

'Now is Still the Time'

Annual Drum Major Celebration will be broadcast

Portland's historic Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church and its vibrant community will host a live broadcast of its annual Drum Major Celebration in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., once again avoiding an in-person event because of public health considerations during the coronavirus pandemic.

Due to Covid-19 spread and the more recent concern about the contagiousness of the Covid Omicron variant, the church decided against having a full, open door to the public event for fear of creating a "super spreader" event.

Church Pastor Rev. Dr. Matt Hennessee announced that this year's Sunday, Jan. 16 MLK celebration, scheduled for 2 p.m., will be broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vafbc starting at 1:55 p.m. The church's annual MLK "Salute to Greatness," event, normally held a day prior, will again not take place this year



The annual Drum Major Celebration at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church honors the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Given the public health considerations during the coronavirus pandemic, this year's celebration will be held via a live Facebook broadcast on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m.

because of the health concerns.

Covid and its variants have invaded Black and brown communities disproportionately and this is why the decision was made to have a virtual event and not an in-person event for the second year in a row.

"Hopefully everything will be in line to make 2023 the first time to be in-person again," Hennessee said.

As in past years, this year's celebration will feature prominent public officials and faith

leaders who will give remarks and reflections, however all of the messages will be video-taped in advance. In place of a choir, carefully selected YouTube music will be selected, and rather than a guest speaker this year,

an airing of the full length of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech will be presented.

The public is encouraged to virtually attend the service.

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WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET VACCINATED.

COVID fatigue is the biggest threat to keeping Oregon schools open and kids safe this winter. But, getting vaccinated is just one of 11 health and safety measures we can take to protect what's most important. Find out more at Oregon.gov/readyschools.



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