

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

August/September 2022



www.walkerbc.org

Activities described in the Encourager and on the calendar are subject to change as needed. 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

Can you believe what’s right around the corner? Another middle TN fall, which means football (SEC & NFL) and back-to-school. Williamson County Schools begin their school year on August 5, so that means we will resume our fall Wednesday schedule of activities on August 10. Here’s what we have planned for you.



Fellowship Dinner	5:30-6:00
Kids’ Missions & Music	6:00-7:30
Youth Fish Tank	6:00-7:30
Adult Bible Study	6:30-7:30
Adult Choir	7:30-8:30

I am planning on leading an intensive study on Wednesday nights called “**The Life of a Jesus Follower,**” by Vance Pitman. The study is designed to help you:

- Invest in the three key relationships modeled by Jesus
- Exchange the “burden” of religion for the simpler, biblical method of following Jesus
- Develop healthy habits to become a growing follower of Jesus.

At the risk of repeating myself, let me tell you what I have learned about being a Jesus follower as I get older. It’s all about making my relationship with Jesus simpler instead of more complicated. If I can distill my focus to fewer things, then I can do a better job of following Jesus. Love God and love others – that’s about as simple as it gets. If you see a need that you can help meet, do it, and do it joyfully.

That being said, I was in the office this morning and answered the phone. The caller identified herself and said, “I wonder if your church helps people out with groceries. I don’t have any.” I told her that we usually refer people to GraceWorks, but that we were coincidentally right in the middle of a Food Drive and we had plenty of food right here in the building, if she cared to stop by. She was, in fact, in the parking lot, so I let her in, gave her a box, and helped her pick out some things that she could use. While filling her box, she told me that she grew up at the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Home, and used to ride the van to church here on Sunday mornings. Those were good times. She thanked me for helping her and as she walked away I said a quick prayer. “Lord, thank you for your perfect timing. If she had come at any other time of year, we would have simply referred her to someone else. I’m so glad we had the resources here to meet a need.” Again, if you see a need and you can help meet it, do so.

I hope you were blessed and challenged by the just-concluded sermon series called **re: Our Church**. Again, I wish to publicly thank Andy, Wally, and Troy for their assistance in preaching the messages. My prayer is that we all were convinced that we each have a valuable role to fill in making our church stronger, healthier, and better as we seek to follow God and serve our community.

The next sermon series is called **Beautiful Attitudes** and is designed to help us better understand that living a happy and blessed life is the Lord’s desire for each of us. All we have to do is pay attention to those 8 key attitudes that Jesus mentioned in the Sermon on the Mount.

By the time see this edition of the **Encourager**, our July Hymn Sing will probably have come and gone. These special events have slowly become something that I look forward to with eager expectation! It’s a wonderful way to add a bit of fellowship and worship to those slow summer months. Go ahead and mark your calendar now for the last of our summer Hymn Sings, August 28, 6:00 pm. There’s always a good mix of crowd favorites, special requests, and surprise ensembles and solos. Who knows, maybe we’ll be singing your favorite hymn, but you have to be here to hear it!

Pastor Chuck

A Heart Like Job's

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship
²¹ and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."
²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing." – Job 1:20-22 (NIV)

Let's pretend that today we are taking a survey of each and every member of Walker Baptist Church — asking the question: "Is your lifestyle at this time in your life better than it was when you were a child?" Now I've talked to at least one person who might answer "no," but only in terms of material things. Perhaps there are more of you out there. But based on conversations through the years with Walker members, especially the older ones of you, the great majority of church members live in far better circumstances today than those in which they grew up. Our society has prospered greatly, and you have made the best of your opportunities to do better.

This is such a common circumstance that now it is difficult to imagine going the other direction. We don't wish to contemplate a reality in which we enjoy less and less and are forced to give up more and more. When that happens in America, it will affect the younger generations the most because they have never known what it is like to do without what we call the necessities of life. They are less likely to save, more likely to go into debt, and might take many blessings for granted.

But older generations *do* know what it is like to do without. They have learned the value of saving over spending, of avoiding debt as much as possible, and of taking care of their possessions. Because of this, many are in a better position to face economic hardship, while others on fixed incomes will still be hit hard by it. A decreasing quality of life due to inflation and world circumstances is happening only gradually for us at this point. We pray that changes will happen at a pace to which we can adjust - and not abruptly.

Job didn't have the luxury of adjusting slowly to his misfortunes. They happened quickly and mercilessly as he lost his children and most of his possessions in one day — and his health in another. The devil wanted to prove to God that righteous people were good in appearance only and would put up this front only in order to enjoy the benefits that came with God's blessing. Indeed, that would be true of the devil, and it is the way that many of us think too, if we are honest about it.

