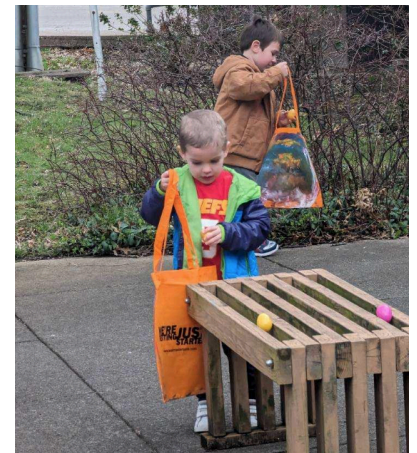




# GOOD NEWS! May, 2024

## Spring Activities at the Day Care





## Vacation Mode

I'm on vacation! What a fun sentence. As I write this, I'm at my sister's home, hanging out before embarking on the next phase of my vacation itinerary.

We all need vacation. Stay at home, travel, go to our favorite places, whatever we are inclined to do, vacation is important. It gives us a break from our daily routine; it challenges us with unexpected breakdowns, times of joy, and new things to learn and do.



*Photo Credit: Urip Dunker, unsplash.com*

Ecclesiastes 12 tells us, "Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body." Our minds and bodies need a rest from time to time. Vacation, rest is called for in the Bible, but slothfulness and inactivity is not praised. "We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been planned" (Hebrews 6:12).

What is your vacation going to be this year? Don't let the weeks and months slip by without some thought about this. It is often good to think, plan, dream, about what vacation lies ahead. It can lift us up on the days we need a boost.

But while you ponder how you might spend your vacation time, know that this moment is a time to be with your church family. It is a group project to call a new pastor to Mt. Washington Baptist Church. And there are things that need to be done. A main part of the work is prayer, lots of prayer, to make sure we are on God's page as the congregation moves forward. A readiness to act, in new ways, to respond to new ideas and plans.

And lastly, a willingness to give things up. We've never done it this way, I have to sit in my spot, this board is the only one I will serve on, the old way is the best way. Ya gotta give those up. Give them up in favor of what God has in mind for the church. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

I'm still on vacation, finishing this up as the ABC Leadership Conference begins. I know Mt. Washington Baptist has a bright future. I can see it in your eyes. I can see and feel your readiness. The time for newness is here.

In the interim,  
Pastor Karen Johnson



*Photo Credit: Syuhei Inoue, unsplash.com*

## 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 May

- \* **Virtual Bible Study, Wednesdays evenings** – This month, Rev. Jim Cagle concludes his teachings in the book of 1 Corinthians and turns to 2 Corinthians for the rest of May. You'll find his lesson on the MWBC Facebook page each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- \* **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 Chi Rho Pi room.
- \* **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.
- \* **Graduate Recognition, May 12** – The Board of Christian Ed will honor those who are graduating from high school and post-secondary education during the Worship Service and with a special breakfast before church. If you are graduating this year, please let Karen Bartmess know so that you can be included.
- \* **Baby Shower for Emily & John Sutton, May 19** – Be on the lookout for more details!

## Come Dive into Friendship with God at SCUBA VBS!

Kids aged Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to join us at VBS June 10-14. 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.



We are looking for donations of empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls (to make octopi) and remnants of purple cloth (for the story of Lydia). There may be more needs as they are identified and we will share with you. There will be a box in the lobby to deposit your donations. If you wish to help in any way or have questions, see Barb Cable.

## In Other News . . .

- \* **Delores Kuster Scholarship** – The Delores Kuster Endowment Fund provides scholarships for post-secondary students who are regular attendees of MWBC. Applications are available at the Welcome Center and must be turned in by May 15. Even if you've received this scholarship in the past, you need to reapply each year.
- \* **Summer Outreach 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.
- \* **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.
- \* **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

Many of us are familiar with the words to the hymn “Onward, Christian Soldiers.” The words seem a bit fearsome – “Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war” – but the song was originally written as a children’s song, sung as kids walked from village to village, coming together for a joyous school festival during Whitmonday in 1865. The idea was that the kids would march and sing this song. The words when you think on them aren’t as fearsome as thought. They encourage the singer to follow Christ, united together against the powers opposed to the Christian faith. Written by Sabine Baring-Gould, the words were hastily put to paper in one evening. The composer was surprised, even thirty years later by how popular the song became and remained, given that he wrote it so quickly. I found the words that we don’t sing interesting as we celebrate Memorial Day this month. They speak to the promises of Matthew 16:18 and Matthew 28:18-20 of the lasting of God’s Church and Kingdom versus man’s kingdoms. The words read: “Crowns and throne may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the Church of Jesus constant will remain. Gates of Hell can never ‘gainst that Church prevail; we have Christ’s own promise, and that cannot fail.”

