

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

April/May 2026



1350 West Main Street, Franklin, TN 37064
615-794-7000
www.walkerbc.org

"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

"All Scripture is God-breathed." "Your Word is a lamp for my feet." "The Word of God is living and active." "In the beginning was the Word." You know these Bible verses well. God's Word – his message delivered not to angels and heavenly beings, but to real people. People like you and me. People searching for guidance, for understanding, for hope. God's Word is the lifeline between earth and heaven. My point is this: cherish your Bible!

I'm a big believer in visual aids. You may have noticed the collection of photos I have mounted on the wall outside the entrance to the sanctuary. Photos of Bibles. Not just any Bibles. These are your Bibles. The ones you bring to church. The ones you cherish and use in your own personal study time. The ones where you write down study notes and sermon notes. I want to add to the photo mural. If I haven't taken a photo of you and your Bible, please let me know. I'd love to see that entire wall filled with photos of our Bibles.



Can you imagine your life without an accessible Bible? Most of us have two or three, at least, laying around the house. What if you didn't have any? Your spiritual health would certainly suffer, wouldn't it? Now think about the millions of believers around the world who don't have a Bible to call their own. There is an organization that we have been promoting for a while now called Love Packages. Their mission is to collect unused and extra Bibles and send them to Christians scattered across the globe who are hungry for the Word of God.

We will be delivering a load of Bibles, SS material, and Christian literature to the Love Packages warehouse in Decatur, AL on Monday, April 13. There is room on the church bus for 15 of us to go and work in their warehouse on that day. Would you like to join us? There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center.

Here's a testimony that speaks to the value of what Love Packages is doing: "Most of the pastors (in Tanzania) have never attended formal training. With the support (of Love Packages), they now have Bibles, Bible Commentaries, Dictionaries, maps, and charts. You don't understand the impact you are having on Tanzania. The demand for Christian literature is still higher than the supply."

Reports from Zimbabwe say that pastors have been regularly fasting for years, praying for a good study Bible to call their own. Shipments from Love Packages are now beginning to answer those prayers!

I would love to see a bus filled with our church members spending a few hours laboring in a warehouse so that others can own their very own Bible. Wouldn't you like to have a hand in making that happen? Make plans to join us on April 13.

God is so good!

Chuck

Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

Like many of you, I enjoyed watching the Winter Olympics in Milan. I've always really enjoyed watching figure skating, even though I know virtually nothing about it. Several years ago, my cousin's daughter decided that she was going to pursue skating, and it's been fascinating watching clips of her progress on social media. A few weeks ago, she was practicing on the ice and to her own surprise, she landed her first axel jump. It was priceless to see the look of joy and amazement on her face when she finally accomplished her goal.

It is difficult for me as a non-skater to begin to understand what would be involved in getting to that point. However, if I think back, I can remember her deciding that she was going to be a figure skater and seeing videos of her in her earliest moments on the ice. Over the years, I have watched the dedication that she has shown from the simplest foundational exercises to the full routines she now does in front of crowds. She has talent, yes, but it's talent combined with consistent practice driven by her inner desire to pursue excellence in her sport.

The same principles of dedication and practice hold true for us as Christians. In 1 Timothy 4 (NIV), Paul is encouraging young Timothy to "...set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." Verses 15-16 go on to say:

"Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

Those verses give us several high standards to live up to with what we say and do on a daily basis. The real challenge is more than just doing it once or twice, but rather making it a lifestyle of pursuing excellence in how we present ourselves to God and others. Even if we aren't directly advertising our faith publicly, people are always watching to see if all of the motions of our faith actually produce results. The Bible makes it clear that true faith in action carries the message of Jesus to others, causing them to come to Him and ultimately receive eternal life through Him. I encourage all of you to not just read your Bible, pray, go to church, and do good, but do those things while giving yourself wholly to God. Make pursuing Him your passion and purpose, and He will turn you into a servant of His Kingdom carrying the message of eternal life.



In Christ,

Troy Guttormson

WALKER'S COMPASSION CORNER NEWS

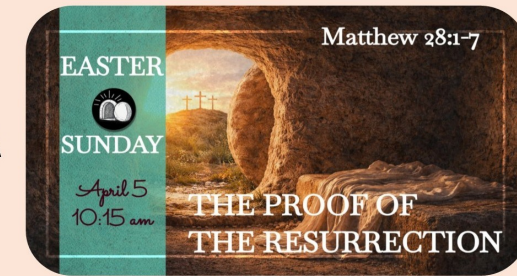
Thank you for the many donations you have given, both monetary and physical, to help make Compassion Corner a success. We are still learning and making adjustments. Beginning April 3 we will be open on the first and third Friday of each month from 10 am until 2 pm. We need volunteers to work those days. We hope you can join us as we reach out and serve our community.



