

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

August/September 2020



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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE thru Sept 6		STAFF	
Youth Sunday School on Zoom	9:00 AM	Chuck McElhannon	Pastor
Walker Worship	10:15 AM	Andy Wolverton	Associate Pastor
Las Americas Worship	12:30 PM	Wally Whidby	Youth Minister
		Jonathan Wells	Worship Leader
		Theresa Rogers	Accompanist

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE thru Sept 2		CONTACT INFORMATION	
She-Shed on Facebook Live	6:30 PM	Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Youth on Zoom	6:15 PM	Church Email	ask@walkerbc.org
		Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
		Andy	andy@walkerbc.org
		Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
		Jonathan	jonathan@walkerbc.org
		W.E.E. Care Telephone	615-794-1202
		W.E.E. Care Email	weecare@walkerbc.org
		Las Americas	682-240-7533

Find us on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/wbcfranklin/>

Other social media links:
<https://twitter.com/wbcfranklin>
<https://www.instagram.com/wbcfranklin/>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJVlu3A15oqidRnJMY03Ssw>



The COVID crisis has had major impacts on our local VA hospitals in Nashville and Murfreesboro. The Veterans that are hospitalized and/or living at the VA hospital in Murfreesboro have been quarantined since March 2020 and their staff has been stretched thin. All patients must remain in their rooms at all times, which means that they have been restricted from going outside, using the common areas and all visitation has ceased. A tangible drawback to the crisis has been the drastic decrease in the number of donations. In an effort to assist them, we at Walker are partnering with the Service to the Armed Forces Division of the American Red Cross to help collect items that have been requested. Most needed are:

- Shampoo
- Spray deodorant
- Laundry detergent
- Body wash
- Lotion (full and travel size)
- Undershirts – all sizes
- Underwear – all sizes
- Cards and notes of encouragement.

There will be a collection table set up in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. You may also bring items to the church during the week. If you prefer to make a monetary donation to purchase supplies, please label it “VA Hospital.” Donations will be accepted through August 30. If you have any questions please call or text Sandy at 615-305-4635, or email chuck@walkerbc.org. Thank you in advance for your service to our Veterans.

Earlier this month I was driving down a country road in Robertson County and passed a rural church with three yard signs mounted on the property that said, in succession, “**Dig In,**” “**Grow Up,**” and “**Branch Out.**” My response was, ‘There’s a church that gets it.’ Whether everyone in the church community lives by those words or not, at least they’re being exposed to a worthy and biblical focus. The artwork on the signs reinforced their message: seeds planted; saplings growing; and branches bearing fruit.



Think it through with me. Those three signs and the messages they bear are indeed descriptive of a healthy Christian life, and, in context, the church in its community. [1] We are to “dig in” – to plant ourselves in the Word of God and thrive in an environment that serves to nurture our relationship with God and with one another. [2] We are to “grow up” – to mature as believers by strengthening our faith and encouraging one another. [3] We are to “branch out” – to bear spiritual fruit as we make a difference in our community.

For the next two months (August & September), we’ll be taking a close look at Galatians 5:22-23, that passage where Paul writes about “The Fruit of the Spirit.” The series is called “**A Season of Fruitfulness.**” It’s that time of year, isn’t it? Those of you who have gardens have spent months preparing the soil, planting seeds and seedlings, feeding and watering, weeding, protecting, nourishing; and now it’s time to start reaping the rewards of your labors. The crops are coming in! Tomatoes, sweet corn, green beans, okra, squash, and more – and you’re freezing, canning, cooking, and enjoying the fruit.

You were willing to get your hands dirty and do the hard work, because you knew about the pay off. It was worth it. The same is true when it comes to your spiritual life. God has planted His Holy Spirit into the lives of His people, and He expects us to bear spiritual fruit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Godly characteristics. Qualities that the world needs now, more than ever.

After weeks and weeks of being closed, churches are slowly re-opening, but people aren’t coming back to in-person worship like leaders had hoped. Barna Research Group indicates that in-person gatherings are only 10-40% of what they were pre-COVID. The sad truth is, in a time when the world most needs the Gospel, it appears the least interested.

