

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

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

August/September 2025



"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

Marie and I have been cleaning out our garage because we're having a new garage door installed. In the process we've discovered how many games and puzzles we've accumulated that now just sit around and take up space. We posted all the extra jigsaw puzzles on Marketplace, hoping to find someone willing to pay a few bucks for them. Lo and behold, a neighbor loves puzzles, so she stopped by to have a look and her most important question was, "Are all the pieces there?" There's nothing more frustrating to a puzzle hobbyist than spending hours working on a puzzle only to find a piece or two missing. In order for completing a puzzle to produce that feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment, all the pieces have to be there. It takes every piece of a 1000 piece puzzle to make a complete picture. The same can be said of the local church.

It takes all of us. Five simple words that speak volumes. A beautifully crafted description of how healthy churches are meant to be. Have you ever stopped to consider how you fit in to the big picture of Walker Baptist Church? Are you one of the corner pieces, an edge piece, the center piece of the main subject? Maybe you see yourself as just another plain blue piece in a never-ending expanse of sky. No matter your place in the picture, without you, something's missing. There's a hole that can't be overlooked.

School is about to resume in Williamson County (first full week in August), and that means a new church year as well. New classes on Wednesdays for preschoolers (Mission Friends), kids (Children in Action and Music), students (Fish Tank), and adults (She-Shed and Co-Ed studies). A new quarter of Sunday School lessons begins in September. Do you see a place for you as a leader, or assistant, or substitute?

This year, we've tried to make it easy for you to either sign up for a new area of service, or to step down from years of serving in the same role because you're tired and you just need a break, a chance to refuel and revive. There's a big poster in the Welcome Center where you can let us know how you see yourself fitting into the "big picture."

One of the advantages of the big poster is that it also allows us to see where the pieces are missing; where there are gaps in service and leadership. The temptation will be to think, "Oh well, somebody else will step up and do that job." If we all think that way, then nothing will happen. We'll have classes with no leaders; kids with no one to teach them about missions, and missionaries, and Bible skills. All I ask is you pay attention. Open your eyes and see the need. Then pray to Jesus and ask him if there's anything you can do. That's how the pieces come together. That's how the picture is completed. That's how a church is made whole. That's how the body of Christ works when it's healthy.

In Joyful Service!

Chuck



Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

Summer has been flying by. One of the things I have enjoyed the most these last couple of weeks is the fruits and vegetables that have been given to me by several members of our congregation. I love to cook, and one of the challenges I enjoy the most is figuring out how to utilize ingredients to create dishes. A chef that I admire greatly is Marco Pierre White, who has trained many other famous chefs in his kitchens. A piece of wisdom that he says often is “Perfection is a lot of little things done well,” which reminds me of this passage from Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV:



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

As Christians, we know that no matter how many little things we do well, we will never reach total perfection, as total perfection belongs only to God. However, the practice of aiming towards perfection is something that we are called to do as followers of Christ. When I am cooking, the end result is determined by knowing how small to dice vegetables, how long to cook meats, and how hot my pan should be so that my butter doesn’t burn, etc. Each little detail matters. That knowledge came by learning from other cooks who produce high-quality food and practicing over and over again how to overcome challenges and develop flavor.

We are called to bear fruit and use it to God’s glory. As we are given the ingredients, we are to seek out opportunities to use them in front of the “great cloud of witnesses” that we are feeding. The best part is, if we are in Christ, we have the Holy Spirit to guide us, to help us, and to correct us. With that blessed assurance, we can boldly try new things that may be well outside of our comfort zones.

It is my prayer that everyone at Walker Baptist will use their skills in the coming year in ways that bless our community. If you are interested in serving with the Music & Worship or Technology & Media teams, please contact me about opportunities to get you plugged in.

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



We will be collecting the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions during the month of September.

WALKER’S GOAL IS \$3000.

GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS

When you give through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, you are providing hope to struggling families, relief to people recovering from disasters, funding for new church planters, compassion to women in crisis, & so much more. But most of all, as we meet needs, we are sharing the Gospel. Now, more than ever, Tennessee needs Jesus. We pray you’ll join us in this labor of love by praying for spiritual awakening & by giving through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.



**ANYWAY YOU SLICE IT...
TENNESSEE IS A MISSION FIELD!**

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONARIES SEPTEMBER 7-14, 2025

The prayer guide for the Week of Prayer can be accessed online at tnbaptist.org/week-of-prayer-gotm
A printed copy is available outside the sanctuary door.



AUGUST MISSIONS PROJECT

As the new school year begins, we are continuing our partnership with Franklin Special District, more specifically Johnson Elementary School, by collecting some of the following items that are needed throughout the year. A collection box will be available in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping support these children and teachers.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Chlorox Wipes | Ziploc Bags | Colored Card Stock (Astro Bright) | |
| Paper Towels | Antibacterial Gel | White Card Stock | Gift Cards |
| Craft materials (pom poms, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, tissue paper) | | | |





**COME CELEBRATE WITH
WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH**

1350 W. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, TN. 37064 PHONE: (615)794-7000

20th ANNUAL FISH FRY

Saturday, September 27, 2025 4pm – 7pm

"ALL YOU CAN EAT"

HAND-BREADED CATFISH FILETS

w/Homemade Hushpuppies, Slaw, White Beans & Beverage

ADULT TICKET: \$15.00 CHILD'S TICKET: \$8.00 (ages 5-10)

Ages "4" and under – FREE HOT DOGS & CHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR KIDS

PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE DOOR

or ONLINE @ walkerbc.org

DEADLINE FOR ONLINE PURCHASE IS THURSDAY, SEPT. 25TH

ALSO FEATURING:

CAKE AUCTION/BAKE SALE/LIVE MUSIC (w/special guests)



AUGUST

Twila & Troy Flowers



GREETERS

SEPTEMBER

Elaine Thompson

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PURCHASING FISH FRY TICKETS ONLINE

- 1) Go to the Walker web-site, www.walkerbc.org/online-giving
- 2) Choose "Click here to make donations" to enter the online giving portal.
- 3) Sign In if you have an account. If you do not have an account, follow the online directions. The system will ask for your email and credit card information later.
- 4) Calculate the cost of the total number of tickets you wish to purchase. Adult tickets are \$15 each, children's (ages 5-10) are \$8. (Example: 2 adult tickets= \$30. 3 children's tickets = \$24. Total 30 + 24 = \$54)
- 5) Under "How much would you like to give?" put the amount represented by the number of tickets you wish to purchase. From the example above, that would be \$54.00. To the right of the amount space under "Fund" -- click on the words "General Fund" to get a drop-down menu. Choose "Fish Fry Donations" as the fund.
- 6) A memo bar will open just below. Clarify your number and type of tickets in that space. (Ex. Write 2 adult, 3 children in the memo line). Click on Give Once.
- 7) Proceed with the purchase per instructions. After the purchase is completed you will be emailed a confirmation of the transaction showing the total amount. Bring a copy of that confirmation with you to the event on the 27th. If you forget, we will also have a record of this transaction at the event.

If you have questions about this process, or have trouble with the transaction, email ask@walkerbc.org or call the office at (615) 794-7000.



I can't believe the summer is almost coming to an end, but I'm so excited to kick-off our fall semester and get back to Bible Study in the She-Shed. I hope this summer has been a time of refreshment and renewal. We begin meeting again August 13th when we will play games and catch up since our time apart. I'm sure there will be a few icebreaker questions to start.

Starting on August 20th, we will begin a study on the books of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. These letters were written to encourage followers of Jesus to remain faithful to the truth. We are going to look at themes such as walking in the light instead of darkness, truth versus lies and deception, loving God more than loving the world, and the meaning of true fellowship and community.

