

# Encourager

## Walker Baptist Church

December 2020/January 2021



[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*

Hello, Faithful Church!



I doubt there's anyone out there who's sorry to see 2020 come to an end! If you're like most folks I know, you've dealt with your fair share of sickness, financial setback, family concerns, social unrest, political upheaval, and even death. If we can put a positive spin on any of this, it's that 2020 has taught us that through it all, God remains faithful! We've been reminded that we are, at best, flawed and impotent creatures, and that we control far less than we think. So if we've learned that we aren't in control of our own destinies, then who is? That's right! – the God of the universe; a loving and generous Heavenly Father who has always loved us, always provided for us, and always gives us hope.

I guess that's the biggest lesson of all – that Hope has a name, and His name is Jesus! Ultimately, our hope isn't found in a vaccine. Our hope doesn't rest in a new president. Our hope isn't tied to the stock market. Our hope doesn't depend on good weather or a strong military presence. Our hope rests in the strong and steady arms of Jesus! He, who stretched out His arms to create the universe, then stretched out those same arms to die on the cross, now reaches out to you and me to gather us to Himself and cover us with a peace that passes understanding. Knowing that, I can sleep peacefully at night. I hope you can, too.

When our daily lives are blanketed with the peace and hope of Jesus, there is joy. That will be our theme this Advent Season. During the Sundays in December leading up to Christmas, I will be preaching a series of sermons that I'm calling **Joy to the World**. My prayer is that “Joy to the World” is not just a Christmas carol that we sing every year at Christmastime, but a foundational truth that will see us through even the toughest of times.

I know the temptation is to live as though everything is normal, and to ignore the science and the numbers and the news reports. Let's be wise and safe. If you or anyone in your family is ill or doesn't feel well, please stay home. Yes, being in church during Christmas is important to us, and it's part of our holiday tradition, but God knows the depth of this virus far better than we do, and He understands if you have to skip a few services. After all, what better way to show love for one another than to protect them when we can.

So let's get through the worst of this global pandemic together and look forward to better times. In January, I'm planning a series of messages called **Resolutions: Version 2.0**. We all understand what New Year's resolutions are all about. We all make them and break them, right? The whole purpose behind resolutions is to make some personal changes that will help us become better versions of ourselves. What if we learn to extend the scope of resolutions and shift our sights from making life better for ourselves, to making a difference in the world? Lord knows, we could all use some of that!

Praying for you. Serving with you.

**Chuck**

## The Benefits of Confinement

*"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them." --- Acts 16:25 (NIV)*

Americans from many generations would agree that today we are in the midst of one of the strangest years in our history. Those with the most life experience among us might be at a point where they are not surprised by anything. But even my parents, who are in their 80's, say that this is like nothing they have seen before in our country. What is "this?" I'm speaking of the confluence of a serious pandemic, the dramatic measures being taken to fight it, a contentious election with incredibly strong feelings on both sides, and racial unrest resulting in violence and a backlash against law enforcement.

One very appropriate reaction to the events in our nation is to look around our world and realize just how blessed we are and have been throughout our history. There are nations which have been experiencing various elements of our issues for decades and even centuries – where freedom is just a dream and top-down authoritarian rule is the norm. There are places where masks have been worn by mandate for years, looking very strange to us when we saw pictures on the news... until now.

But with numbers of the virus increasing as of the time of this writing, so are the efforts being made to combat it. Governors in each state have a degree of authority to set limits and make mandates for their states with an eye toward controlling the spread of COVID-19. You have heard the various measures being taken – from regulations about how many people from how many families may be at your house at one time, to which businesses may remain open and for how long, to whether or not schools will meet in person, to how much you may be fined for not wearing a mask. There is even the threat of arrest if you do not comply. Then there are other places where responsibility is entrusted to the citizens to do what is best in their situation, with the understanding that some will not, but most will.

All of this amounts to a certain amount of confinement for the average person, wherever you may live. From wearing a mask to standing distant from others to having basic services limited to the point you cannot get things done that you could before – these are limits to freedoms we didn't even realize we enjoyed. Pray especially for those whose livelihoods have been severely affected or taken away by these measures, right or wrong. Pray for the children who miss the socialization and person-to-person learning a school provides, in addition to the many essential social services which are available. Pray for those who are sick with the virus and for families who have lost loved ones to it. Pray for the many who are desperately depressed and hopeless because of lost work, broken families, and limited access to other forms of life-saving health care used to deal with cancer and other treatable diseases.

