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gather
Spring 2023



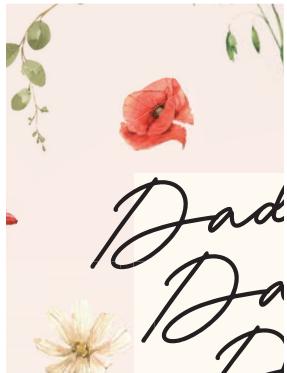
A RESURRECTED
LIFE

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Summer
Preview







"It's the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the vernal equinox, of course!!"

Certainly, everyone knows (*said tongue in cheek*) when Easter falls and why it keeps skipping around on the calendar each year. Though not on a specific day like Christmas, the date for Easter is still set — it was set way back in Exodus 12 when God established the celebration for His Son. He who would be the perfect, spotless Lamb sacrificed as our substitute for our sins. What an absolutely glorious time and moment for celebration. Jesus would come to take our stead on the cross, dying the death we deserve because of our sin and triumphing over death and the grave by rising on the 3rd day. Oh, that we would be tellers of such a great redemption story that God has provided for all mankind.

As our finance team proposed and you voted to affirm just in January, we are paying the cost of camp for every child this summer, from 3rd-12th grade. Now, that is an immense blessing (speaking as one who will send two kids to camp this summer), but that blessing is not for us alone. It is with the premise that we help our kids invite their friends who do not know Jesus personally or do not have a church home to join them at camp. The goal is to see kids and youth come to Christ during the predominant time in life in which they will respond to the gospel. I have been in church since before I was born across 3 different states, and never have I heard of a commitment from a church to pay for every kid to go to camp! This is an incredible opportunity, but it is an incredible responsibility as well.

The responsibility rests upon us, church family, in a couple different ways. The first is **if we have kids, not only sending them to camp, but praying now for their time at camp**. How often do we "do" all we know to do but fail to pray and ask God to do His work. It has been said that we can never do more until we have prayed or that prayer is, in fact, the real work. So, send your kids to camp and start praying now for their time away: that God would speak to them, that they would respond to His leading and that He would use them

mighty throughout their life. Pray that God would eliminate distractions for them while at camp and that they would develop a love for His word and a sensitivity to His Spirit.

Secondly, **challenge your kids, whether they are going to camp or not, to bring and invite their friends who do not have a church home or know Jesus personally to come to camp with us!** God does incredible things in a setting where we are out of our comfort zones and our day-to-day routine. The camps we pick to send our kids to are great at helping them focus on the Lord and His leading in their lives. This is a great way for our kids to learn, as a family, one small part of what it means to follow the Lord and make disciples. We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do the good works that He has prepared beforehand, that we would simply walk in them. God has placed them in their classrooms for a reason, and inviting their classmates to join us at camp FREE OF CHARGE is a great way to see God's Kingdom advanced, both in our kids' lives as well as in the lives of others.

Lastly, **pray expectantly for all those who will go to camp.** How often do we pray as though it were a Hail Mary pass from our own endzone three-quarters of the way, doubting any ability for our prayer to be answered?! If so, we have failed to understand the exceptional ability and power of Almighty God. The very One who made the heavens, tells the oceans where to stop, the sun when to rise, and the stars where to shine is the same One that is capable—actually BEYOND capable—of doing great work in the hearts and lives of our kids. So, let's ask Him! Ask God to prepare us as chaperones (we'll need more this year), as parents, and as a church family for how He wants to use us in the lives of these kids and youth. Pray that God would give us the souls of those that attend camp this summer, expecting that He is fully capable of doing above and beyond what we could ask or even imagine!

*We love y'all!
Pastor Grey*

Daddy Daughter Date Night

March 10th | 6:00-8:00 pm

Calling all fathers and father-figures! Get all dolled up and bring your little (or not so little) girl for a dinner date. You'll go home with a picture together, a few words of wisdom, and memories you'll cherish forever.

