

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

APRIL/MAY 2021



Consider the lilies of the field, How they grow .. Matt. 6:28

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



FOR
GOD
SO
LOVED
THE
WORLD ...
JOHN 3:16



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE APRIL 2, 6:00 pm
EASTER SERVICE APRIL 4, 10:15 am

*AS FOR ME
and my house
WE WILL
SERVE THE Lord.*
JOSHUA 24:15



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM

Joint adult class in Fellowship Hall—led by Tom Massey

Youth on Zoom—led by Wally

Children's class, second floor, Children's Wing—led by Pastor Andy
Babies & Toddlers, bottom floor, Children's Wing—led by Ms. Emily and Ms. Kay

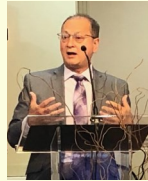
WORSHIP 10:15 AM

Live in sanctuary or online (link is on home page of website)



Greetings, Walker Church family!

In many ways, this is the very best time of year. It's spring! Daffodils and hyacinths are blooming. Flowery trees like crabapple and peach and redbud are showing off their colors. Daylight Savings Time has returned and rewarded us with that much-loved extra hour of daylight. March Madness has begun and our brackets are blown before the first round is even completed. Major League Baseball's Opening Day is April 1. For many of us, the greatest event of spring time is Easter Sunday.



Resurrection Sunday, the day to celebrate new life in Christ! What does that really mean for us? I know, I know, we can all give the Sunday School answer and say that Easter proves that God has the power to overcome death and grant eternal life to all of us who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, and because of that, we can enjoy an eternity with God in heaven after we die.

But what about in the here and now? Does Easter really make much of a difference in how we live our lives? Studies continue to show that Christians' lives really aren't any different than the lives of non-believers. We get sick at the same rate. We divorce at the same rate. We get paid at the same rate. We die at the same age. So if all that's true, then what's the advantage to being a Christian?

The answer to that question depends on YOU. When all is said and done, God allows each of us to decide how we live our lives, how we make our choices, what we choose to value and prioritize, who we choose to befriend, how we spend our money, where we live, and what we do to earn a living. It's called free will. I'm glad we get to make those choices, aren't you? Sometimes it seems like it would be easier if we had someone who would make all those decisions for us, but in the end, they wouldn't be our choices, and we wouldn't be living our lives.

Free will comes with some heavy responsibility. We decide how closely we follow Jesus. We decide how much time we spend in prayer. We decide how much Bible reading we do. We decide whether we want to worship in church or not. And that brings me to my point...

What will you decide about returning to church when the worst part of the pandemic is over? Experts fear that many church attenders have discovered that it's easier to simply stay at home and view a service on an electronic device; that the hassle of getting dressed and driving to church simply isn't worth it anymore, and they can hear a sermon any time of the week. That may be true, but what do you miss when you don't attend church? You miss the personal connection. You miss feeling like a valuable member of a family. You miss the warmth of a smile and an encouraging word from a trusted friend. You miss the sensation of being a part of something bigger than yourself.

Whether you know it or not, you are important to us. We miss you. For many of you, I know where you sit in the worship center. As I preach, I look out into the room, and I see where you used to sit, and I hope and pray that you and your family are well, and that you will be back soon. Our doors are open. Please come back!

Chuck



SPRING AT WALKER!

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATE!!



Emily Sanders
MS Social Work
UT Nashville



In a recent message, Pastor Chuck spoke about wondering how our church would stay connected with our community and continue to serve our neighbors and the world during the pandemic. The Walker family really stepped up and "showed out". Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to showing our love for God and His children. Your kindness and dedication to your Christian values has been noticed. Following is a summary of what has been done in just the past few months.

LOTTIE MOON OFFERING

SUPPLIES FOR VETERANS

ANNIE ARMSTRONG OFFERING

HABITAT HOME BUILD

YOUTH VALENTINE "BANQUET"

BACK PACK MINISTRY

SHOE BOX MINISTRY

FELLOWSHIP AT MY FRIEND'S HOUSE

MEDIA

COMMUNICATION

HOSPITALITY



“Enjoy Life...”

15 So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NIV)



Perhaps your first reaction to this verse was like mine. Actually, it was the entire book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible that made me scratch my head as a young teenager and wonder how something so bleak and matter-of-fact could be included in God’s Word. For a while it even depressed me to read this book because it echoed thoughts and feelings I experienced about life that fell on side of cynicism.

While it is true that the biblical writer did not have the perspective of the Cross and the Resurrection to give him hope, it is also true that he was expressing wisdom about life that concluded in the exact place it should have: *“Fear God and keep His commandments” (Ecc. 12:13a)*. Given the knowledge available at the time, there was no better advice to be shared. Eventually, I came to understand this truth and appreciate this message within the greater message of the Bible.

