



GOOD NEWS! October, 2023

An Autumn Prayer

*O God of Creation,
you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.
As we welcome the autumn months,
 may the earlier setting of the sun
 remind us to take time to rest.
May the brilliant colors of the leaves
 remind us of the wonder of your creation.
May the steam of our breath in the cool air
 remind us that it is you who gives us the breath of life.
May the harvest from the fields
 remind us of the abundance we have been given
 and bounty we are to share with others.
May the dying of summer's spirit
 remind us of your great promise
 that death is temporary and life is eternal.
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.*

~ Author unknown



*Photo Credit: Autumn Mott Rodeheaver,
unsplash.com*

More Sugar Packet Theology



Last month I wrote about my new supply of coffee sweetener. My particular brand of choice is Truvia, which is made from the stevia plant. It goes in my morning coffee every day.

And it has sayings on the packets. As I use up the packets, I've read some good stuff. And it occurs to me, that perhaps unintentionally, several of the messages are Biblical.

Truvia packet advice:
Every day is a fresh start.

Biblical Wisdom
Because of the LORD's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – Lamentations 3:22-23

Truvia packet advice:
You can totally do this!

Biblical Wisdom
I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. – Philippians 4:12-13

Truvia packet advice:
Disconnect for the day.

Biblical Wisdom
Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore, the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. – Deuteronomy 5:15

Truvia packet advice:
Chase your passions.

Biblical Wisdom
Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 3:13-14

Truvia packet advice:
Love wins!
Always lead with love.

Biblical Wisdom
Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. – 1 Corinthians 13:8,13

We are Baptists, sometimes called "people of the Book." Our tradition is to read the Bible, study the Bible, learn the Bible. It's not out of the ordinary that we can see snippets of Biblical wisdom in many places. Let these phrases be an encouragement and a reminder of our love for and reverence of God's Word to us.

In the interim, Pastor Karen Johnson

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship Service & Children's Church
(in-person and streaming live on Facebook)

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
(streaming live on Facebook)

September Highlights

We were blessed to welcome the **Chancel Choir** back to our worship services for its 2023-24 season. In addition to singing weekly in worship, the choir is beginning rehearsals for our Christmas cantata, to be presented this year on Sunday, December 17, during the morning worship service. If you'd like to join the choir, talk to Rev. Jim Cagle or just show up on Sundays at 9:00!



Coming Up in October . . .

- * **Sundays, 10:00 a.m.** – This month, as Pastor Karen takes a few weeks off to recover from her upcoming foot surgery, we'll hear messages from Rev. Jim Cagle on October 8 and 23 and from Rev. Dianne Steelman on October 15. What a blessing to have such "depth in the bullpen"!
- * **Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.** – In our Virtual Bible Studies this month, presented live on Facebook, Rev. Jim Cagle will be examining the book of Colossians.
- * **Sunday, October 1** – The "Shower the People" team, walking in honor of Ken Atchison and in memory of Betty Burck, will take a stroll around Stanbery Park immediately after church, as our local version of the Cincinnati **Walk to Defeat ALS**. See a team member (Louann, Barb C., Karen B., Martha, or Darby) if you'd like to donate toward our fundraising efforts. You are also welcome to join us on our walk on the 1st – we'd love to have the company!
- * **Sunday, October 8** – We'll be celebrating autumn as a church family with our **Fall Harvest Celebration** immediately following worship. Pork barbecue and drinks will be provided; please bring a side or dessert to share. Let us know if you plan to come and what you'd like to bring by signing up on the sheet provided at the Welcome Center. Invite your friends to join us! Fun activities will be planned for all.
- * **Sunday, October 22, 11:00 a.m.** – The **Third Quarter Business Meeting** will be held immediately after church in the Fellowship Hall. Please make plans to attend.

. . . and Later

- * **Saturday, November 25** – Our Live Nativity will be presented from 6-8 p.m. We'll need volunteers to serve as actors and to help with set-up, greeting, etc. Please let Jim Cagle know where you can help. As part of the event, we will collect canned goods for distribution to the needy in our area.

Music

We are entering the holiday season as you read this newsletter at the beginning of October. There will be many opportunities for witness and missions this year. We will host our annual Live Nativity the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25. The Chancel Choir will present a cantata in December. We will be providing meals for some of those in need at Thanksgiving and also Christmas this year. Another exciting return for our mission outreach will occur when we gather and send items for kids during our Operation Christmas Child project.

More information will be forthcoming regarding each of these, but as I reflect on these mission opportunities I am reminded of a song that was popular when I was a teenager in the 1970s. The song "Pass It On" was written by Kurt Kaiser as part of a musical, *Tell It Like It Is*. He and Ralph Carmichael were writing to reach youth and teach them about Christ. Mr. Kaiser was a recognized musician, having composed orchestrations for artists such as Jerome Hines, Burl Ives, and Tennessee Ernie Ford in the 1960s. As part of the musical's collaboration, Mr. Kaiser was responsible for writing, as he says, a "Just As I Am" type song, reminiscent of Billy Graham's altar call song, but one that would be geared to the younger generation. The tune came to him as he watched a fire in his fireplace and realized just a small spark started the warming fire. The opening words are "It only takes a spark to get a fire going, And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing." Just as a single spark starts a fire for all, it only takes a small effort on our part to desire to help others, to be part of a larger mission effort such as Operation Christmas Child or any of the other missions we will be focusing on this holiday season. God sent His Son to save us when we believe, and when we accept Him, we want to share this message through our words and also through our deeds. Giving to others, at this time especially, shows others our love for God and our Savior Jesus. As the song continues, "I wish for you, my friends, this happiness that I've found. . . . I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know: The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on." My wish and prayer is that we all seek to pass His love on by adopting one or more of our missions projects this holiday year.

~ Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music



Photo Credit: Jack Cohen, unsplash.com

Missions

MWBC Supports International and Local Missions This Holiday Season



Operation Christmas Child - During the month of October, Mt. Washington Baptist Church, led by the Boards of Missions and Christian Education, will participate in Operation Christmas Child by packing shoeboxes full of gifts to be sent to children internationally. Every shoebox is an opportunity for a child to discover, know, and share Jesus Christ. Our goal as a church is to fill thirty boxes. See the display in the lobby; pick up a shoebox (or a few shoeboxes!); fill them according to the suggestions within the box; and return your boxes by October 29 at the latest.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Distribution – As in years past, MWBC will again provide holiday dinners for families in our community who are struggling. Rev. Jim Cagle will lead the effort this year. Stay tuned for more information about how you can help with this important service.

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A Family in Ministry

Mt. Washington Baptist Church | 2005 Sutton Ave.
PO Box 30437 | Cincinnati, OH 45230

Email: mtwashingtonbaptistchurch@zoomtown.com Phone: 513 231-4445 Fax: 513 231-7380
Pastor Karen Johnson: mwbcpastorkaren@gmail.com Website: www.mwbcare.net

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 Director
Tammy Caldwell & Cody Taylor, Day Care Co-Directors
Luke Tiettmeyer, Maintenance