

Walnut Community Bible Church

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Senior Pastor: Eldon Cook

Associate Pastor: Nathan Richey

Youth Pastor: Brett Kepner

Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 AM

Breakout Classes: Sunday 10:45 AM

Our Mission:
To Know Jesus Christ
and To Make Jesus Christ Known

Walnut Community Bible Church is an evangelical community of believers committed to Jesus Christ and to living out their faith in Northern Illinois and around the world.

If you would like to get more information about our church please visit our website.
www.WalnutCommunityBibleChurch.org



WCBC UPDATE

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April 2024

Walnut Community Bible Church

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SCRIPTURE MEMORY

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.

Isaiah 7:9 (NIV)

Am I Filled With The Spirit?

Recently in our video breakout class with J D Greear, the idea of being filled with the Spirit was mentioned and it got me thinking. Being filled with the Spirit is one of the key ways we advance in maturity in the Christian life and it is one of the most important ways that God shapes us more and more to be like Jesus. Paul gives us this command: "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit" in Ephesians 5:18

As I was reading in Acts I noticed the Apostle Peter being filled repeatedly with the Holy Spirit. It all starts in Acts 2:4, on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit first comes after Jesus has gone to heaven. The Spirit filled all who were gathered and they testified to the assembled crowd in languages they did not know. Peter was there that day and was filled with the Spirit. Then, some time later, in Acts 4:8. again we read that Peter was filled with the Spirit but this time he spoke before the rulers and elders in Jerusalem. Then, in Acts 4:31, after Peter was back with the other believers, they were praying and we read that all of them were "filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." A straightforward reading of these passages seems to indicate that the filling of the Holy Spirit can happen again and again. And Paul's command in Ephesians 5 agrees with that assumption since he uses a present tense imperative that could be translated "be continually filled with the Spirit."

But how can we be filled over and over again. If we are like a glass that has been filled to the brim with water, how can we be made more full of the Spirit? Wayne Grudem gives this helpful insight:



Thoughts Along the Way

God sometimes answers our prayers by giving us what we would have asked for had we known what He knows.

J.D. Greear

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March 5 Board Meeting Overview

Present: Don Finley, Andy Spencer, Adam Franklin, Rob Allen, and Greg Allen. Also present: Josie Kepner, Angie Davis, Treasurer James Schoff and Pastors Brett, Nathan and Eldon.

The meeting opened with prayer and Brent shared devotions from Proverbs 22:1 and reflections on the coaching style of John Wooden.

February meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

The treasurer’s report showed that February’s income was \$27,820.00 and expenses were \$40,724.66. No funds were transferred to the mission account.

Daycare, and Education committees presented reports based on the minutes from their recent

meetings. The upcoming fire marshal visit was highlighted by daycare, along with the closing of registration until Fall 2025. Education highlighted the changes to children's breakouts.

It was brought to the attention of the board that the ladies restroom could use additional handicap accessibility.

Work in the upstairs of the Rock continues to proceed slowly.

The board thanked God for a great leadership retreat and plans to implement some good ideas into their leadership team.

Building use requests were reviewed and approved.

Closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Attendance and Giving

This section of the newsletter is designed to keep each of us informed about the weekly attendance and giving at WCBC.

*The attendance figures only represent in-person attendance.

Week	Attendance*	Offering
2/25/24	143	\$5,342.00
3/3/24	146	\$5,400.00
3/10/24	133	\$4,967.05
3/17/24	147	\$3,865.00
3/24/24	177	\$3,953.00

Weekly operational budget: \$6,000.00

Average for these weeks: \$4,705.41

Metamorphosis by Troy Campbell

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.” Romans 12:1,2

The word *transformed* comes from the Greek word **metamorphosis**, the term we use to describe the process that changes the ‘ugly’ caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly. What a picture that presents. What a change takes place in this weed bound, leaf munching, unattractive ‘worm’. **Metamorphosis!** The caterpillar attaches itself to a leaf or stem, a cocoon forms around it and things begin to happen inside it where nothing remains unchanged. The caterpillar gradually melts into a jellied, shapeless mass, with it only then beginning to form into what will become a gorgeous butterfly with large, dainty, colored wings. The ‘ugly’ is gone and emerging from the cocoon is a beauty.

This is the picture of the transformation the Christian goes through. “If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature. The old has gone, the new is here.” 2 Corinthians 5:17. We, in our ugly, greedy worm form, were thinking, talking, and acting sinfully, but then we are washed from our sins and indwelt by the Holy Spirit through whose power we ‘are being transformed into His likeness’. 2 Corinthians 3:18 It is a heart change that yields a life change! Transformed by God’s love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness, we become selfless, loving, devoted Christ-followers, radiating His light and beauty to our dark, confused, ugly, lost world.

It is hard to imagine when you see a caterpillar that one day it will be a beautiful butterfly floating through the air. It is, often, equally as hard to imagine that us sinners can become a brand-new person displaying the attributes of Christ in our lives.

It is also hard to imagine that the beautiful butterflies we see floating around in the air were once ugly caterpillars. The change is so great. But isn’t it just as difficult to imagine John, the apostle of love, was once ‘a son of thunder’. Or that the apostle Paul, was once a killer of Christians. Or each of us, though once “we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son”. Romans 5:10 This transformation means that we have “put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, bearing with one another, forgiving each other”. Colossians 3:12,13. We are becoming more like Christ. It is truly a **metamorphosis!** Nothing remains unchanged!