Register by **March 1st** at
walnutstreetbaptist.org/daddydaughter
\$10 per father/daughter. Dinner provided.
Open to all ages.

KIDS CAMP

JUNE 19-23

OPEN TO KIDS WHO HAVE COMPLETED 3RD-6TH GRADE
\$75 DEPOSIT | SEE MARY ALLDREAD FOR DETAILS

CAMP SILOAM
1923

LET'S GO
TO CAMP!

Thanks to God's work through YOU, we are sending kids and youth to camp FOR FREE this summer!

PRAY FOR THESE KIDS!

Pray that our students will **invite their friends** who do not know Jesus or do not have a church home to come with them.

Pray that all who attend will **encounter the Gospel** while at camp!



YOUTH CAMP

JUNE 26-30

OPEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED 7TH-12TH GRADE
\$75 DEPOSIT | SEE CORY CARTWRIGHT FOR DETAILS



Egg Hunt

APRIL 2ND AT 5:00PM
ON THE FRONT LAWN

We're looking forward to our annual Easter egg hunt! Invite as many of your neighbors and friends as you can for an awesome time running for those Easter eggs! We'll have age-appropriate hunts so everyone can have a great time, and, of course, everyone will go home with candy and a gift. It'll be a great time of community and fellowship as we focus on the true meaning of the Easter season in a kid-friendly way. If you would like to donate candy, please drop a bag in a colorful bin at the Main Entrance during March.



Upcoming EVENTS

MARCH 2023

L MARCH 2

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

W MARCH 6

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.

T MARCH 7 & 21

TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM
Sewing/crafting for ministry purposes.

D MARCH 10

DADDY DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT | 6:00PM
Open to fathers (and father figures) and daughters of all ages. Costs \$10 per father/daughter. Sign up by March 1. More info on page 6.

D MARCH 11

ABSC DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING | 8:00AM

D MARCH 12

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

N MARCH 12

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.

Y MARCH 18-23

YOUTH SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP
Keep our youth students in your prayers as they serve with Beautiful Feet Ministries in Fort Worth, TX.

C MARCH 18-23

COLLEGE SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP
Keep our college students in your prayers as they serve River Church in Loveland, CO.

S MARCH 19-25

SPRING BREAK
No Sunday PM or Wednesday PM activities.

MIDWEEK MENU: MARCH

- 1: Breakfast
- 8: Taco Salad
- 15: Chicken & Wild Rice Casserole
- 22: No Meal - Spring Break**
- 29: Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes

APRIL 2023

E APRIL 2

EASTER EGG HUNT | 5:00PM
Invite your neighbors and friends to come have fun with us as we celebrate Easter in a kid-friendly way! There will be separate hunts for little and big kids. Everyone goes home with candy!

W APRIL 3

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.

T APRIL 4 & 18

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

L APRIL 6

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

L APRIL 6

LORD'S SUPPER | 7:00PM

E APRIL 9

EASTER SUNDAY
Join us as we celebrate the Risen Savior during regular Worship & Sunday School hours.

P APRIL 14

KIDS NIGHT OUT | 6:00-8:00PM
Drop-off begins at 5:45 pm at the WSKids Entrance.
Ages: 2 years-6th Grade | Cost: \$5/child
Meal provided. Sign-Ups Open: 3/26-4/5

S APRIL 15

WALNUT STREET SERVES LOCAL | 8:00PM
Let's serve our community! If your class wants to take on a project, email larry@walnutstreetbaptist.org.

