

# Encourager

## Walker Baptist Church

June/July 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

By the time you read this article, (hopefully and prayerfully), we'll finally be back in our worship space, Praise the Lord! It's taken longer than we expected, and cost more than we had planned, but the renovation of our sanctuary has been long overdue and is a welcome improvement to our church campus. Let's keep in mind that we didn't remodel just so we can point with pride to a new space and say, "Look what we did! Isn't it nice?"

A sanctuary is a gathering place for the people of God; a designated space for coming into God's presence and giving him worship, and glory, and honor. It's a place for free expression of our thankfulness to the Lord. A place where we can all come before our Lord as equals and declare our unity. A safe place.

My prayer is that our worship will be enhanced, that the desire to invite others to church will be re-charged, and that, ultimately, we will reach others for Jesus Christ. If we fail to do these things, then our efforts and energies and spending have been for naught. Let's keep this in mind as we move forward. It's not about the place. It's about people. Always has been. Always will.

Plans are coming together for a special celebration once we are fully operational in the sanctuary. Those plans include a celebration luncheon after church (we'll announce in advance the actual date), a celebration of all new members from the past couple of years, a guided walk through a Ministry Interest Survey along with an opportunity to sign up for a specific area of service so that we will be well-prepared to move through the summer months and look ahead to beginning a new church year in September on solid, healthy footing.

In June I will begin a sermon series called On the Fringe. These four messages are all taken from Luke's gospel, and highlight Jesus' compassion and his willingness to reach out to the unpopular and the "less than socially acceptable" crowd. The specific groups for this sermon series are the desperate, the untouchables, the broken, and the outlaws. I daresay all of us either know someone who fits into one of these categories, or we have been there ourselves. What better way to launch a new sanctuary than to truly make it open to those who need God the most?

I will then follow with a series of six sermons taken from Romans chapter 8. There is no better passage that clearly delivers a full understanding of sin, salvation, the Spirit, and grace.

God has been repeating these words into my life for the past few months, and I pass them along to you... ***"Tell someone about Jesus. Invite someone to church."***

Let's all do those two simple things, and praise the Lord for the results!

**Chuck**



## Thank You



*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."*

--- Colossians 3:15-16 (NIV)

One of the most beautiful qualities we can learn to exhibit as children of God is **gratitude**. It changes the complexion of our thoughts toward the positive and gently guides us in our decisions to be less selfish and more thoughtful of others. Gratitude can be a very effective cleanser of our spiritual palette as we walk through this life. It washes away our trivial gripes and complaints and the bitter taste they leave behind. It gives sin one less reason to prevail in our thoughts and actions. It is contagious and can change the atmosphere of a room or a conversation.

We enjoy being around people who look on the bright side of things in a realistic manner. We generally want to learn how to have their outlook. Well, I've been told that it starts first thing in the morning when we wake up. Some of you (parents) may not have the luxury of being still for a few moments upon awakening, but as long as your day doesn't progress too far, you can do this: Just name five very specific things for which you are truly grateful when you say your wake-up prayer to God. Take the time to picture each person, thing, quality, or gift that comes to mind. Good luck limiting it to five once you get started. Expend the effort to think for those few moments and to pray aloud or in your heart the actual words, "God, thank You so much for...." You may not *feel* gratitude at that moment for any of a number of reasons, but when you are honest with yourself, you will recognize that you have a great deal more to be thankful for than you have to be frustrated about. Try gratitude... It's Biblical.

And speaking of gratitude.....I want to thank each of you from every crevice and corner of my heart for the incredible sabbatical you blessed me and my family with. I certainly wasn't the only one who benefitted. For anyone reading this who does not know, the church gave me the month of April to rest, recoup, and be with my family. There were also some goals set about cleaning and organizing at my home and in my office, or something like that.... But let's not talk about those right now.

Actually, that is exactly what I want to "talk" to you about here – and already have. My cleaning and organization goals were not met during the sabbatical. I realize that is not what sabbaticals are meant for. But in my case it was and is needed so my environment can be simplified, improving my mental health through the reduction of clutter – making it possible to focus better on whatever I am doing. There was some good progress made at home, and the benefits have already brought a great deal of encouragement.

But God made sure that I learned the importance of gratitude during my sabbatical. You see, the very first day, April 1st, Mom reached a point of not being able to breathe that we had to call 911. As it turns out, she had suffered a mild but dangerous heart attack, and her body could not process the fluid building up. We spent that first week of April at Williamson Medical Center. My brother came up from Atlanta to help me and my sister – and we were amazed again at watching Mom bounce back from a low point and start to feel better again.

