

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

February/March 2023



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

How’s your new year going? We’re one month in and most of 2023 is still a blank slate – hundreds of opportunities to glorify God, to enjoy friendships, and to help others. In a nutshell, that’s our new mission statement, isn’t it? **Pray. Love. Serve.** I hope you’re working on getting those words settled into your everyday routine so that you can “buy in” and embrace personal ownership of your unique role as a part of our church family.



In case you haven’t figured it out yet, here’s what God has been leading me to accomplish for 2023 as your pastor. We have to do a better job as a church family of all working toward the same goal, so that’s why we spent 3 weeks reinforcing our collective mission. We’re more effective when we’re all pulling in the same direction, right? Once we understand the overall mission, then we can start figuring out where we each fit in. That’s the purpose of the current sermon series, **My Mission**, where we start piecing it all together and agreeing that everyone is important and we’re all needed if we’re ever going to make a lasting difference for the kingdom of God. We can do more eternal good by working together than any one of us can do on our own. That’s the beauty of the local church.

Do you remember our theme for Advent 2022? It was **He Shall Be Called...** and we listened as the prophet Isaiah reminded us of the special names for the coming Messiah. In February and March we will look at the 7 “**I Am**” statements that Jesus made about himself in the gospel of John. My hope is that this will help us prepare for Easter 2023. That, in a nutshell, is the journey we are on as we worship together on Sunday mornings and hear the Word of God. There are a lot of “behind the scenes” things happening as well. Work on the building is progressing. Physical repairs are being made to brickwork and trim. The siding has been removed and is being replaced. In a few months we’ll have a fresh new look to the exterior of the building that will hopefully reflect the fresh spirit that God is reviving on the inside! We’ll also be turning our attention to the long-awaited revamping of our worship space. That’s a project that’s long overdue and I’m excited about seeing the changes take place. The good news is that the entire project has already been funded through the proceeds of the last several Fish Fry events. God is good!

Through it all, my prayer is this – that we remember why we’re here. Remember why there is this thing called Walker Memorial Baptist Church. Remember why we gather on Sundays. Remember why God saved us and led us to this place. It’s not about buildings, or programs, or dollars, or carpet, or cameras. Those are all tools. It’s about people. It’s about our mission to share Jesus and make disciples. It’s about doing whatever it takes to see more people introduced to the life-changing message of the gospel. And it is my honor and privilege to lead as your pastor.

Chuck

Past the Breaking Point

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. – 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV)

How far back do you have to go in your memories to get to one of those seasons of life you would rather forget? A disappointment or lost opportunity. A physical illness. A rough patch in a relationship. A broken relationship. Watching a loved one in pain. Losing a loved one, whether suddenly or over a long period. Walking through these experiences can be described as difficult or excruciating – or many points in between. But it is not easy.

The part of the passage above that always catches my attention is in verse 8. “We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure.” Now think back through your list of trials again. Go back to a few of the worst examples, specifically, the ones in which you were stretched beyond your ability to endure – with the result that you didn’t endure. So... You lost your temper and said things you shouldn’t have. You became physically destructive or abusive. You thought or said things about God that you are ashamed of now. You gave up hope. The list of things we may do when we “snap” is as varied and nuanced as our own personalities.

Some of you are like me in that you are able to contain your first reaction to a situation many times and move on without letting it affect you. You bottle it up inside. And you know where this is going. Actually, most of the time this type of patience pays off, because the circumstances you are in the midst of get better and you can decompress. The person who is trying to hurt you moves on. The sad situation you have had to watch helplessly from a distance receives a touch from God and things get better.

But sometimes they don’t.... The person who seems to be out to get you — or at least annoy you — just doesn’t let up. When you finally do respond, it’s not pretty... at all. Or the pressure of a constantly difficult situation keeps building with no relief in sight. Again, the lid blows and you do or say things that are truly shameful. The object of your frustration may be completely unrelated to the situation itself. That person just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and was forced to bear a burden not deserved.