Many years (and much life experience) later, the words of Ecclesiastes are even more relevant to me. Now I understand why he wrote, *“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth” (Ecc. 12:1)*. And now it makes more sense in context why we would find a verse like the one at the top of the article, even when it claims that there is nothing better for a person to do than to eat and drink and be glad. After all, that sounds pretty shallow.

Doesn’t God want us to be self-sacrificing and to think of others? Doesn’t He want us to follow the example of Christ, who was laser-focused on carrying God’s will for Him? Of course He does, and we have the entirety of the New Testament that guides us in that direction.

But the older I get, the more I understand that God wants us to enjoy life, too. In fact, there is a real sense in which we cannot fully and effectively serve others if we are not able to enjoy the blessings God has purposefully bestowed upon us. Even Jesus can be seen in the Gospels loving life and loving people and enjoying the simple pleasures of being in His Father’s creation: eating, drinking, caring about children, and enjoying a rest by Jacob’s well. He was not a severe, overbearing personality who expected perfection and seriousness from everyone.

The writer of Ecclesiastes had learned the deep lesson that life was meant to be enjoyed. We honor God when we live in grateful appreciation for His goodness, able to be content with what we have – while being generous to others as well.

This shows a healthy balance to life and is a demonstration of our faith in God’s ability to take care of us. Indeed, all of life is not pleasant, and there are extremely difficult seasons during which circumstances will not allow us to rest or enjoy much peace. Many, many people in our world would have a hard time relating to the message of this article at all. Their lives are grim from our perspective, and it would be hard for us to imagine enjoying life as they know it.

But God gives grace for us to live exactly where He has allowed us to be. It is in the midst of your present circumstances that He wants you find your greatest joy by being fully surrendered to Him, trusting Him with everything. And when you have done that, it is God’s will that you enjoy life and fully experience the blessings He has given you. Cherish the time you have with your loved ones, your church family, and even people you see in the community. Take time to give thanks for the food you enjoy, not taking it for granted. In a world where so many things do not go the way we wish they would, let’s thank God for every little thing that *does* and ask for the grace to put our focus there. And whenever or wherever God allows you experience an enjoyable moment of life, give Him sincere thanks and endeavor to spread that joy to someone else.

Walking with You,

Andy

LADIE’S BIBLE STUDY

Hello Ladies! I love meeting each week with you in the She-Shed on Facebook! Each week, we have approximately 30-40 ladies who join us live or watch the replay of the teaching. Some are members of our church, and others join us from all across the US and even one who watches from Cambodia. It amazes me how God has allowed the use of technology to connect so many of us over the past year, and it’s a reminder that He has not been hindered by anyone or anything. We will conclude the book of James in March and begin walking through the book of Galatians in April and May. Below are the chapters to read in preparation for the teaching each week. I will pull out a section to focus our attention during our time together. I can’t wait to walk through this letter of Paul with you.

Jennifer

April 7 - Galatians 1
April 14 - Galatians 2
April 21 - Galatians 3
April 28 - No Study

May 5 - Galatians 4
May 12 - Galatians 5
May 19 - Galatians 6
May 26 - No Study

Greetings!

Here are some updates from the Music Ministry, and some opportunities to get involved:

Despite the virus, Choir is going on as usual, with added precautions and social distancing. We are meeting at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary every Wednesday. We are always wanting new members to join, and as things begin to open up, it is a great time to join! If you are interested in joining or just want to hear more about what we do, please email me at jonathan@walkerbc.org. It's been hard to perform as often as we used to with fewer people, so we're very eager to get people involved!

I am also extremely grateful for our media team. Since we have started live-streaming the services, there is more of a need than ever for volunteers to assist with the media for the service. I have been so grateful for how Wally, Jon, Tom, and Andy have stepped up and served in this capacity over the past year; but we want to get more people trained as well, especially for running the slides and the livestream. If you are interested, please send me an email or come talk to me. You don't need to have any prior experience or knowledge.

