



GOOD NEWS! December, 2022

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

Introducing Our “Holiday Pastor” — Dr. Karen E. Johnson



MWBC is blessed to welcome Dr. Karen Johnson to our ministry as a short-term Interim Pastor through the end of 2022. Pastor Karen is well known to the local ABC-Ohio community. From 2000-2010, she served as the Senior Pastor at Heritage Community Church in Price Hill, during which time she guided two small congregations as they merged into one healthy church that still thrives today. From 2010-2021, she was the Senior Pastor at Dorothy Lane American Baptist Church in Kettering. Karen received her doctorate in ministry from United Theological Seminary in 2016. Her studies focused on the small church in America and on encouraging those in small churches to continue doing God’s work through new skills, education, and training. In addition, she has been invested in leading in local and regional work. Within ABC-Ohio at various times, she chaired the Ordination Committee, served on the Baptist Foundation, and led the Miami Baptist Association as moderator.

In August of 2021, Karen strongly felt God calling her away from her position at DLABC so that she could devote herself more deeply to her mother in South Carolina, who sadly passed away just a few weeks ago. Karen was able to spend nearly half of her time in the past year with her mom. She currently resides in Dayton and is a member of First Baptist Church of Dayton.

Live Nativity 2022

Please enjoy the pictures shared throughout this newsletter.

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MWBC News and Upcoming Events



Oh WHAT FUN!

Please join us for a
Kids' Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11, 2022
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Mt. Washington Baptist Church

SNACKS, CRAFTS, STORIES, AND GIFTS
~BRING A FRIEND~

Christmas Cantata — Our Chancel Choir will present *One Small Child*, a Christmas musical by Tom Fettke and Deborah Craig-Claar, on Sunday, December 18, during our morning worship service. We're sure you'll be blessed by this collection of contemporary and familiar Christmas arrangements.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service — Please join us on Saturday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Service. This service commemorates the birth of Christ through readings, hymns, special music, and the lighting of candles. **Please note that we will not hold a worship service on Sunday, December 25, so that our congregation may celebrate Christmas with their families.**

Ordination Service for Jim Cagle — Our Minister of Music, Jim Cagle, will be ordained in the Christian ministry in a special service to be held on Sunday, January 8, at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Please make plans to attend and support Jim in this new calling.

Community Assistance Opportunities — During the month of December, we will continue collecting items to give to the SEM Food Pantry in Mt. Washington. They need paper products, individually wrapped toothbrushes, and shampoo/hair conditioner products, as well as nonperishable food items. You may bring these items to church in the next few weeks. In addition, the Mission Board is donating Christmas baskets, consisting of a Christmas dinner and gifts, to twelve families. You may participate by donating \$5 or \$10 dollars OR a jigsaw puzzle that is appropriate for the season and for families. Speak to a member of the Mission Board for more details.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

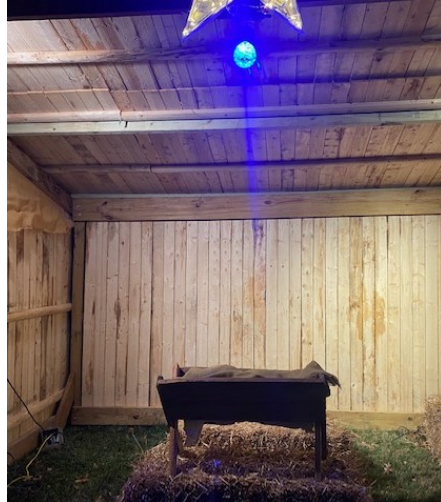
*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*If you'd like to submit
an article for the newsletter,
please do so by
the 15th of each month.*

Music

We come to that time of the year when we joyfully celebrate Advent and the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. It's a time of happiness and love, and for the music program of the church, a time of singing the wonderful carols of the season. Carols bring back memories of Christmas past, of loved ones in our families now and from our past, and of why and whom we celebrate in December. From "Joy to the World," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Newborn King," and of course, "Silent Night," we will sing together these songs we love.