C APRIL 16

CAMP SILOAM CHAPERONE MEETING
4:30 pm in the Upstairs Kids Common Area

MIDWEEK MENU: APRIL

- 5: Chicken Strips & Hashbrown Casserole
- 12: Hamburgers
- 19: Pork Loin & Scalloped Potatoes
- 26: Spaghetti

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus wh
e hold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus wh

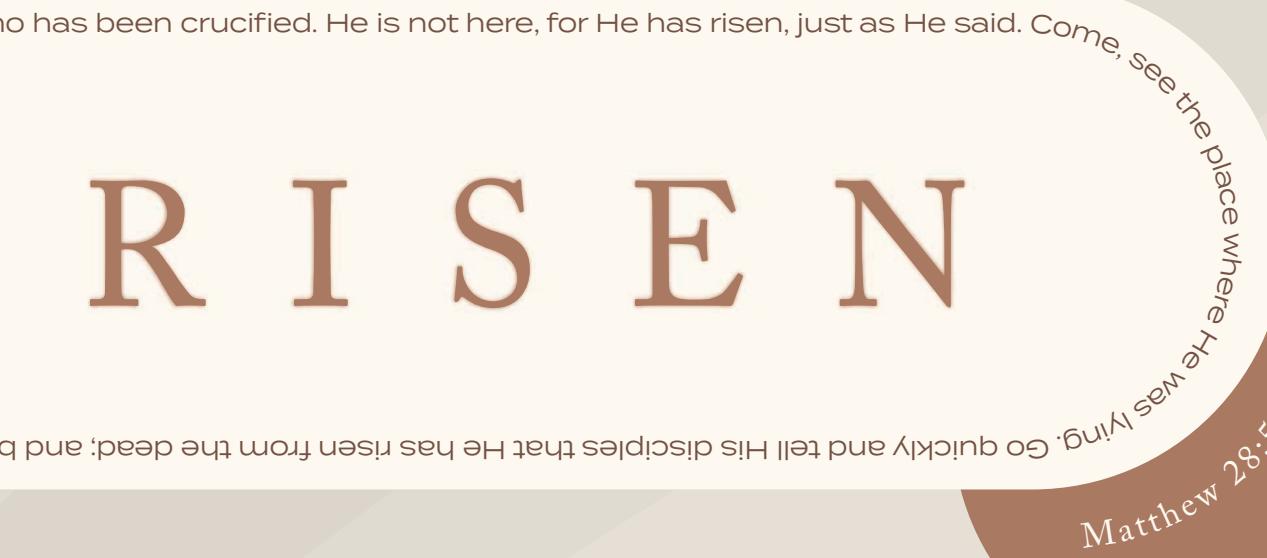
H E I S

MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2 L	3	4
5	6 W	7 T	8	9	10 D	11 D
12 D N	13	14	15	16	17	18
SPRING BREAK	20	21 T	22	23	24	25
YOUTH & COLLEGE SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS						
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2 E	3 W	4 T	5	6 L L	7	8
9 E	10	11	12	13	14 K	15 S
16 C	17	18 T	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



R I S E N

MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 W	2 T	3 M	4 L	5	6
7 A	8	9	10 Y	11	12	13 M
14 M N	15	16 T	17	18	19	20
21 P	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 O	29	30	31			

JUNE 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 L	2 V	3
4	5 W	6 T	7 G	8	9	10
11 N	12	13	14 G	15	16	17
18 F	19	20 T	21 G	22	23	24
	KIDS SUMMER CAMP					
25	26	27	28 G	29	30	
	YOUTH SUMMER CAMP					

Upcoming EVENTS

MAY 2023

W MAY 1

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.

T MAY 2 & 16

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

M MAY 3

LAST REGULAR MIDWEEK

L MAY 4

LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH
Join us in the Gym for potluck and special music by Servant's Heart Southern Gospel Quartet.

A MAY 7

AWANA CELEBRATION | 6:00PM

Y MAY 10

YOUTH END OF YEAR CELEBRATION | 6:00PM

M MAY 13

MOM'S MORNING OFF | 9:00-11:00AM
Give mom the morning off! Dads, bring your kids for pancake breakfast & make mom a special gift.
Cost: \$10/family. Sign-ups open 4/23-5/10

M MAY 14

MOTHER'S DAY

Regular AM Services, No PM Services

N MAY 14

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.

P MAY 21

CHURCH PICNIC | 5:00PM

Bring your family and friends to join us for an afternoon of grilling, games, and live music on the front lawn!