Most of all, learn a lesson from Paul and Silas. Confined in stocks in the middle of the jail on completely bogus charges, they could have been bitter and angry at haven been beaten publicly and thrown there without a hearing of any kind. But instead, they decided that jail was a good place to pray and worship God. Notice what happened when they did... *"and the other prisoners were listening to them."* Their response to an unfair situation was not going unnoticed by their new community of neighbors. We know that in a matter of hours, God showed up through an earthquake that opened all the doors and caused chains to drop from all the prisoners. The jailer and his entire family would be saved. The magistrates who beat Paul and Silas and threw them in prison would give them a private and humbled escort from the city, horrified that they

had punished Roman citizens without a trial. All of this was possible for Paul and Silas through their faith and determined worship of their great and mighty God.

What type of confinement are you facing today? Do you need God's help to be able to keep a positive attitude and hope? Do you need God's help to remain positive around others so that your witness and example are an encouragement to them and not a hindrance? Do you need a special measure of God's grace as you fight illness, financial needs, broken relationships, or a frustrated spirit that is tired of confinement in its varied forms? Ask God first to give you the perspective, optimism, and sheer determination of Paul and Silas. Let Him show you ways to worship in spite of your circumstances. And watch closely for His eventual liberation to freedom – because it is coming.

Walking with you,

*Andy*

Associate Pastor



## GREETERS

**DECEMBER**

**Barbara and Ed Madden**

**JANUARY**

**Rhonda and Glenn Gatlin**



She-Shed meets virtually via Facebook Live each Wednesday night at 6:30pm. 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*

As we say goodbye to 2020 and welcome 2021, may we pray for the many needs in our church, community, nation, and world, and thank God for His unfailing love.

*Pray for those who have lost loved ones, jobs, and homes.*

*Pray for peace, hope, and kindness.*

*Pray for pure joy.*

*Pray for greater concerns for others.*

*Pray for guidance, wisdom and strength.*

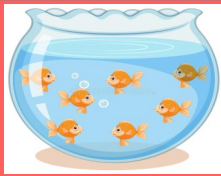
*I whispered a Prayer,*

*for Someone so Dear.*

*Wishing Peace & Hope.*

*and a Happy New Year*





As we head into the winter, the students in the Fish Tank need and covet your prayers more than ever. With all of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, the students of Walker Baptist have remained steadfast in gathering together whether in-person or virtually. Much like in-person church activities, their education has also remained a model of uncertainty. Please pray for our students that continue to go to school in person as well as the students who must adhere to a remote learning schedule. Each scenario offers different challenges. Please join me in praying that God grants the students supernatural peace, wisdom and understanding as they adapt to school, however it looks yesterday, today and tomorrow.

With the pandemic creating so many new obstacles in ministry and in life, we would like to ask our church family to really lean in and engage with our call to love on and provide for the homeless population in our area. As Room in the Inn just is not a safe option for us to provide transportation and lodging for the men on site at the church, we have felt called to expand our backpack ministry to really focus on providing for specific needs with specific items. We have researched and been provided a list of specific items that are most needed and can easily be placed in a backpack for distribution.

Please see the list of items we are asking everyone who can and feels led to contribute to this ministry.

AA & AAA Batteries - Gift Cards (Target, Walmart and Kroger) - Antacids and Pain Relievers - Gloves (New, Adult Sizes) - Hand Warmers - Backpacks - Hats (New, Adult Sizes) - Books and Magazines - Hooded Sweatshirts (Adult Small-4X) - Bottled Water - Men's Socks (New) - Boxers/Boxer Briefs (New, Adult Sizes) - Playing Cards - Chapstick - Lotion - Puzzle Books - Cough Drops - Feminine Hygiene Products - Cough Drops - Reading Glasses - Flip Flops - Sunscreen - Foot Powder (Travel Size) - Thermal Underwear (New Adult Sizes) - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables - Toiletries - T-Shirts (Adult Sizes) - Tuna - Spam - Canned Foods - Snacks - Food Items

Thank you for your continued love and support to the youth ministry at Walker Baptist!

*Wally*

**Christmas Eve**  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**6:00 PM**



The Coronavirus shutdown has forced us to shut down, reorganize, and rethink much of how we do music and media ministry. As a result, there are new areas of ministry, as well as changes to existing ministries.

**Increased Social Media Presence** – Walker is now on Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Services are Livestreamed on Facebook Live, and are also uploaded to YouTube immediately following service. New Equipment was purchased to livestream services. New TV's were installed to have live feed in Welcome Center and Fellowship Hall.

**Youth and Children's Music** - Youth and Children are on hold right now because of COVID-19 lockdown. Children's music to resume as soon as Wednesday activities begin again.

**Adult Choir** – We have reduced numbers due to coronavirus; members not urged to come back until they feel safe. Choir is the only Wednesday activity happening. It is in sanctuary, with masks & distancing. The focus has shifted from performance music to leading congregational worship.