Statistics also seem to clearly indicate that the trend to stay away from church services isn’t based on anything medical, but cultural. Let’s face it – America is definitely in its post-Christian era. Church used to be THE gathering place in a community. Not anymore. The Bible used to be THE source for morality and ethics. Not anymore. Christianity used to be THE model of citizenship. Not anymore.

What does that mean for the local church? Do we give up? No! We take advantage of our strengths and we do what we have always done. We reach out to our neighbors and co-workers with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. We realize that the digital church is not our enemy; it is simply an effective tool that we can use to reach even more people. Every single person we want to reach is online, so let’s act like that’s true.

Pay attention to your online life, and make sure that your posts and messages reflect the spirit of Christ. Shower your followers with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. Hopefully, when enough of us share our “spiritual fruit” with others, the truth of Christ will slowly start to sink in! All you successful gardeners out there – what do you do when you have more coming in from your garden than you know what to do with? That’s right, you start giving it away. I’m beginning to think that’s what God would like for all of us to do with our spiritual fruit as well. Don’t you agree?

See you soon!

Pastor Chuck

Hello everyone,

I just wanted to give a brief update on how the Music Ministry and Media Ministry is going. First, we will be having our first choir rehearsal back on August 5; if you are not comfortable, please do not feel pressured to come. We will announce further rehearsals as the time gets closer. I am also very encouraged about our digital presence. Right now, we are experiencing twice as much traffic on the website compared to before the shutdown, and are reaching many more people through Facebook that are not members. Thank you all for your support during this unique and formative time for our church.

God bless,
Jonathan



A Message From The DEACONS

"Your deacons continue to care about you, pray for you, pray with you whenever possible and are encouraged by your faithfulness ... We know many of you are, as are many of us, unable to attend corporate worship at this time and even though it certainly is a challenge, I know we can 'rise' to the occasion as we are guaranteed that *"We can do all things through Christ who is our strength ... "* (Philippians 4:13) ... It may seem a bit of a cliché now, but I truly believe that with God's guidance and grace we will get through these trying and challenging times together ... May God continue to bless you, inspire your spirit, uplift you with His Holy Spirit and provide all that you need ... "

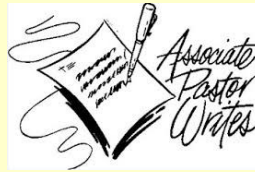
In Christ, Bill Reitmeyer-Chairman of Deacons.

DEACON OF THE WEEK					
August 2	Ed Madden	615-973-3105	September 6	Doug Leonard	615-886-0101
August 9	Charlie Irwin	615-566-1455	September 13	Wally Whidby	615-456-6770
August 16	Tom Massey	615-430-9766	September 20	Chris Wheeler	615-512-5522
August 23	Bill Reitmeyer	615-943-3705	September 27	Ed Madden	615-973-3105
August 30	Bobby Hargrove	615-519-1537			

Taking Our Medicine -- Happily

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ----Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)



"That wasn't so bad, was it?" How many times have you heard those words – and under what circumstances? Were the words true? Was what you expected worse than what actually happened? Or was someone just trying to smooth over a bad experience for you by using soothing words? Sometimes it really *is* that bad, isn't it? It just depends upon the situation. Maybe getting that shot didn't hurt as much as you thought it would. Maybe sharing your testimony with the church was a greater joy than you expected. Perhaps obeying God in that particularly hard situation worked out for the best after all.

I am still trying to decide what to think about the pandemic we are all still walking through. Has the worst really hit or is it yet to come? And by worst I am speaking not only of those who will actually come down with the virus, but also of those who will be adversely affected by the measures being taken to *prevent* people from coming down with the virus. Please don't misunderstand – some of my family are among those most susceptible to the virus. I have been learning to treasure every day....

We must also remember that there are many others who are just as susceptible to the life-altering aspects of the virus-avoidance measures being taken. Countless businesses have had to close and jobs have been lost, our country has gone light years ahead in future indebtedness, children have had their emotional and intellectual growth curtailed, necessary medical care has been delayed or canceled, and the elderly in all kinds of care facilities have gone without the life-sustaining personal contact with family which many of them once enjoyed. Those things just scratch the surface of all that is happening.

