



# GOOD NEWS! June, 2024

## MWBC Calls Rev. Clay Self

After the exciting candidating weekend of April 27-28, the congregation of Mt. Washington Baptist Church voted to call Rev. Clay Self as our new pastor, effective in late July of 2024.

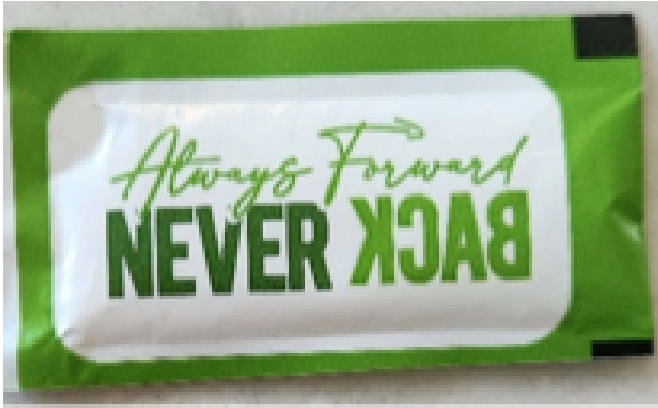
Rev. Self grew up in Maumee, Ohio, in a large family of eight half-siblings and 2 siblings. Growing up, Clay was active in his home church, Ashland Baptist Church. He served two terms on the Ohio Baptist Youth State Board and spent one summer on staff at Judson Hills camp before going off to college. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern University in St. Davids, PA, and a Master of Divinity from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary located in Kansas City, MO. He served in an associate pastor capacity in Des Moines before attending seminary and in Independence, MO, while in seminary. He served as lead pastor in Urbana, IL, and Mill Creek, WA, before moving back to his home state of Ohio in 2018 and assuming the position of Pastor at First Baptist Church of Hillsboro. Before coming back to Ohio, in addition to pastoring there for 14 years, for two years he was a lead carpenter for a remodeling company in Seattle. Clay has served as a volunteer chaplain for the local fire and rescue department, as the Area Regional Minister (ARM) of the ABC-Ohio churches in the Clinton Baptist Association, and as an officer of the ministerial association in Hillsboro.

Pastor Clay is married to Kacy and has one stepchild living at home, Alex (AKA Ruger). The family also includes Kacy's adult child, Remington, who lives in the Seattle area, and Clay's two adult children, Tyler (living in Seattle) and Kayla (living in New York City).

*We look forward to Pastor Clay's first Sunday in the pulpit, July 28.*



## The Last Sugar Packet



Well then, it seems like this is my last newsletter article for MWBC. It is late, as almost all of them have been throughout my pastoral career of nearly 30 years.

I like writing. You all know I like talking. And I usually have something to say. But putting it down on paper for publishing always gives me a bit of a pause. I'm considering, did I say it clearly? Will they get the point? Did I have a point in mind to give them? Does anyone actually read this after I have worried, reflected, and written it?

A lot of questions. And no one here to answer them. I can only just do my best. And so, I try to be clear, remove slang and slander from my thoughts, and accept the peace that I know will come through completion of the work.

And so, I come to this verse from 2 Peter. I'm trying to do what it suggests and urging you to do the same. Yes, I'm taking it a little out of context, but it fits where I am aiming.



*So then, dear friends,  
since you are looking forward to this,  
make every effort to be found spotless,  
blameless and at peace with him (Jesus).  
2 Peter 3:14*

As a church family, we have come a long way since I started my interim leadership among you. You smile more, you complain less. You are ready to move forward, and done with standing still. The ground that once looked so rocky has turned out to be a good bit smoother. The Search Committee had done the hard work of interviewing, discerning, waiting and presenting a candidate. And you have supported them with prayer and patience.

And now, with great joy, you have called a pastor, and see a future with his leadership. It's going to be great!

Many of you have expressed your thanks for my work among you in this interim time. I appreciate your kindness so much. And I will miss you and the circles you have learned to make in the sanctuary. I will think of how you know to nod your heads in agreement. And I will remember the great joys of being together, and the sorrow for those who have gone to be with the Lord.

But my work is finished! I've done my job. I've completed what God sent me to do. Now I get to rest a bit, enjoy some time off, and consider where God may lead me next.

And you, Mt. Washington Baptist Church, get to continue your journey onward, never looking back. It's going to be exciting. You're going to be fine. Better than fine. It's going to be fantastic!



*Blessings and Love,  
As the interim time ends,  
Pastor Karen Johnson*

## Weekly Schedule

### Sundays

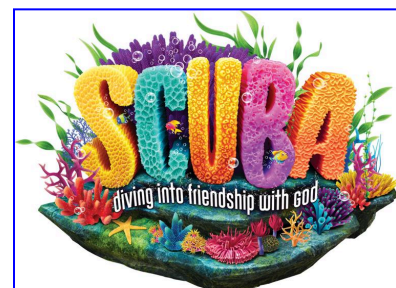
9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service & Children's Church  
(in-person and streaming live on Facebook)

