



GOOD NEWS! October, 2024

Service of Installation, September 29

Mt. Washington Baptist Church was blessed to officially install Rev. Clay Self as our pastor on Sunday, September 29! This special Service of Installation included messages from Rev. Mark Click, ABC Ohio Executive Minister; and Rev. Dr. Steve Patrick, CEO of Church Health 180; along with fun reminiscences from David Galliers, Pastor Clay's childhood Sunday School superintendent. A celebration luncheon capped off the morning with food and fellowship.

Special thanks to Connie Green for photos throughout the newsletter!



Pastor Clay



David Galliers



Rev. Dr. Steve Patrick



Rev. Mark Click

Self Talk | Pastor Clay

GRATITUDE:

I am just over two months in as your Senior Pastor, and there have been some unexpected twists already. Kacy, Alex and I are thankful to be here and a part of this rich community. With Kacy's recent ICU stay, we bow in wonder and awe how people make it through difficult times without the support and prayers of a Jesus-based community. Thank you for caring in tangible ways through these particularly emotionally and physically exhausting days. We have enjoyed getting to know many of you and look forward to getting to know more of you, as well as getting to know each other better as together we strive to be better followers of Jesus tomorrow than we are today.

A heartfelt shout-out goes to Darby; her professionalism and encouragement have helped make the transition here start to feel like home. Or in the mantra of MWBC, like the "family of faith" God intended us to become.



Rev. Dianne Steelman leads the Prayer of Installation.

STRUGGLE:

New pastorates are often spoken of in terms of the honeymoon period, which can last six months to a year. As the search team and I talked leading up to my acceptance of your call, we developed a clear understanding that changes needed to be implemented quickly to address at least 15 years of numerical decline exacerbated by the pandemic. Changes on the list we discussed were worship, mission and outreach, organizational structure, renewed vision rooted in creating and building disciples, physical appearance and more. In practical terms what that means is our marriage of pastor and people is more like my honeymoon with Kacy, which included a couple nights at a cozy retreat in Montana before packing up both of her boys, who were staying with her ex-in-laws, in our van and driving through blizzard conditions to our new home in Ohio. The early days were not easy and yet so worth it!

HOPE AND LOVE:

We believe in Mount Washington Baptist Church! You are an amazing collection of God's children with a lot to give to the ever-expanding family of God. We have some blizzards to face together which will strengthen our love for each other and our trust in our Savior! Following Jesus is an adventure like no other, filled with challenges to our faith and amazing, surprising bursts of God's goodness and grace. Let's get in the van and ride, roll down the windows from time to time when the smell gets too bad, and journey to the destination God has for us.



P.S.

Some have asked why I do not wear a tie. Jesus never wore a tie! Okay, that is a little snarky; the real reason is I am convinced that most of the people out there who are not yet followers of Jesus feel pastors without ties are more relatable. As I have been known to say, if ties would help people become followers of Jesus, I would wear three at a time. Our focus needs to be on those who are not yet followers of Jesus, the risen Christ!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Clay & Kacy

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:15 a.m. Youth Sunday School Class
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 October . . .

* **Sunday Mornings, 10 a.m.** – Pastor Clay continues his sermon series entitled “The Intersection of Peace and Toxic Polarization” and based on the book of Colossians.

* **Wednesday Evenings, 6 p.m.** – Pastor Jim takes to the Facebook platform to lead us in a series of lessons on the books of 1 and 2 Peter.

* **Fall Picnic & Reunion, October 13** – *Make new friends, but keep the old!* It is church picnic time again, and we would love to take this opportunity to have a reunion of “old” friends while making some new ones. Please reach out to folks we haven't seen in a while and to new folks, and extend a warm invitation to join us for a delicious barbecue dinner on October 13. Let them know we have a “new” thing going on at church and invite them to worship too. We hope to see a crowd on October 13.

* **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.

