

# Encourager

## Walker Baptist Church

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



August/September 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



In 2007 Kenny Chesney released a song called “Don’t Blink,” which would become a #1 hit single on the country charts. The song describes a young man’s encounter with a 102-year-old man who had been interviewed on the news. When asked what his secret to a long and happy life was, he responded, “Don’t blink.” Just like that, you move from one stage of life to another. We could apply those words of wisdom to what’s happening around our church facilities. A newly remodeled sanctuary, an updated welcome center, new carpet in the main hallways, new lighting in the front hall, a newly remodeled space for Begin Anew upstairs in the former youth room. And if all that wasn’t enough, we have a major clean-out planned prior to August 12, so the entire building can be treated for brown recluse spiders. Don’t blink, indeed!

Despite all the physical changes happening all around us, I am most excited about how God continues to bless us spiritually. We haven’t lost sight of our purpose, which is to share the gospel and bring others into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. We continue to see people growing stronger in their faith, joining our church, giving generously, and showing up every Sunday, genuinely happy to see one another and excited about worshiping God! As a matter of fact, I was looking back at one of our recent services and marveled with much gratitude at how expertly Troy brought together Scripture readings, prayers, hymns and worship songs, to perfectly complement the sermon topic. We are truly blessed by Troy’s musical talents, his love for the Lord, and his attention to detail in leading our worship.

This past Sunday during worship, just before the time for me to begin preaching, Marie leaned over to me, nodded toward the stage and offered, “We need to have Andrew do a concert!” I couldn’t agree more. I’m thinking we need to get a few heads together, work out some details, and get Andrew and Troy to lead us in an evening concert. Now that I’ve put it down in print, I guess we need to make it happen!

The Nominating Team is busy shaping our ministry teams for the new church year, and they are working with information that has been submitted on the Ministry Involvement Surveys which most of you have already completed. Thank you for that! We’re also putting together a brand-new Children’s Ministry Team led by Charis Buckland that will take some huge steps forward in the areas of security, curriculum, and check-in/check-out procedures – items that are definitely in need of being upgraded. Change isn’t always fun, but it is often necessary. I guess you could say we’re going through growing pains. Wouldn’t you rather grow and have to adjust, instead of keeping things as they always were, and never grow?

Someone once said, “Be careful what you ask for – you just might get it!” Well, we’ve been praying and asking God to bless us with new families and children, and now that it’s happening, we need to rise to the challenge and disciple them properly. We have three children who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year, and the wise decision is to offer both middle school and high school SS classes. Brett Buckland will be leading the 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade class, and Wally Whidby will teach the 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders on Sunday morning, in addition to the whole youth group during Wednesday “Fish Tank.” Because it is taking some time to take care of all the details, we will be promoting on Sunday, September 1.

So, between now and then, as we enter the last full month of summer, as vacation days come and go, as another school year looms on the horizon, as we see Marti picking up steam for Fish Fry #20 on September 28, and as we see lost people come to know Jesus, through it all – don’t blink. You just might miss something wonderful!

In Joyful Service...

Chuck

## The Eternal Perspective

*"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope." --- 1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NIV)*

There is a way of thinking – a viewpoint – a lifestyle – that I am unable to comprehend, due to my upbringing and life history. It is something so foreign to me that it doesn't even make sense. And yet, for a person who holds this viewpoint, my way of thinking would most likely be totally foreign to them as well.

I am speaking of *atheism*, the belief that there is no God. By extension, many or most atheists also deny the reality of an afterlife, choosing to believe instead that a person completely ceases to exist after their physical death. This could be a strong motivation for staying alive here as long as possible and for having a fear of dying.

When I put myself in the shoes of someone who believes this way and try to see the world through those eyes, at first glance it seems cold and lifeless. It appears to be a complete denial of the very existence of spiritual realities. These realities, such as God and the movement of the Holy Spirit in peoples' lives, are all too evident to me because I have spent my entire life being made aware of them and experiencing them firsthand.

For the person without a God-centered belief system, though, I could possibly understand how a person might see the world without God if that was all they were ever taught. If they have been told from their early years that the incredibly intricate and beautiful world we live was not created by an infinitely wise and loving God but instead somehow just evolved into being. It *is* true that the everyday functions of human, animal, and plant life can at least be partially explained by science. And there are some who have tried and found that if you make an attempt to just speak to God out loud and then wait for an audible answer, you are likely to be disappointed.

That's where the miracle of *faith* comes in. When God works in the heart of an unbeliever and gives that person unseen evidence that He exists, the person is able to make a decision of his own free will to place confidence in Jesus and surrender life's control to Him. It is most often *after* a person makes the leap of faith and becomes saved that the undeniable evidences of God's presence and working become more fully known.

