

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

October/November 2022



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



Can you sense the movement of God upon our church family? God is definitely blessing us. We have added eight new members to our church family in the past few months, and that's so exciting!

Our midweek programs are off to a great start, and I am so encouraged by the attendance at our Wednesday suppers and Bible studies. Jennifer, Jamie, and Donna are doing fantastic work in leading ladies' Bible studies, and Troy & Marie are seeing faithful attendance in our children's music and missions programs. Ministry Teams are off and running, looking ahead to doing some great work in the new church year, and I'm grateful for a renewed sense of commitment and optimism from so many of you as you have signed up to serve in ministry areas that are close to your heart.

By the time this article is posted we'll be halfway through our next sermon series, **Stand Strong**. The goal of this series is to embrace the truth that life is better when we have an unshakeable faith. After that, the next fall sermon series will be entitled **Six Powerful Words**, and will run from mid-October through Thanksgiving week. Here are those six words:

Wow
Sorry
No
Enough
Help
Thanks

Think of how our lives can be more balanced and blessed if we can learn to embrace each of these words in our daily living. Please make a commitment to be here in person for each of these messages. I think you'll be glad you did.

October and November are busy transition months in the life of the church. We've settled into a new schedule as we put summer behind us. Parents are back into a comfortable school and church routine. Fish Fry and State Missions remind us of how important this church is in our community and state. Now we look ahead to Fall Festival, Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, cold-weather backpack ministry for the homeless, and Thanksgiving. Each one of these events is an opportunity for prayer, outreach, ministry, and personal involvement.

I want to repeat a statement made in the book we're studying on Wednesday nights in our adult Bible study time. In the book, **The Life of a Jesus Follower**, by Vance Pitman, the author states, "Church isn't an event you attend but a family to which you belong." The value in attending church on Sundays goes far beyond the 90 minutes you're in the worship center. There's an undeniable, indescribable sense of community and family that can't be found anywhere else.

For those of you who are actively, intimately involved in the life of our church, you know what I'm talking about. My prayer is that more of us would come to appreciate and value the role of church fellowship as we work together to reach our neighbors for Christ.

Pastor Chuck



Here for a Reason

“¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” – John 17:15-18 (ESV)

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't take Christians home to heaven once they trust Christ as Savior? Have you ever wondered why Jesus would leave a perfect heaven to live a life of relative suffering on earth? Well, does the word “love” come to mind? We have people here to love, and Jesus showed the ultimate love by giving His life for us on the Cross. Nevertheless, once we belong to God, this world is no longer our home, and heaven offers much to look forward to one day.

Since Jesus knew that the world is not a perfect place but one often inhabited with sin and suffering, He prayed that His Father might protect Christians from satan (I don't capitalize his name) and purify them in the truth of the Word of God. Armed with that protection and power, He sends us out to a fallen world to do one thing: *love* them. We do that by valuing every person as God does and by acting accordingly.

When we cross paths with an unpleasant person (whether they are saved or not), we need God's help to see the *truth* of the situation we are in. God loves that person perfectly, the same as He loves us, and we are not as holy and without blame as we might think. Our job is to show kindness, compassion, and genuine concern for *all* people, not just the nice ones. The greatest need any person has is to enter a saving relationship with Jesus, Who is the Truth. If we act according to the truth, we will look for opportunities God provides to share the Gospel with anyone He brings our way. That means we are ready with a brief testimony from our own life about when we were saved, and as part of that testimony we share in a very simple version what the Bible says about becoming a Christian. The easiest way to remember the main points is to use the A, B, C's of salvation.

“A” is for admitting that we have sinned and done wrong before a holy God. “B” is for believing that what the Bible says about Jesus is true – that He is willing and capable of forgiving the sin of anyone who calls out to Him in prayer from a sincere heart. And “C” is for confessing that Jesus is your Savior and Lord – He is the One in charge because you have surrendered your life completely to Him. Without that surrender, the commitment doesn't mean anything because you are still your own boss at that point.

When Christians see people in Truth, as God sees them, we will naturally love them. And that is why we are here – to love people in the way that most significantly meets their highest need at the moment. Listening to the story of someone with a broken or anxious heart can be a fantastic demonstration of love. An unexpected act of service to a family member to make his or her day better can show much love. Giving your resources and time to another person can show great love. And sharing the Gospel with someone, even if it is uncomfortable at first, is the most foundational act of love we can carry out.