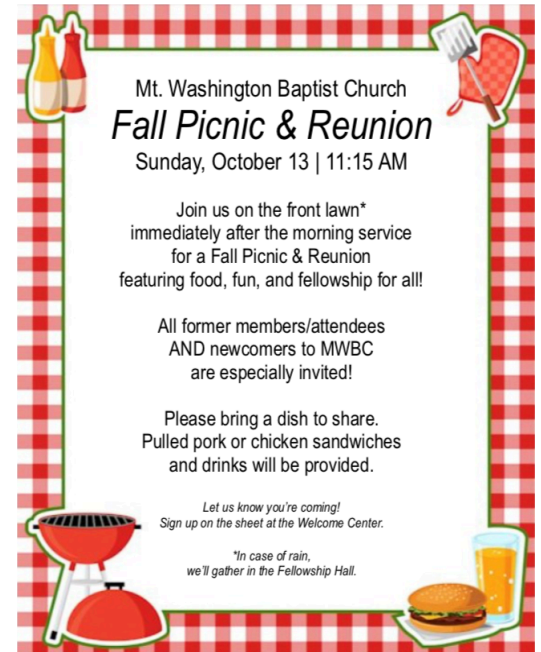
* **Day Care Trunk or Treat, October 25, 6-7:30 p.m.** – The Day Care will again host a “Trunk or Treat” in the church parking lot, open to the church and community. Decorate your car, bring some candy to pass out, and join the fun!

. . . and Beyond

* **Live Nativity, November 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** – MWBC presents its annual Live Nativity display on the front lawn of the church, coinciding with the Mt. Washington Holiday Walk as an offering to the community. Let Pastor Jim know if you'd like to be involved in any way.

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

Our annual Live Nativity will be Saturday, November 30, and this year the times will be 5:30-7:30 p.m. We welcome this ministry of sharing Christ and the story of His birth with our local community in Mt. Washington. Several volunteers will be needed again this year; please let me know if you are able to help. Also, if there are any suggestions or new ideas, please present those to me as we make this event one to cherish throughout the Advent season.



Pastor Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

Jill Howe & Sid Green lead the Response to the Pastoral Charge.

Missions

Hispanic Heritage Month: A personal reflection

by Paty Contreras of International Ministries

One of my life goals was to use my first language, Spanish, in my career. Working with International Ministries for the last four years as an administrative assistant for the regions of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean and East and South Asia, I've loved the experience of supporting people in this large part of the world.

With IM, I help others by using my Spanish language and knowledge of the culture, **and** I get to see how the work of staff and global servants positively affects those living in Latin America.

As time goes by, **I realize that many times I receive more than what I provide.** To see the lives of women and children changed, especially those who are victims of domestic violence in Mexico, has changed me and helped me grow as a person. I never would have imagined how many people benefit from the work others do around the globe if not for working with International Ministries.

This month we recognize Hispanic Heritage Month. It is a time to honor the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans and celebrate the heritage rooted in Latin American countries.

It fills me with immense energy and joy knowing that my work contributes to and supports ALL those people who are helping others with education, health, and spiritual guidance in Latin American countries (and around the world!).

And it motivates me to continue helping in any way I can for the global servants and partners with whom I have the privilege to work daily.

My hope is that as you've experienced connecting with global servants and hearing about lives positively impacted, you too are changed and experience the joy that comes with supporting those in mission around the world.