O MAY 28

ONE SERVICE SUNDAY | 10:30AM

One worship service at 10:30 am. No Sunday School

MIDWEEK MENU: MAY

3: Chicken Strips & Hashbrown Casserole

JUNE 2023

L JUNE 1

LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH
Join us for a daytrip to Mammoth Spring State Park, Mammoth Spring, AR. Lunch at Fred's Fish House Transportation provided. Sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Sanctuary Foyer.

V JUNE 3

VBS CRAFT ASSEMBLY DAY
8:30 am - Noon in the Gym

W JUNE 5

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.

T JUNE 6 & 20

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

G JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28

THE GATHERING | 6:00PM

N JUNE 11

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.

F JUNE 18

FATHER'S DAY

Family Dedication in 11:00 AM Worship Service. No PM Services.

K JUNE 19-23

KIDS SUMMER CAMP

Camp Siloam, Siloam Springs, AR. Email mary@walnutstreetbaptist.org for more info.

Y JUNE 26-30

YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

YM360 Generate Camp at John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR. Email cory@walnutstreetbaptist.org for more info.

Bring a friend to the

Church Picnic

Sunday, May 21, 5:00-7:00pm



Family fun for every age!

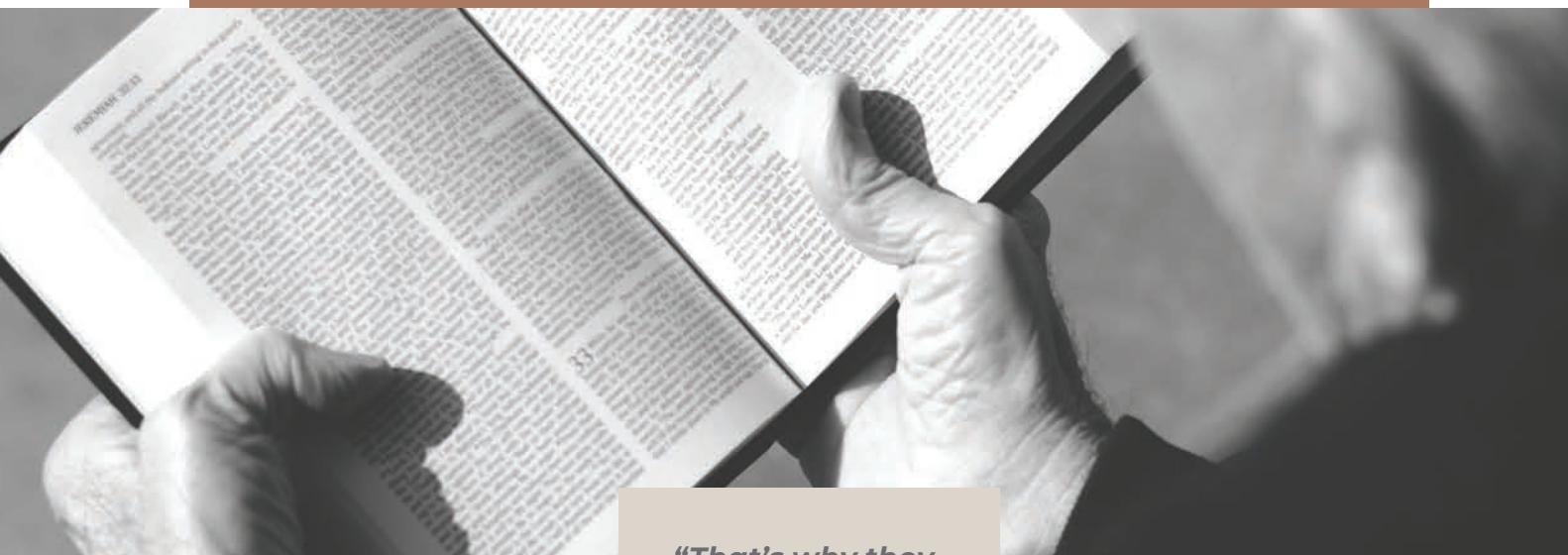
Join us for music, fun & games!

