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gather
Fall 2023

Welcome
JARED VETETO



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But to *do* JUSTICE,
o *love* KINDNESS,
i *to walk* HUMBLY
with your God

MICAH 6:8 NAS





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GREY FALANGA
Pastor

Hey, Walnut Street family!

What a whirlwind of an adventure for our family the past several weeks, and

what an absolute blessing to get a chance to get away from the daily grind of ministry. DL Moody even commented on the dangers of ministers not taking extended intentional time to just be with the Lord. One of the most dangerous aspects for ministers is through the everyday handling of the things of God, simply out of sheer repetition, losing the gravity of what we do.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to slip away with my family, read God's Word for my own shaping and growth, spend intentional time with my family away from the everyday stresses of ministry, and "come undone" in God's creation. We visited with the planting team at River Church, saw several National Parks, rode horses, swam in COLD mountain lakes, drove A LOT, and I was reminded just how absolutely

DEPENDENT we are on God's presence and work in our lives.

I am also immensely grateful for the outstanding staff we have been blessed with at Walnut Street, and I know they have not missed a beat in my absence!

As we begin the new school year, I want to put three very important ministry opportunities on your radar.

D-Groups begin the week of September 10

If you are new to Walnut Street or have never been involved in a Discipleship Group, I want to personally encourage you to take the next step in your walk with Christ.

D-groups provide accountability toward Bible reading, evangelism, prayer, and your daily walk with God. We prayerfully hope that every single person within the life of Walnut Street takes that next step in their walk with Christ and finds themselves satisfied as they hunger and thirst for righteousness. If you are ready to take the next step and join a D-group and need to know how or want more information, please



email keith@walnutstreetbaptist.org. If you are a former D-group leader or are ready to take the next step and lead a group of your own, now's the time to ask God who He has for you to connect with and invite to join you for the year! What an excellent opportunity to become the hands and feet of Jesus in community with one another.

Walnut Street will host the Arkansas Baptist Pastor's Conference and Convention October 23-24

As a staff, we have been asking God to give away what He has given to us, and now He has presented us with this immense opportunity. There are more than 1,500 churches in the state of Arkansas, many of which have bi-vocational pastors and staff, and we get the chance to love on every one of these folks right here in our own facility. I want to ask you to do two things in preparation for October; **pray** for those who will attend and **join with us to serve** these pastors and staff, making them feel welcome and loved as they walk on our campus.

Join us in the Holy Land May 27 – June 5

Lastly, through much prayer and God's leading, Sarah Elizabeth and I want to invite you to join us for a 10-day Holy Land trip. If you are just looking to see the sights, this is not the trip for you. This trip is about so much more. Yes, we will see a number of different sites from Biblical History, but our desire is primarily to experience the presence of God on location. If you are interested, there will be an interest meeting in The Point on Sunday, September 17, at 5pm to discuss more details. There are only 23 spots left for our trip as we are intentionally bringing a smaller group to be more personal and easier to move through Israel.

I am excited about what God has in store for us this Fall and how much He desires to do incredible things in and through each of us individually and Walnut Street collectively. Won't you join us in His work?

We love y'all! -Pastor Grey



VOLUNTEER *Spotlight*

At Walnut Street, we know that volunteers are the ones who make things happen! We are so thankful for those who serve in each and every area, and today we want to highlight some of our awesome Kids Ministry Sunday School Teachers. These folks have big hearts for pouring into the next generation. As you read, remember to lift them up in prayer, and consider if God is calling you to serve alongside them in Kids Ministry!



Judy
SULLIVAN

KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY
SCHOOL TEACHER

I am retired from working in Social Security Administration for 38 years. I love to read, work outside, and travel. I've been married for 56 years to Dennis Sullivan. We have two children and four grandchildren. We also have a pet cat named Mutt.

FAVORITE BOOK

Anything by Karen Kingsbury

FAVORITE ICE CREAM FLAVOR

Butter Pecan

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

John 3:16

Without volunteering, I don't feel a close connection to the church. I have also had the opportunity to work in the office when someone was out and I enjoyed getting to know the staff better. Through serving in Kids Ministry, I feel like I am doing a service for the Lord. I have learned that even at my age, there is always a job for you to help with. I encourage you to find a place to volunteer – you get the biggest blessing by serving the Lord.



