



GOOD NEWS! April, 2024

Scenes from Easter at MWBC



Whatever the Weather



Photo Credit: unsplash.com/Getty Images

Have you ever tried to tell someone who doesn't live in Ohio about the weather? It's tough to do. Remember the lovely springlike days we had a couple of weeks ago? And then back to cold temperatures, gray skies, and winter coats. And then rain and cold that changes to hot and sunny. 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 of them) the more I believe he might have been right.

But make no mistake, in spite of the changing weather on Easter Day, we celebrated well at Mt. Washington Baptist Church. Resurrection Sunday was heralded with song, joy, and hearing the story of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

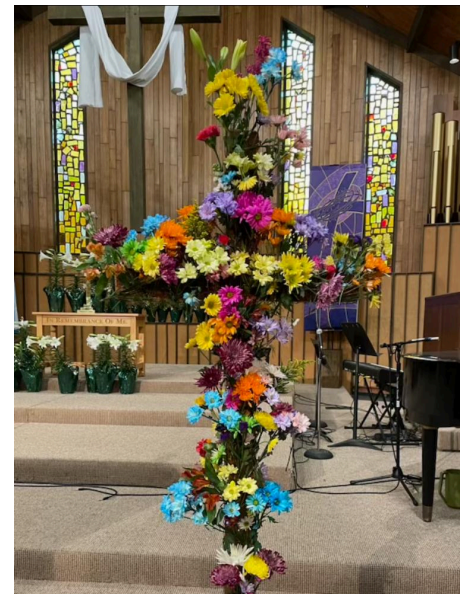
God doesn't promise life will be easy, but God does promise that he will be there with us, no matter what. And I would say God taught his Son well. The proof of that is his willingness to die on the cross, to endure that agonizing death for our sins. He did not take the easy path, but cared enough for 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.

April is a pivotal month for our church family. The pastoral search committee will present a candidate to the congregation! Whatever the weather, I encourage you to be present. Be a part of the good weather God has planned for Mt. Washington Baptist Church as we all move into the future.

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



The Flowered Cross on Easter

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 April . . .

- * **Virtual Bible Study, Wednesdays evenings** – Rev. Jim Cagle continues his teachings this month in the book of 1 Corinthians. You'll find his lesson on the MWBC Facebook page each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- * **Special Business Meeting, April 7** – There will be a Special Business Meeting on Sunday, April 7, immediately after church in the Fellowship Hall, to vote on a recommendation from the CPC and Financial Management Committee regarding the possibility of providing financial assistance for our pastor candidate's relocation expenses.
- * **CPC Meeting, April 14** – The Council for Planning & Communication will meet after church on Sunday, April 14, to prepare for the First Quarter Business Meeting.
- * **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. See the image on this page for more details.

. . . and Later

- * **Church Clean-Up Day, May 4** – The annual Church Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. We need help from one and all; there are lots of spring jobs to be completed on the church grounds! The rain date is May 11. Coffee, juice, and donuts will be provided. Please let the trustees know if you can help.
- * **First Quarter Business Meeting, May 5** – Our first quarterly business meeting of 2024 will be held on May 5, immediately after church, in the Fellowship Hall.
- * **Visit by the Osterbrocks, May 12** – Aaron and Valerie Osterbrock, currently serving in a teaching ministry with ABCUSA's International Ministries, and their six children will be with us in worship on Mother's Day. Aaron will bring the message that morning.
- * **Baby Shower for Emily & John Sutton, May 19**
- * **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.



**CRITICAL WEEKEND FOR
MT. WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

The search committee has invited
our Candidate for NEW Pastor
to join us April 27 and 28, 2024.

Saturday, April 27:
The candidate will meet with our boards and committees
throughout the morning.
The entire church family is invited to meet and greet our candidate
in the Fellowship Hall from 2:30-3:30 PM.
Dessert will be served. Please plan to come!

Sunday, April 28:
Our candidate will preach in the morning Worship Service (10 AM),
after which a delicious all-church luncheon will be held,
where we will vote on the candidate's call.

Please be a part of this exciting event!



Music

Since we are Easter people, I want to continue our celebration of our risen Savior. The song “He Lives,” which we sang at the close of the Easter Sunday service, was written by a cellist, Alfred Ackley, who was also a Presbyterian minister in Pennsylvania and California. A young Jewish student had asked him, “Why should I worship a dead Jew?” Ackley’s answer 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.” He then went home, reflected, and wrote the music for the song. What a great testimony!



Would we be able to answer this question if it were posed to us? Songs are wonderful means of expressing our faith, but also have in our subconscious mind to bring forward to help answer those life questions posed to us, such as this one. Jesus isn’t a dead Jew, but a living Savior who came for our salvation! His love for us shines through the scriptures when we read our Bible of His time on earth. Keeping the joy of being Easter people throughout the year is our goal and desire.

Blessings!

Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

Missions

An Easter Message from Rev. Dr. Sharon Koh, Executive Director of ABCUSA’s International Ministries

I recently had the privilege of visiting the Hungarian Parliament Building in Budapest, Hungary. Our international partners in Hungary describe their country as one that has seen much war – with the borders changing back and forth several times in the same generation.

The intricate beauty of the windows in the Parliament Building caught my eye as the tour guide pointed out that the windows we were looking at were the original windows for the building. How? How did those delicate and detailed windows survive all those wars? We learned that when there was a rumor of another coming attack, building workers carefully removed each window, covered it, and laid it in sand in the basement. Those windows would not be returned to their rightful place until the war was over.

This reminded me of Joseph of Arimathea, described as one who “was himself waiting for the Kingdom of God” (Mark 15:43). Joseph was a Pharisee who assumed responsibility for the burial of Jesus after his crucifixion. Were his actions out of loyalty? Hope? Grief? What I do know is that Joseph treated Jesus’s body with respect. I also know that three women went to anoint the body as soon as possible after the Sabbath.

Easter is the celebration of hope realized. The empty tomb shows us today that there is hope after war and joy after sorrow.

International Ministries is grateful to be active through partnership in many conflict-torn parts of the world today. We are even more grateful that the hope we offer through the Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of peace. Thank you for your partnership as we work together in God’s mission until it is “on earth as it is in heaven.”

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. To God be the glory.

Excerpted from internationalministries.org.

A Family in Ministry

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Messages for April

April 7, 2024

A Sigh and a Nap!

Matthew 25:1-13, Ephesians 6:13-19

April 14, 2024

Look at What We've [God's] Done

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18, Revelation 21:1-6a

April 21, 2024

Rev. Jim Cagle, guest speaker

April 28, 2024

Candidate Weekend

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