



GOOD NEWS! September, 2024

Self Talk | Pastor Clay

This is your first installment of “Self Talk,” a title I created years ago for ramblings I have the privilege to share with the people God graciously allows me to serve as their Pastor. Kacy, Alex and I thank you for the warm welcome you have given us and look forward to many discipleship adventures we will embark on together.

This will be a season of getting to know each other, seeking God’s direction for the mountains we will discover and climb together and crafting a shared vision to connect with those who are not yet followers of Jesus. Are you ready for adventure, experimentation and change?

Two initiatives we are currently working on are the creation of two distinct teams. The first team that is close to starting its work is the Worship Design Team. The focus of that team is to help shape our corporate worship to creatively nudge those who gather into the life changing presence of the Trinity. Please pray for us as we begin this sacred task.

The other team is still in the infancy stage and will be tasked with enhancing what guests experience when they step foot on our campus and enter the facilities God has blessed us with. This First Impressions Team will be concerned with how user friendly we are, what and how we communicate with guests, as well as how we help people move

from being a cherished guest to an active participant in our community life. Please pray for the formation of this team and that God will grant them vision, wisdom and energy equal to the task before them.

Our current message series, “GOD-us-Others” will wrap on September 8th, and a new one begins on September 15th. Like kids going back to school, we will be back to The Book, and the book we will spend a couple months on will be the Letter to the Colossians. In Colossians the Apostle Paul instructs Jesus followers on how to live in a hostile earthly empire as a citizen of the Kingdom of God. The title for the series is “The Intersection of Peace and Toxic Polarization.” During this chaotic election season, we will benefit greatly from digging into this letter of practical advice on peacemaking rooted in Jesus the Christ.

Finally, please email me at pastorclayself@gmail.com so we can set up a time to meet and get to know each other better.



Grace and peace,
Pastor Clay

“Selfie” by Pastor Clay

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 September . . .

- * **Sunday Mornings, 10 a.m.** – Pastor Clay will complete his sermon series centering around the “GOD - us - Others” discipling model on September 8 and then turn to a new series entitled “The Intersection of Peace and Toxic Polarization,” based on the book of Colossians.
- * **Wednesday Evenings, 6 p.m.** – For our Virtual Bible Studies in early September, Pastor Jim will complete his series of lessons in the book of Hebrews. Beginning September 18, he'll be looking at I Peter.



- * **Installation Service, September 29, 10:00 a.m.** - We'll officially install Rev. Clay Self as our pastor in a special morning worship service, followed by an all-church luncheon immediately after church. Please plan on joining us for this celebration of God's provision.

. . . And Later

- * **Fall Picnic, Early October** – Be on the lookout for information about our annual Fall Picnic, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education.
- * **ABC-Ohio Annual Gathering, October 15-16** – The American Baptist Churches of Ohio's Annual Gathering will take place October 15-16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Columbus-North. This year's theme is “United in Christ & Rooted in Love,” based on John 13:34-35. An exciting program is planned with Dr. J. R. Briggs as the speaker for the worship service, Brian & Lynette Smith (Global Servants in the Dominican Republic) as speakers for the Mission Banquet, and relevant workshops presented by local leaders. Be on the lookout for more details and registration information as the date gets nearer.
- * **Day Care Trunk or Treat, October 25 (tentative date), 6-7:30 p.m.** – The Day Care will again host a “Trunk or Treat” in the church parking lot, open to the church and community. Decorate your car, bring some candy to pass out, and join the fun!



Trunk or Treat 2023

In Other News

- * **HOC Veterans Event, September 25** – Hospice of Cincinnati is sponsoring a “Welcome Home Veterans Event” on Wednesday, September 25, at Summit Park in Blue Ash. There will be a gathering and lunch for veterans and families of military members who died in service at 11 a.m., followed by the Community Celebration and Parade at noon. For more details or to register, call 513-246-9291.
- * **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

The Chancel Choir will resume their ministry in song on Sunday, September 8, with a rehearsal at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join us as we present worship music each Sunday. The songs vary in type and style, but they are all sung to offer praise to God.

We plan to present our annual Christmas cantata this year on Sunday, December 22, during the worship service, as part of this group's ministry in song. If you love singing Christmas music, now is the perfect time to join the choir. I hope to see you on Sunday, September 8!

Pastor Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

Choir Cantata 2023



Missions

MWBC to Participate in International Ministries' World Mission Offering 2024



WHAT IS THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING (WMO)?

Each year through International Ministries' World Mission Offering, typically collected in American Baptist churches in September and October, thousands of congregations and individuals come together to support ministries that God is using to transform the world. As one pastor described his church's involvement in the WMO, "God allows us to participate in what he is doing, which blesses our church and inspires us to get involved in our own mission activities where we live and beyond."

HOW ARE WMO GIFTS USED?

WMO gifts are used for mission program support (global servant, international partner, and other ministry support), for administrative support, and for development costs.

WHAT ABOUT MY GIFTS TO SPECIFIC GLOBAL SERVANTS?

All personalized global servant support is targeted for the global servants and keeps them in their ministries.

WHAT ELSE WILL MY WMO GIFTS DO?

As the body of Christ, we respond together to the needs around the world – when everyone contributes, no one group carries the full burden of expense. IM does not ask global servants to raise all of the funds they need but comes alongside them in financial support as well as in ministry. When personalized funding falls short, WMO gifts fill the gap and keep global servants in their country of service. WMO gifts support global servants with training and pastoral care, enable IM to address crises when they arise, and so much more.

Join with us as we work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

Excerpted from internationalministries.org.

A Family in Ministry

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Messages for September

September 1

Shredding Forgiveness

The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13

September 8

Others before us

Philippians 2:1-4

September 15

Looking at the Landscape of Colossians

Various Verses in Colossians

September 22

It All Starts and Ends with "Grace and Peace"

Colossians 1:1-2

September 29

Celebration of People and Pastor: A Service of Installation

Guest Speaker

Photo Credit: Ferdinand Stöhr, unsplash.com

Our Staff and Leaders

Rev. Clay Self, 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