

Walkersville Window

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A note from the pastor:

One of the themes that runs through the Bible is that God looks at the heart. Is the heart attitude we present to the world the same one God sees? In February, this will be the thought we consider.

In Acts 4:36-5:11 we meet Barnabas, a man with a godly heart attitude, followed by Ananias and Sapphira, who attempt to present the same heart attitude, but in reality, they are lying...to the church and to God. We get to decide what kind of day we want to have: a self-centered day or a God-centered day!

Youth Sunday is the day when we celebrate and worship under the leadership of our Youth. Do you consider this generation to be important? They are the future of the church. Attending and worshiping under their guidance is one way to show your support for the Youth as well as for the future of Walkersville EPC.

Once again, as in Acts 4, the apostles are persecuted for preaching about Jesus Christ. After some miraculous and even dramatic events in Acts 5:33-42, Gamaliel, a respected Pharisee, challenged the religious leaders. Is this new teaching from the imagination of men? Then it will eventually fail. Is it from God? Then do not get in its way, or you might

find yourself fighting against God! Regardless of the consequences, are you more likely to obey human authority or God's authority?

As Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (2/18/2026), we will turn back to one of the passages that is at the heart of the Lenten season, Genesis 3:14-19. We are reminded of the reality of our existence: separated from God, life is more difficult, with our final statement being "...you are dust, and to dust you shall return." On the one hand, this is a pretty depressing statement. On the other hand, anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus is able to continue to embrace the hope found only in him. And we are far more than just "dust", especially in God's sight.

The first place in Scripture that a person's heart condition is evaluated is in Genesis 4:1-7. God did not accept Cain's sacrifice, not because there was a problem with the sacrifice, but with Cain's heart. A warning is given to Cain, as well as to all of us: "...sin is lurking at the door of all our hearts. This sobering truth also points to the hope the Lenten season reminds us of: that Christ is victorious over sin and death. (1 Corinthians 15:7).

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: Gretchen Presson
Finance: Elder: Eric Johnston Chair: Fran Griffin
Worship: Elder: Ann Rose Chair: Frances Gamble
Fellowship: Elder: Rick Gay Chair: Debbie Robinson

Sermon Passages

- 2/1: Acts 4:36-5:11
- 2/8: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
- 2/15: Acts 5:33-42
- 2/18: Ash Wednesday, Genesis 3:14-19
- 2/22: Genesis 4:1-7

Ground 40:

Transforming Lives Through
Faith and Community



Ground 40 is a faith-based organization dedicated to helping men rebuild their lives after homelessness, addiction, and incarceration. Through a structured, Biblically-grounded program, Ground 40 guides men toward lasting recovery and meaningful reintegration into communities.

The Four-Stage Process:

The Farm (40 days) - Men disconnect from distractions and focus on sobriety and their relationship with the Lord, establishing a strong spiritual foundation.

The Ranch (80 days) - Building on solid ground, men take classes on fatherhood, Biblical principles, and Christian living as they work toward personal restoration.

Restoration House (60 days) - Men serve the community through our thrift store, landscaping, and outreach work, gaining confidence and purpose while staying grounded in sobriety.

The Homes - Graduates transition to supportive housing where they live independently while maintaining accountability, employment, and community connection through Biblical communal living.

This free, six-month program combines discipleship with practical life skills, helping men not only recover but become the men they were called to be - for themselves, their families, and their communities.

- **In Honor of:**

Choir Director & Choir Members
By: Bob McCain

- **In Memory of:**

Landis Presson
By: Hazel & Gloria Norwood

- **In Memory of:**

Nancy Presson
By: Bob McCain



Valentine's Covered Dish Lunch

Join us for a festive celebration!

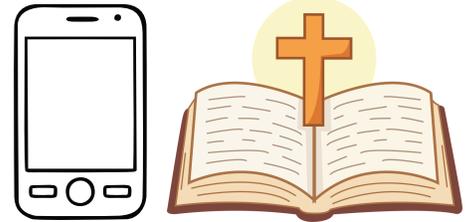
 **Saturday, February 15th, 11:15 am**

 **Covered Dish Lunch**

 **Hosted by the Fellowship Committee**

Share a dish, share the love, and enjoy great food and fellowship with our community. Sign up today!

