

# Encourager

## Walker Baptist Church

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021



*“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*

[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.*

Happy Fall, Y'all!

October and November are among my favorite months, with the changing colors and cooling temperatures. The reds, yellows, and oranges are reminders that God is always doing what is best for us, and always has us in mind. They remind me that progress in life is always about changing, adjusting, adapting to what's going on around us.



The last year and a half has certainly brought an entire load of change, hasn't it? Seems like nothing is the same any more. Let's remember, not all change is bad. Sometimes it leads to a new way of seeing things and doing things. We've opened up a whole new avenue of ministry through our online worship services, and now we're streaming on YouTube to an audience we never dreamed of reaching. Some of our church members have friend and relatives hundreds and thousands of miles away who are now watching our services and hearing the gospel message and learning about the ministries of our church. Praise the Lord for that! It probably wouldn't have happened if we didn't have to respond to the challenges of COVID and social distancing.

We're beginning to see the value of thinking "outside the box" when it comes to reaching new people. It's not enough to say, "Well, they know we're here. They're welcome any Sunday." God gave us creative minds for a reason. Here are a few examples...

Elaura Guttormson has stepped into a leading role as director of our Social Media Ministry. She posts something every Tuesday on the church Facebook page called "Sermon Circle Back." The post serves as a follow-up to the previous Sunday's message and pushes us to think a little deeper about how the sermon can have a lasting impact. Elaura has also prepared a small flyer that we may be able to use at Halloween. When you're passing out candy at Halloween, what about also including a little card about our church? This would be especially effective if you live near the church. We'll be making that little card available here at church in the next couple of weeks. I hope you take a small handful!

We're blessed to have talented people who are willing to use their giftedness for the church body. For quite some time now Sandy Godwin Vazquez has been serving as our Church Communications Manager. In that role she wears many hats. She's responsible for the maintenance of our church website, development and distribution of the newsletter, even overseeing the transition from hard copy to electronic medium, and any mass emails that are needed. Her hard work is almost always done "behind the scenes," but the results are there for all to see and enjoy.

For the latest sermon series we created an "Invite Card" that we can hand out to friends, co-workers, and neighbors as we invite them to church with us. It always helps to have something tangible that we can put into someone's hand. I hope you've been passing them out!

Speaking of sermons, the current series, **No Doubt About It**, will run through October 10. Doubt can be the hinge that opens the door to a deeper faith in God. The next series is called **Close Encounters**. It begins on October 24 and will run through November 21. We could all use a closer relationship with Jesus, so this series takes a look at 5 different NT characters and the close relationships they each had with Jesus. What can we learn from them to deepen our own walk with Christ?

Take a deep breath. Feel the freshness. Now imagine you're breathing in a brand new filling of the Holy Spirit and God is preparing you for the next exciting season in your life!

See you Sunday!

*Chuck*



## Never Forget Them

*"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." – Hebrews 13:3 (NIV)*

**(Note to Walker Family:** Upon returning to this article to proofread it, I can clearly see that it is a bit on the negative side for me. You will feel my frustration as you read it. But it is honest, and rewriting it more softly might defeat the point. So understand that my purpose throughout is to tug your heartstrings enough that you will earnestly pray for and remember those who are mentioned here and the literally countless others in our world who are suffering in ways we cannot imagine.)

Guilty as charged... once again. Guilty of watching the news and letting it mess with my peace of mind and heart. This time, though, it was truly necessary. I am speaking about the news as it relates to our nation's withdrawal from Afghanistan at the end of August. No one could look at that situation from any sane perspective and claim that all went well. In fact, it was a situation which, by its very nature, was destined to go south. The circumstances in the country would not have allowed for a great outcome, regardless of how it had been done... but it didn't have to be *this* bad.

That is a tremendous understatement. When you take a moment to consider just a few of the factors we know about, the situation in Afghanistan was and is an unmitigated disaster. I'll leave it to others who are more qualified to tell you objectively what should have been done differently. But the most basic understanding I have as a human being screams in frustration at what is happening to thousands of people who were left in the country wrongly by callousness and incompetence. Those are strong words, but consider what is happening and tell me they are not justified.

The specific focus I have at this point are the American citizens and those who earned, through their cooperation with America, the right to come here – who were abandoned despite their best efforts to reach rescue. They have been abandoned to their deaths, many by way of torture. Can you imagine the helplessness, hopelessness, and frustration they experienced when they realized they were being left – when they saw that even outside efforts for their evacuation were being thwarted? Put yourself in their place for just a moment and picture huddling in your dark hiding place waiting as the Taliban go from house to house, looking to make an example out of anyone who sided with the United States, which they hate to the core of their being. There would be no mercy for them.

Are you tired of hearing about this already? Has the focus of our attention long since moved to other concerns? I have searched for and listened to news about this until my soul has grown weary. Praise God there are people who know how to help, and they are working tirelessly to try to reach and save as many as possible. They are in contact with these poor souls and are encouraging them to remain strong. But the damage has been done. They are abandoned in a nation which is now hostile towards them, and only by the grace of God will a few of them escape. Take the worst case scenario you can imagine and multiply it by ten. That is likely just a fraction of

what is truly happening right now in Afghanistan. The stories will come out eventually, and a few persistent journalists will continue reporting those stories because they should be heard.

