

Encourager

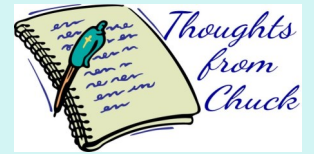
December 2024/January 2025



Walker Baptist Church
1350 West Main St., 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

Remember when you were first exposed to the notion that life is a "journey"? You probably have to think back all the way to your childhood days. Back then journeys were special events. Going to grandma's house. "We're going to Disney World!" Vacations to sunnier, warmer places. Then other concepts were added to your understanding of "journey." You started hearing the phrase, "the Christian walk." You read Pilgrim's Progress in high school. "Journey" became more than just a literal movement from one place to another. It came to symbolize life itself, and movement meant growth, change, and maturity.



The fact is the journey never ends, at least not until we take our last breath this side of heaven. That's where we find ourselves this Christmas season – still plugging away on our journey. The question for us is, "Where am I headed?" Where is my journey taking me?" That's what we'll explore this year in our Advent sermon series, Christmas Journeys.



December 1 – The Christmas Journey of Mary and Joseph
December 8 – The Christmas Journey of Jesus
December 15 – The Christmas Journey of the Angels
December 22 – The Christmas Journey of the Shepherds
December 24 – The Christmas Journey of the Wise Men

There are lessons to be learned and truths to be applied as we look at each of these vignettes from the very first Christmas.

The obvious conclusion is that our journey is taking us right into 2025. A brand-new year. A brand-new chapter in the story of our journey as a church. A new chapter that prayerfully will include the hiring of a new staff member, a part-time bookkeeper/administrative assistant. We're hopeful that God will lead the right person to us, and he or she will become a valuable asset to our support staff.

I spend a lot of time in prayer and study making sure that I start the year off right with my preaching plan. In 2023 we started the year with Pray. Love. Serve, immersing ourselves in a newly revised mission statement. Last year we started with The Seven Signs, where we looked at Jesus' own actions that proved who he was to the world. For 2025, I'll begin the year with a month-long series called Who Needs Church These Days? Let's face it: church isn't as popular as it was a generation ago. Today's adults don't view church as a necessary part of their journey through life. Maybe it will do us some good to figure out why that is and how we should respond.

In any case, the Walker Baptist Church journey continues. I'm glad to be a part of it, and I hope you are, too. Let's join hands and enjoy the ride!

Chuck

Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

In Acts 20:35 NIV, the Apostle Paul says:

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”



We who are followers of Christ are commanded again and again throughout the Bible to care for those who the rest of the world has cast away. One of my favorite Christmas traditions is reading the Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol to my kids, as it is one of my favorite books. While it is not a religious text, it certainly stirs the heart into action about the sentiment that “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”


Ebenezer Scrooge, the protagonist in the story, is introduced as a “squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!” He is perfectly comfortable to live with his hoard of wealth while mocking the poor around him. It is not until his supernatural journey through a visit from his former partner’s ghost, and seeing himself through the lens of Christ-mases past, present, and future that he is shocked by the realization that it is actually he who is inflicting misery on the world around him, not the other way around, and this prompts him to true repentance and sincere change. His whole life has been focused on receiving, but once his heart is softened, he sees the blessing of giving and showing love to the community around him far exceeds the company of his gold.

I encourage you this Christmas season to receive that blessing on yourself. Something that I really treasure about our church is our commitment to the cause of helping others less fortunate than ourselves. Considering that we are a relatively small congregation, we have a remarkable number of ministries dedicated to giving to others locally, statewide, nationally, and worldwide. Among other things, there is opportunity to fill shoeboxes with toys, give clothing and supplies to the homeless, and contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. And best of all, when we are a blessing to others, we reflect Jesus Himself, and point others towards Him.

December is also a joyous time for our music program, and I cordially invite you to our upcoming Christmas program on Sunday, December 15th, during the morning service, as well as our evening Christmas Eve service on December 24th. As many of you are aware, several of our choir members have had health issues recently. Please lift them up in prayer, and if you are so inclined, offer your voice to help us to round out our choir.

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



DRAMA	THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM	NATIVITY PLAY
SOLOISTS	A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION	<u>CHOIRS</u>
ENSEMBLES	DECEMBER 15, 2024 10:15 AM	PRESCHOOL
CONGREGATIONAL SINGING	MESSAGE: THE CHRISTMAS JOURNEY OF THE ANGELS	CHILDREN’S ADULT



CHRISTMAS
EVE
SERVICE

5:00 pm
December 24, 2024

Message: The Journey of the Wise Men

Observance of the Lord's Supper



Join the Great Pursuit and make Jesus known

PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE FAITHFULLY SHARING THE GOSPEL

Day 1 - Senegal

Day 2 - Central Asia

Day 3 - Among the Deaf

Day 4 - Brazil

Day 5 - Southeast Asian Islands

Day 6 - Northern Africa

Day 7 - South Asia

Day 8 - Europe



WEEK OF PRAYER
for International Missions

DECEMBER 1-8, 2024

WMU®



LOTIE MOON OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

DECEMBER, 2024

CELEBRATE GOD'S
WORK IN 2023

As reported by IMB missionaries
and national partners

1,036
UNIQUE PEOPLE GROUPS
THAT HEARD SOME PORTION
OF THE GOSPEL

879,798
PEOPLE HEARD THE GOSPEL

141,206
NEW BELIEVERS

116,992
BAPTISMS

269,571
DISCIPLED

12,618
TRAINED IN CHURCH
PLANTING

WHAT IS THE LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS OFFERING?

Growing up in Virginia, Lottie Moon and her siblings chose to rebel against Christianity. At 18, Lottie followed Christ and was baptized. When she was 33, she sailed to China as a Southern Baptist missionary. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem - LOSTNESS.

