



GOOD NEWS! January, 2023

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
(2 Corinthians 5:17)***

Rev. Dr. Karen E. Johnson Will Continue to Serve as Interim Pastor

Last month in this space, we introduced you to Rev. Dr. Karen Johnson, who had agreed to serve our congregation as a “holiday pastor” through the end of 2022. The Search Committee is now happy to announce that Pastor Karen has accepted the position of Interim Pastor on a longer-term basis, as the committee continues its work to secure a permanent pastor for MWBC.

Pastor Karen’s experience makes her an ideal fit to lead our congregation through this transition period. She has pastored two local American Baptist churches: Heritage Community in Price Hill and Dorothy Lane in Kettering. Her doctorate in ministry (United Theological Seminary, 2016) focused on supporting the work of leaders in small churches. Pastor Karen also has a history of leadership in local and regional work. She currently resides in Dayton and is a member of First Baptist Church of Dayton.



Scenes from the Season: Christmas 2022

(Thanks to Connie Green, Jill Howe, Barb Cagle, and Pam Wallace for pictures throughout this newsletter.)



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MWBC News and Upcoming Events

Ordination Service for Jim Cagle — Our congregation has the great blessing of ordaining our Minister of Music, Jim Cagle, in the Christian ministry! Jim has followed God's calling in his life through his studies with ABC Ohio's Leadership Academy and has been approved by local and regional ordination committees, and it is now our privilege as a church to ordain him officially. A special service will 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!

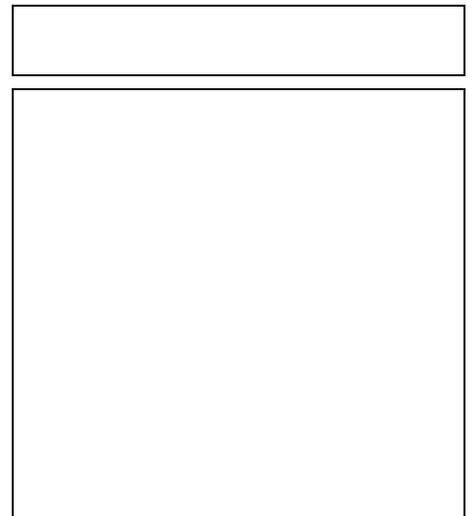
Special Meeting — There will be a brief congregational meeting immediately after church on Sunday, January 14, for the purpose of voting for a Nominating Committee.

Annual Business Meeting — Our Annual Meeting, which provides an opportunity to look back at the church's ministries in 2022 and forward to our goals for 2023, is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. We will begin at 6:00 with a pizza dinner and time of fellowship. We hope you'll join us!



Children's Christmas Party 2022

A good time was had by all who attended the Children's Christmas Party on December 11! Eight children made festive wreath ornaments and decorated and enjoyed Christmas cookies. Louann shared some stories about the true meaning of Christmas. Children shared in the joy of the season and made music on kazoos. A few of our youth dropped in and shared in the fun. What a joy for the children to be together and celebrate the birth of our Lord!



Music

As we go into another new year, my hope is that we will take the words from the carol “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” and express the hope, peace, joy, and love we feel to others, of Christ’s birth and that this child is the Savior of the world. This carol has its origins in the music of the Appalachian mountains, sung throughout the years in those mountains. John Work and his brother Frederick spent years traveling throughout the area collecting, arranging, and promoting the music they found. John, a professor of Latin and Greek, published this carol in 1907, adding the familiar chorus, “Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere, go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.” Only by spreading this news will we as a church grow in the Mt. Washington and surrounding areas. I hope each of us finds the mission God has given us the talents for, to spread His news. My focus will be on growing the music program of the church as we week God’s leading in the Mt. Washington/ Anderson area.



Jim Cagle,
Minister of Music



Missions

The Mission Board, through the generosity of our congregation, was able to give support for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to a number of families in our community. On November 19, board members and volunteers distributed full Thanksgiving dinners for 18 families, along with flyers inviting them to upcoming Advent services and church events. The Christmas distribution, which occurred on December 17, provided both dinner and gifts to 17 families. Along with food items for a complete ham dinner, each family received a bag of gifts including a throw blanket, two jigsaw puzzles, a cookie kit, hot chocolate packets, a Christmas tree ornament, a Nativity storybook, and a Christmas card.

Mt. Washington Baptist Church is truly making a difference in the lives of families in our community thanks to your donations!



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

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:18-19a)

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.

News from American Baptist Churches USA

U.S. Senate Passes Burma Act Bill

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/16/22) - After months of advocacy efforts by many American Baptists, the Burma Act Bill was passed by the U.S. Senate on Thursday, December 15. The House and Senate Armed Services Committees had in recent weeks included the Burma Act Amendment in the final language of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 (NDAA).

General Secretary Dr. C. Jeff Woods said, "If anyone is wondering if denominations are still needed today, this is a prime example of the power of a group of congregations and institutions with similar polity choosing to work together on a critical issue. This result would not have been possible without the cooperative efforts of national, international, and local staff and volunteers, journeying together toward a common goal..."

A special advocacy group, called the Burma Advocacy Group and chaired by General Secretary Emeritus Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, was formed as a subcommittee of the ABC Burma Refugee Commission to focus exclusively on advocacy for the people of Myanmar. This advocacy group eventually included partnerships with over 20 U.S. church and advocacy groups related to the Burma diaspora in our country. The efforts of this group in large part led to the passage of this bill.

Since the military coup on February 1, 2021, the American Baptist Churches USA,, a denomination of nearly 5,000 churches and 1.3 million people in the U.S., have worked tirelessly to promote peace, justice, and religious freedom for the people of Burma.

Excerpted from abc-usa.org.

Messages for January

January 1

Guest Speaker: Susan Rice
"The God of the Past and the Future"
Psalm 126

January 8

"Who's Leading Who?"
Luke 9:23-27

January 15

"Is God Like a Vending Machine?"
Psalm 103

January 22

"Is God Like a Police Officer?"
Psalm 77:13-15 & 68:35

January 29

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