What if we treated our Bibles like our Cell Phones:



Imagine if we carried our Bibles everywhere we go - in our pockets, our bags, always within arm's reach.

What if we checked it first thing in the morning and throughout the day?

What if we panicked when we couldn't find it, the way we do with our phones?

Most of us would never dream of going a day without our cellphones. We charge them, protect them, and consult them constantly for guidance and connection. Yet how often do we neglect the one book that offers true wisdom, comfort, and direction for our lives?

What if we gave God's Word the same priority we give our screens?

What if we were as eager to read Scripture as we are to check our messages?

The challenge is simple: treat your Bible like your most essential tool. Carry it. Read it. Let it guide your day. You might be surprised as that a difference it makes.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

Walkersville Family,
 We continue to lift the Church and members in praise of thankfulness for your generous financial assistance to our community as we struggled to rebuild from the wrath of Storm Helene. Recovery is going well, and the Lord continues to bless us all. We pray for continued mission-mindedness blanketed by the Lord's blessings.
 with our love & prayers,
 Rick & Bernie Wilson

- 2/1: Tammy Mosley & Wilson Johnston
- 2/8: Amanda Fesperman & Levi Fesperman
- 2/15: Gretchen Presson & Brooklyn Hardy
- 2/22: Tiffany Presson & Lily Presson



- Clara McGee - 2
- Paul Rankin - 2
- Sherri Simpson - 3
- Bert Stirton - 3
- Dennis Robinson - 5
- Tommy Norwood, III - 8
- Brian Rogers - 10
- Susan Burrows - 12
- Chloe Hardy - 13
- Allianna Mae Batson - 15
- Hazel Norwood - 17
- Grady Rose, Jr. - 18
- Chris Trull - 19
- Chad Clonch -
- Debbie Rankin - 23
- Jeffery Norwood - 27

Thank you for a Wonderful Year!
 What a year of blessings it has been at HELP Pregnancy Center! Together, we watched God move in powerful ways. Every story and every saved life reflects your generosity in action. Thank you for being such a blessing to this ministry. Because of you, moms and babies in the Carolinas are experiencing real love, real help, and a future filled with hope.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Tara Quinn & The Team at HELP Pregnancy Center

☀️ The Outsiders Youth ☀️

****Youth Group Leading Worship - Mark Your Calendars****

Our youth group is thrilled to announce that they will be **leading worship on Sunday, February 8th**. This is a big milestone for our young people, and we hope you'll come out and support them!

February Youth SCHEDULE:

Feb 17 ****Wednesday, February 4th | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM****

Worship Practice

Feb 17 ****Wednesday, February 11th | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM****

Maryville Youth at WEPC

Pizza dinner provided / Topic: "What does it mean to be a Christian?"

Feb 17 ****Wednesday, February 18th | ****

No Youth Group - Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm

Feb 17 ****Wednesday, February 25th | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM****

Spaghetti Dinner with Little Angels / Topic: "What is Lent?"

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

👧 **EXCITING CHILDCARE NEWS!**

We're thrilled to see our **Children's Bible Study** flourishing! Every Wednesday from 3-4 pm, our young learners are diving deep into God's Word through our series "**Learning About the Bible.**"

So far, the children have made wonderful progress, discovering that: The Bible: God's Word; Two Testaments: One Bible; Books of the Bible; Chapters and Verses.

What's Coming Up:

Feb 17 ****Wednesday, February 4th | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM****

NT Writers: One Author (God)

Feb 17 ****Wednesday, February 11th | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM****

OT Writers: One Author (God)

Feb 17 ****Wednesday, February 18th | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM****

Types of Writings (Literary Styles)

Feb 17 ****Wednesday, February 25th | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM****

One Interpreter (Holy Spirit)

Be sure to visit the timeline they work through displayed in the Education Wing across from the Youth Room. **A Special Request:** As our children work on memorizing the Books of the Bible, please encourage them along their journey! Quiz them, celebrate their progress, and remind them how important God's Word is. Your support makes all the difference!

Adult Lenten Bible Study

Journey Through the Promise of the Resurrection

Join us for a meaningful Lenten study as we explore "**The Gift of the Cross: Embracing the Promise of the Resurrection**" by

Charles F. Stanley.

