

Encourager

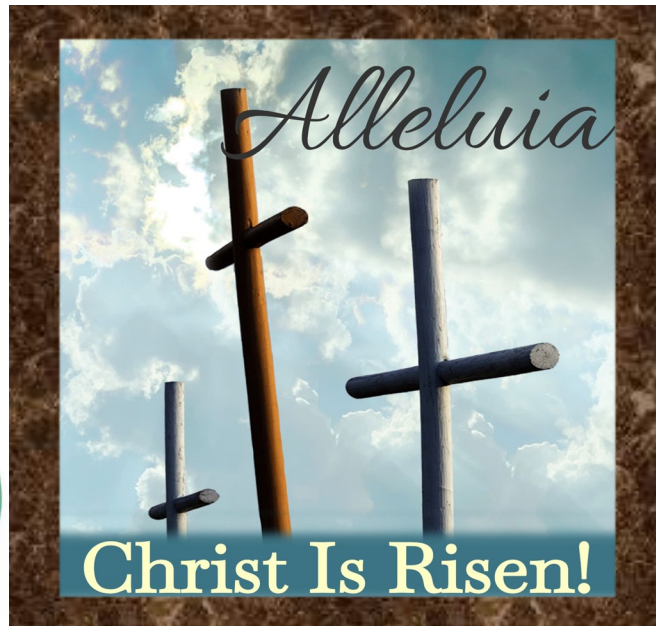
Walker Baptist Church

1350 West Main St., Franklin, TN 37064

615-794-7000

www.walkerbc.org

April/May 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*

When I was in college, one of my favorite authors was Calvin Miller, who wrote the beloved trilogy, **The Singer, The Song, and The Finale**, beautifully-written poetic allegories of the gospel story. In **The Singer**, Miller wrote, *“Humanity is fickle. They may dress for a morning coronation and never feel the need to change clothes for an execution in the afternoon. So Triumphal Sundays and Good Fridays always fit comfortably into the same April week.”* That observation has always struck me as both perceptive and condemning. The truth, when it isn’t pretty, is always tough to own, yet I see the truth in Miller’s statement, and I fear we as human beings haven’t really changed all that much since Jesus walked this earth.

I had always thought that the swift and complete reversal of public opinion regarding Jesus, from “Praise Him!” on Palm Sunday to “Crucify Him!” on Good Friday would make for a good sermon series, and now I finally have an opportunity to see it through. Those eight days from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday were unlike any other week the world had ever known, filled with surprising twists and turns and memorable moments.

Please join us each and every service between now and Easter morning as we take a deeper look at [1] the triumphal entry, [2] the meal in the upper room, [3] Jesus’ prayer for us in the garden, [4] the crucifixion, and [5] the resurrection! Don’t come alone. Invite a friend who doesn’t have a church home. People who don’t go to church are actually more willing to attend with a friend than we think they are, if they’re personally invited! Who knows – you may actually bring someone to salvation simply because you invited them to church with you!

As soon as Easter is past, Marie and I will be taking a long-awaited vacation to several European countries. We will be leaving on April 22 and will spend time in Amsterdam, London, Dublin, and Londonderry before returning home on May 7. During our absence, Wally Whidby will preach on April 27, Troy Guttormson will preach on May 4, and Bill Reitmeyer will be leading the Wednesday Bible studies on April 23 and 30 and May 7. Please keep us and them in your prayers!

On a final note, two very important children’s events are on the horizon: the Easter Egg Hunt on April 12 and VBS on June 22-26. We’re all aware that the greatest need we face right now as a church is to grow our children’s department, and one of the best ways we can do this is by offering quality special events that show our community what a special place Walker is. We need your help. Great events don’t happen in a vacuum and they don’t happen overnight. Eggs and candy are being donated, and thank you for that, but we need volunteers for the egg hunt. We’ll have bounce houses (thank you, Austin and Marlee Donoho!) and a petting zoo and pony rides (thank you, Kelly Lee!).

And a huge thanks to the Children’s Ministry Team (and a few who aren’t even on the team!) for the great pre-planning for VBS. We have made the decision to spend money from the children’s budget to send out 877 postcards to all families within a 2-mile radius of our church who have children between the ages of 4-12. Pray that God will bring families with children to our VBS! Since spring is all about new growth, let’s pray also for spiritual growth and church growth!

God is so good!

Chuck



Greetings, Walker Baptist Church Family!

Recently I was watching a show about expeditions to climb Mount Everest, and I was struck by the importance of planning and preparedness in ensuring success and preventing the loss of life. Even with the best-laid plans, mountain climbing is a dangerous activity with grave potential for injury and death, but some made it exponentially more dangerous by not training properly, not hiring a Sherpa guide, not packing proper safety supplies, etc.

The parallels to the lives of Christ followers are many, and the Bible speaks clearly about preparedness in several different places, such as Luke 14:25-30 NLT, which says:

25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, 26 “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. 27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. 28 But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. 30 They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’ “

Like climbing Mount Everest, being a disciple of Jesus is hard work and requires careful preparation. We are called to love Him more than anyone or anything else we have in this world, including ourselves. Taking the daily steps of reading our Bibles, praying, attending church, repenting and turning away from sin, showing love towards others, and sharing the Gospel with others cannot be forsaken if we want to be spiritually strong enough to endure life’s trials. The disciple’s calling is not easy and cannot be taken lightly, but thankfully we have our Savior as our guide, Christian brothers and sisters to help us when we fall, and the faith that God gives us to keep going when things get hard.