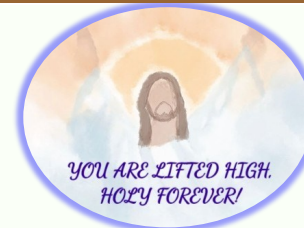
EASTER AT WALKER



The efficacy of the cross and the resurrection is most deeply realized when it brings about real change in us.



Pastor Chuck will deliver the Easter message at the Sunrise Service at Williamson Memorial, April 5, 7 am



Holy Forever

10:15 am Sunday, April 5th

Join us as we celebrate the Risen King through music
Instrumentalists Choir Congregation



We are blessed to have added Troy Flowers Sr. and Tim Brennan to our team of deacons. Because of that, new family assignments have been made. You should be contacted soon by your deacon. Some of you may still have the same deacon as previously. Please know that the new assignments were made with much prayer and thought. I encourage each of you to pray for your deacon as each of us have pledged to pray for you. In His Service, Bill Reitmeyer, Chair of Deacons

ACTIVE DEACONS 2026-2027

Tim Brennan	Marvin Cox	Troy Flowers Sr.	Troy Guttormson
Bobby Hargrove	Doug Leonard	Ed Madden	Tom Massey
Bill Reitmeyer	Chris Wheeler	Wally Whidby	

Big Joy is Coming to Walker Kids!



Hello Walker Family!

If we haven't met yet, my name is Lisa Couch, and I am absolutely thrilled to serve as your new Preschool/Children's Director. My husband, Jason, our son, Memphis, and I are so happy to be part of this church family. With 17 years of experience in youth and children's ministry, I've seen firsthand that there is no greater joy than helping a child discover the Gospel for the first time. We are on a mission to bring the noise, the laughter, and the life back into our halls! My goal is simple: to create a fun, safe, and "kid-level" environment where new families feel right at home the moment they walk through our doors.

What's Popping This Summer?

We aren't just waiting for things to happen—we are heading out into the community! We have some incredible outreach events planned to meet our neighbors and invite them in:

- Popsicles on the Playground: Join us every second Tuesday this summer from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM! We'll be at the Walker Baptist playground on June 9th, July 14th, and August 11th. It's going to be a sweet time of bubbles, snacks, and sunshine.
- VBS is on the Horizon! Keep your eyes peeled for dates and volunteer sign-ups. It's going to be the highlight of our summer.



Recapping the Fun

We just wrapped up a massive Easter Egg Hunt and our Palm Sunday celebration. I can't wait to share the full report on those smiling faces in our next update!

A Heartfelt Request

As we navigate this "new start" together, I ask for your prayers, your patience, and your grace. Change can be a big word, but when we make changes with the goal of reaching the next generation for Jesus, it is always worth it.

Thank you to everyone who has already stepped up to help. If you have a heart for kids and want to be part of this growing team, come find me or pop me an email at kids@walkerbc.org.



Let's reach these kids together!

Lisa Couch

TINY SMILES NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you have a heart for our youngest church members? We are looking for joyful adults/older teens to join the Nursery Team for the Sunday School Hour.

The Commitment: One Sunday a month during Sunday School
The Job: To provide a safe, loving environment for babies and toddlers

Interested? Send a message to kids@walkerbc.org or contact [Lisa](#).



APRIL		MAY	
APR 1	Sandwich Bar, Chips	MAY 6	Turkey Wraps, Pasta Salad, Mixed Fruit,
APR 8	Boneless Breaded Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Salad	MAY 13	Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Fries
APR 15	Grilled Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, French Fries	MAY 20	Pizza, Pizza, Pizza, Salad
APR 22	Lasagna, Green Beans, Salad	Make or cancel reservations by noon on Tuesday. Prices: Adults \$5, Children 4-10 \$4 Email ask@walkerbc.org * all meals include dessert and beverage	
APR 29	Sandwich Bar, Chips		

WORSHIP NURSERY WORKERS



APR 5	Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho	MAY 3	Chris and Kelley Wheeler
APR 12	Rachel Brennan, Laura Powell	MAY 10	Freda Joslin, Daianna Austin
APR 19	Jami and Avery Lunn	MAY 17	Kate Lee, Debra Mangrum
APR 26	Volunteers Needed	MAY 24	Jennifer and Kody Leonard
		MAY 31	Marie McElhannon, Austin Godwin

If you are not able to keep your date, please try to trade with someone. If you need assistance please call or text Jennifer Leonard at 615-604-9457

VBS 2026: Illumination Station Volunteer Info Session | May 31 @ 12 PM

Get ready to shine! We are gearing up for an incredible VBS season centered on John 8:12: "Shining a light on who Jesus really is." Want to be part of the team? Join us in the fellowship hall immediately following the service. We will present a full overview of all that is involved in making this year's VBS a success. Come discover your spot at the Illumination Station!