This month we remember those who gave our lives for our freedoms as a country and also the martyrs of the faith who died in defense of our religious freedom. Memories can be sad but also inspiring when we promise ourselves to continue to seek the goals of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

## Missions

### An Update on the Osterbrocks

Aaron and Valerie Osterbrock are Global Servants with ABCUSA’s International Ministries, working on behalf of IM with seminary students in Sabah Theological Seminary in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. They are currently living in Hamilton, Ohio, where they are able to continue teaching students at STS virtually while also providing training within ABC Ohio’s Leadership Academy. This semester, Aaron is teaching an OT/NT Survey course for students in Malaysia who have just graduated high school and are waiting for their test results to see what their next steps will be. The seminary developed a program years ago to help equip these students for ministry while they remain in limbo, awaiting their test scores.

Aaron is also preparing to attend Southern Seminary in the fall and is grateful for friends and supporters who prayed for him through the entrance exam and interview process. He writes, “I was thrilled to receive my acceptance letter to enroll in Southern’s doctoral program in Biblical Theology, beginning this fall. Parts of this journey have left me amazed at the goodness of God, and [this] news was one of those moments. Praise the Lord who gives us the desires of our hearts and then gives us the desires of our hearts (He gives us the desires and then He fulfills those desires)! What a gracious God we serve.”



On May 12, Mother’s Day, the Osterbrocks will be with us in worship, along with their six children: Theophilus, Anastasia, Azariah, Micah, Josiah, and baby Elijah. We look forward to hearing more about their ministry and future plans!

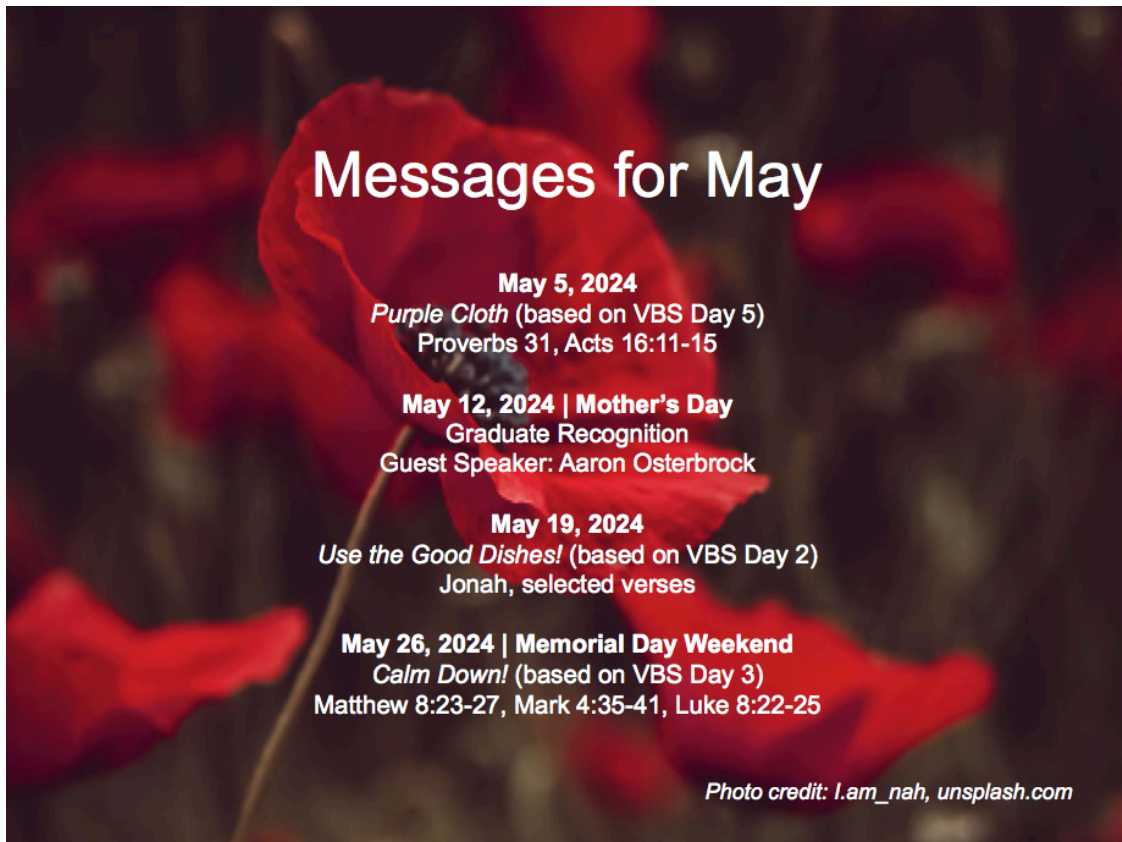
*Excerpted from “We Are OKK: News from the Osterbrocks,” March, 2024.*



# ***A Family in Ministry***

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