

# *Encourager* Walker Baptist Church

December/January 2025-26



1350 West Main St., Franklin, TN 37064  
615-794-7000  
[www.walkerbc.org](http://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*

We've just successfully completed presenting and overwhelmingly approving the 2026 spending plan, and I'm excited about two new items that I'd like to briefly address. The first is a paid position for an audio/visual technician in the media booth on Sunday mornings. I think we can all agree that our streaming product is sometimes good and sometimes not. We should do everything in our power to ensure that the service which we stream on Sunday mornings is the best that we can make it.

There once was a time when the front door of the church was the front door of the church. By that, I mean that a newcomer's very first exposure to church happened when they walked through the door for the first time and sat down in a worship service. That is no longer the case. These days, the front door of the church is the website, and a newcomer's first exposure to how we worship is when they sit down in the comfort and privacy of their living room and watch a service online. Imagine the frustration and the conclusions drawn when the sound quality is poor and they can't hear the music or the message.

To that end, we are seeking a part time technician to man the booth and ensure that what someone experiences at home when they tune in online matches what we experience in person in the sanctuary. We hope and pray that a positive online experience will then result in a positive in-person visit, which can then lead to new people coming to accept Christ and becoming engaged and active members of our church. Technology can be a wonderfully effective tool for the gospel, so let's do all we can to use it to grow the kingdom of God.

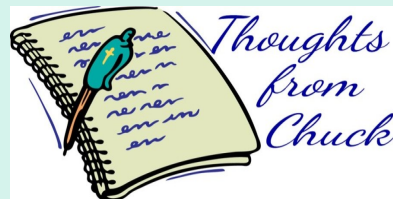
The second new item is a paid position for preschoolers and children. We're all painfully aware that we need to reach new families with younger children. If we don't, our future will remain bleak. We are seeking a part time Preschool/Children's Ministry Director who will be responsible for overseeing and managing our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening education programming (SS, missions, discipleship, music, etc.). This person will have a heart and talent for outreach, networking, marketing, and special event programming.

Think about it. If we can simply reach 3-4 new families with children each year, what a tremendous boost that would be to our church's spirit and excitement level!

Thank you for supporting the 2026 spending plan. Now I ask you to pray that God will lead us to the right persons for each of these two new positions.

Looking forward to an exciting new year!

Chuck



## LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

# WALKER'S 2025 GOAL — \$5000



On July 7, 1873, Charlotte "Lottie" Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. With a bold spirit and a heart full of love for the Lord, she dedicated her life to sharing the gospel with the people of China—faithfully serving until her passing on December 24, 1912. Lottie's story reminds us that faithful service to God can make an eternal impact.

**You can make an eternal impact too, following in Lottie's example—by praying fervently for missionaries around the world and giving sacrificially to help take the gospel to the nations.**



**WEEK OF PRAYER**  
*for International Missions*  
**November 30–December 7, 2025**

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year before the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® emphasis. God works through your prayers to change lives.





Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

The holidays are upon us, and 2026 is just around the corner. I’m sure many of us are already thinking about our New Year’s resolutions to quit an addiction, lose weight, or invest time in a hobby or project we’ve been meaning to tackle. The phrase “New Year, New You” is a bit of a cliché, but for many people, the new year can be a springboard to leap into action with renewed vigor. It can also be discouraging and exhausting to continue to prioritize those resolutions after the glow of the holidays wears off.

One of the many gifts that Jesus has given to us is found in 2 Corinthians 4:16 NIV, which says:

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”

That same springboard that drives us into action at the new year is always available to us if we do what God would have us do, and we can find examples of His desires for us in Philippians 4:8-9 NIV, which says:

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

What excellent promises we’ve been given. They are full of the grace and mercy of God, and we really shouldn’t lose heart when we stumble and fall, because He is always encouraging us to get back on our feet and try again. If your resolutions fall through a couple of days into the new year, don’t wait until 2027 rolls around to regain your focus. Instead, remember that you are renewed day by day through Christ Jesus, and each time you pray for forgiveness and ask God to give you the strength to follow Him, you are completely removed from your past failures. If you stick to God’s plan for you, the “New Year, New You” is going to be someone that can be used for His glory, and that’s a resolution every Christian should aspire to.

I am very much looking forward to seeing what God has in store for our church in 2026. So much care, thought, and prayer has been put in by so many individuals that I am greatly encouraged about the future of our church, and I hope you are too. From my family to yours, we wish you a merry Christmas season that brings you closer to God.

In Christ,

**Troy Guttormson**



Join us for Adult Bible Study on Wednesday nights at 6:25 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The topic for December 3, 10 and 17th will be:

**Hope in the Waiting**

Pastor Chuck leads these sessions that also include comprehensive prayer time.

