

Walnut Community Bible Church

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Senior Pastor: Joe Henson

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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May 2026

Walnut Community Bible Church

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Transplanting by Jen Henson

I am not a gardener. Although I hope to become one, I have checked both thumbs on multiple occasions and neither is green, and my home has traditionally been the place where plants go to die. On the other hand, farmers, botanists, and the naturally talented with plants harness the potential of God's earth, yielding bounty with knowledge, sweat and probably even tears that the rest of us casually pick up at the grocery store or florist.

It's planting season here, and my allergies are excited to find something new to sneeze about as they adjust to living in the Illinois Valley area. Born and raised in the Southeastern US, I am a "city girl"; but nowhere in the South is very far from farming country, and many keep their own backyard gardens. I have always admired those who seem to scratch around in the dirt and come up with something beautiful. One sign of a master is someone who can transplant. That is, to grow something and then root it up, shape its roots, plant it in the best new spot, give it the right care and watch it flourish in a place where it didn't come from.

I am also a transplant. God is raising me with care, making me just the way He wants me to be. He grows my heart just so, prunes my will to make it follow His ways so I don't over-grow. He enriches the soil of my faith with His Word. He shelters me under His wings so that the heat doesn't scorch me. He gives me sun when I need sun, and rain when I need rain. He attends me daily, never abandoning me to the weeds that would so easily overwhelm if left to my own ways.

Recently, He finished making me ready for a transplant. I was ready,

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Transplanting by Jen Henson (continued from front cover)

the soil was ready, and so He uprooted me from single to married, waiting to rejoicing, from imperfect servant to (still imperfect) servant-hearted leader, from preparation to change, from Georgia to Illinois, and from faith to fulfillment in purpose and in ministry. I had to be utterly vulnerable to be transplanted. I had to trust Him who grew me—that every change, every cut that took away the familiar, every breathless moment in mid-air choosing confidence in His ability and desire to catch me—that He hadn't brought me this far for nothing.

Now, He has planted me here in Walnut, the testimony of His ways and His Word perfuming the air, in a beautiful blend with my Brothers and Sisters at WCBC. He calls us to yield His fruit, showing a lost and dying Illinois Valley His goodness, His faithfulness and love. I find myself surrounded by other transplants, being raised from death to life, from broken to restored, from scarlet to white as snow. God has assembled we transplants to grow and yield fruit in His Harvest of souls.

Thoughts Along the Way

Sometimes God lets you hit rock bottom so that you will discover that He is the Rock at the bottom

Tony Evans



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield

Psalm 91:4

April 7 Board Meeting Overview

Present: David Anderson, Andy Spencer, Gary Brooks, Rob Allen, Tim Davis, Randy Jamison, and Adam Franklin. Also present: Pastors Joe, Nathan, and Brett, Treasurer James Schoff, and Josie Kepner.

Daycare reported that a daycare steering committee is being recreated. It was also reported that Josie is the only director qualified staff member; therefore, Josie was going to inquire with some retired to teachers about substitute status.

The missions team reported a “Feed My Starving Children” project that they are looking into. It is a food packaging undertaking that would mobilize a lot of volunteers.

The education committee reported that the Palm Sunday children’s program went well, that

the adults are starting a new Joshua study, and that a mentoring program is being discussed.

The building committee reported on several open projects.

The pastors reported on plans for visitor ministry, that AA meetings at the church have ceased, and that Easter Extravaganza went very well.

Requisitions for Associate Pastor housing allowance and for the HVAC project in the Rock were both approved.

Carpeting for the sanctuary delayed a few weeks until a good time for both the church and the daycare is found.

Thank you cards written. 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
3/29/26	178	\$4,170.65
4/5/26	248	\$7,528.00
4/12/26	187	\$7,245.00
4/19/26	156	\$5,890.00

Weekly operational budget: \$6,000.00

Average for these 4 weeks: \$6,208.41

Season of Growth by Troy Campbell

Winter is over and spring is in full swing. The daffodils have bloomed, the tulips are blooming and many other flowers will join them, if they haven’t already. Our lawns have been mowed several times. The farmers have worked up the soil and in many of the fields, seeds have been planted. Now with the warming soil, the rain and the sunshine, the sprouting seeds will begin to grow. It is the season of growth.

In a parable, Jesus, picturing conditions of the heart, talks of three soils that are not ready for the seed to successfully grow. One is hard, unprepared to receive the seed, while two others have serious issues with sustaining any lasting growth. As I think about the parable, I am challenged to consider just how prepared the soil of my heart for spiritual growth is? Is my heart’s soil tilled so as to be receptive to the seed of God’s message? Am I removing any impediment to growth such as spiritual rocks, thorns and thistles? Am I taking steps to see that my spiritual growth continues?

This is the season of growth. Am I allowing the Spirit to produce His fruit? Is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control and the such like evident in my thoughts, words and actions? Am I denying my desires, taking up my cross and following closer to Jesus each day?

Are Peter’s words my desire? “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation”. 1Peter 2:2. Of this growth, Paul says, “Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ”. Ephesians 4:14,15

Peter adds that the goal of this season of growth is for us to “become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith, supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:4-8.

For the farmer, results are everything. It his survival. For the follower of Jesus, our growth will likely mean our spiritual survival. Are we taking it as seriously as the farmer does in this season of growth?