The greatest lesson I learned from the sabbatical is that people are what matter most to God. You matter. I matter, and all eight billion people on the planet matter to God. When God is ready for me to finish the cleaning projects, He will provide the motivation and opportunity I need to take care of it. Until then, I just need to do the best I can and remain **grateful** while doing so. Count to five and beyond every morning. See if it helps you, too.

Walking with You,  
*Andy*

FUGE CAMPS 2024

# CENTRIFUGE

JUNE 3-8, 2024

UNION UNIVERSITY  
JACKSON, TN

REVIVAL GENERATION.

WALKER YOUTH  
SUMMER OF  
SERVICE

2024

SCAN HERE

<https://forms.gle/DPUvwJyzxXBVHB6C9>

**Youth are doing service projects for church members Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm (please, no weed pulling). To request assistance, please access the registration form by scanning the QR code above.**

**Questions? Email [kwhidby@lipscomb.edu](mailto:kwhidby@lipscomb.edu) or ask Wally. If you don't have a project need, but would like a visit/prayer time, they would love it!**





# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 17-21, 2024

6:00-8:30 PM

AGES 3-10 (OR COMPLETED 5TH GRADE)

CONTACT TROY@WALKERBC.ORG

<https://walkerbc.org/vacation-bible-school-1>

## SUMMER BOOK CLUB



Join us as we discuss the book "Nothing to Prove" by Jennie Allen. We will meet from 6-7:30pm in the She-Shed. All are welcome. Please purchase your book before the first session.

Dates: June 5, June 12, July 10, July 17, and July 24.

### JUNE

Single serving, RTE foods, personal hygiene items, and incidentals for the Student Ministry's BackPacks for the Homeless program



SUMMER COLLECTIONS

### JULY

Non-perishable foods, personal hygiene and household items to fill the pantry at *Grace Works*

Thank you for supporting the missions projects throughout the year. They make a difference!

From Pastor Chuck's message "Tell someone about Jesus. Invite someone to church."

Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

Like many of you, I have been greatly encouraged by the growth our church has been experiencing lately. In the past couple of months, we've seen a lot of new faces come through our doors to visit, and several of them have decided to make Walker their permanent church home. Since we recently celebrated Pentecost Sunday, this growth and sense of revival has me thinking about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early church as described in Acts 2:46-47 NIV:

*"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

In the last several years, a word that gets thrown around a lot by people looking for a church is "authenticity." Many of these people are starving for real-world examples of God's love and truth, and we have been blessed with the opportunity to share real spiritual food with them. I believe that though our church is small compared to some, we are mighty in our mission to provide the love of Christ to the community around us through the very same power of the Holy Spirit that was experienced by the early Christians.

Our church is on the verge of wrapping up a massive renovation project that so many of our members have contributed to. I pray that this is a transformation of not just our physical space, but also of our minds, our hearts, and our mission, so that we are fully equipped for the blessing of any newcomers that God will provide. Let us be known as a church that truly loves God and loves people, and may that be a light to the world around us.

We have lots of praising and breaking bread planned with the music ministry in the upcoming sermon series, hymn sings, and church picnic. In addition, our children's summer ministry series, "World Missions", is packed with lots of fun activities related to the different continents of the world. The goal is for our children at Walker to realize that God loves people everywhere through Bible stories and the testimonies of modern missionaries. VBS is also coming up June 17-21 with the theme "Breaker Rock Beach" teaching our kids that "God's truth never changes." Please pray that God will bless our church with more adults and children throughout the summer, and that everyone in our church will be strengthened in their own relationship with Jesus and inspired to share His love with others.

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson





**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**  
**6:00 PM (unless noted otherwise)**  
**Ages 6—11**

May 29	World Missions # 1 (South America) - Dinner: Peruvian Roast Chicken, Potatoes and Corn, Activity: Canoeing on Westhaven Lake
June 5	(leave at 5:30) World Missions # 2 (North America) - Dinner: Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, Chips, Cookies. Activity: Hike Radnor Lake State Park
June 12	World Missions # 3 (Europe) - Dinner: Pizza. Activity: Soccer
June 17 - 21	Vacation Bible School 6:00-8:30 pm; June 21 Finale: Foam Fever/Water Party
June 26	Church-wide Picnic
July 3	No activities - Fourth of July Holiday
July 10	(leave at 5:30) World Missions # 4 (Africa) - Dinner: Sandwiches. Activity: Zoo
July 17	World Missions # 5 (Asia) - Dinner at 5:30. Sweet and Sour Chicken, Rice, Vegetables. Activity: Origami Cranes
July 24	(leave at 5:30) World Missions # 6 (Oceania) - Dinner: Polynesian Pulled Pork, Rice, Pineapple. Activity: Swimming
July 31	World Missions # 7 (Antarctica) - Dinner at 5:30. Chicken Nuggets, Macaroni and Cheese/ Church Ice Cream Social 6pm. Activity: Mini-Lock-In - Water Party, Roller Skating, Movie. Ends at 10pm