Another song is titled "One Small Child," based on Revelation 12:5. It tells the story of Christ's birth and the hope and promise this birth gave to the world. Kings, shepherds, and His mother Mary are all represented in the song. It is a song of love and fulfillment of God's plan when He sent Jesus as a child to ultimately save us from our sins on that cross at Calvary and His glorious Resurrection three days later! This song is also the basis for the cantata the Chancel Choir will present as worship on Sunday, December 18, during the morning service. Created and arranged by Tom Fettke, it is a piece of old familiar and new songs that Mr. Fettke has gathered together as an offering to celebrate the season.

We will also be lighting the Advent Candles each week as we reflect on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve. The candles represent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The Tower Bells will also play during the season.

Our joy will be complete as we gather on December 24, Christmas Eve, with our Candle Lighting Service.

Merry Christmas to all; I wish all of God's blessings and joy on you and your family as we celebrate this time of Christmas.

Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

Missions

An Update on the Osterbrocks

Aaron and Valerie Osterbrock are Global Servants with ABC-USA's International Ministries. They have a ministry in theological education in partnership with Sabah Theological Seminary in Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia. When the pandemic struck, Aaron, Valerie, and their three children, Theophilus, Anastasia, and Azariah, were on what was supposed to be a brief visit to Singapore to secure their work passes/visas. Unable to return to Malaysia because of government lockdowns, they eventually came back to the US, where they have been residing ever since—and where their family grew by two more children, Micah and Josiah. During their two and a half years stateside, Aaron and Val were able to continue teaching virtually while building local missionary alliances—and while spending lots of time with grandparents Gary and Cindy Osterbrock. MWBC has been blessed to have them join us in worship several times.

Finally, as of Thanksgiving Day, the Osterbrock family has returned to their work and home in Kota Kinabalu. Below is an excerpt from their recent letter:

A belated Happy Thanksgiving from KK! We are thankful to be back home after two and a half years away. We have started the slow process of settling in with the kids and getting reacquainted with KK....

The kids have been troopers through all the transition, and we are so grateful for them. Thank you for your prayers for us as we have travelled here and as our family adjusts to life in this new/old place to which God has called us.

~ Aaron & Valerie Osterbrock



From left: Micah, Anastasia, Azariah, Josiah, and Theophilus (back home in KK)

A Family in Ministry

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Our Staff and Leaders

Dr. Karen Johnson
Interim Pastor

Jim Cagle
Minister of Music

Jih-Ting Chen
Accompanist

Darby Atchison
Barb Wagner
Administrative Assistants

Todd Racer
Praise Band Leader

Tim Rechel
Tower Bells

Holly McIntosh
Day Care Director

Tammy Caldwell
Asst. Day Care Director

Luke Tiettmeyer
Maintenance

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'" (Luke 2:13-14)

The vision of Mt. Washington Baptist Church is to be an eternal family. We seek to live as strong families who are fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. We are passionate about helping people find their place in God's family. Our hope is to bless families for generations through worship that is a sacrifice of praise, deep relationships, spiritual transformation, and meaningful ministry.

An Invitation to Christ's Advent

A live Nativity! What fun! I know it's a lot of work to prepare, but it is a sign to the community that this church is active and alive! It is a joy to celebrate the Advent season with you at MWBC.

Our Worship Services on Sundays aim to be inspiring and joyful, giving you spiritual energy reserves so you may be at your best this season. And so those you encounter will know you are active and alive in showing God's love.

The invitation is always open: to come to church, to come back to church, to come to church for the first time. And the invitation is always open to grow closer to the Christ Child as we prepare our hearts for his birth.



We know the story of Christmas, but the songs and the scriptures hold a deeper meaning to us the more years we have participated in the advent journey. Let's prepare our hearts and minds together this advent.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Karen Johnson

Messages for December

December 4

"Angels and Shepherds"
Luke 2:1-20

December 11

"Have You Pondered Lately?"
Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:19

December 18

One Small Child
Chancel Choir Cantata

December 24

Christmas Eve Service
"A Cozy Place for Christmas"
Selected Verses

December 25

Merry Christmas!

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
(Isaiah 9:6)*