Yet God knew Job's heart. He knew that Job had genuine love for Him and that his actions to serve and please Him came from a place of sincerity. That truth would be proven over the course of several painful weeks as Job not only had to deal with his misfortune, but also with the well-intentioned but very wrong advice of his wife and friends, who did not share his patience or outlook. What began as a loving attempt to console Job turned into a theological exercise of assigning blame to him. The triple combination of his losses (material, emotional and physical), his tortuous sickness, and these nagging friends must have been absolutely unbearable.

And yet Job did bear it for the most part. His patience waned and his speech became more sarcastic as the days dragged on, but he maintained his integrity and did not admit to faults which were not present. Most memorable among Job's sayings is how he responded at the very beginning to the loss of his children and possessions... *(continued next page)*

...*"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."* That sounds a little calloused when speaking of one's children, but we know from previous verses that he had adored them and went to great lengths to see that they enjoyed the blessing of God.

Regarding ALL of his blessings, Job possessed them and enjoyed them, but they did not possess him. When it was required of him, he was able to let go of them and continue to worship and praise God — his true Blessing. How many of us could do that? I pray we will never have to find out, at least not like Job did. Many of you have had to say "goodbye for now" to a loved one long before you expected to do so. You know how Job felt. Others of you have experienced financial setbacks that were like starting over in some ways. But you were able to hang in there and come back to a better place, like Job. And still others of you have battled sickness for years and have had your patience tried to the limits while striving to get better. You can relate to Job. And then all of us have received (or given) advice to others that qualified as more distressing than helpful.

Difficult times of trial in life do not hinder us from becoming all that we can be -- they actually *help* us to attain God's best. Job's testing was painful and expensive, but with God's help he came out of it even stronger than he was before. When we hang tough during the times of testing in our own lives, especially when God seems to be silent, the day will finally come when we hear His Voice clearly and experience His blessing once again. So stay true to God and keep walking according to the last instructions He gave you before trouble started. When the fog clears, you will be able to rejoice like Job that God held you in His grip.

Walking with You,

Andy



GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS

OUR CHURCH GOAL—\$ 2100

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. Tennessee Baptists contributing through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provide support for Tennessee ministries; sustaining state ministries not funded through the Cooperative Program.

WEEK OF PRAYER—September 11-18



"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19 NIV

Greetings, Walker Baptist Family!

A few weeks ago, I preached from Acts 16 about re:LATIONSHIPS. I spoke about how we first need to build our relationship with God so that we can then be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as he leads us to build relationships with others around us. The isolation of the last several years during the pandemic has caused many of us to grow comfortable with doing only what is best for ourselves and those immediately around us, and that in turn has caused us to feel further and further apart from the fellow members of the communities we live in. However, we are called as a church to be the light of the world, and we do so by being servants to those around us. In Mark 9:35, Jesus says:

“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

One of the most effective ways that God has given us to reach others is through forming relationships, and relationships are an essential component in gaining the trust necessary to be a servant. Relationships require intention and attention. Intention is demonstrated by looking for opportunities to be a friend to someone. Something as small as saying “hi” to a stranger or offering to help someone in need is a good first step. Next comes attention, which is how relationships are maintained. Actively listening to people, showing care and compassion for their problems, and seeking out opportunities to serve all demonstrate attention. Through Christ, a kind spirit and a servant’s heart will break down even the toughest barriers.

The music ministry at Walker has a few specific needs that I want to ask all of you to prayerfully consider. We need people to join the choir when we start back up in the fall. The choir would greatly benefit from having at least two more voices in each vocal part. If you are hesitant to try it because of a lack of experience or knowledge, let me assure you that our group is here to help you succeed. We also need people to showcase the talents they’ve been blessed with during our weekly offertories on Sunday mornings. I am trying to build out my calendar for at least the next several months, and would love to see some new faces. Finally, Brother Chuck and I would like different people to read the Call to Worship and/or Benediction Scriptures from one week to the next, which are simple but important jobs that help us focus our attention on the message. Please contact me with any questions you may have. I hope to hear from you soon!

In Christ,
Troy Guttormson



NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, if you are unable to attend a Wednesday night Bible Study, there will be a study offered on Thursday mornings. Donna Williams and Jamie Hulker (from Clearview Baptist Church) will be leading a Precept Study called Unexpected Revival: Experiencing God’s Goodness through Disappointment and Doubt, by Erica Wiggernhorn, based on the Old Testament book of Ezekiel.