We'll hold our annual Cornhole Tournament, eat great food, give away awesome prizes, have inflatables for the kids, and more.

A RESURRECTED LIFE



WRITTEN BY MICALAH PERSON



When Bryan Tacker's first marriage fell apart in 1990, it was a wake-up call. "I just felt like my life was no good," he remembered. But God used that broken relationship to bring Bryan into a new one with Him.

Bryan accepted Christ in 1991, and life felt better for a while. In many ways, it seemed like everything was looking up. With his newfound salvation still fresh, Bryan met and married his second wife and continued raising his family for the next decade.

Through those years, there was never a dramatic or specific moment that led to Bryan's decision not to go to church anymore. Over time, it just happened. "That love you

"That's why they call it 'lost', I guess. Because when you get away from the Lord, that's exactly what you are."

feel at the beginning, I got away from it somehow," Bryan shared. He added that the process felt dangerously easy. He started easing away from going to church and then from reading his Bible. "We'd go to church sometimes, maybe for the kids. It seems like we went when someone got baptized. We'd go on Mother's Day; we'd go on Christmas; we'd go on Easter," Bryan said.

In January 2010, Bryan's divorce from his second wife was finalized. A few months later, she called and asked him to move back in. "*The main problem was that during all this time, I never asked God. I didn't ask the*

Lord if I needed to go back [to my ex-wife]. I was doing the same thing I was always doing: asking myself, ‘What do I want?’” Though he moved back in, they never did get remarried. She mentioned it once or twice, but Bryan wasn’t ready. The way he saw it, they had been married before, and it didn’t work. What would be different this time? This time, going to church stopped altogether.

***But now in Christ Jesus
you who formerly were far off
have been brought near
by the blood of Christ.***

- Ephesians 2:13 (NASB)

FEELING A PULL TO RETURN

► Bryan prayed regularly and read his Bible occasionally but wasn’t actively pursuing a relationship with the Lord at all. He says, looking back, he can see that even though he was turning away, the Lord never did leave him. Bryan felt a constant tugging. The Lord was continually asking, “*How long are you going to keep this up?*”

Things went on like that for a while. They tried to convince themselves that being part of a church didn’t matter, but Bryan knew something was missing. “*We would do things. We’d go hiking, do*

things on Sunday, do things on the weekend. Just try to fill up the emptiness. I guess that’s what it was. You start feeling alone; it’s because you are. I didn’t belong. I didn’t want what the world had to offer.”

Bryan started taking God’s pull back into a relationship seriously in 2020. He knew the way he was living his life did not honor God. Bryan remembers feeling God say, “*You need to change what you’re doing.*” So just as the world was shutting down, Bryan Tacker started looking for a community of believers. One of the only places to find it at the time was on television. He watched church programs on television through COVID, still searching for something more. He started reading his Bible again. He wanted to know that he could trust what he was watching. “*We can’t go by what the preacher on the TV says. They might be lying to me. Not that they were, but what do we go by? We have to have something to live by. And that’s God’s word.*”

He and his ex-wife had started talking about what Bryan felt when things seemed to shift. He wasn’t sure what it was, but something was different in their relationship. Then one day, she came home and said she wanted to part ways. Bryan moved out in January 2021. Though Bryan knew God personally, he felt lost. “*That’s why they call it ‘lost,’ I guess. Because when you get away from the Lord, that’s exactly what you are. You might as well be walking out in the woods because it’s not serving any purpose. I wasn’t.*” Bryan felt like he was alive, but that was all. Physically living, but nothing more. He was going through the motions, doing the same thing every day and hoping to end up somewhere different.