Marion **BALL**

KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

I'm 67, married to Dennis, and I have two grown sons and a fifteen-year-old grandson. I am a retired teacher and enjoy working with children. I also enjoy sewing, knitting, and quilting.

FAVORITE ICE CREAM FLAVOR

Rocky Road and Jamoca Almond Fudge

FAVORITE MOVIE

Hallmark Channel Christmas movies

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

Proverbs 3:5-6

It's important to me to volunteer to help guide young children to Jesus. I love to see children apply what they learned in Sunday School. Volunteering in Kids Ministry has helped me grow as a Christian and taught me that Jesus leads us to influence others. I am always surprised by how much the children learn. If you choose to serve in Kids Ministry, you will be blessed.





Teresa **WALLS**

3RD-4TH GRADE SUNDAY
SCHOOL TEACHER

I'm 66, and I have a little home daycare. I'm blessed to be able to keep those (most of the time) sweet babies. I love spending time with my Hollis, our kids, and our grandkids. Hollis and I have been married for 49 years. We have two children, Kevin and Melissa, and four grandkids, with twins on the way. Also, we have Kevin's wife, Rachel, and Melissa's husband, Beau. We are blessed big time!

FAVORITE TV SHOW

Law & Order

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM

My Logan's baseball team

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 43:2-3

I love walking into Sunday School with the kids. It amazes me how smart they are. I'm always learning something new. When you quit learning, you are in trouble. When we joined Walnut Street, I told Hollis that I would never be able to teach because the

church was so big. SURPRISE - I am teaching, and it's one of my biggest blessings. Volunteering is not a job or an inconvenience; it's a privilege and a blessing to be able to serve God. There's always a need. God doesn't need your ability, He needs you to make yourself available. He will take care of the rest. I encourage everyone to find a place to serve because if you're not, you are missing out on some blessings.





Marci **STRACENER**

5TH-6TH GRADE SUNDAY
SCHOOL TEACHER

I'm a stay-at-home mom, I volunteer at Ridgefield Christian School, and I love all outside activities. I'm married to Lee, and we will celebrate 26 years in September. We have three kids: Eli (22), Noah (19), and Rachel (12). We also have two dogs - Cooper and Cash.

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM

Any team my kids are on

FAVORITE BOARD GAME

Spinners (a dominoes game)

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

Philippians 4:13

I love helping with kids because I usually learn more myself. It is so important because it is our role to shape the next generation. Hearing the kids recite their verses at Awana is one of the most meaningful things. I have even gotten to see kids get saved! I love watching the kids grow up to put God first. I also love hearing what God is doing in their lives. They challenge me to be a better person, too! And I've gotten to learn that my husband is the best teacher! If you volunteer with Kids Ministry, you will definitely be blessed by the kids. It may be hard work, but it's worth it.





**October 29th
5:00pm in the Gym**

It's time for our annual Fall Fest on October 29th! Open to family, friends, and neighbors of all ages! Join us for classic games and plenty of candy prizes. Wear your favorite costume (nothing scary, gory, or underworld-related, please!) and enter to win the costume contest.

**The Candy Drive for game giveaways
begins on October 1st!**

Upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2023

L SEPTEMBER 4

LABOR DAY
Office Closed.

T SEPTEMBER 5 & 19

TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM
Open to individuals interested in sewing/crafting for ministry purposes.

M SEPTEMBER 6

BACK TO REALITY | 6:00PM
A 3 week adult series held on Wednesday nights.

L SEPTEMBER 7

LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH | 12:00PM
Join us in the Gym for a guest speaker and potluck.

N SEPTEMBER 10

NEXT STEPS CLASS | 9:00AM
Learn more about Walnut Street and what we believe, as well as how to take the next step towards membership. Open to prospective, new, and current members. Room 126 on the North Hall.

A SEPTEMBER 10

AWANA STARTS | 6:00PM

D SEPTEMBER 10

D-GROUPS START | 6:00PM

M SEPTEMBER 13

MIDWEEK CLASSES BEGIN | 6:00PM
More details on page 23.

C SEPTEMBER 22-24

COLLEGE FALL RETREAT
Cost: \$10 - See Will Nichols to sign up.

MIDWEEK MENU: SEPTEMBER

- 6: Taco Salad
- 13: Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes
- 20: Spaghetti
- 27: Ham & Baby Potatoes

OCTOBER 2023

W OCTOBER 2

WHILE WE'RE WAITING | 6:00PM
Support Group for Bereaved Moms meets the first Monday of each month in the Point. Contact Jan Ellis for more info at 870-926-1623.

