



GOOD NEWS! March, 2024

February Highlights

The Daycare staff held signs to greet parents and promote their upcoming Open House (Friday, March 22, from 6-7 PM).



Family and friends came together on February 25 to celebrate Marsha Johnstone's birthday!



Are You Discoverable?

It's interesting to notice how our language changes over time. When you hear a word used in a new way, it may make you pause and think of what it now means. I've noticed a tendency to change a noun into a verb. "I need to conversate with you." Evidently it has been a trend for several years. You can find advice on how to do it in online articles and YouTube videos. There's a word for it. Verbing. It goes the other way too, sometimes, although I don't see anyone calling it nouning.

One particular word has caught my attention. It happens as I connect devices to my phone, like a speaker, for instance. The phone has to be in *discoverable* mode. It has to have the right options chosen and be ready to acknowledge the other device. And in this case, the speaker has to be in pairing mode. It looks for a phone that is discoverable. Of course, you know the Bluetooth feature has to be on for this to happen. But, if done correctly, it works very well. And if something is not set correctly, it doesn't work at all, no matter how many times you try.



Photo credit: Mika Baumeister, unsplash.com

Stay with me. There's a point I want to make. As we approach Easter on the very last day of March, our hearts turn to the life and actions of Jesus in his last days. It may very well make us feel a certain kind of way. Possibly sad, worried, concerned for the world, emotionally connected to Jesus. During this season of lent, as we brace ourselves for the accounts of the torture and crucifixion that Jesus went through, our hearts are opened. We are *discoverable*. And guess who is in pairing mode? That's right, Jesus himself looks for discoverable hearts. Either for that initial pairing, or a renewed sense of love and commitment to our Savior.

Some devices need to re-pair, and be re-discoverable every so often. An hour, or till the battery runs down, just two possibilities. Perhaps we are the same. Let's see if we can allow ourselves to be re-discovered by our Lord in this season before Easter.

Many blessings,

Pastor Karen Johnson
Interim Pastor

*"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us
on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" ~ Luke 24:32*

This is what the two disciples said, the ones that met Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

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)

Coming Up in March . . .

- * **90-Day New Testament Challenge** – We invite you to join your church family as we continue our reading through the New Testament in the first 90 days of the New Year. As March begins, we'll be starting the book of Ephesians, and we'll finish the final reading in Revelation just in time for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, March 31. A schedule of readings may be found at the Welcome Center and posted on our Facebook page. Feel free to jump in now, even if you've missed the first few weeks!
- * **Daycare Open House** – The Daycare staff will host an Open House of the Daycare on **Friday, March 22**, from 6-7 p.m. If you know parents who are seeking a positive, caring daycare environment for their children, send them our way!
- * **Easter Egg Hunt** – Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to our children's Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, March 23**, from 11 a.m. to noon on the front lawn of the church (weather permitting). Kids will enjoy hunting for eggs, candy, and prizes. Bags will be provided for gathering goodies.
- * **Maundy Thursday** – On **Thursday, March 28**, we'll gather for a fried chicken dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m., then move to the sanctuary for a special Maundy Thursday presentation featuring the drama *Search for Understanding* by Margaret Rose Fletcher.
- * **Easter Sunday** – Join us for Easter Sunday on **March 31** at MWBC! We'll start with a continental breakfast of pastries, juice, and coffee at 9:00 a.m., followed by our Easter service at 10, featuring a special message and music along with our traditional Flowering of the Cross.



. . . and Later

- * **Candidate Weekend, April 27-28** – Save the date for the final weekend in April, when the Search Committee will introduce us to the candidate whom they are recommending to be our new pastor. Specific details of the weekend's activities will be shared in the near future.
- * **New Adult Sunday School Class** – There has been some discussion about the possibility of starting a new Sunday School class/small group that meets in person, with the time and place yet to be determined. If there is any interest in leading or participating in such a class, please see Barb Cagle.
- * **VBS 2024** – In Vacation Bible School this year, June 10-14, we'll be traveling to the ocean depths with Group Publishing's *Scuba* curriculum. If you'd like to volunteer to help in any capacity, see Barb Cagle.
- * **Other Summer Activities** – Please see Jim Cagle if you have an interest in participating in the Mt. Washington Independence Day parade on July 3, and/or if you'd like to help a team of volunteers serve a meal at the racetrack this year, on a Tuesday night to be determined later.

Music

The Lenten season continues in March after beginning on Valentine's Day, February 14. We are continuing our prayers at the Western (Wailing) Wall, and we are anticipating other Lenten events. On Maundy Thursday, which falls on March 28 this year, we will come together to reflect on the events that night when Christ celebrated the Jewish Passover and then gave the disciples the first Communion service, the Lord's Supper, at the end of their Passover meal. His betrayal followed, the trial at night followed that, and then His crucifixion that Friday.

Our service of memorial on Thursday evening will include a drama titled *Search for Understanding* by Margaret Rose Fletcher. It is a series of monologues from people who were affected by, involved with, or forced to deal with Christ that last week and up to His crucifixion. We'll hear from a soldier, a member of the mob, Joseph of Arimathea, Pontius Pilate, Mary the mother of Jesus. The words are reflective, sarcastic, hopeful and questioning, depending on the role each person played in what happened those three days. Maundy Thursday is a time of discontent, agony, and sorrow for us. We remember that Christ suffered for our sins and we should feel horror for what He had to endure. The hope is there also that Resurrection Sunday is soon, but it is important to focus on the love Christ had for all of us as He faced those times alone and abandoned. Each of us will search for understanding in our personal journey and Christian walk as we travel this Lenten road.

Resurrection Sunday, March 31, we will celebrate Christ's victory over death as we come together with music, flowers, and praise as the Lenten season comes to a close for 2024. Our praise will continue into the post-Easter season as we continue to worship our risen Lord!

Blessings!

Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

Missions



American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2024 America for Christ Offering, which seeks to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist missions and ministries through churches and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico. Donations are used to partner with ABC churches, community groups, ABC seminaries, and institutions to financially support them in the following areas:

- * Cultivating leaders – investing in strong leaders who advance the mission of faith communities.
- * Equipping disciples – broadening the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- * Healing communities – believing the power of Christian love can – and will – change the world.

The offering is distributed in three parts: 59% supports the ministries of ABHMS; 12% supports the offering's promotional and deputation costs; and 29% supports regional ministries, including the ministries of American Baptist Churches USA regions. In other words, ALL of the donated funds are used to fund important ministries.

You'll find additional information and offering envelopes in your bulletins and at the Welcome Center at church.

Because of God's great love, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ~Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV

Adapted from abhms.org.

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 | Dr. Jih-Ting Chen, Accompanist
Darby Atchison, Administrative Assistant
Todd Racer, Praise Band Leader | Tim Rechel, Tower Bells Director
Tammy Caldwell & Cody Taylor, Day Care Co-Directors
Luke Tiettmeyer, Maintenance