



## GOOD NEWS! August, 2023

*The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. (Psalm 145:8)*

### Of Hall Trees and Heritage (Pastor Karen's Article)

I'd like to bring up something that has been on my mind for a while. It's my recent furniture acquisition of a Victorian hall tree. Yes, it came from South Carolina, where much of my family has lived, and does still live. It wasn't in my parents' home, which we are nearly done clearing out. It was stored in the basement of my brother's first office for his Optometric practice. Before that, it was in my grandparents' house in Ripley, Ohio.

Does it fit in my house? Yes, with a good three inches to spare. Does it match the rest of the décor? Not exactly, but not horribly wrong either. Of all the stuff and furniture that has come north to my house, I am finding it to be the piece I enjoy the most. When I look at it, I instantly am transported back to Grandma and Grandpa's house. It stood at the end of the long front entry hallway. And it had coats on it, our coats, when we visited. It certainly was used through the years, holding umbrellas on the sides and all sorts of our wraps on the hooks. I don't know how to date it, perhaps I need to ask my aunts and uncles, but it certainly is over 100 years old.



It's a project to get the hall tree cleaned up. The accumulated dust has turned into a residue that has to be scrubbed off with wood cleaner. There is a small area of the mirror that seems to have lost its shininess. The umbrella holders didn't clean up as well as I had hoped. But all together, even as it sits with imperfections by my garage door, it is magnificent in my eyes.

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## MWBC News and Upcoming Events

**Announcing an American Baptist History and Polity Workshop** — Have you ever wondered about some of the distinct practices shared by American Baptists, or how and why we differ from other denominations? You are invited to a one-day **American Baptist History and Polity Workshop** on Saturday, August 5 from 9 am to 4 pm, sponsored by the American Baptist Churches of Ohio and hosted in the ABC Ohio office at 136 North Galway Drive, Granville, OH 43023. **Rev. Timothy Mohon**, noted American Baptist historian and Associate Regional Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Ohio, will be the presenter. He will help workshop participants understand our history as Baptists in America and how that history has led American Baptist churches to adopt our current practices and embrace the beliefs we now hold dear. The cost of the workshop is **\$25** for one person, or **\$20** per person if more than one person is attending from the same church. The registration fee covers lunch and instructional materials. This course may also be taken for credit by ordination candidates and those attending the Ohio Leadership Academy.

**Racetrack Ministry** — SEM Food Pantry coordinates a racetrack ministry in which different local churches provide a meal for workers at the track each Monday evening during the racing season. Our church has agreed to take a turn on Monday, August 14, from 5:45-7:00ish. We will need to prepare food for about 30 people and have a team of around ten people who are willing to go to the racetrack to serve dinner to the workers. If you're available to help coordinate cook, or serve, please talk to Rev. Jim Cagle. Thanks for your help with this ministry opportunity!



*Tim and Stacy Reese sharing about their call to the mission field.*



*Jih-Ting with our new-to-us piano, a 1957 Steinway in beautiful condition!*

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

**Did You Know?** American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.

*The Independence Day Parade Crew handed out church information to parade-goers in Mt. Washington!*



## Music



If anything the events of the last couple of years have taught us is the importance of relying on God for help, strength, and guidance. As our church continues on the path to a new senior pastor and the understanding of God's will for the church, the song "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" reminds me whom we need as our leader for current and future ministries of the church. The song was written by the great hymn writer Fanny Crosby. Psalm 37:23 — "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: And He delighteth in his way" — is the scriptural reference for the words she wrote. It was written as a result of an experience she had following her gratefulness for God's monetary answer to a financial need. Finding that she needed five dollars desperately, she, as was her custom, prayed to God for an answer to this need and God sent a stranger with the money to her. She composed this poem thanking God and expressing how the Lord leads us at all times, no matter our needs, and that we can rely on this bounty without doubt. Our faith gives us strength even at times when we are tired and weary. Our Savior will guide our church now and in the future as we face trials because Jesus does all things well, as Fanny wrote in the chorus. She knew trials herself, having lost her sight at the age of six weeks through a failed medical treatment. She met her husband, who was also blind and a famed musician, while attending the New York School for the Blind. She began writing gospel songs in her forties after a successful career as a secular musician and became, in her words, "the happiest creature in all the land." We need to take her example ourselves, since she only wrote her songs after intense prayer to God, seeking guidance as we seek guidance for our church, its ministries, and the community we serve. Our Savior will lead us; we need to believe, ask, and follow His way.