What are those evidences? It depends upon the person, but almost always what solidifies a new believer in his or her faith is the assurance that God lives in them through the Holy Spirit and that He communicates with them in their spirit during prayer, meditation upon Scripture, or through the process of daily living. It is daily life which usually get our attention: we recognize that a person's words, an event, the resolution of a problem, the healing of a relationship, etc. was not just a coincidence but the working of God.

Others may look at what happened and say, "Well, it would have happened that way anyway." But the believer knows that it was the subject of prayer and concern between themselves and a loving God, and the events that happened were not coincidence but rather the incredible work of God. Even mundane things can fall into this category, such "randomly" turning on a song that just happens to touch your heart where you needed encouragement. Or it may be suddenly encountering a person who says something specific to you that you really needed to hear. Most often, though, God speaks and makes Himself real to us through the regular and daily intake of His Word.

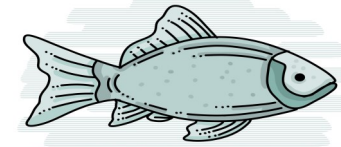
Be careful not to judge an atheist. Why not love them instead? God's unconditional love is what will change their minds and hearts more quickly than anything else. That person will see God is real *through you*.

Walking with You,

*Andy*

20th ANNUAL

USA HAND-  
BREADED CATFISH  
COOKED IN  
PEANUT OIL



FISH FRY

TICKETS  
AVAILABLE  
IN ADVANCE OR  
DAY OF EVENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024  
4 - 7:00 pm

ALL YOU CAN EAT CATFISH, WHITE BEANS, HUSH PUPPIES, COLE SLAW

ADULTS \$15 CHILDREN (age 3-10) \$8

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

BAKE SALE \* CAKE AUCTION \* LIVE MUSIC

DEDICATED TO ANDY WOLVERTON



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PURCHASING FISH FRY TICKETS ONLINE

- 1) Go to the Walker web-site, [www.walkerbc.org/online-giving](http://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) Under "How much would you like to give?" put the amount represented by the number of adult tickets you wish to purchase at \$15 each (ie. \$75 for 5 adult tickets). To the right of the amount space under "Fund" -- click on the words "General Fund" to get a drop-down menu. Choose "2024 Fish Fry Ticket Adult..." as the fund.
- 5) If you wish to also purchase Child Tickets (age 3-10), click "+ Another Fund" and repeat the process with multiples of \$8 per ticket -- and choose "2024 Fish Fry Ticket Child...."
- 6) 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 28th. If you forget, we will also have a record of this transaction here on the day of the fish fry when you arrive.

If you have questions about this process, or have trouble with the transaction, contact sandy at [adgsgrandma@gmail.com](mailto:adgsgrandma@gmail.com).


LAST DAY TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE IS SEPTEMBER 26 - 1:00 pm.



WEDNESDAY SUPPER MENUS * all meals include dessert and beverage	
AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
7th. Pizza, Salad	4th. Boneless Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables
14th. BBQ, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw	11th. Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Salad
21st. Beefy Nacho Bar, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans	18th. Hamburgers/Hot Dogs. French Fries
28th. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries	25th. Sandwich Bar, Chips



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH SUMMER PROGRAMMING (photos are not all-inclusive)

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS			
August 4	Sandy Godwin, Austin Godwin	Sept 1	Faye Campbell, Louise Austin
August 11	Rhonda Gatlin. Marlee Donoho	Sept 8	Linda Garnette, Kody Leonard
August 18	Rachel Pugliese. Janice Vaughn	Sept 15	Emily Sanders. Debra Mangrum
August 25	Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard	Sept 22	Chris & Kelley Wheeler
		Sept 29	F. Joslin, A. Lunn, H. King
If you are not able to keep your date, please try and trade with someone. If you need assistance please call or text Jennifer Leonard at 615-604-9457			

Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!



One of my primary objectives as a father this summer has been to teach my daughters how to swim. At every available opportunity, we are at the pool working on holding our breath, moving our arms and legs, and progressively getting more and more comfortable and independent. I have been very proud of both of them and the milestones they have achieved. I have placed a strong importance on my girls learning how to swim because I don’t want them to be vulnerable if they are ever in a situation that requires them to know how to do it. I also believe it is a useful skill for them to potentially help others someday.

There are major parallels that can be drawn between learning how to swim and equipping ourselves with knowledge of Scripture. 1 Timothy 4:16 NIV says:


16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

The Word of God has the power to save us from our sins, which is a truth that should ignite the same sort of passion as saving ourselves from drowning. If someone were to start saying things to you that weren’t true about who God is and what He says, would you know the difference? The best preventative measure we have available to keep us from getting swept away by false doctrine is to familiarize ourselves with Scripture and practice doing what it says daily. If we are faithful in doing this in our own lives, we can be a beacon to others to lead them to Christ.

