland 	5 Janice Vaughn 	6 Raymond Vaughn 
7	8	9	10 Patsy Helton 	11	12	13 Pancake Fundraiser 5-7 pm
<b>WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS</b>						
14  Sausage Biscuit Fundraiser for AAEO Before Sunday School	15 Paul Fields Samuel Hendry 	16	17	18	19	20 Daianna Austin 
21	22	23 Mary Stinson 	24 Shannon Epps Olivia Stelter 	25	26	27 Tomi Atkinson 
28  4 All Teams 5 Ministry Update	29 Jonathan Wolverton 	30 Victoria Austin 	 <b>PANCAKE SUPPER FUNDRAISER</b> <b>APRIL 13th</b> <b>5-7 pm</b> <b>Donations only to benefit Jacob's Audible &amp; the 444 Walk for Autism Awareness</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</b> Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:00 Kids' Missions & Music 6:15-7:20 Youth Fish Tank, She-Shed 6:15-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:20-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30	

# May 2024

## REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:15 AM WORSHIP SERVICE  
(live and online)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:00 Kids' Missions &amp; Music 6:15-7:20 Youth Fish Tank, She-Shed 6:15-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:20-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30</p>			<p>1 Linda Jackson Scarlett Stelter </p>	<p>2 Marvin Cox </p> <p></p>	<p>3 Jennifer Leonard </p>	<p>4 Marti Leonard </p> <p></p>
<p>5 Janis Wolverton </p> <p></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Haley King </p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 </p>	<p>13 Rebecca Smith </p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 </p>
<p>19 </p>	<p>20 Rhonda Gatlin Lenora Guttormson </p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Last Wednesday for Regular Programming</p>	<p>23 </p> <p>Last Day for WCS</p>	<p>24 Jeanette Massey </p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Guests: Bruce &amp; Grace Godwin</p>	<p>27 Michelle Perkins Christopher Lancaster </p> <p><b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>	<p>28 Harrison Lackey </p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>NO ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p>30 Tabitha Peach Charlie Young </p>	<p>31</p>	