Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

February/March 2026

1350 West Main St., Franklin, TN 37064
615-794-7000
www.walkerbc.org

***"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**

I'm sitting at my desk writing this article for the Encourager on a Wednesday and the weatherman says that we should expect a major snow event this weekend. Reports vary on how much snow we might get. If you regularly use the weather app on your smart phone, you know that it's possible to look ahead a few days and get a more detailed forecast. This morning at 8:00 am I used my app and looked at the snow accumulation predictions for Saturday, and there I read 27-32"! Surely that can't be right! When have we ever had that much snow? Never! I looked again at 1:00 pm and it said 14-17". Better, but still nowhere accurate.

My point is this: you cannot always trust everything you read and hear, even when it comes from professionals. If I can't trust my app, and I can't trust the major news outlets, and I can't trust the internet, then whom can I trust? Well, we know the answer to that question, don't we? Proverbs 3:5 says,

"*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding*."

Why is God worthy of so much trust? His character is above reproach, his love is unconditional, his power and knowledge are unmatched, his promises are sure, his presence is inescapable, and his guidance is always in our best interest. And if that isn't enough, then God's track record defies human logic. God always speaks truth. Always loves. Always provides. Is there anyone else in your life who deserves your trust any more than God?

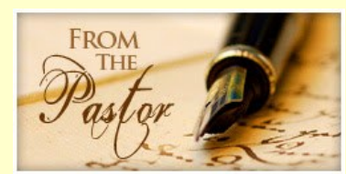
That being said, if you're confused, if you're at a crossroads, if you're searching, if you're questioning, I encourage you to lean into God and trust him. Dig into the Bible, re-read the many times God has shown himself to be trustworthy, re-read his promises to you, and re-acquaint yourself with the one true God who is love.

A quick word about an upcoming sermon series: As soon as we complete the series on **Building Hope**, I will begin a series that I'm calling **Better Choices**. We'll acknowledge that we don't always make the best decisions, and we'll cover such common topics as Choose Surrender Over Control, Choose Purpose Over Popularity, and Choose a Life of Discipline Over a Life of Regret. This series will take us up to Palm Sunday, so we have an exciting spring ahead of us!

Until then, stay warm, stay dry, stay faithful, and stay on mission! Look for opportunities to share your faith story and invite someone to church.

Blessings,

Chuck



Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

The other day I saw an interesting video by a social media personality called 'thenerdychristian' about David & Goliath. He talked about how mundane preparation is often required in God's plan for our lives. Long before he squared off with Goliath, David was a shepherd tending sheep out in the fields alone. During that time, he was playing music, gaining experience standing up to large predators, and practicing hurling stones with his sling. At the time, I'm sure he couldn't imagine in his wildest dreams that those same mundane activities would prepare him to play his harp to calm a king, give him the courage to stand up to a giant Philistine warrior, and accurately send a stone speeding through the air that caused perhaps the biggest upset in history.

Just like David, God uses our skills, our experiences, and especially our obedience for His glory. Each of us was fearfully and wonderfully made to do the work of the Lord in unique ways. A couple of years ago, our VBS theme was Spark Studios, and the theme verse was Ephesians 2:10 CSB, which says:

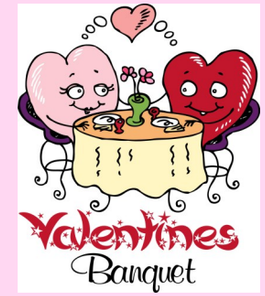
> *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.*

All of the lessons of that week centered around how God created each of us with our traits, talents, and abilities so that we could use them for the work He has put before us. That being said, the work doesn't always look or feel the way we would expect. I'm sure that each of us can think back on times that God used something from our past in an extraordinary way that was perfectly adapted to fit a need. It should be an encouragement to us during those seemingly empty times that if we are faithfully following Jesus in our lives, He is preparing us for His great plans ahead. Keep reading your Bibles and memorizing Scriptures, working hard at your jobs, and using the talents that God has gifted you with so that you will be ready for use when the time comes to transform your ordinary into God's extraordinary.