There are some related truths that make this exercise worth doing, and they are fairly simple. (1) Even if we know Jesus personally, we will have some large “fails” in our lives that seem to defy the promise of 1 Corinthians 10:13 – that no temptation has seized us which God will not give us the strength to handle properly. Our failures will be all the more painful as the Enemy and our own heart tell us that it really is hopeless, since God promised to help us deal with whatever would come our way and stand up under it... Why did we fail? Are we beyond redemption? Of course not! If even the Apostle Paul reached his breaking point, we may safely say it will happen to us as well. And none of this comes as a surprise to God.

(2) If you have experienced a major failure as a Christian in the way you have responded to your life’s trials at some point, forgiveness and a close relationship with God are still a reality. Once you belong to God as His child, nothing you can do can separate you from His love – even things that bring you tears of shame. Ask Jesus to heal and restore your heart, and ask for forgiveness from those you have hurt, even as you show your sincerity by the fresh and consistent way you demonstrate love for them.

Past the Breaking Point (continued)

(3) And choose today to exercise your ability to show a kindness to someone else. A small act of kindness can go a long way toward making the world a better place. It can also defuse huge amounts of frustration when applied in just the right way at the right time (something God sets up for us when we are attentive to His leadings). Recently I was at Kroger fairly late in the day, on a slow day when all of the check-out lines had closed. As one who dislikes grocery shopping, I generally try to stock up as much as possible when I’m there and often have a full buggy. This particular day, doing self check-out would have been back-breaking and taken at least 20 minutes. One of the employees saw me with the buggy and pulled a co-worker aside and opened a lane for check-out. I was on my way to the car in 10 minutes. And each of them earned a little more for that hour of work, too. What made it more meaningful was that the one who decided to make it happen was supposed to be off work already for the night (saw her clock out). But she chose to help me instead of leaving on time. I left there asking God to bless those two workers, because they genuinely touched my heart by helping me.

On the whole, be merciful to yourself and get back up when you have a major failure in life, especially since God is always merciful and forgiving. Be intentionally kind to others every chance you get. You might be instrumental in helping another person escape the “straw” that would break their spiritual back, putting them on a road toward even greater heartache than they already have. Just love God by loving yourself and others. That’s what Jesus would do.

Walking with You,

Andy



This year the deacon/staff ‘get together’ will be a luncheon. This will enable more participation in that those who find it challenging to drive in the dark, won’t have to. We will enjoy Momma Marti’s delicious fare (menu to be determined) and great fellowship on Saturday, March 11 at noon. All active and inactive deacons, along with their spouses, are encouraged to attend We look forward to a great time together. Please RSVP as soon as you can so we can get an accurate count for Marti ... Thank you and God bless. Shalom, Bill

DEACON OF THE WEEK			
Feb. 5	Doug Leonard	March 5	Tom Massey
Feb. 12	Chris Wheeler	March 12	Bill Reitmeyer
Feb. 19	Wally Whidby	March 19	Bobby Hargrove
Feb. 26	Ed Madden	March 26	Doug Leonard

GO.....TEACH.....BAPTIZE JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.

I am so grateful for each of you. Mission involvement and support have become such a vibrant part of Walker Baptist Church. People have given liberally from their hearts and pockets to support and engage in mission work in our community, our nation, and across the globe. Much like the famous Christmas movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life” I’m guessing many of us have a very limited perspective of how dramatically each of us have touched and changed others near and far. Often, we vastly underestimate our actions and influence on this planet. It would be beneficial to stop and really reflect on the way God has and continues to use us as we serve.

Recent mission activities have included the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering breakfast where Marti, her crew, and the mission team served a delicious array of breakfast foods. This fellowship breakfast added a hefty sum toward a total Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal—a blowout total of \$5,546.00, far surpassing the 3200.00 goal proposed. In response to the cold temperatures, we are presently collecting warm socks for the homeless in our area. There is still time to contribute.