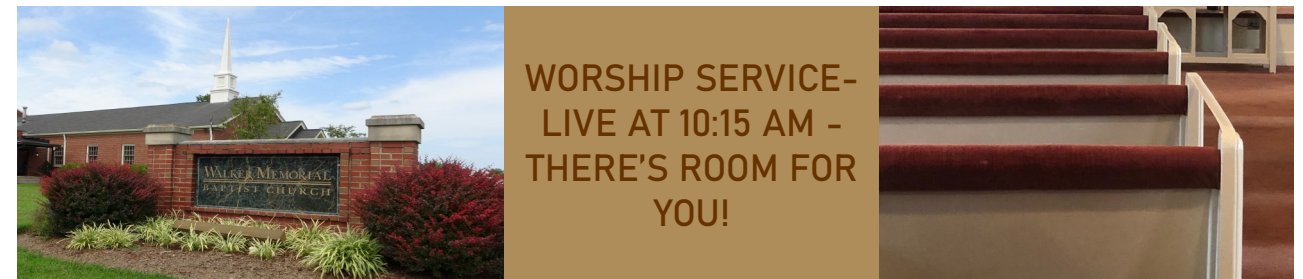
As I reflect on the past year, I am so thankful for God's goodness throughout this difficult time. I know things have been very hard and I miss everyone who has been staying home very much. I am praying that, by God's grace, we can be reunited soon. I hope in the future not to take so many things for granted.

God bless you all,

Jonathan



SUNDAY SCHEDULE		STAFF	
Youth Sunday School	9:00 AM	Chuck McElhannon	Pastor
Babies Class available	9:00 AM	Andy Wolverton	Associate Pastor
Adult & Children Sunday School	9:00 AM	Wally Whidby	Youth Minister
Walker Worship	10:15 AM	Jonathan Wells	Worship Leader
		Theresa Rogers	Accompanist
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE		CONTACT INFORMATION	
She-Shed on Facebook Live	6:30 PM	Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Youth on Zoom	6:00 PM	Church Email	ask@walkerbc.org
Choir	6:00 PM	Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
		Andy	andy@walkerbc.org
		Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
		Jonathan	jonathan@walkerbc.org
Social Media Links			
https://www.walkerbc.org			
https://www.facebook.com/wbcfranklin/			
https://twitter.com/wbcfranklin			
https://www.instagram.com/wbcfranklin/			
https://www.youtube.com/channel/			



DEACON OF THE WEEK					
April 4	Bill Reitmeyer	CALL	May 2	Chris Wheeler	CALL
April 11	Bobby Hargrove	CHURCH OFFICE	May 9	Ed Madden	CHURCH OFFICE
April 18	Doug Leonard	FOR	May 16	Charlie Irwin	FOR
April 25	Wally Whidby	CONTACT INFORMATION	May 23	Tom Massey	CONTACT INFORMATION
			May 30	Bill Reitmeyer	

Sunday Schedule

Adult, Children, Baby Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Youth meet on Zoom & In-person
 Worship 10:15 AM
 In person and on YouTube at Walker Baptist Church

April 2021

WEDNESDAYS

Youth on Zoom 6:00 PM
 She-Shed on Facebook 6:30 PM
 Choir 6:00 PM
 Supper, Adult Bible Study and Children in Action are on hold. They will return when deemed safe.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WE ARE COLLECTING THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING THROUGH APRIL 25th. OUR CHURCH GOAL IS \$2800				1	 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 6 PM	3
4		5 Janice Vaughn 	6 Raymond Vaughn 	7	8	10 Patsy Helton 
			CHOIR/YOUTH 6PM SHE-SHED 6:30PM	CHOIR/YOUTH 6PM SHE-SHED 6:30 PM	15 Samuel Hendry  HABITAT HOUSE BUILD	17
11	12	13		22	23	24 Shannon Epps Jonathan Wells 
18	19	20 Daianna Austin 	CHOIR/YOUTH 6PM SHE-SHED 6:30 PM			
25	26	27 Tomi Atkinson 	CHOIR/YOUTH 6PM	29 Jonathan Wolverton 	30 Victoria Austin 	

Sunday Schedule

Adult, Children, Baby Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Youth meet on Zoom & In-person
 Worship 10:15 AM
 In person and on YouTube at Walker Baptist Church

May 2021

WEDNESDAYS

Youth on Zoom 6:00 PM
 She-Shed on Facebook 6:30 PM
 Choir 6:00 PM
 Supper, Adult Bible Study and Children in Action are on hold. They will return when deemed safe.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Ephesians 6:1-3</p>						1 Linda Jackson 
2	3 Jennifer Leonard 	4 Marti Leonard 	5 Janis Wolverson  CHOIR/YOUTH 6PM SHE-SHED 6:30 PM	6	7	8
9 	10	11	12 CHOIR/YOUTH 6PM SHE-SHED 6:30 PM	13 Rebecca Smith 	14	15
16	17	18	19 CHOIR/YOUTH 6PM SHE-SHED 6:30 PM	20 Rhonda Gatlin 	21 WCS—LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	22
23	24 Jeanette Massey 	25	26	27 Michelle Perkins 	28 Harrison Lackey 	29 Charlie Young 
30	31 					