

July 12, 2024

Hello members and friends of Washington Heights Baptist Church.

In February, we began seeking God's direction for a new lead pastor at Washington Heights. Since that time, many have asked "what's next" for Wendy and me. That's a question we have considered carefully for the past few months and we want to thank everyone for the prayers and the personal support you have shown as we seek God's direction. We are committed to supporting the search committee and our church family with as much continuity as possible through this transition. And, it is exciting to see the search committee interviewing candidates and the church staff successfully accepting new responsibilities as our members and friends continue the effective ministries of our church. Praise the Lord! It is evident that a stable transition is well underway.

With the transition now moving forward and after consulting with the church leadership, we believe it's time to announce that Wendy and I will complete our ministry as Lead Pastor at Washington Heights on Sunday, September 29, 2024. We cannot begin to say thank you for the extraordinary privilege it has been to serve as your pastor. We cannot imagine a better place to have raised our family and fulfilled our calling than here at the Heights.

It will probably come as no surprise to anyone that what's next for Wendy and me is a greater connection to our family. We recently purchased a home close to our son, Nathan, and not far from Wendy's sister in Jacksonville, Florida. And, with the flexibility of a retirement schedule, we will often be traveling back to spend time with our daughter, Amy, and our many friends here in the Midwest. In the meantime, Wendy and I will be taking several weeks of vacation in October and then, in November, we will be speaking at a conference in Portugal for ABWE missionaries who serve throughout Western Europe.

Here at the Heights, Dr. Justin Hoppe will take up the responsibilities of leadership in his role as Executive Pastor for Ministry and will work closely with the church staff and with deacon chairman, Brett Winters, to oversee the ministries of the church. We are also happy to announce that David Culver, the former President of Evangelical Baptist Missions and recently retired lead pastor at Shawnee Hills Baptist Church in Jamestown, Ohio, will serve as our guest pulpit supply. David is an experienced preacher and, beginning October 6, will skillfully teach the Word each Sunday morning.

Again, thank you for the Joy of serving Christ by serving you.

Dave & Wendy Kisner