There is plenty of room for workers to train and grow at Walker. I am always looking for singers in our choir, readers to help out with worship services, and volunteers for our children's ministry. Prayerfully consider volunteering for upcoming events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Holy Week programs, and Vacation Bible School. If I can be of assistance plugging you in to those or any of the other needs at the church, please feel free to email me at troy@walkerbc.org.

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



VALENTINE'S DINNER THEATER

PRESENTED BY: WALKER BAPTIST YOUTH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 @ 5PM

Walker Baptist Church, 1350 W. Main St., Franklin, Tn. 37064

SOUP/SALAD

SMOKED GOUDA & BROCCOLI SOUP
MOCK OLIVE GARDEN SALAD

ENTRÉES

BUTTERY GARLIC BAKED CHICKEN BREAST
APPLE CIDER PORK ROAST

VEGETABLES

BUTTER ROASTED BABY POTATOES
BROWN SUGAR HONEY GLAZED CARROTS
BAKED SQUASH CASSEROLE w/Crunchy topping
ROASTED FRESH ASPARAGUS
HOMEMADE ORANGE YEAST ROLLS

DESSERTS

MARTI'S FAMOUS BANANA'S FOSTER w/Vanilla Bean Ice Cream
FRESH STRAWBERRY CRUNCH CAKE
BUTTERFINGER BOMB LAYER CAKE w/Peanut Butter & Chocolate Ganache
PHYLLO PASTRY APPLE PIE

***"SUGGESTED"* DONATION: $30.00 PER PERSON**

ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT THE YOUTH GROUP SUMMER MISSIONS CAMP

SIGN-UP BY: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 (Sign-up sheet on table in hallway)

(Contact Marti Leonard (615) 403-9691 or Wally Whidby (615) 456-6770 with any questions)

SUPPER MENUS * all meals include dessert and beverage

FEBRUARY	MARCH
FEB 4 Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Fries	MAR 4 Beefy Nacho Bar, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice
FEB 11 Deluxe Sandwich Bar, Chips	MAR 11 Spring Break No Supper
FEB 18 Marti's Mardi Gras Fat Wednesday Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya, Creole Red Beans, Corn Maque Choux, Salad, Cane River Bread Pudding	MAR 18 Special Dinner furnished by Stephen's Funeral Home Reservations due March 6
FEB 25 Pizza Pizza Pizza, Salad Bar	MAR 25 Deluxe Sandwich Bar, Chips

Make or cancel reservations by noon on Tuesday.
Prices: Adults $5, Children 4-10 $4
Call the church office at 615-794-7000 or email ask@walkerbc.org

DON'T BE LEFT OUT...

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

Walker's Compassion Corner

WALKER'S COMPASSION CORNER

WILL BE OPEN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1	3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6	10:00 am to 2:00 pm
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15	3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20	10:00 am to 2:00 pm
SUNDAY, MARCH 1	3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
FRIDAY, MARCH 6	10:00 am to 2:00 pm
SUNDAY, MARCH 15	3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
FRIDAY, MARCH 20	10:00 am to 2:00 pm

FREE Food, Clothing (Women, Men, Children), Self-Care Items, and More

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE IN NEED OF OUR SERVICES? PLEASE REFER THEM TO US.

Walker Baptist Church
Pray. Love. Serve.

compassioncorner@walkerbc.org

Pray for Missions

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS
MARCH 29-APRIL 5, 2026

Churches observe the Week of Prayer for North American Missions by praying for missionaries, their families, and their ministries. These missionaries need you to step into their stories through your prayers as they often face opposition, discouragement and loneliness. North American missionaries take the gospel to unreached communities throughout the U.S. and Canada. They need your prayers to open hearts and help them disciple new believers.