DATES: September 1—October 27, 2022 TIME: 9:30—11:00 am LOCATION: She-Shed Room,

Study books can be purchased at: https://www.amazon.com/Unexpected-Revival-Experiencing-Goodness-Disappointment/dp/0802425003/ref=sr_1_1?crid=INQ7OCP9NDYA&keywords=an+unexpected+revival&qid=1659545165&sprefix=an+unexpected+revival%2Caps%2C105&sr=8-1

Contact Donna or Chuck if you have questions or to register. (Note: Jennifer’s class still meets on Wednesday at 6)



August 7	Linda Garnette, Mary Stinson	Sept 4	Chris & Kelley Wheeler
August 14	Emily Sanders, Kay LaFever	Sept 11	Sandy Godwin, Austin Godwin
August 21	Pam Johnson, Janice Vaughan	Sept 18	Alexandria Austin, Louise Austin
August 28	Debra Mangrum, Marie McElhannon	Sept. 25	Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

BEGINNING AUGUST 10

5:30—6:00 pm

Wednesday Night Meal



MENUS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE ON THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PAGE.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TUESDAY NOON.

PRICES ARE STILL A BARGAIN!

Adults—\$5.00 Children 4-12 - \$4.00 Children 3 and under—Free

Maximum family charge \$25.00. (Must be living in the same household)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



One of this summer’s major events was Vacation Bible School, which was held June 27-July 1. Troy took on the huge task of being Director, on top of being a new father and Worship Leader. He did a fabulous job. Thanks to all of the volunteers that stepped up to assist with the many tasks involved. The children had a wonderful experience, and the adults had a lot of fun. We hope some of the children who do not regularly attend Walker will come on Wednesday nights this year.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a great week!





GROUP PRAYER TIME 1:00 pm in the Prayer Room

August 12 and 26
September 9 and 30

The Prayer Room is also available any time
the church is open.



The key to making
wise decisions is to
listen to God.



August 28th 6 pm

FALL WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE BEGINNING AUGUST 10th

Fellowship Dinner	5:30-6:00
Kids' Missions & Music	6:00-7:30
Youth Fish Tank	6:00-7:30
Adult Bible Study	6:30-7:30
Adult Choir	7:30-8:30

*Thank you to everyone who participated in
the Water and Food Drives in June and
July. Hundreds of people benefitted from
your kind generosity!*



MEMORIES

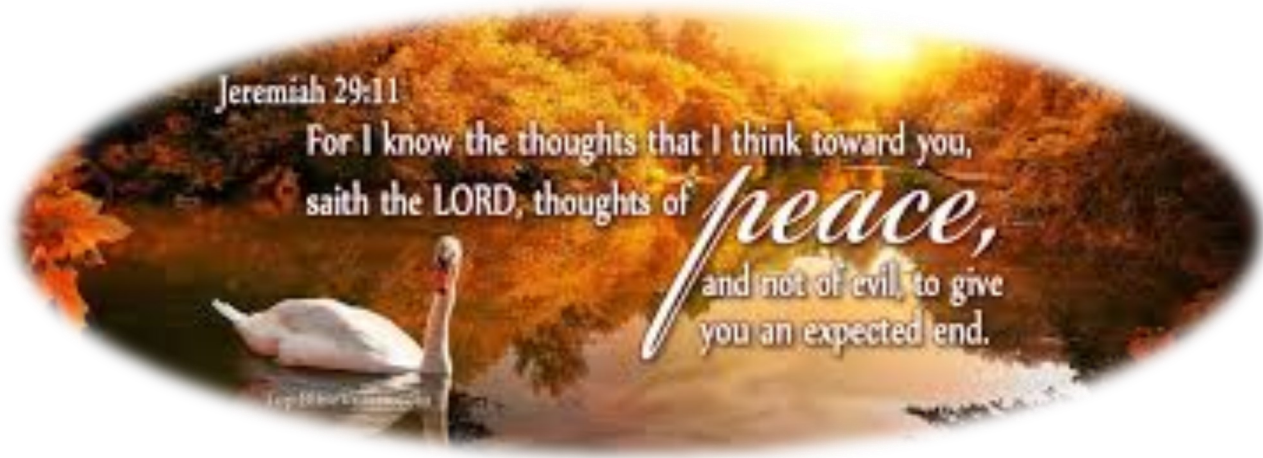
DEACON OF THE WEEK

August 7	Bill Reitmeyer	CALL	Sept 4	Wally Whidby
August 14	Bobby Hargrove	CHURCH	Sept 11	Ed Madden
August 21	Doug Leonard	OFFICE	Sept 18	Tom Massey
August 28	Chris Wheeler	FOR	Sept 25	Bill Reitmeyer