Jennifer



SUPPER MENUS * all meals include dessert and beverage

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
August 6 Pizza and Ice Cream Social—Free!!	Sept. 3 Turkey Wraps, Pasta Salad, Fresh Fruit
August 13 Deluxe Sandwich Bar	Sept. 10 BBQ Pork, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole-slaw
August 20 Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips	Sept. 17 Grilled Hamburger Steaks w/ peppers ‘n onions, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Salad
August 27 Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Salad	Sept. 24 Sandwich Bar, Chips

Make or cancel reservations by noon on Tuesdays.

Prices: Adults \$5, Children 4-10 \$4

Call the church office at 615-794-7000 or email ask@walkerbc.org



A NOTE FROM BRUCE AND GRACE



Thank you so much for selecting us to receive the Missions Offering from your Vacation Bible School this year. There are so many things we need for our ministry in the Philippines. Since we just bought a new building and remodeled it for a children’s wing, we will use the offering to purchase furnishings for that area, specifically child-sized chairs and tables. God bless each of you. Please continue to pray for us as we share the love of Jesus on the other side of the world.

* pictures are of some of the children who are now coming to our new facility



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

August 3	Jennifer & Kody Leonard	Sept. 7	Marie McElhannon, Louise Austin
August 10	Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho	Sept. 14	Linda Garnette, Kody Leonard
August 17	Rachel Brennan, Laura Powell	Sept. 21	Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum
August 24	Freda Joslin, Austin Godwin	Sept. 28	Volunteers Needed
August 31	Chris & Kelley Wheeler		

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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS ARE BACK!!

JOIN US WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6 AT 5:15 PM

For



WEDNESDAY NIGHT PIZZA SUPPER

and



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

BRING YOUR FAVORITE HOMEMADE

ICE CREAM

(or Store-bought Ice Cream)

MAY ALSO BRING DESSERTS & ICE CREAM TOPPINGS

PLEASE SIGN-UP FOR THE PIZZA SUPPER SO MARTI KNOWS
HOW MANY PIZZAS TO ORDER

SIGN UP BY MONDAY, AUG 4TH

STAFF

Chuck McElhannon	Senior Pastor
Wally Whidby	Youth Pastor
Troy Guttormson	Worship Pastor
Connie Bernard	Administrative Asst.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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



The new church year begins September 1. In order for us to be ready to carry out all of the activities and events needed to make Walker a great place to be, WE NEED YOU! It’s time to choose a Team or Committee to serve on, or change to a different one if you wish. A large poster is available in the Worship Center that indicates the Teams and Committees you are already on. It will really help the Nominating Team if you would indicate your willingness to serve on the poster. If you want to join a team, write your name under that Team. If you are on a Team and do not wish to serve there in the coming year, draw a line through your name. Some of you have already indicated your preferences during the Worship Services. If so, you do not need to do so on the poster.

Thank you for all you do now, and for what you will do during the coming year. Your service is greatly appreciated.

August 2025

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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					1	2
3  LORD'S SUPPER	4	5 Larry Newell 	6 PIZZA SUPPER/ ICE CREAM SOCIAL 5:15 pm	7	8 	9
10	11 Sandy Godwin Vazquez 	12	13 Regular Wednesday Schedule Begins	14 Penni Reitmeyer 	15 Anna Yocca 	16
17	18	19 Randy Hazelwood 	20 Bill Hannah 	21	22 Keith Norwood 	23
24 Catherine Hannah Stephen Wheeler 	25	26	27 Tina LaFever Hugh Williams 	28	29	30
31  6:00 pm		 STUDENT SUMMER MINISTRY ACTIVITIES				

September 2025

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4 Linda Conrad 	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Elaura Guttormson Lily Stelter 	13 Doug Leonard Shirley Mize 
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONARIES						
14	15 Twila Flowers 	16	17	18	19 Gloria Lunn Wayne Mangrum 	20
21	22	23 Beth Helm Kelley Wheeler 	24 Jonathan Lee 	25	26	27 
28 Medora Guttormson 	29	30 Austin Donoho 	MARK YOUR CALENDARS OCTOBER 1 PREPARING FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 		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	