

Walkersville Window

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WALKERSVILLEPC.ORG



A note from the pastor:

The closer we get to Christmas, the more we hear Scripture centered around Isaiah 9, Micah 5, and certainly Luke 2. However, passages from 1 John are not often used as normal Advent messages. Which means we need to take a much larger look at the Christ child whose birth we celebrate this time of year.

At the birth of a child, most, maybe all, the attention is on the baby. But what about the parents?! Loving God and loving Jesus Christ are actually saying one and the same thing. In addition, we have another Christmas message that is sometimes missed: Victory. But as we move through this world, do we feel victorious? Too many Christians would say "No." 1 John 5:1-5 reminds us that we have been born of God, and should be obeying God, resulting in victory over anything the world can throw at us. Through Christ we have conquered the world. This victory ultimately comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Have you experienced this victory?

If you want to get into a controversy over what a passage of Scripture is saying, 1 John 5:6-7 is one of those passages. Over the centuries, Augustine said the "water and the blood" are referring to the water and blood that came from Jesus' side when he was pierced while still on the cross. Calvin and Luther interpreted these as elements we have in the sacrament of Communion. Others say it takes us back to Jesus baptism and crucifixion. Regardless of which interpretation you gravitate toward, 1 John 5:6-9 points us to the truth that the birth we celebrate at Christmas unquestioningly is Christ, God among us. Have you felt his presence?

In 1 John 5:10-13, John had no problem stating with absolute language that every human life is on one side of Christ or the other. There is no gray area. The more we meet Christ as we read through the Gospels, the more we see how he demanded people to make a choice about him. You are either for him or against him. This is the baby in the manger. And the eternal life that we look forward to is only found in him. Are you willing to bet your life on it?

1 John 5:18-21 agrees with Romans 10:9 as it reminds us that all who declare Jesus is the Christ and believe he rose from the dead will be saved. If this is true of you, you are a child of God. As children of God, we have a certainty that: children of God do not continue living a life of sin, that we are protected (John 17: 12, 15), and we are able to see the truth of God revealed through Christ. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we can also celebrate our own birth into truth and life. Have you experienced the new birth found in Christ?

When we arrive at Matthew 1:21 Mary and Joseph have been engaged, only to find out that Mary is scandalously pregnant. What should Joseph do? Walk away or be drawn into this scandal? Along with Joseph, we find out that Jesus has come save us from the sin that has plagued humanity ever since Adam and Eve. Jesus has come to do what only he can do, restore our relationship with a holy God. It is only when we come to know God better that we see how offensive our sin is to him. It is only when we come to the person of Jesus Christ that we are able to feel the warmth of his love.

Session Members & Committees

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

Christian Education:
Elder: Ann Rose
Chair: Caitlin Richardson

Congregational Care:
Elder: Eric Johnston
Chair: Tammy Mosley

Mission & Outreach:
Elder: Gretchen Presson
Chair: Clay Murray

Finance:
Elder: Eric Johnston
Chair: Fran Griffin

Worship:
Elder: Ann Rose
Chair: Frances Gamble

Fellowship:
Elder: Rick Gay
Chair: Debbie Robinson

Sermon Passages

- 11/30: Advent #1
1 John 5:1-5
- 12/7: Advent #2
1 John 5: 6-9
- 12/14: Advent #3
1 John 5:10-13
- 12/21: Advent #4
1 John 5:18-21
- 12/24: Christmas Eve
Matthew 1:21
- 12/28: TBD

Celebrate the Season with Us!

Join us for these wonderful Christmas events as we gather together to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 pm

Come enjoy an evening of beautiful music and worship as our choir presents the Christmas Cantata, "O Little of Bethlehem". Light refreshments will follow the performance.

Little Angels & Outsiders Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 10 at 5:30 pm

Our young people, and their families are invited to celebrate the season with games, food, and fellowship!

Youth Christmas Party & Light the Light Clean-Up

Saturday, December 13
\$10 per person

Join us for an evening of mini golf and Secret Santa gift exchange, followed by cleaning up luminaries for Operation Reach-Out. More details to come!

Adult Sunday School Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 pm
Jackson Fire Department
\$20.50/person

Join fellow adults for an evening of food and fellowship. Please sign up in advance so we can get an accurate headcount.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 pm

Spread Christmas cheer throughout our community! We'll share the joy of the season through song, followed by a time of fellowship with your favorite finger foods. Please bring a dish to share!

Senior Christmas Lunch

Tuesday, December 16 at 11:30 am
The Derby Restaurant, Monroe

Seniors are invited to join us for a special time of food and fellowship!

Thank you 

Dear friends at Walkersville,
Your love expressed through a regular gift each month is amazing! How thankful I have been that God directed Paul and me to become part of your family way back in 1983!

And then this month another gift came to my mailbox, a check for \$25 identified simply as "donation". God knows just when to send extra encouragement. When an unplanned for need would arise, in this case a repair/replacement of the sink in our bathroom! This unexpected extra income will go toward that expense and reminds me that God knows, and always provides. Thanks be to Him, and to you!!

In Christ,
Joyce Smith



Christmas Card Exchange

Planning to share Christmas cards with church families? We're happy to help! Simply bring your cards and place them in the red box or leave them on the table. Debbie and Sherri will sort and file them in the pick-up boxes for recipients to collect at their convenience.