Within the next few weeks, I will be transitioning out of my role as the point person for Walker’s children’s ministry. It has been my passion project for several years to build our program, teach children about Jesus, and help them form relationships with Christian peers and mentors. I will still be participating on the team and helping, but stepping into more of an auxiliary position. I wanted to say a heartfelt “thank you” to the many people who have helped me during my leadership tenure through prayer, volunteering, donating, encouraging, and stepping into a variety of other roles that have helped me and the children. Our program still has a long way to go, but God has led us this far and I believe He has many more wonderful things in store for the children of Walker Baptist Church. In the meantime, please enjoy our beautifully renovated sanctuary and mark your calendars for our remaining hymn sing on August 25<sup>th</sup> (Gospel Favorites).


In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



**LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

The class will be studying two books of the Bible named after women with important roles in Biblical history. They will begin studying the book of Ruth in August and move into Esther in September.





## AUGUST MISSIONS PROJECT



**Oak Cottage**  
for women

Oak Cottage for Women is a faith-based organization that helps women who have previously been incarcerated in the Tennessee Prison System. While living in the cottages the women obtain job skills and some complete their GEDs. We can assist in this process by providing some of the supplies they need. Requested items include:

Toilet Paper	Paper Towels
Dishwasher Tablets	Cleaning Supplies
Soap	Deodorant
Tide Detergent	Toilet Bowl Cleaner
White Twin Sheets	Towels, Hand Towels, Wash Cloths

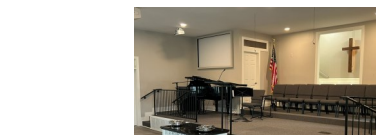
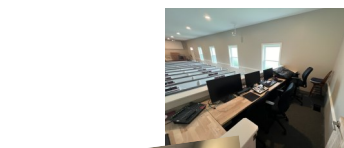
Franklin Transit Trolley Tickets \*

\* A book of 10 tickets for \$10 can be purchased at <https://franklintransit.org/product/franklin-transit-1-ticket-book>

\* or monetary donations can be given to Glenda, Marie, Shirley or Jennifer to purchase tickets



## FEATURING RECENT CHURCH RENOVATIONS



## GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS WALKER'S GOAL = \$3000 SEPTEMBER, 2024

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is the annual state missions offering that provides invaluable financial support for ministries that help reach Tennesseans for Christ. It is named after W.C. & Mildred Golden, who suggested the week of prayer for state missions and a state missions offering in 1902.

Tennessee Baptists contributing through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provide support for Tennessee ministries; sustaining state ministries not funded through the Cooperative Program. The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is meeting human needs through Compassion Ministries. It's Disaster Relief helping restore a community after a storm. It's Baptist Collegiate Ministries sharing the hope of Jesus on Tennessee college campuses. It's reaching the spiritually lost in Tennessee through evangelism. And so much more.



### STAFF

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Telephone	615-794-7000
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Wally	<a href="mailto:wally@walkerbc.org">wally@walkerbc.org</a>
Troy	<a href="mailto:troy@walkerbc.org">troy@walkerbc.org</a>



**AUGUST**  
Elaine Thompson



**SEPTEMBER**  
Glenda Daniel





# August 2024

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE


9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</b> —effective August 7 <div><div>Fellowship Dinner</div><div>Kids’ Missions &amp; Music. Youth</div><div>She-Shed</div><div>Adult Bible Study</div><div>Adult Choir</div></div> <div><div>5:15-6:00</div><div>6:00-7:20</div><div>6:15-7:20</div><div>6:20-7:20</div><div>7:30-8:30</div></div>			1	2	3 Christy Locke 
4 	5 Larry Newell 	6	7	8	9	10
11 Sandy Vazquez  4 pm Team Meetings 5 pm Ministry Update	12 	13	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 Donna Cantrell Hugh Williams 	28	29 Charis Buckland Tina LaFever 	30	31 Kelsey Tarr 

# September 2024

## 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  DANIEL DOSS CONCERT 6 pm 	5	6 Cheryl Whitehurst 	7
8	9	10	11	12 Elaura Guttormson; Lily Stelter 	13 Doug Leonard Shirley Mize 	14
		WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS				
15 Twila Flowers   Sprinkle for Guttormson's 8:30 am 	16	17	18	19 Gloria Lunn Wayne Mangrum 	20	21
22	23 Beth Helm Kelley Wheeler 	24 Jonathan Lee 	25	26  Deadline to purchase Fish Fry tickets online	27	28   4:00—7:00 pm
29	30 Austin Donoho 		 TEAMS	TEAMS FOR 2024-25 WILL BEGIN SERVING SEPTEMBER 1. THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED 2023-24		