In February we will be supporting the work of Oak Cottage. Details will be included in announcements and printed in our Sunday bulletin. On March 5th through the 12th we will be focusing on North American missions through the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. I look forward to bringing each families’ name and specific prayer needs to God as a church family. It is a special time in the life of our church.

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Who shall I send and who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8

Marie



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

12-6 pm

Walker Fellowship Hall

Registration is available at redcrossblood.org. Search for WMBC.
Questions?? Contact Barbara Madden

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

February 5	Linda Garnette, Mary Stinson	March 5	Chris & Kelley Wheeler
February 12	Pam Johnson, Janice Vaughan	March 12	Sandy Godwin, Austin Godwin
February 19	Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum	March 19	Kay LaFever, Kate Lee
February 26	Alexandria & Louise Austin	March 26	Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard

PRAY · LOVE · SERVE



Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

Several years ago, I was playing accordion with a band that I was part of in Minneapolis, and I had a solo part at the beginning of a particular song of ours. During the solo, I hit a note that was so far off from what I intended to do that it made my whole body cringe, so I quickly tried to resolve it and move on. I recorded all of our shows, and for the longest time I could never listen back on that particular recording because of that one note. Over a year later I finally did, and I was amazed by the fact that I actually liked my mistake better than what I had intended to do in the first place, and permanently changed how I played that line from then on.

I told that story to some folks in our church recently, and it reminded me of Prov. 3:5-6 NIV:

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.”*



We spend far too much of our lives worrying about whether things we’ve done have lived up to the vision that we had for them, when the simple truth is that our main priority needs to be paying attention to whether what we are doing is for the Lord or not. The Bible is clear that if we are submitting ourselves to God, the end result of what we’re doing may not look a thing like what we intended, but it will be used in exactly the way that He intended. It is my prayer that each of us is willing to give over to God the things in our lives that we’ve been trying to manage ourselves, and give thanks as He uses those things for His glory instead of our own.

These next few months should prove to be very exciting for the Music & Worship Ministry with an upgrade to our audio/visual equipment. I am grateful that the church voted to approve the project, and I am hoping that it will be a smooth and easy transition that ends up being a wonderful investment for our church. We should see a great deal of improvement in both our livestream and in-person church services because of these upgrades, and our ultimate goal is to better be able to serve our community because of them. The Technology & Media Team will be making final decisions on proposals in the coming weeks, and work should begin shortly thereafter. I pray God’s continued blessing on Walker Baptist Church in 2023!

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson





A SPECIAL NIGHT JUST FOR YOU

PRESENTED BY: WALKER
BAPTIST YOUTH

ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DINNER
THEATER



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023 @ 5PM till

Walker Baptist Church 1350 W. Main St., Franklin, Tn. 37064 Ph. (615)794-7000

Everyone is invited! Non-members are invited to come and enjoy a special evening of great food and special entertainment at no extra charge.

SOUP/SALAD

SMOKED GOUDA & BROCCOLI SOUP
CAESAR SALAD

ENTREE'S

PROSCIUTTO WRAPPED PORK LOIN
STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST w/Spinach, Sun-dried Tomato & Feta

VEGETABLES

HERB-ROASTED BABY POTATOES
GARLIC GRILLED ASPARAGUS
BROWN SUGAR GLAZED CARROTS
SAUTEE'D SQUASH/ZUCCHINI & CHERRY TOMATOES

BREAD

HOMEMADE ORANGE GLAZED YEAST ROLLS

DESSERTS

MARTI'S FAMOUS BANANA'S FOSTER w/Vanilla Bean Ice Cream
PLUS, AN ASSORTMENT OF MOUTH-WATERING DESSERTS

"SUGGESTED" DONATION: \$50.00 PER COUPLE \$25.00 PER INDIVIDUAL

ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT THE YOUTH GROUP SUMMER MISSIONS TRIP

SIGN-UP BY: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 (Sign-up sheet on table in hallway)


CHILDCARE AVAILABLE --SIGN-UP REQUIRED (may also message Marti Leonard @ (615) 403-9691)