SEEKING A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

► As Bryan went through one of the most challenging times in his life alone, the feeling of emptiness grew. “*The ditch just gets deeper and deeper, and sooner or later, you can’t get out. And you just start crying, ‘Lord, help me,’*” Bryan shared. “*I knew I had to do something. I said, ‘Lord, I don’t want to live this way anymore.’*”

Without seeking the Lord’s direction, it’s easy to end up on the wrong road. But not one thing can separate us from God’s love:

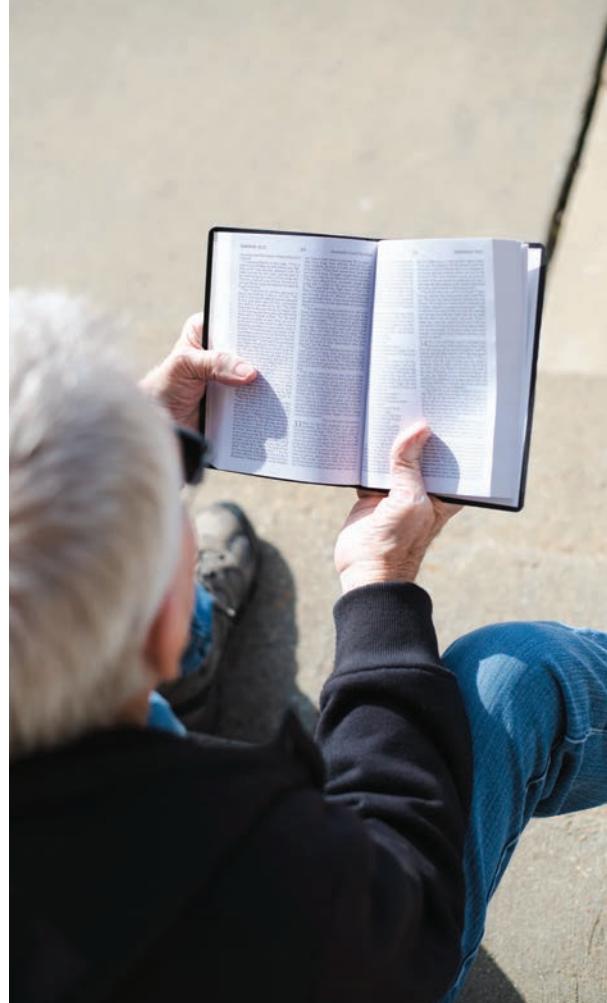
“Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:38-39 NASB)

When Bryan called out to the Lord, He was already there. Bryan knew that God wanted him – all of him – and He would take nothing less. “*God is so good. I think my problem was I never knew how good He was. I never knew how much He actually loved me,*” Bryan recalled. “*Jesus has to be number one. He has to be first. Nobody can be in front of Him. Because that’s the way He loves me, and I didn’t know that. I realized that I can live without her, but I can’t live without Him.*”

Did you know that God loves you?
Read it one word at a time.

God loves you.



God loves you so much that He sent His only Son to die for you. He didn’t just allow Jesus to die for you. God sent Jesus to earth to die for the sins of the world – yours and mine. “*I didn’t know He loved me that much,*” Bryan remembered. “*When you do find out someone loves you that much, it’s incredible.*”

Bryan knew he needed to start seeking a community of believers. It was hard to go to church while feeling he had done so many wrong things. “*I was like, ‘Lord, I messed up so bad.’ And you hear a voice saying you can never come back. You can’t do it. But it’s a lie. God never wanted me to leave to start with. But I never knew how much He loved me to start with.*” Despite the feelings that crept into his mind, He started tentatively trying out new churches. After trying three or four he ended up in front of Walnut Street where he felt a nudged to come inside.

He talked to Bro. Grey and Bro. Larry, and felt immediately welcomed. Bryan remembers thinking Walnut Street was the most compassionate place he had visited, and that feeling made him stick around.

