

# Encourager

## Walker Baptist Church

1350 West Main St., Franklin, TN 37064

615-794-7000



October/November 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*

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHUCK

Transition. Not the most popular word of all time. Transition implies change, and most of us are creatures of habit, averse to change. Some change is so gradual we hardly notice. We can usually handle that without too much resistance. Other change is immediate, thrust upon us by necessity. That’s what our church is facing due to the passing of our beloved Associate Pastor. It’s not what we would have wanted, but it is what’s before us. So I ask that all of us would pray for guidance and wisdom as we navigate through this sudden season of forced transition.

I can’t thank all of the people enough who have stepped up to fill the void. Andy had his hand in so many things, and in many cases, he was the only one who knew what to do. We are learning as we go. Thanks go to Barbara Madden and her many hours working on our financials. Bills have to be paid and checks have to be written. With input and assistance from Doug Leonard and Olivia Stelter, our financial operations are one less thing I have to worry about.

Thanks go out to Sandy Vazquez, who continues to maintain and update our website. As you know, a church web page has become “the front door” of the church. It’s where people first go when they consider visiting a church. Sandy has done a great job of giving them an easy-to-use and informative first impression of Walker Baptist Church. Not only that, but she gives us daily reminders and updates on social media as well, and in fact, the newsletter that this article appears in, *The Encourager*, is the product of her hard work.

Thanks also to the Building & Grounds Team. Andy spent countless hours dealing with things like plumbing, AC, lights, etc. We have a big building and much of it is getting older. It takes a lot to keep things running smoothly. Thank you.

Thanks also to all of you who have offered your time and assistance in other ways. I am grateful for every offer, every willingness to pitch in and lessen the burden on me and the rest of the staff. If we have not already reached out to you to ask for help, we probably will be doing so soon! If I haven’t mentioned you by name, please know that you are neither forgotten nor overlooked. There simply isn’t space for every kind face and word. I know who you are.

Pray for our ministerial staff, the Personnel Team, and other key leaders as we begin meeting together to formulate a plan for filling the staff vacancy. I hesitate to use the term “Andy’s replacement,” because that would be an impossibility. I guess I feel more comfortable saying “new position,” if that makes any sense. In the first of many conversations I’ll be having with individuals who will be involved in the transition process, one point of agreement is that we would hope to begin 2025 on solid footing, finances in order and, if possible, the new position filled.

Please be assured of this – we will bathe every conversation, every meeting, every decision, and every action with prayer, as we seek the Lord’s perfect direction.

That being said, I can think of no better sermon series to help get us through the shock of recent weeks than our current series, **Hold On!** From the first message, *Hold on to Hope*, to the last, coming in mid-October, *Hold on to the Right Perspective*, my prayer is that the power of God’s Word found in 1 Peter will speak into our current situation and give us exactly what we need to move forward in faith.

I will follow with a sermon series on **Core Values**. The messages will focus on God’s Word, Prayer, Worship, Service, Outreach, and Giving, and will provide a refresher course on what is truly important for us as a church.

With the passage of time, the weather will turn cooler and the days shorter; the leaves will change color and the earth will transition from summer to autumn. Our church will transition too. It is God’s plan. He is in control.

All praise to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chuck



Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

Our church is in a season of deep grief following the loss of Pastor Andy Wolverton. I myself have struggled immensely with my day to day activities after losing a man that was a dear friend, trusted confidant, mentor, helper, and prayer warrior for me and my family. In reflecting on what I would write my article about, it seemed most logical that I pay tribute to our beloved Christian brother's memory.

Philippians 4:4-7 NIV says:

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

One of the great difficulties of such a sad and unexpected loss is trying to regain your spiritual footing and return your mind to a place of joy. The idea of rejoicing in trials almost seems silly, but I've rarely witnessed a better example than when Brother Andy lost his mother, Janis Wolverton, a few months ago. I spoke with him in the days following her death, and his grief of her loss was largely overshadowed by the joy he had in knowing that her suffering was over and she was with her Savior in heaven. That same perspective applies to us in the loss of Andy.

The passage goes on to remind us to be gentle to each other, and I've rarely known a gentler soul than Andy Wolverton. His kindness and compassion for those who were hurting was an example to all of us of what Jesus is like. We are reminded in an echo of Psalm 34:18 NIV that **"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."** As a church, we need to lean into these words from The Bible and be present and close to others within our congregation, our wonderful church family. We need to be thankful for the good times we had with Pastor Andy and go to God in prayer for the burden that we can't carry ourselves.

Finally, we are given a blessing and a promise: **"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."** This is also my prayer to all those affected by this tragedy. Only through the faith, hope, and love that we have for God and for each other can we get through this. From my family to yours, I pray for God's peace.