Blessings,  
Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

## Missions

### Big News from the Osterbrocks!

Dear friends and partners,

Every decision that we make in life takes place within a confluence of circumstances that work together to point in a certain direction that helps us to discern God's will. For over twelve years, Aaron has sensed God's call to pursue a PhD in Biblical studies. When we finished our MDiv and ThM at Gordon-Conwell in 2015, he wanted to get pastoral experience before we went on the overseas mission field (a call that he had felt since he was 19). It wasn't the right time to pursue a PhD. In 2018, God led us to Sabah Theological Seminary, which at the time was looking at expanding its English track to serve more pastors, including international students from around SE Asia. . . . We were excited about the potential for multiplication of our ministry in Malaysia and the surrounding region! Unfortunately, this vision hasn't eventuated. The pandemic hit, and one of the ongoing effects of this is decreased seminary enrollment (globally), as well as more students choosing to study online rather than in person. . . .

On one hand, ministry is NOT about numbers. Life and ministry are about faithfully and wholeheartedly following God wherever He leads and serving in the ways that He has called us to serve, be they among many or among few. But at the same time, we are aware that the needs of the world are great, and we sense that the extremely low enrollment at STS, in the English Track, makes our position here unsustainable in the long term. . . . In addition, Aaron strongly feels God calling him to pursue a PhD in Biblical studies, which will open doors for more and better ministry in the years to come. He has a deep desire to grow as a student of God's Word and to be further equipped to teach and preach and train others at a higher level. [So, after much thought and prayer and talking with both STS and International Ministries, we have decided that we will continue to serve with IM through August 2024, at which point we will take a break to pursue Aaron's PhD.](#) While continuing to teach online for STS, Aaron will also be looking into PhD programs and potential supervisors in the US. He will apply for PhD programs in January 2024, and then, Lord willing, be accepted to and begin one in September 2024. . . .

We still very much have a heart for the nations and we love cross-cultural ministry, so we anticipate that God will call us back overseas when Aaron's PhD is done. We have always sought to faithfully follow wherever He leads, and He alone knows what plans He has for us. We also see the current slump in global seminary enrollment as an opportunity to skill up to be ready for future ministry when the post-pandemic survival mindset fades away and more people start enrolling in seminary again (which is our hope). If the Lord calls us overseas, we would hope to continue working with International Ministries as well as InterServe Australia. Our IM colleagues are like family and we anticipate serving alongside them with IM in the future. So . . . *stay tuned!*

Grace and peace,  
Aaron, Valerie, Theophilus, Anastasia, Azariah, Micah, and Josiah

*(Excerpted from "We Are OKK: News from the Osterbrocks")*

# A Family in Ministry

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## Our Staff and Leaders

Rev. Dr. Karen Johnson  
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Atchison  
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. 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

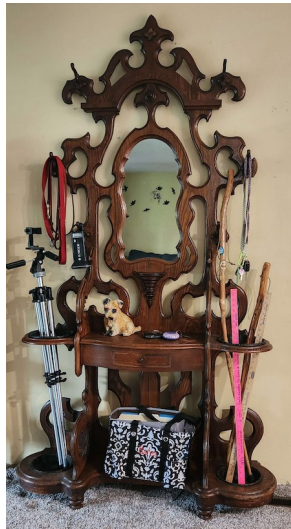
Luke Tietmeyer  
Maintenance

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)*

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.

## Of Hall Trees and Heritage *(continued from page 1)*

I find myself using the hall tree in new ways. The dog leashes hang from the pegs, as do my keys and a flashlight. The umbrella holders are home to yardsticks, my camera tripod, and walking sticks. My church workbag sits on the bottom shelf, and odds and ends get left on the top shelf. I've yet to hang a coat on it.



Thanks for sticking with me through this. I do have a point to make. The hall tree reminds me of family, connects me with old traditions, stands for the past. But it now has a new purpose, a new place, a renewed life. It's made a transition. And so is Mt. Washington Baptist Church. A strong heritage, hundreds of children and adults who have created and sustained traditions, a wonderful family of faith across the years. But in this interim time, I am beginning to see a renewed life, a possibility of transition, from what used to be to what God wants MWBC to be in the future. I hope you can begin to see it too. There may be some work to be done, but a renewed life will be the result.

From my standpoint, the future is bright, for my hall tree, but so much more so for Mt. Washington Baptist Church. May God's blessings continue with each of you, and with all of us together, as family.

In the interim,  
Pastor Karen Johnson

## Messages for August

**August 6, 2023**  
*"Wide-Eyed Listening"*  
Mark 2:1-12

**August 13, 2023**  
*"Irresponsible Passion"*  
Matthew 26:6-13

**August 20, 2023**  
*"Childlike Faith"*  
Hebrews 4:14-16

**August 27, 2023**  
*"Breaking the Rules"*  
Mark 2:23-27

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)*