



# GOOD NEWS! February, 2023

***“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.”  
(1 Corinthians 13:13)***

Congratulations to Rev. Jim Cagle, who was ordained at Mt. Washington Baptist Church on Sunday, January 8, 2023.  
*“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” (2 Timothy 1:6)*



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## MWBC News and Upcoming Events

**In Case You Missed It** — Our Annual Business Meeting took place on Wednesday, January 25, with a pizza dinner to kick off the evening. The meeting was well attended, and it felt great to share a meal with the church family on a Wednesday night — it's been a while! Financial reports for 2022 showed that while income has continued to be negatively impacted, the various boards and committees have done a good job of using resources wisely. The financial team was able to present a balanced budget for 2023, which the congregation voted to approve, along with a motion from the Treasurer to simplify reporting in a couple of areas. The Nominating Committee's proposed slate of officers and board/committee members was presented and voted on, with approval given for many of the people holding these positions to extend their term for an additional year. In addition, in the next few weeks the D&D Board will be evaluating our church constitution in order to recommend a few minor revisions and updates to its language. There will be a **Special Called Business Meeting** on Sunday, February 19, immediately after the morning worship service, to vote on those revisions.



**American Baptist Churches USA** will continue its series of Everyday ABC Conversations into 2023, providing an opportunity for American Baptists across the nation to meet virtually and discuss issues that impact all of us. The next Everyday ABC Conversation, "Passing the Peace," will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. In this Zoom meeting, hosted by American Baptist Women's Ministries, participants will consider how "passing the peace" applies on a larger scale: "Most of us are familiar with Passing the Peace in a congregational setting. We reach out to each other . . . Shaking hands and giving a hug. . . . Passing the peace is a symbolic act of sharing the love of Christ. Let us think together about the ways that Passing the Peace impacts our individual and collective well-being and our responsibility to pass the peace in tangible ways both inside and outside congregational settings." Visit [abc-usa.org](http://abc-usa.org) to learn more and/or register to join the conversation.

*Photo Credit: Emmanuel Phaeton, unsplash.com*



*George Henry of the Gideons with Bob Kjeldsen, Sunday, 1/15/2023*



## Music

This February we have two significant events to celebrate, one secular and the other sacred. February 14 is, of course, Valentine's Day, so here's an early reminder to get those cards and gifts and to make that dinner reservation. The sacred event is the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Valentine's Day is fairly self-explanatory, while Ash Wednesday may bring up questions.

Ash Wednesday marks forty days prior to Easter and the start of Lent, the traditional time for us to stop and reflect seriously on the forty days Christ spent in the desert praying, fasting, and preparing for His ministry. This time was also when Satan tempted Christ in His physically weakened state. As we remember, Christ overcame the temptations, giving us an example for when we are tempted. It's a time to remember His sacrifice on Good Friday and His love for us. Our prayers and devotions during these forty days can be a time for us to grow closer in our faith.

A hymn that combines the love of Christ for Valentine's Day and His sacrifice as we reflect on Ash Wednesday is "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," written by Elizabeth Clephane. Elizabeth was the daughter of a county sheriff in Scotland, suffered from ill health, and died at the young age of thirty-nine but was so beloved for her kindness, help and cheerful disposition that she was called "The Sunbeam of Melrose" after the village in which she lived. Eight hymns are her legacy to us, all having scripture as their themes/basis. This hymn begins with references to Isaiah 32:1 of a king coming to comfort and aid the downtrodden people. The Rock, the cross of Jesus, casts a cooling shadow on the weary souls in their time of need, and we think of His sacrifice when we gaze upon that cross. His love for us is sufficient; it is all we need in this world of trouble and care. May this season of Lent be a time of reflection and prayer for each of us!

Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

## Missions

### Spotlight on Local Missions — The Lord's Gym Family Activity Center



In 1993, FOCAS (Foundation of Compassionate American Samaritans) Ministries opened its first Lord's Gym in Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati, as a place for at-risk men to work out, lift weights, and receive long-term discipleship that helps them to avoid destructive lifestyles while nurturing their relationship with God. The ministry has since expanded to include Lord's Gyms in Queensgate, Price Hill, and Covington; and a recently renovated Family Activity Center (reopened in July, 2022) in Price Hill.

The Lord's Gym Family Activity Center serves at-risk youth and their parents. Volunteers provide encouragement for kids to become involved in healthy activities that promote positive life skills at school and at home, while nurturing their relationship with God if they so choose. This program has seen improved performance in school, respect of authority, respect for community and cultures, and the minimization or avoidance of destructive behaviors.

Sports activities available at the Family Activity Center include flag football, soccer, wrestling, and a basketball league. The Learning Center is a special space within the Center dedicated to studies. Volunteers offer tutoring and assistance with schoolwork, and support for online learning is made available through free WiFi and internet access via Chromebooks. The Center also provides healthy meals and snacks.

Countless studies prove that youth are more likely to graduate from high school, go to college, or find meaningful employment IF they stay connected to positive programs. They are less likely to have a record, get pregnant, or get someone pregnant. They benefit by having a safe place to hang out and build relationships with God, staff, volunteers, and each other while participating in sports and other activities.

*Adapted from [lordsgymministries.org](http://lordsgymministries.org).*



# A Family in Ministry

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## Our Staff and Leaders

Rev. Dr. Karen Johnson  
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Atchison  
Pastor Emeritus

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 Tietmeyer  
Maintenance

*"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."  
Romans 8:18*

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.

## Elevate

Elevate. It's a word that I keep hearing on cooking shows. Chef Gordon Ramsey telling contestants to take an American dish that is common, and make something that could be served in a fine dining restaurant. America's Test Kitchen hopefuls taking ordinary comfort food and elevating it to a level that would be a great TV presentation, and within reach of home cooks.

The Lenten season can often be common and ordinary, not outstanding in our hearts and minds. My aim is to elevate the season. To talk about Jesus, and to examine what people around him said and did. To give a full picture. Foreground and background of what was happening as Jesus approached the cross.

This is a great season to continue to be with and support MWBC. It's a great season to return to in-person worship. It's a great season to come regularly to worship services, to gain strength and encouragement for the week following. Aim to elevate the Lenten season, by giving it priority in your life this year.

It's good to be with a Family in Ministry! ~ Pastor Karen



Photo Credit: Cristiano de Assuncao, unsplash.com

## Messages for February

### February 5

"Is Jesus Just a Really Good Guy?"  
Matthew 16:13-30 &  
John 1:35-42

### February 12

"What Does the Holy Spirit Actually Do?"  
John 14:23-31 &  
Romans 8:18-27

### February 19

First Word: "He Saved Others, but He Can't Save Himself"  
Matthew 27:39-44

### February 26

Second Word: "What I Have Written, I Have Written"  
John 18:28-19:22

*"Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.'"  
John 14:23*