Lunch provided.





**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS
MARCH 29-APRIL 5, 2026**

Churches observe the Week of Prayer for North American Missions by praying for missionaries, their families, and their ministries. These missionaries need you to step into their stories through your prayers as they often face opposition, discouragement and loneliness. North American missionaries take the gospel to unreached communities throughout the U.S. and Canada. They need your prayers to open hearts and help them disciple new believers.

More information and resources, including a daily prayer guide, are available at [Week of Prayer - Annie Armstrong Easter Offering](#)



Over 291 million people in North America are living without the hope of the gospel. Some have no church nearby. Others attend a church that may soon close. Many don't have access to God's Word in their own language. Without the Good News, they will face life and eternity without Christ.

You can help reach those who have not heard about Jesus...yet. Your gift shares the Good News through the many ministries of the North American Mission Board.

The Annie Armstrong Offering will be collected during the month of April.

Walker's Goal is \$3536.37



GREETERS

**APRIL Austin Godwin
MAY Faye Campbell**

**UNION UNIVERSITY
JUNE 1-6, 2026**



STAFF

**Chuck McElhannon Senior Pastor
Wally Whidby Youth Pastor
Troy Guttormson Worship Pastor
Lisa Couch Preschool/Children's Director**

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Church Telephone 615-794-7000
Church ask@walkerbc.org
Chuck chuck@walkerbc.org
Wally wally@walkerbc.org
Troy troy@walkerbc.org
Lisa kids@walkerbc.org
Compassion Corner compassioncorner@walkerbc.org**



April 2026

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE Fellowship Dinner 5:15-6:00 Pre-School, Children, Youth 6:00-7:20 She-Shed 6:15-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:25-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30		WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS March 29-April 5		1 Zoe Bost 	2 Francisco Rodriquez  Men's Lunch 11:45 am	3 Troy Flowers Sr  	4
5 Janice Vaughn  Sunrise Service 7am 	6 Raymond Vaughn  Extra-Cise 10 am	7	8	9  Men's Lunch 11:45 am	10 Patsy Helton 	11	
12 	13 Love Packages Trip 7:00—5:00 approx. Pray for Wally Day	14	15 Paul Fields Samuel Whidby 	16 Ladies' Lunch 11:45 O 'Charley's Men's Lunch 11:45 am	17	18	
19 Deacon's Meeting after church	20 Daianna Austin  Extra-Cise 10 am	21	22 Leo Rodriquez 	23 Mary Stinson  Men's Lunch 11:45 am	24 Olivia Stelter Shannon Epps 	25 10:00 am BABY SHOWER RACHEL & TIM BRENNAN 	
26 Team Meetings 4pm Ministry Update 5pm 	27 Tomi Atkinson  Extra-Cise 10 am	28	29	30 Victoria Austin  Men's Lunch 11:45 am	 COMPASSION CORNER IS OPEN APRIL 3 10AM-2PM APRIL 17 10AM-2PM		

May 2026

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE Fellowship Dinner 5:15-6:00 Pre-School, Children, Youth 6:00-7:20 She-Shed 6:15-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:25-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30					1 Linda Jackson Scarlett Stelter 	2 Marvin Cox 
3 Jennifer Leonard 	4 Marti Leonard  Extra-Cise 10 am	5	6	7 Men's Lunch 11:45 am	8	9
10  Happy Mother's Day	11 Extra-Cise 10 am	12	13	14 Men's Lunch 11:45 am	15	16
17	18 Extra-Cise 10 am	19 Memphis Couch Rose Hill 	20 Rhonda Gatlin Lenora Guttormson ***See Below 	21 Ladies' Luncheon 11:45 am Men's Lunch 11:45 am	22	23 Becky Todd 
24 Jeanette Massey  PENTECOST SUNDAY	25 MEMORIAL DAY 	26	27 Grayson Autry  No Wednesday Activities	28 Harrison Lackey 	29	30 Tabitha Peach Charlie Young Daniel Belbeck 
31 Evan Butler  VBS VOLUNTEERS MEETING 12-2pm			***** MAY 20th Last Wednesday following Spring Schedule		 COMPASSION CORNER IS OPEN MAY 1 10AM-2PM MAY 15 10AM-2PM	