Jesus left heaven to provide us the benefits of forgiveness and salvation, a result of the greatest act of love ever shown. God leaves Christians in the world so that we may demonstrate the love we have received from Him as often as possible to others, trusting that He knows best for us. In the meantime, He protects us from the evil one and purifies our hearts with the truth of His Word. Now the question is: Who is the next person God will lead you to show His love today? — Andy

We have just concluded our 7-week study of Luke 15. We dug deep into Jesus' words in red and what He teaches about repentance using our Middle Eastern lens of study. We learned that in the Middle East, the three stories that Jesus tells are called the parables of the Good Shepherd, the Good Woman, and the Running Father. In the context in which Jesus taught these parables, they are answering the mutterings of the Pharisees asking why Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners. And why does He? So he can teach the Hebrew understanding of repentance or T'Shuva. They are stories of the Living God running after the lost and those that He finds allowing themselves to be brought home. God is so much better than we can ever imagine.



We are heading into Hebrews 11 over the next several weeks to understand what faith can look like in different circumstances. Sometimes it's taking a step forward when the world tells you to hold back and sometimes it is letting go because what God has for us is more than we could ever dream. This is an open invitation to all ladies to join us in the She-Shed. Come as you are to learn more about who the Living God is and what He's like and how great His love is for each of us.



THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY



Donna Williams and Jamie Hulker (from Clearview Baptist Church) are leading a Precept Study called Unexpected Revival: Experiencing God's Goodness through Disappointment and Doubt, by Erica Wiggernhorn, based on the Old Testament book of Ezekiel. All ladies are welcome to attend even if you have not been to the previous sessions.

DATES: October 6—27, 2022

TIME: 9:30—11:00 am

LOCATION: Fellowship Hall

Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!



1 Peter 2:2-3 NIV says: “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good”.

A few days ago, my wife Elaura & I introduced our youngest daughter Lenora to solid food for the first time. I thought about these verses and considered how for a baby that is nursing, the mother’s milk is more than just a form of sustenance; it is even more than a life-giving necessity—it’s a unique bond and language that exists between the mother and the child. The mother’s body produces an exact formula based on unspoken communication that the baby is giving her that in turn provides nutrition, immune support, and sleep cycle regulation—just to name a few of the benefits. In addition, the milk alters itself from feeding to feeding to stay up-to-date on the baby’s ever-changing needs.

When my daughter is ready to eat, there is nothing in the world that is more important to her than getting the milk she craves; nothing else can pacify or satisfy her. When Peter refers to Christians using that metaphor, it is a powerful statement of total dependence on Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can give us the spiritual food that is crafted specifically for our soul. In our recent sermon series, we covered Matthew 5:6, which in the NIV says “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” The gift that God gives us in return for a desperate longing for Him is to be quenched and satisfied with the perfect formula of life-giving and soul-rejuvenating love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

As we start looking ahead towards Christmas, we are entering an exciting season of worship at Walker Baptist Church. I have been blessed since it was last mentioned that so many of our members have come to me excited to participate in leading offertories, calls to worship, and benedictions. Please help continue that momentum by letting me know if there are any ways in which you would like to participate in worship. We have a specific need for more voices (particularly alto, tenor, and bass) in our Adult Choir. If you don’t have much experience with choir but love to sing, I teach basic concepts of music reading, singing technique, and musicality at our rehearsals on Wednesday nights. Finally, if you are interested in having your child participate in the Christmas program on December 11th, please let me know so I can leave a spot open! Blessings to you all!

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson

Thank you to all who helped with our **17th Annual Fish Fry** and to those who attended. The weather was perfect. The cake auction results were amazing! The sea of red shirts worn by the volunteers still brings tears to my eyes.

Thank you for your dedication, I love every one of you.

Martí Leonard (Mama Martí)



October 2	Linda Garnette, Mary Stinson	NURSERY WORKERS SUNDAYS 10:00
October 9	Kody Leonard, Kay LaFever	November 6 Chris & Kelley Wheeler
October 16	Pam Johnson, Janice Vaughan	November 13 Kay LaFever, Kate Lee
October 23	Debra Mangrum, Emily Sanders	November 20 Sandy & Austin Godwin
October 30	Alexandria & Louise Austin	November 27 Jennifer & Kody Leonard

FISH FRY MEMORIES



October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Chicken & Dumplings Mixed Veggies/Pinto Beans Salad/Dessert	Meat Loaf Mashed Potatoes Carrots Salad/Dessert	Deluxe Sandwich Bar Chips Dessert	Chili/Soup Cookoff (Watch Facebook for more information)
November 2	November 9	November 16	November 30
Loaded Baked Potato Bar Assorted Toppings Salad/Dessert	Grilled Hamburgers/Hot Dogs French Fries Dessert	Turkey Wraps Pasta Salad Fresh Fruit/Dessert	Pizza Pizza Pizza Salad Dessert

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TUESDAY NOON.

PRICES ARE STILL A BARGAIN!