So pray and pray... and never forget. We don't know how many have already been killed. I hope it was quick death for them. My heart aches for the young women who grew up knowing only freedom, who had aspired to attend college and have a career, who are now being taken from their families and forced to marry some cruel, abusive Taliban fighter. I hurt for those who risked their own safety to assist our forces and are now betrayed and being blamed for not trying harder. Yes, we will move on. We have to. But we don't have to forget these people and we never have to stop praying for them, whether they are Christians or not. And yes, these things are happening all over the world at various places at various times. But as an American I feel some responsibility for what is happening to these pitiful people in Afghanistan. Let's ask God to be merciful to them and save them.

Walking with You,

*Andy*

## FISH FRY \* CAKE AUCTION \* MUSIC \* BAKE SALE TRIBUTE TO FORMER FIREFIGHTERS /WALKER MEMBERS LOST THIS YEAR



Thank you to everyone who helped make the 16th Annual Fish Fry an overwhelming success. A special thank you to Marti, who worked tirelessly. This event would be impossible without her!!! Because of the hurricane and Covid, new challenges were encountered, but all were resolved successfully (thanks to prayers and our leader's ingenuity).

Appreciation is expressed to WAKM 950 Radio, Franklin Fire & Rescue Squad, Franklin & Spring Hill Fire Departments, Williamson County Sheriff's Department.

Greetings Walker Baptist Church Family!

I want to start off by thanking everyone for entrusting me with the honor and responsibility of being the new Worship Director at our church. I look forward to continuing to serve alongside all of the church leadership, fellow musicians and the choir, AV team, and members of the congregation who have helped me thus far. If you are looking for ways to get involved with our worship ministry, please don't hesitate to let me know!



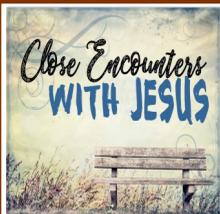
I have watched several videos over the years of music therapists working with residents at nursing homes, and it never ceases to amaze me how many of them go from almost completely unresponsive to outside stimuli to singing, dancing, and laughing with joy when a favorite song from their earlier years is put on for them to listen to. Music is so deeply connected to our psyche that it provides us with unique pathways that link us to our memories, our culture, and even the rhythms of our own bodies. For many who grew up in Christian homes, the earliest songs that they remember are songs that are related to learning about the love of God, such as "Jesus Loves Me" or "Jesus Loves the Little Children". These songs present us with simple truths that we can carry with us in our daily lives. As we get older, the songs may get more complex both musically and lyrically, but the purpose remains the same as they draw us towards the Spirit.

I've been reflecting this week on the Bible story about Paul and Silas in Prison in Acts 16:16-40, and how in a time of fear and uncertainty, the knee-jerk reaction that those two had was to begin to sing and worship the Lord. Their attitude of trusting God and praising Him regardless of circumstances not only benefitted them, but ultimately was used for the purpose of the salvation and baptism of the jailer and his family, and I would surmise that many of the other prisoners who were listening to their songs were greatly impacted as well.

How can we daily seek to put our hearts into a mode of worship to the point that it becomes a natural reflex for us in times of adversity? What would the benefit of that approach to life be both within us and to the community around us? I encourage you to put a song in your heart every day that reminds you of God's love and how much He cares for you. All of us will face hardships someday, and my prayer is that in those difficult times we will have the "instinct" to continue to praise the Lord.

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



### NEW SERMON SERIES—CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

**Beginning October 24 and running through November 21, Close Encounters will take a look at 5 different NT characters and the close relationships they each had with Jesus.**

## CHILI & SOUP COOK-OFF OCTOBER 27, 2021 5:15 PM



**CALLING ALL FALL COOKS!! ENTER YOUR FAVORITE HOME-MADE CHILI OR SOUP TO WIN A PRIZE! UNBIASED JUDGES (??) WILL SELECT THE WINNERS.**

**If you aren't entering the contest, please bring bread, crackers, or desserts to enjoy with the entries. Costumes optional.**



October 3	Debra Mangrum, Linda Garnette	November 7	Chris & Kelly Wheeler
October 10	Emily Sanders, Kay LaFever	November 14	E. Guttormson, M. McElhannon
October 17	Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard	November 21	Emily Sanders, Daianna, Austin
October 24	Pam Johnson, Janice Vaughn	November 28	Emma Rogers, Kay LaFever
October 31	Olivia Stelter, Louise Austin		

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

<b>October 3</b>	<b>Doug Leonard</b>	<b>November 7</b>	<b>Bill Reitmeyer</b>
<b>October 10</b>	<b>Wally Whidby</b>	<b>November 14</b>	<b>Bobby Hargrove</b>
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Chris Wheeler</b>	<b>November 21</b>	<b>Doug Leonard</b>
<b>October 24</b>	<b>Ed Madden</b>	<b>November 28</b>	<b>Wally Whidby</b>
<b>October 31</b>	<b>Tom Massey</b>	<b>Contact the church office to reach a deacon.</b>	



## ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Sunday, November 14 at 5:00 pm

Bring your family for a wonderful time of fellowship and great food.

