

Walnut Community Bible Church

125 E Jackson St.
Walnut, IL 61376

Phone: 815.379.2645

E-mail: wcbc@mchsi.com

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

Knowing Jesus and Making Him Known (continued from front)

You can attend the prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings.

You can serve in one of our various children's ministries.

You can get involved in sports ministry in the Rock.

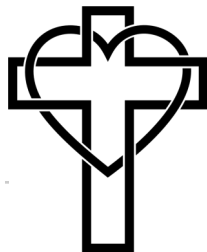
You can serve in our meals ministry by either delivering meals to homes or serving at a funeral luncheon.

You can use hands-on-skills for the maintenance and upkeep of the church building.

You can serve in special events like Easter Eggstravagnaza, VBS, the Harvest Festival, or the Live Nativity.

You can volunteer at either Jr High or Sr. High Youth group.

The point is this: God didn't make you a part of WCBC by accident. And there are many opportunities to know Him and to make Him known, many more than those listed above. Each one is a great way to use what you have to further His kingdom. Talk to an elder or a pastor about how you might take the next step in Knowing Jesus and Making Him know.



Thoughts Along the Way

*Whatever you are good at, do it well for the glory of God,
and do it somewhere strategic for the mission of God.*

J.D. Greear



WCBC UPDATE

volume 19, issue 3

March 2024

Walnut Community Bible Church

What's Inside:

- Attendance and giving (see page 2)
- Board Meeting Overview (see page 2)
- Calendar and Schedules (see insert)
- Accepting Forgiveness (see page 3)
- Thoughts Along the Way (see page 4)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us.

Romans 12:6 (NIV)

Knowing Jesus and Making Him Known

Find out what pleases the Lord, and have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness. Eph 5:10-11

God has a straightforward plan for each of us that works out differently from person to person. That plan is the inspiration for our mission statement here at WCBC: to Know Jesus Christ and to Make Jesus Christ Known. As each of us lives out this simple statement, together we become the light of the world shining in our community.

God has a some very specific ways He has individually made you to love Him and to love your neighbor; good works that only you can truly walk in. The rest of the WCBC mission statement reminds us that the key ways we get to know God is through Bible study, worship, and prayer. As we devote ourselves to these things we grow in our understanding of who God is. Likewise, we make Jesus known by using our gifts to build each other up in the church and sharing the good news with those we meet outside the church. It is not enough to know God and enjoy Him ourselves. We need to share with others what God is doing in our lives — both Christians and non-Christians.

Here is a list of ways you could get involved in this, even this week.

*You can attend a bible study. We have them for men or women.
You can start a bible study at your own home.*

(Continued on page 4)

February 6 Board Meeting Overview

Present: John Dietz, Don Finley, Andy Spencer, Adam Franklin, David Anderson, Rob Allen, and Greg Allen. Also present: Taylor Allen, Treasurer James Schoff and Pastors Brett, Nathan and Eldon.

The meeting opened with prayer and Adam presented a devotion about praying in public and trusting God to provide the words.

January meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

The treasurer’s report showed that January’s income was \$22,019.52 and expenses were \$40,724.66. \$4,756.79 was transferred to the missions account.

Daycare, Missions, and Education committees all presented reports based on the minutes from

their recent meetings.

The drywall repair job in the front entrayway is scheduled to be completed before the end of the month. The drop ceiling is being installed in the upstairs of the Rock.

The upcoming leadership retreat was scheduled for March 1st and 2nd. Nathan will talk with the elder board and begin prep for the agenda.

Officers elected for 2024 — Andy Spencer, President; Greg Allen, Vice President; John Dietz, Secretary.

Building use requests were reviewed and approved.

Closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Week	Attendance*	Offering
1/28/24	156	\$7,040.33
2/4/24	152	\$16,095.44
2/11/24	142	\$5,704.00
2/18/24	122	\$2,616.00

Weekly operational budget: \$6,000.00

Average for these weeks: \$7,863.94

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.

Accepting Forgiveness by Troy Campbell

There are people who are really struggling and some may have even given up on the Christian life because they believe that they have failed so badly that they have become unforgivable. Their struggle is really all about accepting the truth that forgiveness is available to them.

Some feel that due to the huge volume of their failures, or by the awfulness of their sins, they have crossed the line of being ‘too bad to be forgiven’. But they are not! No one is ever unforgivable! Paul and Moses were both murderers, David was a murderer and an adulterer, and Peter denied he had ever known Jesus. All these found forgiveness. Remember the prodigal son who had humiliated his father and wasted his inheritance? Upon his return, Jesus emphasized the joy and acceptance displayed by his father saying, “this son of mine who was dead has come to life again, and who was lost has been found”. Our Father in heaven is waiting to forgive! So ‘Come home, ye who are weary, come home’! There will never be a better time than right now. God went through a lot to make forgiveness possible. He’s not going to let your sins get in the way. Come home!

Others feel that in order to ever attain God’s love and forgiveness again, they need to earn their way back. They, too, are like the prodigal son who felt that he didn’t deserve to be a part of the family anymore. Maybe he could just be a hired man. Maybe, just maybe, if he did enough, he could earn his way back and be accepted. But think about it, what in the world can anyone do to earn acceptance or forgiveness from God? Nothing! But we sure try, don’t we? We devise all sorts of ways to earn our way back. But it is so discouraging. Can we actually succeed in accomplishing that goal? No, we can’t. But we don’t have to. The ‘Good News’ is, God has made forgiveness a gift. Forgiveness is not earnable or ever deserved. It’s free for the asking to those who accept God’s Son’s sacrifice. And oh, such power God’s forgiveness has! It becomes the catalyst to heartfelt gratitude and a transformed life.

No, we’re not talking cheap grace! We’re talking forgiveness—a fresh start. And it’s available to all! Our Father in heaven is waiting to forgive you just as He did the thief on the cross, and those who crucified our Lord. But more than just waiting, God is actively searching to recover someone He loves dearly; you! Isn’t it time to let Him bury your load of sins in the depths of the sea? Isn’t it time to accept His forgiveness and return to your place as a part of the family of God? Come home!