Adults—\$5.00 Children 4-12 - \$4.00 Children 3 and under—Free

Maximum family charge \$25.00. (Must be living in the same household)



GROUP PRAYER TIME
 1:00 pm in the Prayer Room
 October 14 and 28
 November 18

A group of church members meets twice a month for an intense time of prayer and meditation. If you have a prayer request, no matter how small, please let Andy know about it. We will pray for you, or a friend. We will also pray for unspoken requests. We would welcome new members to this group.

The Prayer Room is also available any time the church is open.

DEACON OF THE WEEK

October 2	Bobby Hargrove	CALL	November 6	Tom Massey
October 9	Doug Leonard	CHURCH OFFICE	November 13	Bill Reitmeyer
October 16	Chris Wheeler	FOR	November 20	Bobby Hargrove
October 23	Wally Whidby	CONTACT	November 27	Doug Leonard
October 30	Ed Madden	INFORMATION		



DECORATE A CAR OR TRUCK, BRING TREATS TO PASS OUT, AND JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT AT -

TRUNK OR TREAT-WALKER STYLE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022
 6:30 PM



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
FILL A SHOEBOX WITH LOVE AND GIFTS

include a \$10 donation per shoebox to cover shipping and handling



WALKER COLLECTION DATES
OCTOBER 16—NOVEMBER 16

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
SHOE BOX PACKING PARTY

The Missions and Outreach team would like to invite everyone to join us on Wednesday, November 9th, immediately following supper, to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. It will be a night of fellowship, fun, Christmas songs and treats as we put together gifts that will travel the world to children who will learn how much Jesus loves them and that He sees them right where they are. More details to follow.



WATCH FACEBOOK and CHECK THE DISPLAY TABLE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

NEW SERMON SERIES— SIX POWERFUL WORDS
BEGINS OCTOBER 16

SORRY NO THANKS WOW ENOUGH HELP

CHILI & SOUP COOK-OFF
OCTOBER 26, 2022
5:30 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 chili/soup. Costumes optional.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sunday, November 13, 2022

5:00 PM

Bring your family and join us for a churchwide fellowship, celebrating the blessings we have received from God this year. If anyone would like to provide part of the entertainment, please contact Troy. It does not have to be singing.

Deacons will provide Turkey and Dressing. Suggested items from church members include:

Adults 60 & over	Vegetables
Adults 40—59	Salads
Adults under 40	Desserts
Children	Cranberry Sauce
Youth	Bread



Many thanks to Walker's outstanding ministerial staff for their service. We are truly blessed.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Social Media Links

<https://www.walkerbc.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/wbcfranklin/>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJVtu3Al5oqidRnJMY03Ssw>

Church Telephone 615-794-7000

Emails

Church ask@walkerbc.org
 Chuck chuck@walkerbc.org
 Andy andy@walkerbc.org
 Wally wally@walkerbc.org
 Troy troy@walkerbc.org

YOUTH BACKPACK MINISTRY

With the leaves falling and the sudden drop in nighttime temperatures, it's time to think again about our friends who do not have a warm place to stay or warm clothes to wear. They may also be hungry, and need a little sustenance to keep them going. Maybe they just need to know that someone cares. The youth hope you'll help them fill some of these needs. Please bring items for the "Cold Weather" Backpacks. Containers will be placed in the Welcome Center and Hallway for suggested items, such as:












SOLAR BLANKETS	GLOVES	SOCKS	SMALL BLANKETS
STOCKING HATS	PEANUT BUTTER	CRACKERS	BOTTLED JUICES
HAND WARMERS	INDIVIDUALLY PACKAGED FRUIT	COOKIES	MEAT POUCHES



October 2022

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Brian Wessels 
2	3	4	5 Avery Lunn 	6 9:30 LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	7	8 Theresa Rogers 
9 Vonda Hazelwood 	10	11 Claudette Reed 	12	13 9:30 LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	14	15
16	17 Allison Wiley 	18 Nita Potts 	19	20 Kevin Adair 	21 9:30 LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	22 Flo Young 
23	24	25	26   TRUNK OR TREAT	27 9:30 LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	28 Joanne Fields Justin Stelter 	29 Pam Johnson 
30	31				WEDNESESDAY SCHEDULE Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:00 Kids' Missions & Music, Fish Tank 6:00-7:20 She-Shed, Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30	

November 2022

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Wallace Joslin 	2	3 Eddie Hardison Elaine Thompson 	4	5 Gregg LaFever 
6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	7	8 Marie McElhannon Wally Whidby 	9  OCC SHOE BOX PACKING PARTY	10 Daisy Whidby 	11	12
13 	14 Brenda Darnell 	15	16	17 Karen Whidby Lisa Zekany 	18 	19 Kody Leonard 
20	21	22 Jack Williams 	23 NO ACTIVITIES	24  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25	26
27 Andrew Poe Richard Zekany 	28	29	30	WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:00 Kids' Missions & Music, Fish Tank 6:00-7:20 She-Shed, Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30		