**Worship Band** – There is promising interest in forming a worship band for the new year. Let me know if you are interested in being a part of this ministry.

**Lighting and Sound** – Upgrades are in progress. Individuals are needed to assist with the A/V equipment on Sunday mornings.

*(Excerpted from Jonathan's outline used to report at the Ministry Update meeting of November 22<sup>nd</sup>)*



**CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND MESSAGE**  
**DECEMBER 20 10:15 AM**



**WALKER'S GOAL**  
**\$ 2800**

**imb**

LOTTIE MOON  
CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING®

**COLLECTION DATES**  
**NOVEMBER 29-JANUARY 3**

## Guide to Giving

We appreciate the Walker Family's faithfulness in the area of giving, especially during difficult times. Mailing a check is one way to remain a consistent steward, and giving online is another very convenient way. Below are step-by-step instructions for giving online to Walker securely using your bank card or your bank account.



- (1) Navigate to the Walker Baptist Church website - [www.walkerbc.org](http://www.walkerbc.org)
- (2) Select "ONLINE GIVING" from the headings (on a computer) or from the options on the drop-down menu (on mobile devices).
- (3) Once you have navigated to the Online Giving page, scroll down and choose the red button that says, "CLICK HERE TO GIVE." You will be directed to a page hosted by REALM, our church management software. Follow the instructions to give using your card or bank account. The system will recognize your email address if we have it on file and give credit on your church contribution record automatically. If you have used the system before and it asks you for a password, you may choose to "Continue as Guest." If you would like to establish and use a REALM account, ask Andy to send you a system "invitation" to do so. That way, you may access your giving record anytime and store payment information to make future giving simpler. You can even set up recurring gifts on a schedule you choose.

## In Remembrance of our Members who went to be with the Lord in 2020



David Bostian	Boyd Potts	Nancy Smart
Dottie Stewart	Faye Sweeney	Benny Woolam

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

Dec 6	Tom Massey	615-430-9766	Jan 3	Wally Whidby	615-456-6770
Dec 13	Bill Reitmeyer	615-943-3705	Jan 10	Chris Wheeler	615-512-5522
Dec 20	Bobby Hargrove	615-519-1537	Jan 17	Ed Madden	615-973-3105
Dec 27	Doug Leonard	615-886-0101	Jan 24	Charlie Irwin	615-566-1455
			Jan 31	Tom Massey	615-430-9766

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Youth Sunday School on Zoom	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
Las Americas Worship	1:30 PM	Theresa Rogers	Accompanist

### STAFF

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

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

#### 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/UCJVtu3AI5oqidRnJMY03Ssw>

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Telephone	615-794-7000
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

May the faith of God  
be with you this year.  
May the peace of God  
surround you,  
and may you be blessed  
each day!

*Happy New Year*



**Sunday Schedule**

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

# December 2020

**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 until further notice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>CHOIR REHEARSAL</b> Wednesdays 6:00 pm</p> 	<p><b>YOUTH (FISH TANK)</b> <b>WEDNESDAYS</b> 6:00 PM on Zoom</p>	1	<p>2 Freda Joslin Lynette Richards</p>  <p>CHOIR 7:00 PM</p>	<p>3 Everett Whidby</p> 	<p>4 Pam Maples</p> 	5
<b>WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS</b>						
6	7	8	<p>9</p> <p>CHOIR 6:00 PM</p>	10	11	<p>12 Natalee Perkins</p>  <p>CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00—12:00</p>
13	14	15	<p>16</p> <p>CHOIR 6:00 PM</p>	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 -12:00</p>
<p>20</p>  <p>MUSIC SERVICE</p>	<p>21 Louise Austin</p> 	22	<p>23 Ann Norwood</p>  <p>NO ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM</b></p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26 Jerry Wolverton</p> 
27	28	29	<p>30 Cindy Irwin</p>  <p>NO ACTIVITIES</p>	31	 <p><i>Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. on Facebook Live at She-Shed Walker Ladies.</i></p>	

**Sunday Schedule**

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

# January 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
 <b>CHOIR REHEARSAL</b> Wednesdays 6:00 pm					1 Shirley Newell  2 	
3	4 Nick Lunn 	5	6 Sherry Sanders Debra Mangrum   CHOIR 6:00 PM	7	8	9
10	11	12	13  CHOIR 6:00 PM	14	15	16
17 Lorri Chunn 	18 	19	20  CHOIR 6:00 PM	21	22	23 Glenn Gatlin 
24	25	26	27  CHOIR 6:00 PM	28	29	30
31		 <b>YOUTH (FISH TANK)</b> <b>WEDNESDAYS at 6:00 PM</b> <b>ON ZOOM</b>			 Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. on Facebook Live at She-Shed Walker Ladies.	