INFORMATION

**SIGN UP FOR MINISTRY TEAMS IS IN PROGRESS.
CONSIDER THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN
YOU AND CHOOSE A TEAM TO SERVE ON.**

**OPTIONS ARE ON THE WALL IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE
SANCTUARY AND THE WELCOME CENTER.
WONDER WHAT A TEAM DOES? ASK CHUCK, ANDY, TROY OR
WALLY.**



Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,
saith the LORD, thoughts of *peace,*
and not of evil, to give
you an expected end.



WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH
 1350 W. Main St
 Franklin, Tn. 37064
 Phone: (615)794-7000

Join Walker Baptist for our 17th Annual FISH FRY

ON-SITE

(NOTE: Will change to DRIVE-THRU IF NEEDED)

Sat., Sept. 24, 2022 4PM-7PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT CATFISH

USA Hand-breaded Catfish Filets
 w/Homemade Hushpuppies, White Beans & Coleslaw

\$15.00 Adult \$8 Child (ages 4-10) Under 3-FREE

Hot Dog/Chips Plate also available for Children

PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS @ www.walkerbc.org

Deadline to pre-purchase tickets: Friday, Sept. 23, 2022

PLUS: CAKE AUCTION/BAKE SALE/LIVE MUSIC

TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE

NOTE: Catfish cooked in Peanut Oil

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) 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 "Fish Fry Ticket--Adult..." as the fund.
- 5) If you wish to also purchase Child Tickets (age 10 and under), click "+ Another Fund" and repeat the process with multiples of \$8 per ticket -- and choose "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 24th. If you forget, we will also have a record of this transaction here on the day of the fish fry when you arrive.
- 7) If you have questions about this process, or have trouble with the transaction, contact andy@walkerbc.org or call him at (615) 794-7000.

LAST DAY TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE IS SEPTEMBER 23 - 1:00 pm.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE		STAFF	
Sunday School	9:00 AM	Chuck McElhannon	Pastor
		Andy Wolverton	Associate Pastor
Worship (live and on YouTube)	10:15 AM	Wally Whidby	Youth Minister
(Nursery available)		Troy Guttormson	Worship Leader
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE		CONTACT INFORMATION	
Aug 3: Youth, All-Church Prayer	6:00 PM	Church Telephone	615-794-7000
			<u>Emails</u>
New Schedule beginning August 10th.		Church	ask@walkerbc.org
Check Calendar and Chuck's article		Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
		Andy	andy@walkerbc.org
		Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
		Troy	troy@walkerbc.org
		Social Media Links	
		https://www.walkerbc.org	
		https://www.facebook.com/wbcfranklin/	
		https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJViu3AI5oqidRnJMY03Ssw	

August 2022

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE


9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:15 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
(live and online)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Jimmy Jackson 	3	4	5 Larry Newell  1/2 Day School 1st—12th grades	6
7	8 Full day of school 1st—12th grades	9	10 WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES RESUME	11 Sandy Godwin Vazquez 	12 Prayer Time 1 pm	13
14 Penni Reitmeyer 	15 Anna Yocca  School begins Pre-K-K	16	17	18	19 Randy Hazelwood 	20 David Epps Bill Hannah 
21	22 Keith Norwood 	23	24 Catherine Hannah Stephen Wheeler 	25	26 Prayer Time 1pm	27 Donna Cantrell Hugh Williams 
28 	29 Tina LaFever 	30	31 Kelsey Tarr 	WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE—beginning August 10 Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:00 Kids' Missions & Music 6:00-7:30 Youth Fish Tank 6:00-7:30 Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30		

September 2022

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:15 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
(live and online)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 			1 LADIE'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 am	2 Helen Gatlin 	3
4	5 	6 Cheryl Whitehurst 	7	8 LADIE'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 am	9 Prayer Time 1 pm	10
11	12 Elaura Guttormson Doug Leonard Lily Kate Stelter 	13	14	15 LADIE'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 am	16	17
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS						
18 Gloria Lunn Wayne Mangrum 	19	20	21	22 LADIE'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 am	23 Danny Shepherd Kelley Wheeler Andy Wolverton 	24 Jonathan Lee   FISH FRY 4-7 pm
25	26	27	28	29 Elton Parker Polly Wells 	30 Austin Donoho 	
				LADIE'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 am	Prayer Time 1 pm	