



# GOOD NEWS! November, 2023

## October Highlights at MWBC

**Trunk or Treat?** On October 27, several church families teamed up with our Day Care to provide a rollicking-fun treat for kids and (let's be real!) adults of all ages! *(See page 3 for additional October activities.)*



## Less Is More

*Many thanks to my best friend, Dona Hyll, who typed this article for me!*

I've been away from church for several weeks because of surgery (you might have noticed), and I found myself not doing much because walking was difficult. I always have a list of things to do in my mind. Like, take the cash register apart and put it together again, bake dog biscuits, organize file drawers, and read Don Quixote, again. But this time, I just sat around, sometimes watching tv, sometimes pretending to read a book, but often just resting.

I found something out by doing this, unexpectedly. I found out that by not trying so hard to get things done, it gave my spirit a chance to grow. As if not having my mind so filled with things to do, it had an agenda of its own, and the agenda was to feel closer to God even though I wasn't intentionally trying to.

I wonder if I could make a program out of this idea. I could tour around the country giving seminars. And, in the seminars, we would do nothing at all! Would people feel closer to God, by doing nothing? Sometimes we get so wrapped up in doing things that we don't attend to the quieter side of spiritual awareness. Sign up sheets will be available soon. (haha!)

Thoughts of seminars aside, I've heard it said that sometimes when you feel like nothing is happening in your spiritual side, that there IS something happening. You are giving your soul time to grow.

*Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise His Holy Name.  
Praise the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all His benefits –  
who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,  
who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed  
like the eagle's.  
(Psalm 103:1-5)*



*Photo Credit: Nathan Anderson, unsplash.com*

And so, I encourage you, as we enter into the season of thanksgiving and advent and Christmas, to think. Consider this idea that less is more. What can we do less of so that we have more time for God? What can we put aside for this year that is not critical so that we can enjoy cultivating the growth of our souls?

It's good to be back at Mount Washington Baptist Church! My foot is healing just fine. I appreciate all the prayers, cards, and calls. Your love and concern for me make it a continuing joy to be your interim pastor.

Wishing you more time to do less,  
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)

## More October Highlights

**Operation Christmas Child** took center stage in October, as members of our church packed over 60 shoeboxes (double our goal!) with toys and gifts to be sent to children internationally. We also celebrated autumn as a family with our **Fall Harvest Celebration** on Sunday, October 8.



## Coming Up in November . . .

- \* **Sundays, 10:00 a.m.** – Pastor Karen Johnson is back in the pulpit following her recent surgery and time off for recovery, as we focus our attention for the month on stewardship. We'll also be hearing from Chrissy Bartholomew on Sunday, November 26.
- \* **Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.** – In our Virtual Bible Studies this month, presented live on the church's Facebook page, Rev. Jim Cagle will be examining the two letters to the Thessalonians.
- \* **Sunday, November 19** – Join us for our all-church Thanksgiving luncheon, immediately after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy a traditional feast catered by Sweets & Meats and celebrate the blessings of the past year and those of the year to come!
- \* **Saturday, November 25** – Our Live Nativity will be presented from 6-8 p.m. We still need a few 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.

## . . . and Later

- \* **Sunday, December 17** – Our Chancel Choir, under the direction of Rev. Jim Cagle, presents the cantata *Night of the Father's Love*, by Pepper Choplin, during our morning worship service.
- \* **Sunday, December 24** – Celebrate Christmas Eve with us at our morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. and our special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.

## Music



November brings the beginning of the holiday season, and sometimes Thanksgiving is overshadowed by Christmas if we don't take the time to focus on the bountiful gifts from God. The song "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," written by Henry Alford, encourages us to urge people to come together to thank God for His many blessings and harvests of the past year. Originally called "After Harvest," the song was written in the nineteenth century by Alford, who was considered a leading churchman in England. During the time of harvest, villages in England celebrated and offered thanksgiving to God for the food that would sustain them throughout the winter months. The words reflect thanks for the harvest itself but also for the hard work each person had to do to bring the bounty in. In addition to a harvest of food, grain and corn, the words tell of the spiritual harvest that takes place around us. The field mentioned is the field of human souls that need to be cultivated and helped to the harvest of acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord because eventually Jesus will return and will gather up this harvest to live eternally with Him in heaven. Those who don't accept this grace will be cast in the fires of separation

from God for eternity. Once in heaven all cares will be gone, all sins forgiven and forgotten, and joy will reign for all time. So we thank God for our earthly harvests and more especially our eternal harvest home. Blessings!

*~ Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music*

## Missions

### **MWBC Supports Local Missions This Holiday Season**

With our Operation Christmas Child gifts winging their way toward international children, MWBC turns its sights toward the needs of those in our local community. As in years past, we will again provide holiday dinners for families in our community who are struggling. So far we have seven families on our list to receive a Thanksgiving dinner, including a turkey and sides that they can prepare at home. Rev. Jim Cagle will lead the effort this year. If you'd like to donate money to help purchase these dinners, please let Jim know. For the Christmas distribution, we will also be giving family games to our families along with their dinners. If you'd like to provide the games, or donate the money for them, reach out to Jim.

## In Gratitude

*Thank you for all of your visits when I was in the hospital and for all the prayers and support. It means a lot to me to have a loving church family. ~Amy Bono*

# ***A Family in Ministry***

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

Email: [mtwashingtonbaptistchurch@zoomtown.com](mailto:mtwashingtonbaptistchurch@zoomtown.com) Phone: 513 231-4445 Fax: 513 231-7380  
Pastor Karen Johnson: [mwbcpastorkaren@gmail.com](mailto:mwbcpastorkaren@gmail.com) Website: [www.mwbcare.net](http://www.mwbcare.net)

## **The 100th Psalm**

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.  
Know that the LORD is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*



*Photo Credit: Stephanie McCabe,  
[unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)*

**The staff of Mt. Washington Baptist Church wishes you  
a very happy Thanksgiving full of love, gratitude, and joy in God's blessings!**

## **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**