No matter what difficulties we are experiencing, the Bible tells us that God understands and He loves and cares about us; enough so that He sent Jesus into the world to live as an example, die on the cross for our sins, and rise again to give us the hope of eternal life. Please join us at Walker Baptist Church for our upcoming Good Friday and Easter Sunday services as we celebrate the good news we have because of God’s love for us!

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE APRIL 18, 6:00 pm



MESSAGE:
“Why the Cross?”

Hebrews 9:26-28
Pastor Chuck McElhannon

Part of the series “8 Days that Changed the World”

“Surely He was the Son of God.”
Matthew 27:54

EASTER SERVICE APRIL 20, 10:15 am



MESSAGE:
“The Day that Changed the World”

Luke 24:1-6
Pastor Chuck McElhannon

Part of the series “8 Days that Changed the World”

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING®



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 \$3000!

MISSIONS HEADLINES

HELLO FROM BULACAN, PHILIPPINES



A lot has happened since we spoke at Walker last May. Upon our return we hosted a week's youth camp in the mountains. What a fabulous challenge that was. It rained 4 nights of the 6! We have a very active youth group which we are honored to be the Directors of now. With some of the funds that were donated by Walker members we upgraded the church sanctuary and started several outreach programs. One of our newest ministries is a Saturday event. We go to an area called Happy Valley, play games with the children, sing songs, serve lunch, and share the gospel. Through a generous donation we have been able to purchase 80 pairs of shoes to distribute! We have been blessed for adults to accept the Lord through this program and have children who now come to church. A wonderful effect of growth is not having space for those who want to come. The Lord provides. A donation was made to purchase a building close to the church that is being renovated and made into a children's annex! Please keep us in your prayers, as we do you. God bless you all.

Bruce and Grace Godwin



WEDNESDAY SUPPER MENUS * all meals include dessert and beverage

APRIL	MAY
April 2 Beef 'n Chicken Nacho Bar with all the trimmings	May 7 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables
April 9 Breaded Chicken Tenders, French Fries	May 14 Chicken 'n Wild Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Roasted Vegetables
April 16 Hamburgers, Chips	May 21 Pizza, Pizza, Pizza
April 23 Turkey Wraps, Fresh Fruit, Pasta Salad	Prices: Adults \$5 Child 4-17 \$4 Maximum Family \$25
April 30 Sandwich Bar, Chips	

Make or cancel reservations by noon on Tuesdays.
Call the church office at 615-794-7000 or email ask@walkerbc.org

APRIL

Faye Campbell



GREETERS

MAY

Austin & Sandy Godwin



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

April 6	Jennifer & Kody Leonard	May 4	Freda Joslin, Avery Lunn
April 13	Rhonda Gatlin, Marlee Donoho	May 11	Marie McElhannon, Louise Austin
April 20	Rachel Brennan, Janice Vaughn	May 18	Sandy & Austin Godwin
April 27	Chris & Kelley Wheeler	May 25	Emily Sanders, Debra Mangrum

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 *Avery, Samuel & Ella*



AVERY LUNN

PAGE HIGH SCHOOL
GPA 3.8

AWARDS: WILCO FILM AWARD-
BEST SPORTS LIVE STREAM
COLLEGE: MTSU
MAJOR: LIVE BROADCASTING



SAMUEL WHIDBY

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

GPA: 3.8
SPORTS/CLUBS: BASEBALL, FCA
COLLEGE: UNIV. OF TENNESSEE
MAJOR: CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE



ELLA WOOD

PAGE HIGH SCHOOL
GPA 4.59

CHANCELLOR'S HONORS COLLEGE
COLLEGE: UNIV. OF TENNESSEE
MAJOR: PRE-PHARMACY

COMING EVENTS

CENTRIFUGE
UNION UNIVERSITY
JUNE 2-7, 2025



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-26, 2025

6:00 – 8:30 pm



**PONY
RIDES**



**BOUNCE
HOUSES**



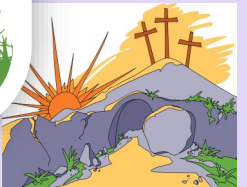
**PETTING
ZOO**



EGG HUNT



LUNCH



RESURRECTION STORY

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

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Chuck

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Wally

wally@walkerbc.org

Troy

troy@walkerbc.org



**HAVE YOU SEEN THE UPGRADES
TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL?**

April 2025

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

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9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE Fellowship Dinner Pre-School, Children, Youth & Prayer Team She-Shed Adult Bible Study Adult Choir		1 Zoe Bost	2	3 Troy Flowers	4	5 Janice Vaughn
6 Raymond Vaughn	7	8	9	10 Patsy Helton	11	12
4:00 Team meetings 5:00 Ministry Update						 Walker Easter Block Party 10:00—12:00
13 	14	15 Paul Fields Samuel Hendry	16	17	18	19
20 Daianna Austin	21	22	23 Mary Stinson	24 Olivia Stelter Shannon Epps	25	26
 EASTER SERVICE						
27 Tomi Atkinson	28	29 Jonathan Wolverton	30 Victoria Austin			

May 2025

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE Fellowship Dinner Pre-School, Children, Youth & Prayer Team She-Shed Adult Bible Study Adult Choir				1 Linda Jackson Scarlett Stelter	2 Marvin Cox	3 Jennifer Leonard
4 Marti Leonard Rebecca Smith	5	6	7	8	9	10 Haley King
11 	12	13	14	15	16	17  Graduation Party for Samuel Whidby 4:00 pm
18 	19 Rose Hill	20 Rhonda Gatlin Lenora Guttormson	21	22 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL WCS	23	24 Jeanette Massey
25	26 	27 Chris Lancaster	28 Harrison Lackey SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS	29 Charlie Young	30 Tabitha Peach	31 Memorial Service Monte Garnette 11:00 am