

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

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

October/November 2025



“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

By the time you read this, our 20th annual Fish Fry will be in the books. That singular event is always a highlight on our church calendar, and one may wonder why. Why spend so much time and energy on one thing? The answer is actually rather simple, and it’s this: the Fish Fry isn’t about fish. It’s about so much more.

It’s about teamwork. Just about every active member of our church has a role in the Fish Fry, and there are others who give their time and energy who don’t even attend Walker. The value of cooperation and teamwork is a lesson worth teaching, no matter how old we are. Sports and other extra-curricular activities teach this valuable lesson to our children, as you parents well know. Why should that lesson end just because we’ve graduated to adulthood? The Bible teaches us to care for one another, to encourage one another, and to use our gifts and talents for the benefit of one another. Our Fish Fry offers a wonderful opportunity to do just that.

It’s about community outreach. Our church sees more people enter our building on this day than any other day of the year, and this includes Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve! Our prayer is that for those who come to Fish Fry, they see us at our best, working, smiling, welcoming, singing, praying, and if they’re searching for a church home, they’ll consider Walker.

It’s about exposure. People often drive by our church weekly, or daily, and never give a second thought to the fact that this building actually houses a vibrant, loving community of believers. Fish Fry reminds them that we are more than a building. We are a spiritual family.

It’s about connection. We get to match names and faces. Those who come to Fish Fry get to meet the Senior Pastor, the Worship Pastor, the Youth Pastor, and we often get to meet some famous and not-so-famous residents of our beautiful town. Who knows, there’s probably even some networking going on!

It’s about fund-raising. I list this one at the end, because I don’t want us to think this is the main reason why we do what we do. To be sure, Fish Fry began as a way to pay down the debt on the mortgage on the church addition, but it has funded so much more than that. We have paid off the debt, paid for mission trips, funded community projects, renovated the sanctuary, made other building improvements, and even used some of the funds to do things like pay medical bills, rent, car repairs, groceries, and utilities.

We praise you, O Lord, for 20 years of all of the above!

Pastor Chuck



Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

The last couple of weeks have been a challenging time to be a Christian. In considering what I might write for this article, I was reminded of a sermon by an unknown pastor that my wife Elaura heard regarding the devil's desire to disrupt God's work in our lives. 2 Timothy 2:22-26 NIV says:

²² Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

The essence of the sermon that my wife listened to talked about being on guard for the snares of the devil. Like an expert hunter designs traps for a specific animal's size, habits, and environment, Satan designs traps for our bodies, souls, hearts, and minds. Without the help of Jesus, we are extremely vulnerable to falling into them. However, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can recognize these snares before we step in them, and when we deviate from the path and fall into them, He is there to free us back on our feet.

Satan has trapped and taken hold of many in this world. In the wake of Charlie Kirk's death, I have watched the vitriol hatred that many of his opponents have spewed, praising his assassination and wishing it on others like him. While I instinctively want to meet them at their level, the Bible tells me not to. It tells me to not engage with such foolishness, stupidity, and evil, as that sort of wickedness is beyond my human ability to overcome.

A trapped animal is usually scared and dangerous, even when someone tries to help it. People are much the same. Let us resist the temptation to enter the same traps of anger, hatred, and violence that have ensnared many unbelievers. We are called to boldly proclaim the gospel, but to do so with the same grace that God has shown to us. Do not lose heart, but take courage in what we still have according to 1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV:

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH

PROUDLY SPONSORS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



October 12—November 23, 2025

1. Pick up a shoebox from the welcome center
2. Fill it with gifts and love (see flyers for appropriate items)
3. Include a check for \$10 to cover shipping and handling
4. Bring the completed box to the church by November 23



CHECK THE DISPLAY
TABLE IN THE
WELCOME CENTER FOR
MORE INFORMATION

Walker Baptist Church



Pray. Love. Serve.

WALKER'S COMPASSION CORNER

A New Ongoing Missions Project



Walker's Compassion Corner is a community-driven initiative dedicated to embodying Christ's love by providing essential items like clothing, shoes, toiletries, and household goods to families in need. We urgently seek donations to support our mission of offering dignity and hope to those we serve. Your contributions can make a tangible difference in creating a welcoming environment where every family can experience Walker's compassion and care.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- **Volunteers**
- **Gently used clothing (men's, women's, boys, girls)**
- **Shoes (all sizes)**
- **Donate items through Amazon** <https://a.co/gc1zk0k>
- * **Hangers**
- * **Toiletries**
- * **Household essentials**

Join us in making a difference by donating today. Your generosity helps us extend a helping hand to those in need, ensuring they receive the support and care they deserve.