(Ages infant – 5 years)

WEDNESDAY SUPPER MENUS				
FEBRUARY 1	FEBRUARY 8	FEBRUARY 15	FEBRUARY 22	MARCH 1
Spaghetti/ meat sauce Green beans Salad/Dessert	Deluxe Sandwich Bar Chips Dessert	Meat Loaf Mashed Potatoes Broccoli/Cauliflower Cabbage Salad/Dessert	BBQ Pork Baked Beans Potato Salad Cole Slaw Dessert	MARTI'S MARDI GRAS Chkn/Saus. Jambalaya Creole Red Beans/Rice Cane River Bread Pudding etc

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	
See Calendars		Church Telephone	615-794-7000
		<u>Emails</u>	
		Church	ask@walkerbc.org
		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/UCJVlu3AI5oqidRnJMY03Ssw	

Walker Baptist Church



Pray. Love. Serve.

A Review of Walker’s New Mission Statement and Logo

Pray. Love. Serve. is the new mission statement for Walker 2023 and beyond. Following is a review of the meaning and purpose of this Mission that was introduced in the first three sermons of 2023.

Pray. Our first-level relationship commitment is to God. We strengthen that relationship through ongoing communication with him in prayer, which leads to worship, honor, reverence, respect, and obedience.

Love. Our second-level relationship commitment is to one another (the church). The New Testament is filled with challenges and exhortations to love one another, encourage one another, challenge one another, etc.

Serve. Our third-level relationship commitment is to the world. Our mission is to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the best way we can do that is through our actions. We will serve our fellow man in the spirit of Jesus, and do so with generosity and grace, for that is how Jesus reached us.

Our Mission Statement for Walker Baptist Church. Pray. Love. Serve. May we do so with joy as we follow Jesus in 2023.

February 2023

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE





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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>REGULAR WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</u> Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:00 Kids' Missions & Music 6:00-7:20 Youth Fish Tank, She-Shed 6:00-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30			1 REGULAR SCHEDULE	2	3 Linda Garnett BLOOD DRIVE 12-6 pm Fellowship Hall	4
5 Emily Sanders  REGULAR SCHEDULE	6 1:00 Prayer Meeting	7	8 Wanda Withers (94 years old) McKenna Donoho  REGULAR SCHEDULE	9 Dolly Hardison 	10	11  YOUTH FUNDRAISER BANQUET & LOCK-IN
12 Chuck McElhannon  REGULAR SCHEDULE	13	14 	15 REGULAR SCHEDULE	16	17	18
19 REGULAR SCHEDULE	20 Larry Darnell   1:00 Prayer Meeting	21	22 REGULAR SCHEDULE	23	24 Bobby Hargrove Jane Sawyer 	25
26 REGULAR SCHEDULE	27	28				

March 2023

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>REGULAR WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</u> Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:00 Kids' Missions & Music 6:00-7:20 Youth Fish Tank, She-Shed 6:00-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30			1 Violet Boswell 	2 Reese Potts 	3 Danny Stinson 	4
5 REGULAR SCHEDULE	6 Jimmy Heithcock 	7	8 Ed Madden 	9	10	11 Bruce Potts  <div>Deacon/Staff Luncheon 12 noon</div>
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS						
12 Representative of Gideon's International in Worship Service REGULAR SCHEDULE	13 Hannah Catherine Lackey 	14 Tammy Adair 	15 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study; 7:30 pm Choir WCS SPRING BREAK— No Supper, Youth or Children's Activities	16	17 Tom Massey 	18
19 REGULAR SCHEDULE	20	21	22 REGULAR SCHEDULE	23 Jacob Chunn 	24 Alexandria Austin 	25
26 REGULAR SCHEDULE	27 Troy Guttormson Charles Bateson 	28	29 Faye Campbell 	30 Ellouise Jefferson 	31 Sue McClary 	<u>UPCOMING:</u> April 7, GOOD FRIDAY April 9, EASTER