



GOOD NEWS! April, 2023

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)

Christ our Passover

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast,
not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Alleluia.

Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all;
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin,
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia.



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*Christ has been raised from the dead,
The first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

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For since by a man came death,
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Alleluia.

~The Book of Common Prayer

MWBC News and Upcoming Events

Our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** is happening soon! Invite your family and friends to join us on Saturday, April 1, from 11 a.m. to noon on the front lawn. Candy and prizes will be available for all kids!

The **Maundy Thursday Service**, on April 6, will feature a potluck dinner, a time of communion, and the drama *When They Crucified My Lord: A Tenebrae Service of Monologs*. Make plans to join us for this solemn commemoration of the time of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. If you plan on coming for the dinner, please sign up at the Welcome Center or email Darby to let us know what you'd like to bring.

We'll celebrate **Easter Sunday**, April 9, with a joyous worship service including special music and teaching, as well as our traditional Flowering of the Cross. Come early to fellowship together over a continental breakfast of pastries, juices, and coffee.



Save the Date for a Stellar VBS! Vacation Bible School 2023 will be held June 12-16, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. We welcome kids in grades pre-K through sixth as we explore God's created universe through music, drama, stories, and crafts. *Group Publishing's Stellar VBS rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun!*

New Titles Each Week! Please check out the table in the narthex for a wonderful selection of books from Pastor Ken's library. They are free and you may take all that you want. Additional books are still available, but have been moved to the Fellowship Hall stage.

A wonderful **Craft Fair** was held at MWBC on Saturday, March 18. Seventeen crafters and vendors set up in the Fellowship Hall. Between the space fees paid by vendors and donations from shoppers, a total of \$200 was raised for the SEM Food Pantry, along with non-perishable food items given by shoppers. Thanks to Cathy Herren and Holly McIntosh for organizing and running the fair!

Licensing of Fred Anderson—MWBC is privileged to be able to work with Fred Anderson as he pursues ordination. A necessary step in this process was our granting him a license for ministry, which occurred on March 26 during our morning Worship Gathering. Licensure signals the congregation's full support of and investment in Fred's ministry path and our recognition of his unique skills for ministry. Please continue to pray for Fred as he follows God's leading.



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



Music

April this year begins with Palm Sunday and then Easter, or Resurrection Sunday. It's that time of the religious year that sees highs — the entry into Jerusalem; lows — the trial and crucifixion; and highs again — the Risen Christ!

The music of this season sways from highs to lows and then highs also. One of the most poignant songs I know regarding the Crucifixion is "Were You There?" which is an American spiritual developed by African-American slaves in the early 1800s. This reflective, somber song asks us the question regarding the suffering and entombment of Jesus that dark Friday and whether we can feel His pain and torment over two thousand years later. The phrase, "it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble," should give us cause to remember the suffering of our Lord as each word is repeated. The last verse of the song leads us to the joy of that third day when He rose up from the grave, and this joy is reflected in a song we often sing on Easter morning titled "He Lives." This song was written by Alfred Ackley, a cellist and a minister. Mr. Ackley reflected on the genesis of this joyous song of praise as the answer to a Jewish student's question — why should I worship a dead Jew? His response, and we can use this answer when we're questioned, was "He lives! I tell you He is not dead, but lives here and now! Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before. I can prove it by my own experience, as well as the testimony of countless thousands." What a wonderful testimony! According to Petersen's *Complete Book of Hymns*, Mr. Ackley went home and, upon further reflection, wrote the words and music to this great song of testimony and praise.

As we aim for Resurrection Sunday, we should take the time to finish our Lenten contemplations. One way to do this would be to attend the Maundy Thursday service on April 6, when the Tenebrae drama, *When They Crucified My Lord*, will be presented by church members in the sanctuary. This time of worship features people who were touched by Christ in His last earthly days as they speak of their roles in those days.

Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

Missions

A Letter from Tim and Stacy Reese

(Stacy and Tim are endorsed by ABCUSA's International Ministries to serve in discipleship and community among IM partners working within the Haitian sugarcane Bateyes in the Dominican Republic.)

It's hard to believe we've completed level 3 of our Spanish language training in southern Mexico! But we have, and we'll be starting our final session on March 7. Below you can see us with our fellow classmates and instructors. With each new session, we say goodbye to those who complete their training and say hello to new students who are only just beginning. It's exciting and bittersweet. We will complete level 4 in the last week of April and will return to the US in May before heading on to the Dominican Republic.



During each level, we participate in *culture days*. Sometimes it's a ministry and medical focused day trip into nearby mountain communities. Other times we go to unique places and see amazing things. In January we went on one of those trips, traveling 4 hours northeast to the town of Pluma Hidalgo in Oaxaca — a mountainous municipality built atop the high peaks. The town thrives on the production of coffee and the beans grown there are considered some of the best in Oaxaca, if not Mexico as well. As self-professed coffee addicts, this was a once-in-a-lifetime trip for our family. . . .

These last seven months in Mexico have been both exciting and challenging as God has stretched us and pressed us more into the mold he has prepared for us. The opportunity to live amongst the wonderful people in Cacalote, to make new friends in a new culture, and to worship God in an entirely new way has blessed us deeply.

We thank you so much for your continued prayers and support! Please join us in praying over the next steps in our journey as we plunge into this final phase of our time in Mexico....

Blessings! ~Tim, Stacy, Liam, Samantha, and Garrett

A Family in Ministry

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Tim Rechel
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Day Care Director

Tammy Caldwell
Asst. Day Care Director

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*"He is not here; he has
risen, just as he said.
Come and see the place
where he lay."
Matthew 28:6*

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.

Whatever the Weather

Have you ever tried to tell someone who doesn't live in Ohio about the weather? It's tough to do. Remember the lovely spring-like days we had a couple of weeks ago? And then back to cold temperature, gray skies, and winter coats. My dad had a favorite saying, "There are two nice days every year in Ohio, one in the spring and one in the fall." And the more years I live in Ohio (which is all my years), the more I believe he might have been right.

But come rain, snow, hail, sun, wind, or a perfectly cool, bright day, make no mistake, whatever the weather, Easter will be celebrated at Mt. Washington Baptist Church. Resurrection Sunday will be heralded with song and joy and hearing the story of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

God doesn't promise life will be easy, but God does promise that he will be there with us, no matter what. And I would say God taught his Son well. Because he was willing to die on the cross, to endure that agonizing death for our sins. He did not take the easy path, but cared enough for us to be our example in life and in death. Even when he felt forsaken on the cross, God was looking on, at the death of his own child, undoubtedly with enormous sorrow and pain. What was the weather like that day when his hands and feet were nailed to the wood of the cross? Whatever the weather, he went through death as the perfect sacrifice, and resurrection through the power of God.

At Easter, we turn from looking at Jesus' life right before and at his death, to looking forward. While we continue to learn from what Jesus said and did, we are prepared by Easter to face the future. Whatever the weather, we face it together knowing that God is with us.

May God's richest blessings rest upon you as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ together as a congregation, a church family, a family in ministry. From our fellowship comes strength for the road and enthusiasm for the work ahead.

In the interim, Pastor Karen Johnson

Messages for April

April 2, 2023
"Go, Make the Tomb Secure"
Matthew 27:62-66

April 9, 2023
"Christ Is on the Loose!"
Matthew 28:1-10

April 16, 2023
"Why Are You Crying?"
John 20:1-16

April 23, 2023
"Go Tell the Others"
John 20:10-18

April 30, 2023
"Peace Be with You!"
John 20:19-23