SUPPER MENUS * all meals include dessert and beverage

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Oct. 1 PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA, SALAD	Nov. 5 BEEFY NACHO BAR
Oct. 8 FALL BREAK—NO SUPPER	Nov. 12 CHICKEN N’ DUMPLINGS, GREEN BEANS, BUTTERED CORN, SALAD
Oct. 15 CHILI/SOUP COOKOFF	Nov. 19 SANDWICH BAR, CHIPS
Oct. 22 GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST, ROASTED POTATOES, ROASTED VEGETABLES, SALAD	Nov. 26 THANKSGIVING BREAK –NO SUPPER
Oct. 29 FALL FESTIVAL—HOT DOGS, CHIPS	

Make or cancel reservations by noon on Tuesday.

Prices: Adults \$5, Children 4-10 \$4

Call the church office at 615-794-7000 or email ask@walkerbc.org



The 20th Fish Fry at Walker is “in the books”. It would not have been possible without so many people donating many hours of time and effort. A special thank you to Marti for her dedication to making the Fish Fry a success, and to the over 115 volunteers who represented Walker in such a positive way!



OCTOBER 15, 2025 5:15 PM

CALLING ALL FALL COOKS!! ENTER YOUR FAVORITE HOME-MADE CHILI OR SOUP TO WIN A PRIZE!

Supper is free, but please make a reservation if you plan to attend. If you aren’t entering the contest, please bring bread, crackers, or desserts to enjoy with the chili/soup. Contact Marti if you have any questions.

**FALL FESTIVAL
FUN FOR ALL!**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025
6:00—7:30 pm**



**DECORATE A CAR OR TRUCK, PUT ON YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME, BRING TREATS TO PASS OUT, AND JOIN US!
Hot Dogs for Trunk or Treaters served outside.**

**ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER
Sunday, November 16, 2025
5:00 PM**

Bring your family and join us for a churchwide fellowship, celebrating the blessings we have received from God this year. Deacons will provide Turkey and Dressing. Suggested items from church members include:

- Adults 65 & over Vegetables
- Adults 45-54 Salads
- Adults under 45 Desserts
- Children, Youth Cranberry Sauce
- Bread



NURSERY SCHEDULE



October 5 Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho	Nov 2 Marie McElhannon, Louise Austin
October 12 Rachel Brennan, Laura Powell	Nov 9 Linda Garnette, Kody Leonard
October 19 Austin Godwin, Volunteer	Nov 16 Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum
October 26 Chris & Kelley Wheeler	Nov 23 Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard
	Nov 30 Volunteers Needed

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

A few more volunteers are needed to serve in the nursery during the Worship Service. If we have more volunteers each person would only be scheduled for one Sunday every other month. Please contact Jennifer if you are willing to help love on our youngest. Thank you!

RSVP

You Are Cordially Invited

A New Sermon Series
Beginning 9.28.25

Walker Baptist Church
Franklin, TN



FRAGILE
The Life of King David (and US!)

Beginning 10/19/2025
Walker Baptist Church
Franklin, TN

FALL SERMON SERIES

GREETERS

OCTOBER

Emily Sanders

NOVEMBER

Brenda & Larry

Darnell



STAFF

Chuck McElhannon	Senior Pastor
Wally Whidby	Youth Pastor
Troy Guttormson	Worship Pastor
Connie Bernard	Administrative Asst.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Church/Connie	ask@walkerbc.org
Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
Troy	troy@walkerbc.org

GIVE
thanks
TO THE
Lord;
FOR HE IS GOOD.
PSALM 107:1, NIV



October 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 6:00-7:20 She-Shed 6:15-7:20 Adult Bible Study 6:25-7:20 Adult Choir 7:30-8:30		 SHOE BOX COLLECTION BEGINS OCT. 12th	1 Camille Bost 	2	3 Tom Conrad 	4
5 Avery Lunn 	6	7	8 Theresa Rogers 	9 Rachel Brennan Vonda Hazelwood 	10	11 Barbara Guttormson 
DEACON'S MEETING	WCS and FSD FALL BREAK—NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES					
12 Susanna Sulfridge  4 pm TEAM MTGS 5 pm MINISTRY UPDATE	13	14	15 FINANCE MTG  CHILI/ SOUP COOK- OFF	16	17	18 Nita Potts 
19	20 Kevin Adair 	21	22 Flo Young 	23	24	25
26	27	28 Joanne Fields Justin Stelter 	29 	30	31	

November 2025

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2 Sarah Kibler  	3 Elaine Thompson 	4 Audrey Batson Tim Brennan 	5 Gregg LaFever 	6	7	8 Marie McElhannon Wally Whidby Carter Massey 
9 BUDGET DISCUSSION	10 Daisy Whidby 	11 	12	13	14 Brenda Darnell Dixie Hogue 	15
16 BUDGET VOTE 	17 Karen Whidby 	18	19 Kody Leonard 	20	21	22
23 Linda Ramsey 	24	25	26 NO ACTIVITIES	27 Andrew Poe  	28	29
30 IMB WEEK OF PRAYER BEGINS	NOVEMBER 23rd LAST DAY TO BRING CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES 			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NOVEMBER 27 and 28th		