L OCTOBER 5

LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH | 12:00PM
Join us in the Gym for a guest speaker and potluck.

N OCTOBER 8

NEXT STEPS CLASS | 9:00AM
Learn more about Walnut Street and what we believe, as well as how to take the next step towards membership. Open to prospective, new, and current members. Room 126 on the North Hall.

T OCTOBER 10 & 24

TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM
Open to individuals interested in sewing/crafting for ministry purposes.

A OCTOBER 23-24

ARKANSAS BAPTIST PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

N OCTOBER 25

NIGHT OF WORSHIP | 6:00PM
Meet in the Sanctuary for an intentional night of multigenerational worship.

I OCTOBER 29

I HEART BIG CHURCH | 11:00AM
On this Sunday our Pre-K 4 Class has the opportunity to worship with their family in the sanctuary during the 11:00 AM worship service. Extended care is still provided for kids ages 3 and under.

F OCTOBER 29

FALL FEST | 5:00PM
It's time for our annual Fall Fest on October 29th!
More details on page 10.

MIDWEEK MENU: OCTOBER

- 4: Soup & Sandwich
- 11: Taco Salad
- 18: Meatloaf
- 25: Mexican Chicken

He has told you, O man,
what is good; And what does
the Lord require of you

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	L	5	T	6	M
10	N A D	11	12	13	M	14
17	18	19	T	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
COLLEGE FALL RETREAT						

OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	W	3	4	5	L
8	N	9	10	T	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	T	25	N	26
ABSC PASTORS' CONFERENCE						
29	I F	30	31			

But to *do* JUSTICE,
to *love* KINDNESS,
And to *walk* HUMBLEY,
with your God?

MICAH 6:8 NASB

NOVEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	L	3
5	Y	6	W	7	8	9
12	N H	13	14	T	15	T
19	Y	20	21	22	23	T
26	A	27	28	T	29 M F	30

DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	1	2
3	Y	4	W	5	6 C C	L
10	N	11	12	T	13	F
17		18	19	20	21	22
24 O C	O 31	25	26	T	27	28
						29

Upcoming EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2023

L NOVEMBER 2

LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH | 12:00PM

Y NOVEMBER 5

YOUTH HAYRIDE/BONFIRE

W NOVEMBER 6

WHILE WE'RE WAITING | 6:00PM

N NOVEMBER 12

NEXT STEPS CLASS | 9:00AM

H NOVEMBER 12

HANGING OF THE GREENS | 2:30PM

Let's get Walnut Street's campus ready for the Christmas season! We'll need all hands on deck for jobs big and small.

T NOVEMBER 14 & 28

TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM

T NOVEMBER 15

THANKSGIVING MEAL | 6:00PM

More info on the back cover.

Y NOVEMBER 19

YOUTH FALL RETREAT

Cost: \$60 - See Cory Cartwright to sign up.

T NOVEMBER 23

THANKSGIVING DAY

Church offices closed. No MidWeek activities.

A NOVEMBER 26

LAST AWANA OF SEMESTER | 6:00PM

M NOVEMBER 29

LAST MIDWEEK OF SEMESTER | 6:00PM

F NOVEMBER 29

FAMILY DEDICATION CLASS | 6:00PM

If you would like to participate in the Family Dedication service in January, plan to attend this one-night class. For more info about Family Dedication, see Jamie Griffin.

MIDWEEK MENU: NOVEMBER

1: Soup & Sandwich

8: Spaghetti

15: Thanksgiving Meal

29: Soup & Sandwich

DECEMBER 2023

Y DECEMBER 3

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY | 6:00PM

W DECEMBER 4

WHILE WE'RE WAITING | 6:00PM

C DECEMBER 6

CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF WORSHIP | 6:00PM

Join us for a multi-generational Christmas worship featuring Walnut Street Children's Choir, Adult Choir, and Orchestra.

C DECEMBER 6

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY | 8:00PM

L DECEMBER 7

LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH | 12:00PM

N DECEMBER 10

NEXT STEPS CLASS | 9:00AM

Learn more about Walnut Street and what we believe, as well as how to take the next step towards membership. Open to prospective, new, and current members. Room 126 on the North Hall.