**Schedule subject to change.**



Day 1 of Ready. Set. SUMMER! was a huge success!



**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY HYMN SINGS - 6 pm**

June 30 — Spirituals & Folk Songs July 28 — Hymns of Charles Wesley

STAFF	
Chuck McElhannon	Senior Pastor
Andy Wolverton	Associate Pastor
Wally Whidby	Youth Pastor
Troy Guttormson	Worship Pastor
CONTACT INFORMATION	
Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Church	ask@walkerbc.org
Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
Andy	andy@walkerbc.org
Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
Troy	troy@walkerbc.org



**JULY 31, 2024**

**6:00 pm**

**Please bring your favorite ice cream (homemade or store-bought), toppings & desserts to share**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS			
June 2	Sandy Godwin, Austin Godwin	July 7	Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho
June 9	Linda Garnette, Kody Leonard	July 14	Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum
June 16	Rachel Pugliese, Janice Vaughn	July 21	Chris and Kelley Wheeler
June 23	F. Joslin, A. Lunn, H. King	July 28	Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard
June 30	Faye Campbell, Louise Austin		

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



**CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC**  
**JUNE 26, 2024 6:00 pm**


**Jim Warren Park Pavilion**

Bring side dishes to accompany hamburgers & hot dogs.  
 Contact Troy if you want to be part of the entertainment.

GREETERS	
JUNE	Volunteers needed
JULY	Elaine Thompson

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 12**  
**1:00—6:00 pm**

Preregister at [redcross.org/blood](http://redcross.org/blood) Search WMBC






# June 2024

## REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>SUMMER BOOK CLUB</b> 6:00-7:30 pm June 5, June 12, July 10, July 17, and July 24</p>			<p><b>ADULT BIBLE STUDY</b> <b>FOLLOWING JESUS IN A DIGITAL AGE</b> Wednesdays at 6:00 pm</p>			1
<p>2 Mary Hargrove Andrew Wheeler</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Gene Austin</p> 	<p>5 Henrietta Whidby</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Carolyn Stinson</p> 
 						
<p>9 Barbara Madden</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Laura Powell</p> 	<p>12 Linley Buckland</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Nick Lunn III</p>  	<p>15 Becky Locke</p> 
<p>16</p> 	<p>17 Elizabeth Lee</p>  	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Bill Reitmeyer</p>  	<p>22 Glenda Daniels Kate Lee</p> 
<p><b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 6—8:30 pm</b></p>						
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Paige Massey-Rielly</p> 	<p>26 Kay LeFever</p> 	<p>27 Delmar Locke</p> 	<p>28 Kelly Lee</p> 	<p>29</p>
<p><b>CHURCH PICNIC</b></p>						
<p>30</p>  <p><b>HYMN SING 6 pm</b></p>		<p><b>CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM</b> Wednesdays (See times on schedule) Watch announcements for activities</p>			<p><b>YOUTH SUMMER OF SERVICE</b> Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm See article for specific information</p>	

# July 2024

## REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Ella Kate Buckland Emily Cox  <b>NO ACTIVITIES</b>	4 	5	6 <b>NBA WMU ANNUAL MEETING</b>
7	8 Charlene Williams 	9	10	11	12 Drew Williams  <b>BLOOD DRIVE 1—6 pm</b>	13
14 Cherry Jackson 	15	16 Monte Garnette Nick Lunn IV Chris Wheeler 	17	18 Jami Lunn 	19	20
21	22	23	24 Henry Jefferson 	25 Helena Guttormson 	26	27
28  <b>HYMN SING 6 pm</b>	29 Joyce Pardue 	30	31 <b>ICE CREAM SOCIAL 6 pm</b>	<b>SEE JUNE CALENDAR, ARTICLES IN ENCOURAGER, AND WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>UPCOMING AUGUST 4</b> 4 pm Team Meetings 5 pm Ministry Update