We don't have all of the answers, and most of us are not even sure what the right questions are. What we all do know is that our world needs God's mercy and intervention. When we start thinking we might have it hard in America with all that is happening, let's just look for a brief moment outside our borders and we will see that we remain among the most blessed people in this world. We have a lot to be thankful for, and gratitude is the only appropriate mindset for God's redeemed people.

Let's demonstrate gratitude in all we do by finding the good in every situation, making the most of every gift and opportunity God has given us, and focusing our time and energy on loving the people He has placed within our reach. We will never regret rejoicing in a God Who makes all things right in His Time!

Walking with you,

Andy



WEEK OF PRAYER and GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS

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 state ministries that are not funded through the Cooperative Program. The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is meeting human needs through Compassion Ministries. It's Disaster Relief helps restore a community after a storm. It's Baptist Collegiate Ministries share the hope of Jesus on Tennessee college campuses. It's reaching the spiritually lost in Tennessee through evangelism. And so much more. The Week of Prayer features Tennessee missionaries. Each day tells a story of a different missionary or missionary family.

The Week of Prayer at Walker will be observed September 13-20. The offering will be collected from August 30-October 4.

WALKER'S GOAL

\$1500



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

MENUS



September 9

September 16

September 23

September 30

HAMBURGERS
HOT DOGS
CHIPS
DESSERT

PIZZA, PIZZA AND
MORE PIZZA
SALAD
DESSERT

SANDWICH BAR
CHIPS
DESSERT

TURKEY WRAPS
FRESH FRUIT
PASTA SALAD
DESSERT



Folks, tentatively the Fish Fry is still scheduled for **Sept. 26, 2020**. This, of course, could change at any time. Our top priority is the safety of everyone involved volunteers and attendees. A final decision on the Fish Fry will be made no later than August 26, 2020.



SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

IF WE PROCEED WITH THE FISH FRY AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, PLEASE NOTE:

There would be some physical changes made in order to proceed. There would be ample spacing of outside tables, chairs. We would do away with the two smaller tents used just for seating and replace with 3-4 tables (spacing allowed). The outside tent would be moved to a different location to prevent congestion in that area. Inside the fellowship hall, adequate spacing will be made, and plexiglass barriers placed in front of all food lines, also with extra spacing. Attendees will be directed to have spacing in line also. The cake auction would have to be moved to a different location to allow spacing...to be decided.

Unless I am notified by volunteers, I will just keep ALL volunteers in the same position as last yer. At this point, masks and gloves will be required of all volunteers. All necessary precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of everyone.

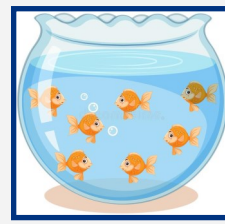
On the probability of the Fish Fry being cancelled as we know it, I do have an idea in the works. I want to keep us in the community presence. I am looking at the possibility of doing a DRIVE-THRU FISH FRY. This would probably be a **Pre-Order** event. This type of event would allow us to still have Community presence, but in a scaled down way. We would not need as many volunteers, but would increase some team numbers such as fry team, kitchen team, take-out team, ticket team. I do not have all these details finalized at this time. I am open to suggestions.

Thank you for your continued commitment,



Our ladies continue to "meet" virtually via Facebook Live each Wednesday night at 6:30pm. We have ladies joining us from across our community and the country. Isn't it just like God to take a global pandemic and work it out so more women than ever can be encouraged by who God is, what He's like and how much He loves us? We will continue to meet virtually for the near future. Beginning in August, we will begin walking through the book of Matthew. Now more than ever my heart is to live like Jesus and I believe a deep dive into this Gospel can show us the way. If you are on Facebook and want to join us, please reach out to me so I can add you to our group. If you are not on Facebook, I also record the teaching and upload it to YouTube later in the week. I'm happy to send you the link once it's uploaded.