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson







**CHILI & SOUP COOK-OFF**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2024**  
**5:15 PM**

**CALLING ALL FALL COOKS!! ENTER YOUR FAVORITE HOME-MADE CHILI OR SOUP TO WIN A PRIZE!**

**If you aren't entering the contest, please bring bread, crackers, or desserts to enjoy with the chili/soup.**

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

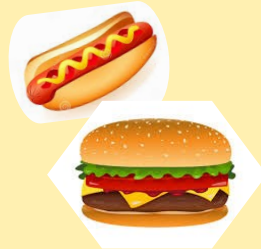
October 6	Jennifer & Kody Leonard	November 3	Marie McElhannon, Louise Austin
October 13	Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho	November 10	Linda Garnette, Kody Leonard
October 20	Rachel Pugliese, Janice Vaughn	November 17	Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum
October 27	Chris & Kelley Wheeler	November 25	Sandy & Austin Godwin

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

**TRUNK OR TREAT/FALL FESTIVAL**

**DECORATE A CAR OR TRUCK, PUT ON YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME, BRING TREATS TO PASS OUT, AND JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024**  
**5:15 pm**



*Many thanks to Walker's outstanding ministerial staff for their service. We are truly blessed.*

**STAFF**

Chuck McElhannon	Senior Pastor
Wally Whidby	Youth Pastor
Troy Guttormson	Worship Pastor

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**UPCOMING SERMON SERIES**  
**OCTOBER 20—NOVEMBER 24**

**CORE VALUES**



## ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sunday, November 17, 2024

5:00 PM

Bring your family and join us for a churchwide fellowship, celebrating the blessings we have received from God this year. Deacons will provide Turkey and Dressing. Suggested items from church members include:

Adults 60 & over	Vegetables
Adults 40—59	Salads
Adults under 40	Desserts
Children	Cranberry Sauce
Youth	Bread



## WEDNESDAY SUPPER MENUS \* all meals include dessert and beverage

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
October 2 Pizza, Salad	November 6 Potato Bar/Trimmings, Salad
October 9 Fall Break—No Activities	November 13 Sandwich Bar
October 16 Chili/Soup Cook-off	November 20 Beef/Chicken Nacho Bar, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice
October 23 Chicken/Dumplings, Corn, Green Beans	November 27 Thanksgiving—No Activities
October 30 Fall Festival—Hamburgers, Hot Dogs	Make or cancel reservations by noon on Tuesdays. Contact Marti at 615-403-9691

OCTOBER

Wallace Joslin



NOVEMBER

Joanne and Paul Fields

Presenting  
**DARYL MOSLEY**



IN CONCERT

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Immediately following Thanksgiving dinner  
Walker Baptist Church Sanctuary

Three-time songwriter of the Year

Veteran of the Grand Ole Opry

Writer of eleven #1 songs, including

"Ask the Blind Man, He Saw It All"

*Bridal Brunch\**  
*for Rachel Pugliese*

October 19, 2024

10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Rachel & Tim are  
registered at Amazon  
and Macy's



\*Bring a breakfast item  
to share

WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH

PROUDLY SPONSORS

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**



October 13—November 24, 2024

1. Pick up a shoebox from the welcome center
2. Fill it with gifts and love (see flyers for appropriate items)
3. Include a check for \$10 to cover shipping and handling
4. Bring the completed box to the church by November 24



CHECK THE DISPLAY  
TABLE IN THE  
WELCOME CENTER FOR  
MORE INFORMATION



# October 2024

**REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
 9:00 am Sunday School  
 10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</b> Fellowship Dinner 5:15 pm Children, Youth, Prayer Team 6:00 pm She-Shed 6:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6:20 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm		1 Camille Bost 	2	3 Thomas Conrad 	4	5 Avery Lunn 
6 <b>Baptism of Jenna Buckland</b>  4 pm Church Council 5 pm Ministry Update	7	8 Theresa Rogers 	9 Rachel Pugliese Vonda Hazelwood 	10	11	12
<b>WCS FALL BREAK—NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES</b>						
13 <b>OCC SHOEBOX COLLECTION BEGINS</b>	14	15	16  <b>CHILI/SOUP COOK-OFF</b>	17	18 Nita Potts 	19  <b>Bridal Brunch for Rachel Pugliese— 10 am</b>
20 Kevin Adair 	21	22 Flo Young 	23	24	25	26
27	28 Joanne Fields Justin Stelter 	29	30 	31	 <b>COLLECTION DATES</b> <b>OCTOBER 13—NOVEMBER 24</b>	



# November 2024

## REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</b> Fellowship Dinner 5:15 pm Children, Youth, Prayer Team 6:00 pm She-Shed 6:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6:20 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm					1 Wallace Joslin 	2
3 Elaine Thompson  	4 Tim Brennan 	5 Gregg LaFever 	6	7	8 Marie McElhannon Wally Whidby 	9
10 Daisy Whidby  5 pm BUSINESS MEETING	11 	12	13	14 Brenda Darnell 	15	16
17 Karen Whidby  Vote on Spending Plan 5 pm Thanksgiving Dinner Daryl Mosley Concert	18	19 Kody Leonard 	20	21	22	23 Linda Ramsey 
24  FINAL COLLECTION DAY	25	26	27 Andrew Poe  NO ACTIVITIES	28 	29	30