Deacons & wives will be preparing turkeys. To assist with planning, please call the office or send an email with the approximate number of people you will be bringing. Members are asked to bring the following: (Ages are suggestions to divide up the food. We will not ask for proof of age or item provided).

Starchy Vegetables– Adults 19-40      Desserts– Ages 75+      Rolls– Youth

Non-Starchy Vegetables– Ages 41-55      Salads– Ages 56-75      Cranberry Sauce– Children

## HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS



Supplies and personal items were delivered to Waverly to assist those affected by the recent flood. Monetary donations are also being accepted to help provide for continuing needs. A special fund is available on our website. Visit [www.walkerbc.org/online-giving](http://www.walkerbc.org/online-giving) for instructions.

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

## STAFF

Sunday School (Youth meet live and on Zoom)	9:00 AM	Chuck McElhannon	Pastor
Worship (live and on YouTube) (Nursery available)	10:15 AM	Andy Wolverton Wally Whidby Troy Guttormson	Associate Pastor Youth Minister Worship Leader

## WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Supper (Youth meet live and on Zoom)	5:15 PM	Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Adult Bible Study	6:15 PM	Church	ask@walkerbc.org
Choir	7:30 PM	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://twitter.com/wbcfranklin>
- <https://www.instagram.com/wbcfranklin/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJVlu3AI5oqidRnJMY03Ssw>

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

### FILL A SHOEBOX WITH LOVE AND GIFTS

include a \$9 donation per shoebox to cover S&H

### WALKER COLLECTION DATES OCT. 10—NOV 19

**INSTRUCTIONS AND IDEAS FOR BUILDING SHOE BOXES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DISPLAY TABLE OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY**

### WALKER YOUTH WILL BUILD-A-BOX FOR YOU!

We have added a new opportunity this year. For those who want to participate but just don't have the time or energy, you may donate to the youth program and they will shop for toys and gifts, pack the boxes, and pray for the potential recipients. Suggested donation per box is \$35+, which includes S&H. You may make out a check to the church and label it for Youth Shoe Box Fund, or put the money in an envelope and hand it to Wally, Andy, or Sandy. Deadline for this program is Nov. 7th.

More information can be found at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Sunday School 9:00 am  
 In person classes for babies, children, youth & adults.  
 Youth also offered on Zoom  
 Worship Service (live & YouTube) 10:15 am

# October 2021

**WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

Fellowship Dinner 5:15-6:00 pm  
 Children (Missions & Music) 6:00-7:20 pm  
 Youth, She-Shed, Adults 6:15-7:20 pm  
 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30 pm

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 <p><b>OPERATION CHRISTMAS                  CHILD SHOE BOX COLLECTION DATES                  October 10-November 21</b></p>		<p><b>Think Like Jesus</b>                  New Adult Bible Study by Randy Frazee begins Oct. 13th.</p>		1 Brian Wessels 	2	
3	4	5 Avery Lunn 	6 Taco Bar	7	8 Theresa Rogers 	9 Vonda Hazelwood 
10	11 Claudette Reed 	12	13 Pizza	14	15	16
17	18 Nita Potts 	19	20 Kevin Adair 	21 Sandwich Bar	22 Flo Young 	23
24	25 Harry Dugan 	26	27  5:15 PM Chili-Soup Cook-off	28 Joanne Fields 	29 Pam Johnson 	30
31	<p><b>CHILI-SOUP COOK-OFF 5:15 pm OCTOBER 27</b>                  COOK A BIG POT OF YOUR FAVORITE HOME-MADE CHILI OR SOUP. PRIZES FOR WINNERS.                  Please bring desserts if not entering the contest.</p>					

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Sunday School 9:00 am  
 In person classes for babies, children, youth & adults.  
 Youth also offered on Zoom  
 Worship Service (live & YouTube) 10:15 am

# November 2021

**WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

Fellowship Dinner 5:15-6:00 pm  
 Children (Missions & Music) 6:00-7:20 pm  
 Youth, She-Shed, Adults 6:15-7:20 pm  
 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30 pm

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

	1 Wallace Joslin 	2	3 Eddie Hardison Elaine Thompson 	4	5	6
7 <b>BUDGET MEETING 5:00 PM</b>	8 Wally Whidby Marie McElhannon  <b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b>	9	10	11	12	13 <b>10 AM SHOWER Paige Massey</b> 
14 Brenda Darnell  <b>THANKSGIVING DINNER 5:00 PM</b>	15	16	17 Karen Whidby Lisa Zekany 	18 Amy Hazelwood 	19 Kody Leonard 	20
21	22 Jack Williams 	23	24 <b>NO EVENING ACTIVITIES</b>	25  <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26	27 Andrew Poe 
28 	29	30	  <b>OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX COLLECTION DATES OCT. 10- NOV 21</b>			
<b>WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS NOV. 28—DEC. 5</b>						