Jennifer



Church family, I ask you in these challenging times, to lift up your Youth by name in prayer! It is with great joy that we welcome our newest promotions Elizabeth Lee, Nicholas Lunn, and Andrew Wheeler to the FISH Tank! I also ask that you remember to congratulate and love on our graduates: Sammy Johnson, Harrison Lackey, Kody Leonard and Stephen Wheeler, and lift them up in prayer as well as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

With another school year literally days away, please lift up all of the students, teachers, administrators and leaders within our education system. This school year is different than any other school year they have ever had to prepare for and so much is at stake based on the preparation and decisions they make moving forward. May God anoint the many decision makers as they face so much ridicule regardless of the decisions they make. Make the administrators be blessed with God's encouragement as they try to encourage and motivate their teachers and students and offer up the best learning environment possible during this pandemic. May God whisper His peace into the teacher's ears and wrap them up in a blanket of His protection as they serve him by educating the future leaders of our world. May God remind parents of His love, mercy and GRACE as they react and respond to the decisions made by our appointed leaders. May we all be reminded of Paul's words from God in Romans 13 when he says, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

May we all remember the words from Nahum 1:7 that read, "The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him,". If you read that entire chapter of Nahum, you will see that this phrase is one of hope surrounded by the reminder of God's power and wrath for those who work against him. It is a sobering reminder of the times we live and the need to remain dedicated to the teachings and life of our lord and savior, Jesus Christ. May we seek him, study him, live and love more like him more and more every day of our lives! Peace be with you.



August Sept Calendar 8.14.20.pub

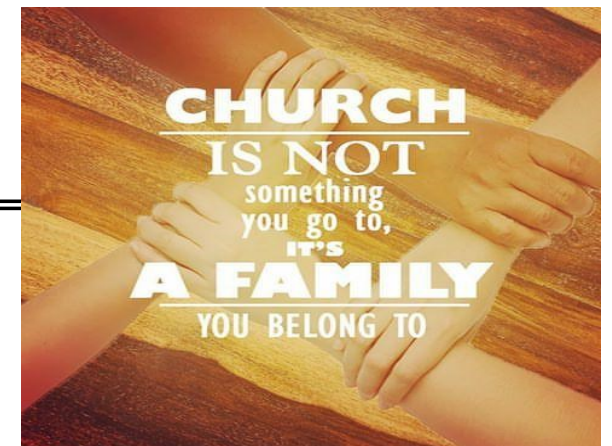


AUGUST
Barbara & Ed Madden

SEPTEMBER
The Austin Family

COMING SOON

WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION




















Regular Sunday Schedule

Worship 10:15 AM
 In person and on Facebook at Walker Baptist Church
 (one with cross)

August 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
	 Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. on Facebook Live at She-Shed Walker Ladies.		 WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15 pm on ZOOM. Contact Wally for access instructions			
2 Jimmy Jackson 	3	4	5 CHOIR REHEARSAL Larry Newell 	6	7 BACK TO SCHOOL 	8
9	10	11 Sandy G Vazquez 	12	13 Regina Netherton 	14 Penni Reitmeyer 	15
16	17	18	19 Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Randy Hazelwood 	20 Bill Hannah Ed House David Epps 	21	22 Keith Norwood 
23	24 Catherine Hannah Stephen Wheeler 	25	26	27 Mother to Mother in Parking 9AM Hugh Williams 	28	29 Tina LaFever 
30 Last day to donate items for Veterans	31 Kelsey Tarr 	 CHOIR REHEARSAL AUGUST 19th. 7:00 pm		 COLLECTION OF ITEMS CONTINUES THROUGH AUGUST 30		

Regular Sunday Schedule

Worship 10:15 AM
 In person and on Facebook at Walker Baptist Church
 (one with cross)

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
TENTATIVE DATES FOR RESUMING ACTIVITIES: Wednesday Evening September 9 Sunday School September 13 Ladies Bible Study continues on Facebook		1	2  Helen Gatlin	3	4	5
6  Cheryl Whitehurst	7  Clare Robson	8	9  Tentative beginning of Wednesday activities	10	11	12
13 Tentative date to have Sunday School again Doug Leonard 	14	15	16	17	18  JoeAnna Madden	19  Gloria Lunn Wayne Mangrum
20  Christian Johnson	21	22	23  Kelley Wheeler Danny Shepherd Andy Wolverton	24  Jonathan Lee	25	26 Tentative Date for Fish Fry
27	28	29  Polly Wells Elton Parker	30  Austin Donoho	WEEK of PRAYER for TENNESSEE MISSIONS SEPTEMBER 13-20 <i>“Return home and tell how much God has done for you”</i> Luke 8:39a NIV		