**Christmas Carols**

Advent 2025  
Walker Baptist Church



**ADVENT SERMON SERIES**

**Sundays, 10:15 am**  
**December 24, 5:00 pm**

11/30	“What Child Is This”
12/ 7	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
12/14	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
12/21	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
12/24	“Silent Night, Holy Night”
12/28	“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”



**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2025 5:00 pm**

**The Lord’s Supper**  
**Lighting of the Christ Candle**  
**Message: “Silent Night, Holy Night”**



*Sounds of the Season*

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

**DECEMBER 14**  
**10:15 am**


Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Readings

Congregational Singing

Children

December 22, 12-4 pm



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**GREETERS**

**DECEMBER**  
**Wallace Joslin**

**JANUARY**  
**Laura Powell**



# WEDNESDAY SUPPER



SUPPER MENUS * all meals include dessert and beverage	
DECEMBER	JANUARY
Dec 3 Pizza, Salad	Jan. 7 Homemade Beef Stew, Cornbread, Salad
Dec 10 BBQ, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Coleslaw	Jan. 14 Spaghetti n' Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Salad
Dec 17 Deluxe Sandwich Bar, Chips	Jan. 21 Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Salad
Dec 24, 31 No Suppers	Jan. 28 Pizza, Pizza, Salad
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	

# JANUARY MISSION PROJECT



Baby bottles will be available January 4th for Walker family members to take home and fill with coins, bills, or checks for the Pregnancy Centers of Middle Tennessee. The Centers affirm life by empowering mothers and fathers experiencing planned and unplanned pregnancies with healthy options through medical services, education, mentoring and spiritual guidance. The money is used to bless those who choose life for their unborn children. The bottle serves as a reminder to pray for the men and women served. Please return bottles to the church by January 30th. Contact Glenda if you have questions.



# NURSERY SCHEDULE



December 7 Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho	January 4 Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard
December 14 Rachel Brennan, Laura Powell	January 11 Chris & Kelley Wheeler
December 21 Marie McElhannon, Austin Godwin	January 18 Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum
December 28 Linda Garnette, Kody Leonard	January 25 Louise Austin, Volunteer
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	

A few more volunteers are needed to serve in the nursery during the Worship Service. If we have more volunteers each person would only be scheduled for one Sunday every other month. Please contact Jennifer if you are willing to help love on our youngest. Thank you!

*Walker's Compassion Corner*

Open: 11:00am to 4:30pm

12/12  
12/19  
01/09  
01/23

Free Items including: Food, Clothes (Women, Men, Children), Self-Care items, and More

\*Specific limits on the frequency of visits and the quantity of items apply to help us manage our resources fairly

Follow us to learn more:  
www.walkerbc.org  
CompassionCorner  
WalkersCompassionCorner

PRAY. LOVE. SERVE.  
1350 West Main St.  
Franklin, TN

Volunteers are needed to work from 10:30—5 on days when the corner is open. See Karen to sign up! There is an ongoing need for nonperishable foods and supplies.

*Gospel Trio*

**SACRED HARMONY**

**Performing at**  
**Walker Baptist Church**

**January 10, 2026**  
**6:00 pm.**

**Free Admission**  
**Love offering will be taken**





### STAFF

Chuck McElhan-	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
Compassion Corner	CompassionCorner@walkerbc.org



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**  
**184 SHOE BOXES DELIVERED!**  
**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO**  
**CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT.**



# December 2025

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Valerie Golden 	2 Freda Joslin 	3 Everett Whidby 	4	5	6
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS						
7	8	9	10	11	12 Martha Putman 	13  9 am Practice for Christmas Program 10:15 am Caroling
14 David Guttormson  	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Louise Austin Sherry Thompson 	22 	23 Ann Norwood 	24 	25 	26 Jerry Wolverton 	27
28 Eva Rigsby 	29	30	31 		<b>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</b>  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	

# January 2026

## 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 5:15-6:00 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		<b>INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY</b>  <b>BAPTISTS IN BRAZIL</b> January 28, 2026 6:25 pm		1 Shirley Newell 	2	3
4	5 Austin Godwin 	6 Sherry Sanders Debra Mangrum 	7	8 Trish Richards 	9	10 <b>SACRED HARMONY CONCERT</b> 6:00 pm
11	12	13 Annabelle Stelter 	14 Arlene Gordon 	15	16	17 Lorri Harper 
18 Regina Blackwood   5 pm Deacon Ordination Tim Brennan	19  <b>MLK Jr DAY</b>	20	21 Marlee Donoho 	22 Druwanda Warner 	23	24 Glenn Gatlin 
25  4:00 Team Meetings 5:00 Ministry Update	26	27	28  International Mission Study 6:25 pm <b>BRAZIL</b>	29	30	31 Ethan Stakhurska 