You'll find Bryan Tacker in the halls quite often. He attends faithfully, has gotten involved in a Discipleship Group, and has recently helped paint a few hallways around the building. When asked how he started serving at Walnut Street, Bryan explained, *"It's a big, big struggle, trying to live alone. All the thoughts just keep running through your head. Sometimes you need to get out [of the house] and get around someone else. And where are you going to go except around God's people? Because if you're not there, you're just going to feel empty. I just don't want to go to the places I used to go. I went places I shouldn't have. It never did any good. It never filled up the emptiness."*



FINDING GOD, COMMUNITY, AND PURPOSE

► Every day when Bryan wakes up, he asks, *"Lord, what are you going to do with me now?"* The future still holds uncertainty, and he doesn't have all the answers. All the troubles from Bryan's past and present didn't magically sort out when he turned back to Christ. The difference is he's no longer doing it alone. At one point, Bryan said he felt like he was *"just alive."* Now he has life. He has community and purpose. *"The closer I get to [God], the better I feel,"* said Bryan. Putting God first isn't about laying down our own life so much as choosing not to drag a corpse around. God directs us because He loves us. He has more life in store for us than we could ever hope to plan ourselves.

In Bryan's words, *"He wants us because He loves us. And He wants us to be in a relationship with Him. God wants to be the number one relationship in our lives. I didn't know how to love my wife because I didn't love God the most. It gets easier and easier not to go [to church]. It gets easier not to read the Bible, but any time without Jesus Christ is wasted. I wasted a lot of time. If God doesn't come first, life's not going to be any good. I thank Him for showing me how much He loved me because I never thought of it like that. There are some things He hasn't answered yet, but He will. He'll tell me exactly what He wants me to do if there's anything else I need to do."* Don't waste your life instead of living it. Don't go one more day where Christ isn't first in your life. May we wake up and ask the same question Bryan does: *"Lord, what are you going to do with me now?"*



A LOOK AT OUR SUMMER 2023 EVENTS

It's almost time to gather again! We'll have another awesome line-up of delicious food, great messages, and hilarious games at **The Gathering** every Wednesday night in June starting at 5:00 pm. We know **Kids Camp** has probably been on your child's mind all Winter. Come June 19-23 the wait is over for all kids who have completed 3rd-6th grade! They'll be celebrating 100 years of welcoming campers with the theme 1923. Your kids will hear the gospel and have a great time. Thanks to your Walnut Street family, you can send your kids to camp for only a \$75 deposit. **Youth Camp** is just around the corner as well! June 26-30 all students who have completed 7th-12th grade will head to the campus of John Brown University for Generate Camp, where they'll tackle themes of what it means to be "Lost & Found."

The fun doesn't stop there, as we continue our Summer adventure July 10-14, 8:30 am - Noon with **Keepers of the Kingdom VBS**! Your knights will learn how to be part of God's kingdom and wear the armor of God in today's battle for truth. We wrap up these Summer events in true Walnut Street fashion, celebrating all that God has done in the life of Walnut Street! **Life Sunday** will be held August 13 with one service at 10:30 am, reflecting on what God has done over the previous year, and looking ahead at what is still to come. Stay for lunch and fellowship after the service!

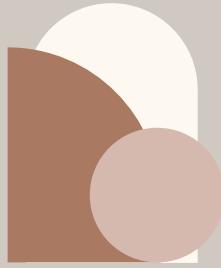


Want More?

VISIT EVENTS TAB IN THE INFO HUB ON OUR APP OR WEBSITE.

WALNUTSTREETBAPTIST.ORG/EVENTS





EASTER at Walnut Street

PALM SUNDAY Egg Hunt

April 2nd at 5:00pm

Meet us on the lawn for an Easter Egg hunt! There will be age appropriate hunts for little and older kids. Invite your friends and neighbors, everyone goes home with candy!

MAUNDY THURSDAY Lord's Supper

April 6th at 7:00pm

We'll gather in the Sanctuary on Thursday night for a special service where we will worship and take the Lord's supper together to recognize Maunday Thursday.

EASTER SUNDAY Morning Worship

April 9th

Join us for worship services at 9:30am and 11:00am. Bible studies for all ages will meet at their regular times. (Kids' and Youth classes are at 9:30am and childcare through age 4 will be available during the 11:00am worship service.)