In letters to Southern Baptists in America, she pleaded for increasing prayer and giving. Her letters raised more support for missionaries to be sent to China.

Every year, Southern Baptists collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® where 100% of your giving is used to send and support missionaries.

WALKER'S GOAL

\$ 3500

FUNDRAISER
BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 8
8:15- 9:00 am



DONATIONS
WILL BE ACCEPTED

JOIN THE GREAT PURSUIT THROUGH YOUR GENEROUS GIFT TODAY

WEDNESDAY SUPPER MENUS * all meals include dessert and beverage

DECEMBER	JANUARY
December 4 Pizza, Pizza, Pizza, Salad	January 8 Grilled Chicken Breast, Roast Potatoes w/onions, Roasted Mixed Vegetables, Salad
December 11 Breaded Catfish Filets, White Beans, Cole Slaw, Homemade Hushpuppies	January 15 Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, French Fries
December 18 Sandwich Bar, Chips	January 22 Spaghetti and Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Salad
December 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	January 29 Piza, Pizza, Pizza, Salad

Make or cancel reservations by noon on Tuesdays.
Contact Marti at 615-403-9691



Join us in
the She-Shed

December Bible Study: The ladies (and Doug) will look at the stories of Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna as they approach the Christmas season.

December 18th: She-Shed Christmas Ornament Exchange and Party

January Bible Study: The class will continue to explore the stories of women in the Bible.



JANUARY MISSION PROJECT

Baby bottles will be available January 5 for members to take home and fill with coins, bills, or checks for the Pregnancy Centers of Middle Tennessee. The Centers affirm life by empowering mothers and fathers-to-be, who are experiencing planned and unplanned pregnancies, with healthy options through medical services, education, mentoring and spiritual guidance. The money is used to bless those who choose life for their unborn child. The bottle serves as a reminder to pray for the men and women who come to the Centers.

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY
JANUARY 19, 2025



BLOOD DRIVE JANUARY 10, 2025 1-6:00 pm
Make reservations at REDCROSS.ORG/BLOOD
Choose WMBC for Sponsor Code. Need help? Contact Barbara

DECEMBER GREETER

Emily Sanders



JANUARY GREETERS

Brenda and Larry Darnell



WORSHIP SERVICE NURSERY VOLUNTEERS



December 1 Jennifer & Kody Leonard

January 5 Marie McElhannon, Louise Austin

December 8 Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho

January 12 Linda Garnette, Kody Leonard

December 15 Janice Vaughn

January 19 Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum

December 22 Chris & Kelley Wheeler

January 26 Sandy & Austin Godwin

December 29 Freda Joslin, Rachel Brennan

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

CONGRATULATIONS



DR. KAREN WHIDBY

Edd in Learning Organizations
& Strategic Change

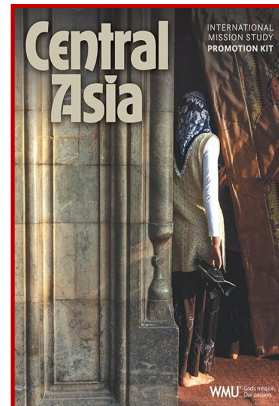
Lipscomb University
December, 2024

Reception December 14, 4:30 pm

Walker Fellowship Hall

INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY

JANUARY 29, 2025



6:25-7:30 pm Fellowship Hall



Contact a member of floral team to dedicate a poinsettia in memory/honor of someone. Cost \$15



STAY CONNECTED WITH WALKER

VISIT US ONLINE
www.walkerbc.org

WATCH SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ON YOUTUBE
<https://m.youtube.com/@walkerbaptistchurch7708/streams>

JOIN US IN SOCIAL MEDIA

We are on **Facebook**
Walker Baptist Church = Public Site
WBC Members & Friends = Private

We are on **Instagram**
wbcfranklin

Be sure the church has your **EMAIL** address. Send a message to ask@walkerbc.org

JANUARY SERMON SERIES—WHO NEEDS CHURCH THESE DAYS?

December 2024

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Freda Joslin 	3 Everett Whidby 	4	5	6	7
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS						
8 8:15 am LMCO Fundraiser Breakfast 12:30 pm Generations Class Party	9	10	11 Jenna Buckland 	12	13	14 10-12 am Practice for Music Program 1 pm. Caroling 4:30 pm Whidby Reception
15 Raegan Buckland  10:15 am The Way to Bethlehem	16	17	18	19	20	21 Louise Austin Sherry Thompson 
22	23 Ann Norwood 	24 	25 	26 Jerry Wolverton 	27	28
29 Brett Buckland 	30	31	WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOLS WINTER BREAK DECEMBER 19 (1/2 day) - JANUARY 5		WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE Fellowship Dinner 5:15-6:00 Pre-School, Children, Youth & Prayer Team 6:00-7:20 She=Shed 6:15-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:25-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30	

January 2025

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 & Prayer Team 6:00-7:20 She=Shed 6:15-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:25-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30		NO ACTIVITIES TOMORROW NIGHT	1 Shirley Newell Angie Oliphant  	2	3	4
5 Austin Godwin 	6 Krew Buckland Debra Mangrum Sherry Sanders Donna Williams	7	8 Trish Richards 	9	10  American Red Cross 1-6 pm Blood Drive	11
12  Ministry Update 4pm Team meetings 5pm Ministry Update	13 Annabelle Stelter 	14	15	16 Leah Locke 	17	18 Regina Blackwood 
19  Sanctity of Life Sunday	20  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 Marlee Donoho 	22 Druwanda Warner 	23 Deacon Buckland Glenn Gatlin 	24	25
26	27	28	29  INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY	30	31	