- 12/7: Rhonda McManus & Brooklyn Hardy
- 12/14: Caitlin Richardson & Kennedy Yeakley
- 12/21: Jennifer & Chris Trull
- 12/28: Tiffany & Lily Presson



DECEMBER
birthdays & anniversaries

- Bob McCain - 1
- Rick Moser - 3
- Quinton Richardson - 3
- Todd & Debra Twitty - 5
- Marsha Stirton - 8
- Layne & Lynn Dewlen - 8
- Daisy Craig - 9
- Allison Batson - 10
- Tiffany Medlin - 14
- Mike & Mitzie Broome - 17
- Quinton & Caitlin Richardson - 16
- Bryleigh Helms - 17
- Rhonda McManus - 19
- Ann Rose - 20
- Moira Efird - 21
- Lauren Yeakley - 23
- Jean White - 25
- Jessica Johnston - 27
- Elleigh Johnston - 28
- Aurora Efird - 28
- Bob & Fran Griffin - 29

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST:

Battling 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:

- 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
- Joann & 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 NOVEMBER 20, 2025

I. PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

-HOW DO YOU DEFINE "LEADER"? IS THAT YOU?

-TAKE CHARGE, RESPONSIBILITY, PERSUADER, TEACHER, RESPECT, DEFENDER

II. APPROVE: OCTOBER 16, 2025 MINUTES

III. BAPTISMS, NEW MEMBERS, AND VISITORS

BRIAN & JILL YOCKEL (& POLLY JOANNA), BRIAN DIXON, JAY & LINDA ZEIGLER, BILLY & SANDY GEIGER

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS: "HOW IS EACH COMMITTEE FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION?"

DECEMBER 2025 COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH: BUILDING & GROUNDS

NOVEMBER 2025 ELDER OF THE MONTH (FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH): QUINTON RICHARDSON

*****ENCOURAGING ALL COMMITTEES TO LOOK AHEAD 12 MONTHS AT EACH MEETING**

A. BUILDING & GROUNDS: QUINTON RICHARDSON

-FAUCET BY MEMORIAL GARDEN

-LOOKING INTO HANDRAILS ON CHANCEL STEPS

B. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: ANN ROSE

-NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 18, 2026

-NURSERY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS NEEDS TEACHER

-BEGINNING TO DISCUSS VBS 2026, JULY 12-15, 2026

-ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

C. CONGREGATIONAL CARE: ERIC JOHNSTON

-NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2026

-VISITATION AND COMMUNION:

D. MISSION & OUTREACH: GRETCHEN PRESSON

-NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 17, 2026

-DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH: FAITHWORKS

-NEXT CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS: MARCH 14, 2026

-TENTATIVE 2026 DATES: OCTOBER 17, 2026

-LOOKING AHEAD AT HAVING "WALKERSVILLE DAYS" TO GO TO HELP PREGNANCY CENTER ON DECEMBER 2 AT 5:30

-TENTATIVE LIST FOR 2026 MISSION OF THE MONTH

-MANY IDEAS FOR 2026 THAT CAME FROM THE LAST MEETING

E. WORSHIP: ANN ROSE

-NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 11, 2026

-2025 COMMUNION DATES: DEC. 7, DEC. 24

-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 6:30PM

-SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS

-TENTATIVE 2026 BUDGET

-AMOUNT IN GENERAL FUND TO BEGIN 2026: \$50,000

G. FELLOWSHIP: RICK GAY

-NEXT MEETING: TBD

-PROVIDING REFRESHMENTS ON 12/7 FOLLOWING THE CHOIR CANTATA

H. UC-EPC WOMEN: CAITLIN RICHARDSON

-THE GROUP HAD A VERY GOOD TIME TOGETHER AT THEIR 11/15 MEETING

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. PRESBYTERY REPORT: NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 30-31, 2026 LOCATION: BENTON HEIGHTS EPC

-WHO IS GOING TO REPRESENT WALKERSVILLE? ANN ROSE AND RICK GAY

B. PASTOR PAUL'S RADIATION: ALL DONE! PRAISE GOD! DOCTOR'S FOLLOWUP APPOINTMENTS IN MARCH & MAY, 2026

-VACATION PLANS: DECEMBER 28, 2025; SOMETIME AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH, 2026

C. WHO 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 CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

E. SOUND & VIDEO PEOPLE FOR SUNDAY MORNING: PEOPLE WHO CAN LEARN TO DO THIS (CREATE A TEAM)

F. JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: JANUARY 25, 2026

G. AED BATTERY REPLACEMENT: RICK GAY IS LOOKING INTO THIS THROUGH THE JACKSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. HOT BOX (USED): \$300. IT WAS DECIDED TO NOT PURCHASE THIS.

B. "WHAT'S NEXT?" IS THE THEME FOR 2026: "WHAT'S NEXT" IN YOUR LIFE, AS A CHURCH, AFTER DEATH, CHRIST'S RETURN

VII. DATES FOR USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

-GRETCHEN PRESSON: NOVEMBER 29, 2025

-DEBBIE ROBINSON: DECEMBER 6, 2025

-GRETCHEN PRESSON: DECEMBER 13, 2025

-TAMMY MOSLEY: DECEMBER 20, 2025

VIII. CLOSE WITH PRAYER

NEXT STATED SESSION MEETING: DECEMBER 18, 2025, 7PM IN THE LIBRARY