Feb 17 **Begins Wednesday, February 25th**

7:00pm

Fellowship Hall

This Lenten season, deepen your faith and discover the transformative power of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. All are welcome!

For more information, contact the church office.

Walkersville EPC Session Meeting Review January 15, 2026

I. Prayer and Devotions

-1 Peter 5:6-9

-What does Peter say? What does this mean for us today?

II. Approved: December 18, 2025 minutes III. Baptisms, new members, and visitors

Visitors: Doug & Sue McMahon

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

February 2026 Committee of the Month: *Christian Education*

February 2026 Elder of the Month (from the Committee of the Month): *Ann Rose*

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

***Committee members needed!!!

A. Building & Grounds: (*Quinton Richardson*)

-Faucet by Memorial Garden

-Approved: Railings for sanctuary chancel area

-manse propane tank leak repaired

-let Church Mutual know about new playground

-AED update: battery in unit is good; we need to replace pads

B. Christian Education: (*Ann Rose*)

-next meeting: January 18, 2026

-Nursery Sunday School teacher needed

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

-Youth Group continues to grow

-Children's Bible Study at same time as Wednesday Bible Study going well

C. Congregational Care: (*Eric Johnston*)

-Next meeting: February 8, 2026

-Lotsa Help Site

-Needs a chairperson

-Visitation and Communion:

D. Mission & Outreach: (*Gretchen Presson*)

-next meeting: February 17, 2026

-HELP Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Campaign has started

-Update given on Elias & Caris Yohannes (missionaries in Ethiopia)

-February Mission of the Month: *Ground 40*

-2026 Chicken & Dumplings dates (tentative): October 17, 2026

-March 14, 2026 Chicken & Dumplings has been cancelled.

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

-Need more committee members

E. Worship: (*Ann Rose*)

-Next meeting: March 22, 2026

-Youth Sunday: 2/8/2026

-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

-Preparations for the Lenten season

-Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7pm

F. Finance: (*Eric Johnston*)

-Next Meeting: October 8, 2026 at 6:30pm -Approved: December 2025

Financial Report -Should we begin 2026 with: \$50,000

-It would mean distributing: \$16,000 throughout 2026 as needs come up

G. Fellowship: (*Rick Gay*)

-Next meeting: January 26, 2026

-February 15, 2026 covered dish dinner after worship

H. UC-EPC Women: (*Caitlin Richardson*)

-Presbytery April Women's Conference: 4/18/2026 in Florence, SC

-Theme: "United Women Connecting Generations"

V. Old Business

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

-Represent Walkersville: Ann Rose, Rick Gay

B. Pastor Paul's vacation plans: March 9-19 (3/15), 2026

C. Who to call in an emergency: Ken Thomas (980) 328-8702; Michael Krauter (Siler) (330) 309-2311.

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. Youth Sunday: February 8, 2026

VI. New Business

A. Initial plans being formed for session to meet with the Ministerial Committee from Presbytery for next steps when Pastor Paul retires after June, 2026.

VII. Dates for use of the Fellowship Hall:

-Nicole Gill: March 21, 2026

VIII. Close with prayer

Next stated Session meeting: February 19, 2026, 7pm in the Library

FEBRUARY 2026

COM: Christian Education

MOM: Ground 40

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Communion Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	2 Fellowship Committee, 6pm	3 Square Dancing 7-9pm	4 Bible Study 3pm Prayer Time 4pm	5 Choir 7pm	6	7
8 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Congregational Care, 11:15am	9 Men's & Women's Monthly Bible Study 7pm	10 Square Dancing 7-9pm	11 Oper. Reach-Out Meal, 12pm Bible Study 3pm Outsiders Youth 5:30pm	12 Choir 7pm	13	14 St. Valentine's Day
15 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Covered Dish, 11:15 am	16 Presidents' Day Mission & Outreach 7pm Newsletter Submissions Due	17 Square Dancing 7-9pm	18 Ash Wednesday Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Service, 7pm	19 Session 7pm	20 Presbytery	21 Presbytery
22 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	23	24 Seniors Covered Dish Lunch 11:30am Square Dancing 7-9pm	25 Bible Study 3pm Prayer Time 4pm Little Angels & Outsiders 5:30pm Lent Bible Study, 7pm	26 Choir 7pm	27	28