



GOOD NEWS! May-June, 2025

Self Talk | Pastor Clay

About this time a year ago I was wrapping up my six years of ministry at my previous church. Helping that church prepare for VBS, I decided to install the stored window AC units in spaces to be used that didn't receive the benefits of the central unit. The person who would normally accomplish the task was recovering from a bicep tendon tear. Not to be outdone by my friend, while putting in one of the AC units and trying to unstick an old church window, I did a complete rupture of my bicep tendon. I felt a twist, grind, pop, and ouch. I finished installing the AC and made a doctor's appointment. My doctor immediately sent me to an orthopedic center in Cincinnati, but when I got there, I was refused service because they did not take my insurance. I decided to get lunch and research where to go. After many calls, and no help with my insurance's online help center, I embarked on a long multi-person conversation with my provider, interspersed with prayer and frustration. They found me a specialist that could see me in 30 minutes only blocks away from where I had parked myself for lunch. With a few more hiccups, surgery took place in a few days, just one day after we partially moved into our future apartment in Anderson Township. Before surgery several people from Mount Washington Baptist and the chair of the elder board from the church I was leaving cared for me and prayed with me.



Most of last summer was spent on recovery and physical therapy, not what I had planned. Leaving my former church was not what I had planned, needing to take several weeks off. I did get to preach a final sermon and have a sendoff, with my arm immobilized. I could add so much more detail, like Kacy's trip to Texas to work on her father's estate where she had to be hospitalized, but suffice it to say, nothing went according to plan and yet God's goodness popped up all over the place.

We as a church are not in a dissimilar situation. We know there are some things in our corporate mission life that have twisted, grinded to a halt, or are torn and need attention, and yet we see God's goodness sowing itself all over the place. May we embark on a journey to pursuing God's healthy design for us individually and collectively. May we seek good advice and helpful hands to guide our path. May we submit to surgery if needed to correct what is hindering the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus in our midst. And may we see hoops and obstacles as opportunities to invite others along and be amazed by our God who is Emmanuel, with us!

Grace and peace, Pastor Clay

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
Last Wednesday only:
6:00 p.m. Community Outreach Dinner
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
(in-person and streaming live on Facebook)

Coming Soon . . .

* **Graduate Recognition, TBA** – Each spring we acknowledge the achievements of our high school and post-secondary graduates. If you are graduating in 2025, please let Karen Bartmess or Barb Cagle know.

* **True North VBS, June 2-6** – In VBS, we will visit *True North* and learn about “Trusting God in a Wild World.” The bears, otters, eagles, crabs, and moose will help in our understanding, and kids will take a deep dive into the book of Matthew. Vacation Bible School will start at 9:30 each day and end at noon. Registration begins at 9. We welcome children aged pre-K through entering 6th grade. Be looking for ways to help! We are still hoping to add a few volunteers to our team. We are also asking for monetary donations so leaders can purchase snacks with respect to allergy concerns. VBS is always a fun time of learning and sharing the good news. Please share with your friends and family. If you have questions, please see Barb Cagle.



* **Summer Racetrack Ministry, Tuesday, June 3** – A team from MWBC served roughly 40 workers at Belterra Racetrack with a hot meal and warm fellowship on May 13. If you'd like to help out at the next racetrack dinner on June 3, please see Pastor Jim.

* **Everyday ABC Conversation, Thursday, June 12** – ABCUSA sponsors quarterly virtual meetings to bring American Baptists across the nation together in conversation with one another. The topic for the current series of meetings is **Harmony**, and the next installment takes place at 3:00 p.m. EDT on Thursday, June 12, via Zoom. Presenters are Minister Matthew Rivera, Executive Director of the Dream Support Network; and Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains. Visit abc-usa.org for more information and/or to register.

* **ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit, July 3-6** – See the article on page 3 for more details.

* **Mt. Washington Independence Day Parade, July 3**

* **Future Racetrack Ministry Dates, July 8 and August 12**



Easter Egg Hunt, April 12

May's Warmth

May is that time of year when, hopefully, winter is completely behind us, with no more ice, snow and cold, beautiful though those things are in December. By May I'm more interested in digging in the dirt and planting the garden. It's also the time to celebrate mothers on Mother's Day! We honored the ladies of the church with a gift of a flower on Sunday, May 11. We've also restarted our summer outreach to the workers at the racetrack. On Tuesday, May 13, a crew from MWBC provided the first of four dinners to racetrack workers. The next date for this ministry is June 3; please let me know if you want to join us that evening.

May ends with the celebration of Memorial Day, that weekend when we remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Read or reread the poem "In Flanders Fields," a war poem written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, to help you remember what others have done for us and why we should never forget their commitment to their fellow countrymen. As we have recently celebrated Easter, we can remember a more profound commitment, that commitment to us freely shown by Christ through His death and resurrection that we might be in eternity with Him.

Blessings!

Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

Missions

American Baptist Churches USA Gears Up for the Biennial Mission Summit

ABCUSA's 2025 Biennial Mission Summit, taking place July 3-6 in Omaha, Nebraska, is centered around the theme, "Come Seek Living Water," and is designed to engage collaboration and inspire action within local communities. It will be a vibrant "family reunion," focusing on creating meaningful connections for kids, young adults, and all attendees. The Biennial Mission Summit will feature engaging activities for all ages, including many activities for children, alongside workshops and discussions that inspire fellowship and spiritual growth. With these child-friendly activities, ABCUSA aims to ensure that the voices of younger generations are celebrated and heard within our community.



The four distinguished keynote speakers are Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, general secretary of ABCUSA; Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard, regional executive minister of the Cleveland Baptist Association and general secretary for North American Baptist Fellowship; Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula, executive minister and region missionary serving American Baptist Churches of Nebraska; and Rev. Dr. Zau Sam Lahtaw, senior pastor of the First Kachin Baptist Church of America in Omaha, Nebraska.



Pastor Clay and Kacy will be attending and representing us at this unifying event! We pray that it will be a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable spiritual experience for them.

Adapted from abc-usa.org.

Children's Church, Easter Sunday 2025

A Family in Ministry

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Our Staff and Leaders

Rev. Clay Self, Pastor | 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
Jennifer Yantz, Day Care Director
Janece Nation, Custodian