More information and resources, including a daily prayer guide, are available at
Week of Prayer - Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

NURSERY SCHEDULE

FEB 1	Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho	MAR 1	Chris and Kelley Wheeler
FEB 8	Rachel Brennan, Laura Powell	MAR 8	Freda Joslin, Kate Lee
FEB 15	Jami and Avery Lunn	MAR 15	Austin Godwin, Debra Mangrum
FEB 22	Linda Garnette, Daianna Austin	MAR 22	Jennifer and Kody Leonard
		MAR 29	Marie Mcelhannon, Emily Sanders

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

I'm back again asking for volunteers to join our nursery rotation. As of right now, I need 4 volunteers to join our regular rotation. Our volunteers typically serve once every other month. Pastor Chuck has talked to us all about our mission at Walker which is to Pray, Love, Serve. I truly believe that the Nursery Ministry puts all of these into practice. We have the opportunity to pray over the children and their caregivers who come to worship at our church. The time we are with them is spent showering love on the children and loving their parents by caring for them. And we are serving them as well - providing a safe environment where children are nurtured while those who brought them can worship freely with our congregation. If we are to be a church that wants to invite young families and one that wants to grow, we need a foundation in place that includes a nursery with volunteers ready to serve. I'm asking all of you to pray about this opportunity and reach out if you feel led to do so.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026
6:00 PM Until Sunday Morning
$30/person
Permission Form Required—Ask Wally

BACKPACKS for the HOMELESS
Let's give the essentials.

WALKER YOUTH WILL BE PREPARING BACKPACKS FOR THE HOMELESS WHO ARE SERVED BY HOME STREET HOME MINISTRIES IN NASHVILLE AND OUR CHURCH

PLEASE SUPPORT THEM BY PLACING ITEMS IN THE MARKED BIN IN THE HALLWAY CLOSE TO THE CHOIR ROOM

SUGGESTED ITEMS

THICK GLOVES	HAND WARMERS	SMALL BLANKETS
HEAVY SOCKS	SWEAT SHIRTS	SWEAT PANTS
SOLAR EMERGENCY BLANK	*	INDIVIDUALLY PKGD FOODS

STAFF

Chuck McElhannon	Senior Pastor
Wally Whidby	Youth Pastor
Troy Guttormson	Worship Pastor
Lisa Couch	Children's Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Church	ask@walkerbc.org
Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
Troy	troy@walkerbc.org
Lisa	kids@walkerbc.org
Compassion Corner	compassioncorner@walkerbc.org

GREETERS

FEBRUARY
Elaine Thompson

MARCH
Mary and Bobby Hargrove

FOLLOW US ON OUR WEBSITE AT

www.walkerbc.org/walker-kids

AND FACEBOOK -

Search Walker Kids

February 2026

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Fellowship Dinner	5:15-6:00
Pre-School, Children, Youth	6:00-7:20
She-Shed	6:15-7:20
Adult Bible Study	6:25-7:20
Adult Choir	7:30-8:30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4:00 Team Meetings 5:00 Ministry Update	2	3 Linda Garnette	4 International Mission Study 6:25 pm BRAZIL	5 Emily Sanders	6	7
8	9 Dolly Hardison	10	11	12 Chuck McElhannon	13 WCS Mid-Winter Break	14 VALENTINE'S BANQUET and YOUTH LOCK-IN
15	16 Presidents' Day WCS Mid-Winter Break FSD Professional Day	17	18 MARTI'S MARDI GRAS SUPPER	19	20 Larry Darnell	21
22 Maverick Bost	23	24 Bobby Hargrove	25	26 Jim McClary	27	28 Piper Massey

March 2026

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Reese Potts	3 Danny Stinson	4	5	6 Jimmy Heithcock	7
8 Ed Madden Deacon's Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 Hannah Catherine Lackey	14 Tammy Adair
15 MEET LISA 11:45	16	17 Tom Massey	18 SPECIAL DINNER: Funeral Planning	19	20	21
22 Kit Massey POT LUCK LUNCHEON	23 Jacob Chunn Jason Couch 	24 Ella Wood Alexandria Austin	25	26	27 Troy Guttormson	28 Kira Rielly EASTER BLOCK PARTY 10-12 am
29 Faye Campbell PALM SUNDAE	30 Ellouise Jefferson	31 Sue McClary	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 23, 2026 12 Noon until 5 pm See Barbara for more information		WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE Fellowship Dinner 5:15-6:00 Pre-School, Children, Youth 6:00-7:20 She-Shed 6:15-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:25-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30	

FSD and WCS SPRING BREAK

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS