

Walkersville Window

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A note from the pastor:

If ever there was a year full of uncertainties, 2026 is that kind of year. My own personal "theme" for the year is "What's next?" It could easily be the church's, also. Then again, as we live and work in the Kingdom of God, this should be our constant theme. Always prepared to go where God sends us. Living out the words of James 4:13-15..."Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there...Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring...Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that."

What's next in our individual lives? Do we keep ourselves prepared to go where we are sent? Are we listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? There is no retirement plan when we are doing Kingdom work. So, what's next in your Bible reading plan for 2026? What's next as you participate in the life of the church? What's next to strengthen your prayer life? What's next for YOU?

I often address the "what's next", referring to the Life we have to look forward to when this life is over. Do you know Christ as your Savior? Do you respond in peace or fear when you think about death? Do you take comfort that your life is in God's hands? Are you ready for the "what's next" of eternity?

What's next in the life of the church? Do we say that because Pastor Paul is retiring after June, this is a good question to ask? Actually, this question needs to be answered regularly throughout the life of the church. An active, growing church is addressing this question. A dying church rarely, if ever, considers "What's next?"

What's next in God's Kingdom? It is a certainty that Christ is going to return. Christians of every generation have been looking forward to Christ coming again. While we don't know when, we do know it is a certainty. Ready or not!

And so, "What's next?" is a question we can carry with us, individually, and as a part of the Body of Christ. The answer is found within the Truth of God's Word. The answer is found in the guidance and wisdom we receive through the Holy Spirit. In January, we will be turning to Acts and looking at the early church as they were constantly being faced with the "What's next?" of their day.



Session Members & Committees

Building & Grounds:
Elder: Quinton Richardson
Chair: Russell Mosley

Christian Education:
Elder: Ann Rose
Chair: Jessica Johnston

Congregational Care:
Elder: Eric Johnston
Chair:

Mission & Outreach:
Elder: Gretchen Presson
Chair:

Finance:
Elder: Eric Johnston
Chair: Fran Griffin

Worship:
Elder: Ann Rose
Chair: Frances Gamble

Fellowship:
Elder: Rick Gay
Chair: Debbie Robinson

Sermon Passages

- 1/4: Acts 1:6-11
- 1/11: Acts 2:37-42
- 1/18: Acts 3:11-16
- 1/25: Acts 4:11-22

Answering the Call: We Need You to Service

What Church Volunteering Means:

Volunteering in the church is our response to God's call to be His hands and feet to one another. As 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, "Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." Jesus modeled perfect service, declaring He "did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). When we volunteer, we reflect Christ's love and strengthen the entire Body of Christ.

When Few Answer the Call

Jesus' words in Luke 10:2 ring true today: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." When people don't step up to volunteer, ministries struggle, needs go unmet, and vulnerable people fall through the cracks. The same few become overburdened, and our church's witness to the community diminishes. We are called to "do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

Current Volunteer Needs:

- **Congregational Care Committee** - Chairperson Needed

This team is Christ's hands and feet, caring for families in need through visits, phone calls, and cards to homebound and hospitalized members. They provide encouragement through prayer and outreach, meeting regularly to coordinate care. The committee also hosts special events like high school and college graduate recognition.

Biblical Foundation: They fulfill Romans 12:15 to "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" and live out James 1:22's call to be "doers of the word."

Impact without Leadership: Without a chairperson, critical care needs go unmet, grieving families lack support, and our most vulnerable members become isolated.

- **Mission & Outreach Committee** - Chairperson & Committee Members Needed:

This team embodies Matthew 5:16, letting our light shine before others through community service and evangelism. They coordinate outreach efforts and mission opportunities that demonstrate God's love to our neighbors. We need both a chairperson to provide leadership and committee members to help plan and execute various outreach initiatives.

Biblical Foundation: They answer the call to "loose the chains of injustice and set the oppressed free: (Isaiah 58:6).

Impact without Leadership: Without a chairperson and committee members, our community partnerships lapse, mission opportunities are missed, and our church's outward witness weakens.

- **Little Angels** - 1 to 2 Volunteers Needed
Meets once monthly on the 4th Wednesday (5:30 pm-7 pm) to provide food, fellowship, and faith formation for preschool through 5th-grade children. This ministry reflects Jesus' invitation: "Let the little children come to me" (Matthew 19:14).

Biblical Foundation: Children are "a heritage from the Lord" (Psalm 127:3), and when we welcome them, we welcome Jesus Himself (Matthew 18:5).

- **Elementary Sunday School Teacher** -

Rotational Position

Help children grow in their faith through age-appropriate biblical teaching. This fulfills Deuteronomy 6:7 to impress God's commands on the next generation.

Impact without Teachers: Children miss crucial spiritual formation and the chance to build relationships with caring Christian adults.

- **Nursery Sunday School Teacher** - 1 to 2

Rotational Positions

Provide our youngest children with their first experiences of God's love through simple stories and activities. Even "from the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth our praise" (Psalm 8:2).

Impact without Teachers: Young children miss out on early faith foundations, and parents are unable to attend their own classes.

Your "Yes" Matters

God promises that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35) and that "whoever brings blessing will be enriched" (Proverbs 11:25). Each of these roles offers a unique opportunity to make an eternal difference.

As God asked Isaiah, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" may we respond, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).

Prayerfully consider where God is calling you to serve. Your yes" could change a life, maybe even your own.

Contact the church office to learn more about any of these vital opportunities.

Celebrating Life:

January Sanctity of Life Month and Our HELP Pregnancy Center Partnership

January marks Sanctity of Life Month, a special time when we celebrate God's incredible gift of life and recommit ourselves to protecting it. Throughout Scripture, God reveals His heart for the unborn, declaring in Psalm 139:13-16, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Every human life is created in God's image, precious and sacred from conception to natural death.

This January, we're thrilled to highlight HELP Pregnancy Center as our Mission of the Month. This Christ-centered ministry demonstrates God's love to women facing crisis pregnancies through spiritual, physical, and emotional support. Their work aligns perfectly with Matthew 25:20, teaching us that whatever we do for the least of these, we do for Christ himself.

Every day, HELP Pregnancy Center's compassionate staff and volunteers walk alongside women in unexpected circumstances, offering hope, practical assistance, and the life-changing message of the Gospel. Through pregnancy testing, ultrasound service, counseling, and ongoing care, they create a safe harbor where life is celebrated, and women are empowered to choose life for their unborn children.

One of the most significant ways we can support HELP Pregnancy Center this month is through their annual Baby Bottle Campaign. This simple yet powerful fundraiser makes it possible for the center to continue offering life-affirming support to women navigating unplanned pregnancies. The campaign is both practical and symbolic-baby bottles remind us of the lives we're saving, while the collected coins and bills provide the tangible resources needed to sustain this vital ministry.

Here's how the Baby Bottle Campaign works: Beginning in January, each family can pick up an empty baby bottle after the service. Over the next four weeks, fill your bottle with loose change, cash, or checks. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a meaningful difference. This fundraiser contributes a large part of HELP Pregnancy Center's annual budget, demonstrating how small gifts lead to substantial positive changes.



The beauty of this campaign lies in its accessibility. Children can contribute allowance, families can use it as a teaching moment about generosity and the value of life, and seniors can participate with fixed incomes. If you prefer not to handle physical bottles, HELP Pregnancy Center also offers virtual giving options.

The 2025 goal for the Baby Bottle Campaign was \$100,000. When we consider that the cost of a single ultrasound can mean the difference between a woman choosing life or abortion, we understand how our generosity translates directly into lives saved. Every dollar raised helps provide pregnancy testing, counseling, material assistance, and most importantly, the opportunity to share the life-changing hope found only in Jesus Christ.

Please join us in supporting HELP Pregnancy Center through the Baby Bottle Campaign. Pick up your bottle this Sunday, pray about how God would have you contribute, and return it filled by the end of the month. Let's demonstrate together that when God's people unite around His heart for the vulnerable, amazing things happen.

Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can save lives. Together, we can reflect the heart of our Savior who came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.



- For:
Marth Allen
Barb Salisbury
Landis Presson

- By:
Bob McCain

- For:
Marth Allen

- By:
Betty Lou
Mosley



Dear Walkersville,
 Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent to celebrate the arrival of our sweet Polly Jo. They brought comfort, joy, and a reminder of God's love during a very special time in our lives. Thank you to everyone who reached out to check on us & especially for all the prayers! We love being a part of such a loving & supportive church family. We are truly blessed!
 With Love,
 Brian, Jill & Polly Jo

- 1/4: Debbie Rankin & Wilson Johnston
- 1/11: Phyllis Norwood & Brooklyn Hardy
- 1/18: Sherri Simpson & Lily Presson
- 1/25: Debbie Norwood & Lexi Langley



- Bristol Batson - 4
- Caitlin Richardson - 4
- Nolan Rogers - 5
- Karen Trull - 5
- Nicole Gill - 11
- Justin Parr - 18
- Ella Rogers - 19
- Sue Stinson - 24
- Gretchen Presson - 26

We are excited to introduce our new comprehensive support system designed to expedite and organize the needs of our church family and community through an integrated phone tree and online platform. This streamlined approach allows us to respond quickly and efficiently when members face challenges or require assistance. If you know of someone in need or are experiencing hardship yourself, please don't hesitate to contact the church office or the congregational care committee - we are here to help. For those who feel called to serve, we invite you to join our volunteer network by letting the church office know what areas you're interested in helping with, whether it's preparing meals, picking up medications, offering transportation, assisting with shopping, providing childcare, or making home visits. Together, we can build a stronger, more caring community where no one has to face challenges alone.



☀️ The Outsiders Youth ☀️

****January Theme: Getting Out of Our Comfort Zone!****



This month, during youth group, we're focusing on something exciting and challenging: stepping outside our comfort zones and discovering how the Lord empowers us to grow in faith when we do. If you're ready to be stretched, challenged, and inspired, you don't want to miss what God has planned!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - JANUARY SCHEDULE:

****Note** Dinner will no longer be provided when just the youth meet.**

17 **Wednesday, January 7th | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Kicking off Volume 2 with an explosive start! Come ready to learn, laugh, and grow together.

17 **Wednesday, January 14th | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Week 2 of our Volume 2 adventure - bring your friends!

17 **Wednesday, January 21st | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Mid-month momentum as we dive deeper into God's amazing truths.

17 **Wednesday, January 28th | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

SPECIAL EVENT with Little Angels! Join us for an incredible evening combined with our Little Angels ministry - AND DINNER IS PROVIDED! This is going to be an amazing night of multi-generational worship and learning.

🎸 **Sunday, JANUARY 25TH | 2:00 PM**

WINTER JAM TRIP! Meet at the church at 2:00 PM for an incredible Christian music concert experience. Bring money for food and souvenirs - this is going to be EPIC! 🎸



****EXCITING CHILDCARE NEWS!****

Starting January 7th, we're thrilled to announce that childcare will be available every Sunday from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM for any guardians attending our Bible study! We want to make it easier for parents and guardians to participate in growing their faith while knowing their little ones are safe and cared for.

****Please note:**** Unfortunately, childcare will not be available during prayer group time, so plan accordingly.

Questions? Contact Caitlin (704-726-1045) or Quinton (980-210-6535)

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST:

Battling Cancer:

- Boyet Twitty - Bone Marrow Cancer
- Larry Medlin, Sr. - Stage 3 lung cancer (Father of Pete & Tiffany Medlin)
- Bricelyn Dorman (Daughter of Joey McCombs co-worker)
- John Cavallaro (Friend of Bob Stirton)
- Sandy Rea (Sister of Billy Thompson)
- Larry Norwood
- C.B. Griffin - Bone Cancer
- Tammy Huber - Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (Mother of one of Riley Campbell's clients)
- Paul Smith - (Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson)
- Howard Moser - Kidney Cancer (Rick Moser's Brother)
- Ann King (Friend of Sue Thornton)
- Alan Mears - Rectal Cancer (Pastor at Mineral Springs UMC)
- Eric Munoz - Multiple Myeloma (Friend of Bob Stirton)
- Mark Mull - Brain Tumor (Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson)