Paty Contreras

International Ministries

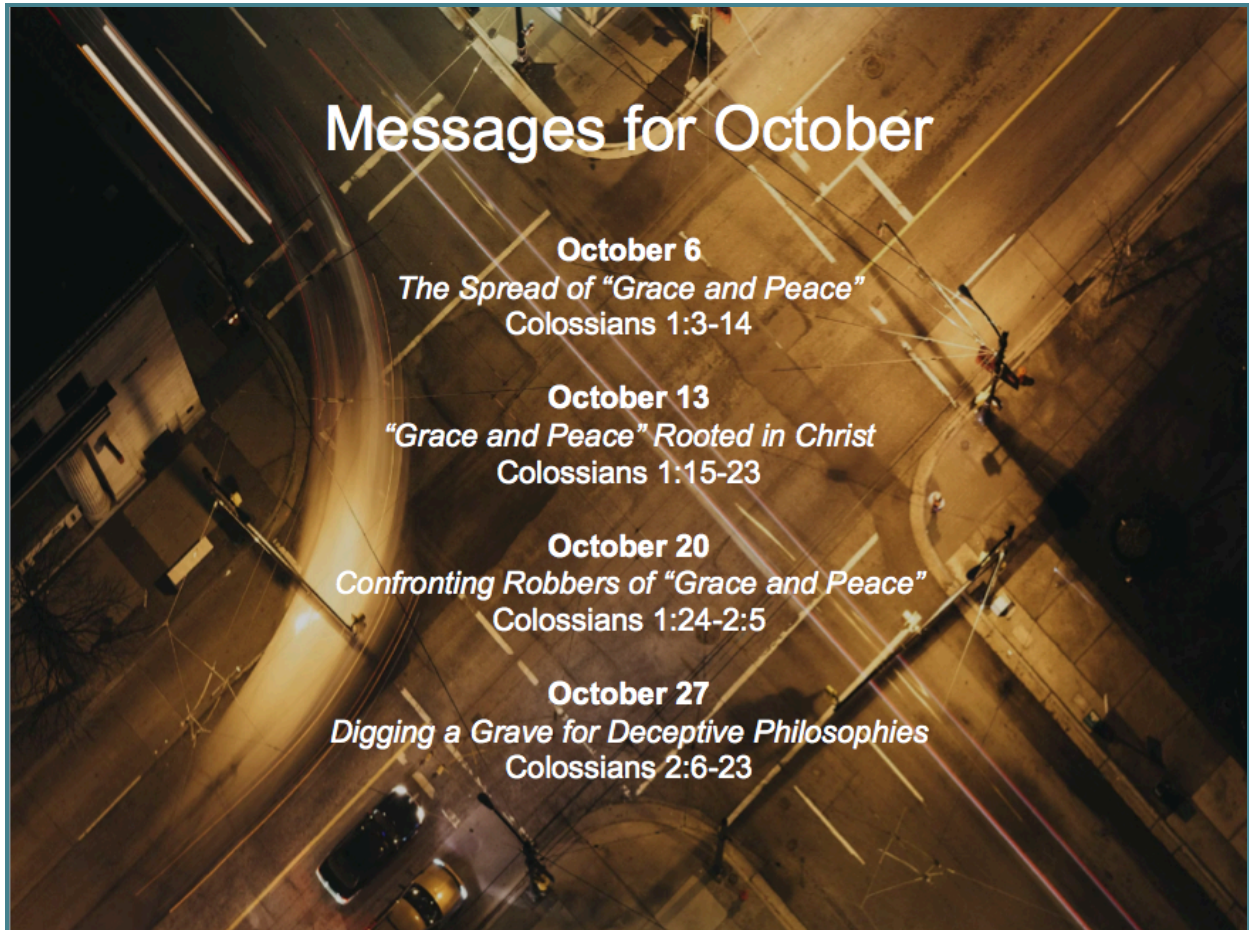
Administrative Assistant to Iberoamerica and the Caribbean

Reprinted from International Ministries' IM Online.

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 Clay Self: pastorclayself@gmail.com Website: www.mwbcare.net



Messages for October

October 6

The Spread of "Grace and Peace"
Colossians 1:3-14

October 13

"Grace and Peace" Rooted in Christ
Colossians 1:15-23

October 20

Confronting Robbers of "Grace and Peace"
Colossians 1:24-2:5

October 27

Digging a Grave for Deceptive Philosophies
Colossians 2:6-23

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