### Wednesdays

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

## Coming Up in June . . .

- \* **Virtual Bible Study, Wednesday evenings** – This month, Rev. Jim Cagle will be teaching in the book of Hebrews. You'll find his lessons on the MWBC Facebook page each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- \* **Worship Services, Sunday mornings** – In June we'll be hearing messages from the following leaders:
  - July 2 – Pastor Karen Johnson
  - July 9 – Pastor Karen Johnson
  - July 16 (Father's Day and VBS Celebration Day) – Pastor Karen Johnson
  - July 23 – Rev. Jim Cagle
  - July 30 – To Be Announced
- \* **Memorial Service, June 8** – The entire congregation is invited to a Celebration of Life for Iris Oliver on Saturday, June 8. Visitation begins at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by the memorial service at 11:00 and then a picnic/luncheon in the Chi Rho Pi room and its outside patio.
- \* **Come Dive into Friendship with God at SCUBA VBS, June 10-14** – Kids aged Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to join us at Scuba VBS. We will start in the sanctuary at 9:30 each day and will enjoy songs, skits, Bible stories, crafts, and fun! Events end each day at noon when parents can pick up their children from the Sanctuary. Invite your kids, grandkids, neighbors, and friends to participate. **Supplies needed:** empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls, four high-beam flashlights (to borrow). Please place donated supplies in the VBS box in the lobby.
- \* **VBS Mission Project** – This year our VBS kids will be supporting children who attend the Lord's Gym, an outreach of Focus Ministries, by donating snack packs, baby wipes, little coloring kits, and small crafts kits for kids. Donations may be brought to VBS June 10-14 or to church on Sunday, June 9 or 16.
- \* **Volunteer at the Racetrack, June 18** – A team of volunteers from MWBC will be preparing and serving a dinner for racetrack workers on Tuesday evening, June 18. Reach out to Rev. Jim Cagle if you'd like to help.



## . . . and Later

- \* **Independence Day Parade, July 3**
- \* **Pastor Karen's Last Sunday & Reception, July 21**
- \* **Pastor Clay's First Sunday, July 28**
- \* **National Night Out, August 6**
- \* **Volunteer at the Racetrack, August 13**

## In Other News

- \* **SEM Food Pantry** – MWBC is dedicated to supporting the SEM Food Pantry through donations of non-perishable food and especially personal care items. Please continue bringing items in each week to help address the needs of those in our community.

## Music

Using several Biblical texts that reflect on the guiding nature of God, the hymn “Be Thou My Vision” gives us many titles of God. He is our Vision, our Wisdom, our Word, our Ruler, and our Great Father. The writer of this hymn is anonymous, but it was written in the seventh or eighth century. It is conjectured that the author may have been an Irish missionary named Columba from County Donegal in Ireland, since he had been writing and singing shortly before this song was first heard. The time between AD 500 and 700 was a time of great missionary zeal for the Irish church. Irish missionaries went throughout Scotland to Switzerland, spreading the word of God’s love and the salvation of Christ. It has been said by one historian that their effort was “the one all-absorbing national thought and passion.” Columba was one of the poets of the Irish church and was known to sing songs never heard before. The song tells us to rely on God for our strength and guidance. He is always present for us, guiding and encouraging us, especially when our fellow travelers on earth forsake and disappoint us.

We are showing God’s vision for our church this summer with mission opportunities. On June 18 we will return to the racetrack to serve the workers there. I hope we can participate in the Mt. Washington July 3 parade celebrating the nation’s birthday. On August 6 we will host a National Night Out along with others, and then again on Tuesday, August 13, we will bring dinner back to the racetrack. As we sing “Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart. . . . Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all,” we focus on His vision for MWBC and follow His leading.

Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

## Missions

### **Promises Kept, A Future Story Embraced (A Message from Rev. Dr. Sharon T. Koh, Executive Director/CEO of ABCUSA’s International Ministries)**

*How do you celebrate anniversaries?* Many do something special each year. In a similar way, I try to take the anniversary of my ordination as a day off and spend time in prayer and reflection over the promises I made years ago. **Commemorating promises made and kept is the first stage of leaning into a future story that God has called us into.**

**May 21, 2024, is International Ministries’ 210th anniversary.** Our origin story is the tale of American Baptists in the newly formed colonies joining together to send and support foreign missionaries, the first being Adoniram and Ann Judson.

Today, IM calls those we send and support “global servants,” and we are grateful to do so in collaboration with our international partners. Adapting to the pressing human needs and changing mission landscape with each generation, we now frequently describe God’s mission as “from everywhere to everyone.”



*Rev. Sharon Koh*

**210 years later, as we look onward, our future story is one of embracing adaptive change and remaining on the cutting edge of global mission.** And you, our friends and ministry partners, are an *essential* part of how this takes place. Thank you for praying for and sacrificially supporting the ministry of our global servants. With you, we prayerfully discern our next steps and ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance as the world’s needs lie before us.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is still changing lives around the world, and IM will continue to strive to meet human need and preach that gospel as we invite people to be disciples of Jesus Christ. . . .

Together, we will look forward to and embrace the future of participating in God’s mission. It will truly be a global celebration.

Rev. Dr. Sharon T. Koh  
Executive Director/CEO, International Ministries



# A Family in Ministry

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Pastor Karen Johnson: [mwbcpastorkaren@gmail.com](mailto:mwbcpastorkaren@gmail.com) Website: [www.mwbcare.net](http://www.mwbcare.net)

## Congratulations to Our Graduates!



**Alexandra Rechel**, Associate of Science in Equine  
Teaching and Training, Hocking College

**Casey Adams**, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance, The Ohio State University

**Elizabeth Thorman**, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, University of Cincinnati

**Fred Anderson**, Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Xavier University

**Jih-Ting Chen**, Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance, University of  
Cincinnati-CCM

## 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