Various Concerns:

- Clay Murray
- Rick Moser
- Phil Keyes
- Fran Griffin - Pain Management
- Layne & Lynn Dewlen - Various health concerns
- Tanner Hasty - 10 year old with migraines & coned vision (Client of Riley Campbell)
- Jerry & Alice Griffin - (Community friends)
- Frankie Norwood - Dementia (Brother of Hazel Norwood)
- Monty Brady - (Relative of Rhonda McManus & Sue Thornton)
- Bart & Pat Jackson - Declining health (Cousins of Fran Griffin)

Assisted Living:

- Robby Griffin:
Lee Forest Group Home
1209 Pelham Dr
Laurinburg, NC 28352
- Nancy Thomas
Lake Park Rehabilitation
- Pat Cochran
Graceful Arms Asst. Living
7500 W. Camp Wisdom Rd
COW 150, Dallas, TX 75236

Active Military:

- Jesse Par (PV2) - 2-47 IN BN B CO 9240 Treadwen DR BLD 3405, Fort Benning, GA, 31905
- Matthew Luke - Gretchen Presson's co-worker's son. Deploying to the Middle East.
- Chad Clonch - Lieutenant in the US Navy, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek. Chad is Scarlett Clonch's husband and son-in-law of Bob & Marsha Stirton. 4628 Larkwood Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464
- Luke Mault - Staff Sergeant in the US Army Reserve, A. CO 404th Civil Affairs Battalion Africa. Family friend of Ron & Lisa Tietjen.
- Garret Melton - US Marine stationed Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. Grandson of Danny & Marlene Little, Grandson-in-law of Larry & Audrey Schott.
- Devin Moser - Senior Chief, US Navy. Out on a mission for at least a year. Son of Rick Moser.
- Peyton Maguffey - Serving on the Donald Cook war ship at the rank of E5 as a CTR (cryptologic technician collection). Great nephew of Bob & Marsha Stirton.
- Chris Rankin - Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army stationed in Ft. Drum, NY. Paul Rankin's nephew. 10266 Glass St, JBLM, WA 98433
- Jarrett Setliff - US Air Force stationed in Florida. Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson; Hazel & Gloria Norwood. 624 B W. Pine St., Mary Esther, FL 32569

Walkersville EPC Contact Information & Office Hours

Pastor Paul Rankin:
814-279-5055
walkersvilleepcpastor@gmail.com
Mon-Thurs: 8:30-5:00 or by appt.

Caitlin Richardson (Administrative Asst):
704-726-1045
walkersvilleepc@gmail.com
M-W-F 8:30 am - 2:15 pm

Walkersville EPC

Session Meeting Review for December 18, 2025

I. Prayer and Devotions

-What's next? (Theme for 2026 individually, as a church in God's Kingdom)

II. Approved: November 20, 2025 minutes

III. Baptisms, new members, and visitors

IV. Committee Reports: "How is each committee fulfilling the Great Commission?"

January 2025 Committee of the Month: Fellowship Committee

January 2025 Elder of the Month (from the Committee of the Month): Rick Gay

***Encouraging all committees to look ahead 12 months at each meeting

A. Building & Grounds: (Quinton Richardson)

-Faucet by Memorial Garden

-Approved: Railings for sanctuary chancel area in process

-Need to update/make additions to Cemetery Policy

B. Christian Education: (Ann Rose)

-next meeting: January 18, 2026

-New chairperson: Jessica Johnston

-Advent devotional materials ordered and set out

-Nursery Sunday School teacher needed; elementary teacher needed

-Beginning to discuss VBS 2026, July 12-15, 2026

C. Congregational Care: (Eric Johnston)

-Next meeting: February 8, 2026

-Visitation and Communion:

-Beginning a new program to be aware of needs in the church and how to help

-Christmas gift bags were put together and delivered

D. Mission & Outreach: (Gretchen Presson)

-next meeting: February 17, 2026

-January Mission of the Month: HELP Pregnancy Center

-2026 Chicken & Dumplings dates: March 14, 2026, October 17, 2026

-Looking ahead at having "Walkersville Days" to go visit local missions and ministries we support

-Need more committee members and a chairperson

E. Worship: (Ann Rose)

-Next meeting: January 11, 2026

-2026 tentative Communion Dates: Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 2 (Maundy Thursday), Apr. 5 (Easter), May 3,

June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Dec. 24

-Future Dates: Hanging of the Greens, 11/24

Advent, beginning Nov. 30

Christmas Eve, 12/24 (4pm & 9pm with Communion at both)

F. Finance: (Eric Johnston)

-Next Meeting: October 8, 2026, at 6:30 pm

-November 2025 Financial Reports

-Amount in General Fund to begin 2026: \$50,000

-Amount above \$50,000 to be distributed: confirm at January meeting

G. Fellowship: (Rick Gay)

-Next meeting: TBD

-12/7: refreshments after Christmas Cantata

H. UC-EPC Women: (Caitlin Richardson)

V. Old Business

A. Presbytery Report: Next meeting: January 30-31, 2026 Location: Benton Heights EPC

-Representing Walkersville: Ann Rose, Rick Gay

B. Pastor Paul's vacation plans: December 26, 2025-January 1, 2026 (study leave); Sometime in March 2026.

C. whom to call in an emergency:

Ken Thomas (980) 328-8702; Michael Krauter (Siler) (330) 309-2311; Joe Rolison (Rehoboth) (704) 301-1590.

D. Continued discussion about the bus: informal survey of congregation

E. Sound & Video people for Sunday morning: people who can learn to do this (create a team)

F. January Congregational Meeting: January 25, 2026 (Nominating Committee; review 2026 Budget)

G. AED battery replacement: Rick Gay is looking into this through the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department

VI. New Business

A. Committee volunteers needed!!

B. Approved: Have a Youth Sunday in February

C. Approved: Staff Christmas gift (Sue, Layne, Caitlin, Trish, Carter Brothers)

D. Approved: Staff 5% raises (Sue & Caitlin)

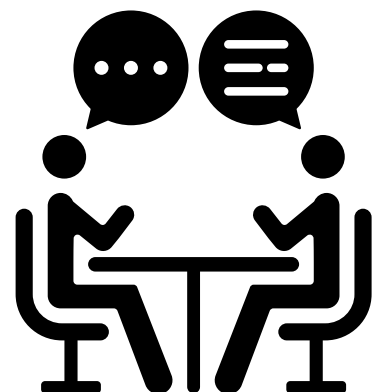
E. Approved: Trish & Joey McCombs increase to \$500/month

VII. Dates for use of the Fellowship Hall:

-Tammy Mosley: December 20, 2025

VIII. Close with prayer

Next stated Session meeting: January 15, 2026, 7 pm in the Library



JANUARY 2026:

COM: Fellowship;

MOM: HELP Pregnancy Center

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 Holy Communion Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	5 Removal of the Greens, 6:30 pm	6 Epiphany Square Dancing 7-9pm	7 Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Outsiders, 6pm	8 Choir 7pm	9	10
11 The Baptism of Jesus Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Worship Committee, 11:15am	12 Men's & Women's Monthly Bible Study	13 Square Dancing 7-9pm	14 Oper. Reach-Out Meal, 12pm Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Outsiders, 6pm	15 Session 7pm	16	17
18 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Christian Ed. 11:15am	19 ML King Day Newsletter Submissions Due	20 Square Dancing 7-9pm	21 Bible Study 3pm Prayer Time 4pm Outsiders, 6pm	22 Choir 7pm	23	24
25 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Congregational Meeting, 11:15 am Winter Jam, 2pm	26	27 Senior Covered Dish Lunch 11:30am Square Dancing 7-9pm	28 Bible Study 3pm Prayer Time 4pm Little Angels & Outsiders 5:30pm	29 Choir 7pm	30 Presbytery	31 Presbytery