T DECEMBER 12 & 26

TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM

F DECEMBER 13

FAMILY COOKIE DECORATING | 6:00PM

Kids of all ages, meet in the Gym for a night of Christmas Cookie Decorating.

O DECEMBER 24

ONE SERVICE | 10:30AM

No Sunday School or childcare.

C DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP | 5:00PM

Meet in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve night to hear the Christmas story and sing carols together in one of our favorite traditions of the season.

O DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S ONE SERVICE | 10:30AM

No Sunday School or childcare.

MIDWEEK MENU: DECEMBER

No Midweek Meal



Hanging of the GREENS



NOVEMBER 12TH

Meet in the Gym at 2:30pm and spend the afternoon fellowshipping, listening to Christmas music, and getting Walnut Street's campus ready for the Christmas season! We'll need all hands on deck for jobs big and small.



Welcome **JARED VETETO**

We are thrilled to welcome Jared Veteto to the Walnut Street staff! You've likely seen Jared around lately as he has prepared to take on the mantle of Worship Pastor full-time on August 20th when Bro. Keith Baker will officially transition to the role of Senior Associate Pastor. It has been exciting to see God move in these times as Bro. Jared has accepted this position, graduated from Williams Baptist University, and married his lovely wife, Anna, all in a few months' time.

We look forward to getting to know this sweet couple even better as they settle in. Jared sat down and answered a variety of questions, about everything from his walk with Christ to his favorite hobbies. As you read his answers and learn more about his heart for worship and Walnut Street, we hope you'll remember to lift up the Vetetos and welcome them into the Walnut Street family.

Q: How did you come to know Christ?

A: I was raised in a Christian home and have attended church all my life. I was saved in December of 2007, when I was seven years old, after months of asking questions. I had been very curious about who God was and what that was all about. I distinctly remember sitting in my pastor's office and him leading me through a prayer and talking with me through the biggest decision of my life - to follow Jesus as my Lord. Since then, though I have not led a perfect life, I strive to know more and more about Christ and work Him into my conversations with others so that He may be magnified in my life.

Q: How did God lead you to worship ministry?

A: I was called into ministry in 2015, and after church camp that year, I started feeling a pull specifically to music ministry. At that point, I hadn't really talked to others about that calling. Later that summer, I went to a camp called Praiseworks, and it was there that I felt the Lord telling me, "This is what I want you to do. You just need to say yes." So I started talking with my Music Minister at the time and asked his opinion of what I should do, whether he had any advice, and more of the usual questions. Slowly, I began to explore God's leading in my heart and study this call, and finally, at a revival, I surrendered to ministry.

Q: What brought you to Walnut Street?

A: When I put in my resumé at Walnut Street, Anna and I knew very little about Walnut Street. I had always heard great things about it but had never intentionally sought it out. What brought me to Walnut Street was Keith Baker calling and recommending me to put in a resumé. What made me stay was the incredibly warm heart of the people here. As I have heard it said before, from the very first moment I



set foot in the door, I felt a great presence of the Lord. Not just on the grounds but more so in the people. This church was excited to gather together, not just to attend and leave, but to truly gather and worship the real and living God.

Q: Describe your heart/mission for the worship ministry at Walnut Street.

A: The definition of Christian worship I like to use is “our true and spirit-filled response to what God has done in our lives and in light of who He is.” In John 4:24, we see Jesus establish this aspect of true worship “in spirit and in truth” as a better sacrifice than the previous animal offerings. Just as Jesus gave His life for us as a once-and-for-all sacrifice, our true worship is to die to ourselves and live as Christ (Romans 12:1-2); to submit our preferences to Him so that His truth may be proclaimed instead; to give up our old and sinful habits so His Spirit can minister to those around us; to see His law not as a burdensome list of “don’t-do’s,” but as a manual for a better life.

As we sing together, I want us to be encouraged that we serve a living Savior and that He is the mighty King and the only one worthy of our praise. Not only that, but He was also the suffering servant who came to dwell with us so that He could not only pay for our sins in full but also be able to relate to our struggles and heartaches. We should worship Him as both. Not only is our worship through music and singing and playing praises to Him, but also in giving our lives to Him. To do this, we want to



sing songs that display His glory and greatness, depict our need for Him, and put the Gospel on full display.

Q: Tell us about someone who has influenced you as you've learned about worship.

A: Dr. Bob Magee, Dr. Trent Broussard, Chris Ratley, and Keith Baker have been just a few who have influenced me as I have learned about worship.

Q: How do you like to spend your free time?

A: I love playing, writing, arranging, and recording music. I especially enjoy trying different sounds. Sometimes finding something that sounds really bad can lead to something really awesome. I also enjoy learning to play new instruments.

Q: What's your favorite worship song and your favorite non-worship song?

A: This one is hard to answer. But if I had to pick, my favorite worship song would have to be "Son Of Suffering." My favorite non-worship song would have to be "Where Corn Don't Grow."

Q: What do you wish people knew about worship ministry?

A: I want people to know that this is not about performance. Although there is a certain level of professionalism asked of everyone involved, this is only so that we can

reduce as many distractions as possible as we lead the congregation in song. We can't prepare for everything, but when we do the correct footwork beforehand, we can see something really special come from our labor.

Q: What might someone be surprised to learn about you?

A: I enjoy country music and would love to learn to play the pedal steel guitar. It's an extremely hard instrument, but it can make some incredible sounds.

Q: Why should people get involved with the music ministry at Walnut Street?

How do they do that?

A: Why not get involved with the music ministry at Walnut Street? Not only do we have a great time with one another, but we also have the opportunity to join in with something beyond ourselves. When we sing and play, we get to use the gifts that God has given us to bring honor to Him. The best part is that it is fairly low-pressure. Yes, we have a responsibility to be as musically correct as we can to honor the gift He has given us, but we are also allowed the freedom to make mistakes and laugh at ourselves as we correct them.

The best ways to get involved are to fill out a connect card or send an email to me at jared@walnutstreetbaptist.org. If you send your name, area of interest, phone number, and email address, I will get in touch with you about places to serve!





MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

LOCAL

Serve Local | October 7

Serving our local community through a variety of projects. We have these events regularly, so keep an eye out for more available dates! We will meet in the Gym at 8:00 am and be sent out in teams to work in the community. Wear your Walnut Street Serve Team shirt if you have one, one will be provided if you need one.

Arkansas Baptists Disaster Relief

Do you have a heart for serving communities impacted by natural disasters? Walnut Street has a Disaster Relief unit that serves locally as well as all over the country! For more information about DR Training and how to get involved, check out www.absc.org/ministries/disasterrelief/

NATIONAL

Do you want to take a trip to serve in Loveland, CO?

River Church is launching their services this fall, and they need your help! Contact Bro. Larry for more information about specific trip dates.

INTERNATIONAL

Serving abroad with opportunities to teach the next disciple to share God's word throughout the country.

- Peru | October (TBD) | Cost for 7 Day Trip: \$1,800

We always have new ways to get involved in missions, both across the street and around the world. If you would like to stay up to date with new opportunities, contact Larry Turner.



Larry Turner | Larry@walnutstreetbaptist.org
Church Administrator & Missions Coordinator

MIDWEEK

Classes

OPEN TO ALL

5:00 PM

MIDWEEK MEAL | GYM

RSVP by Tuesday at 4:00pm.

Adults: \$6 | Ages 11-18: \$5 | 10 & under: \$3 | COLLEGE: FREE

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

6:00 PM

WHAT IN THE WORLD? | ROOM 135

Led by Pastor Grey Falanga - Thinking on the issues of today through a Christian Worldview.

CHOIR REHEARSAL | CHOIR ROOM

Choir, we're excited to be rehearsing again! Stay up to date with times and locations via your Planning Center App.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES TBA

CHILDREN & YOUTH

5:45 PM

KIDS MIDWEEK | ROOM 106/GYM

Check-in at 5:45pm. Birth-PreK in Room 106, Kindergarten-6th grade in the Gym. See Ms. Mary or Mrs. Jamie with any questions.

6:00 PM

STUDENT WORSHIP | THE POINT

Open to students 7th-12th grade. Join us as we start the semester talking about "Jesus: Life Behind the Red Letters"

COLLEGE

8:00 PM

COLLEGE WORSHIP | GYM

Collegiate and young adults meet in the Gym for worship.

CHURCHWIDE

thanksgiving

DINNER



NOVEMBER 15 | 6:00 PM | GYM

Remember to bring a donation for River
Church in Loveland, CO! Specific item
donations will be announced soon.