

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Avondale Family,

As people of faith, we claim that our allegiance is to God and God’s Kingdom alone. We are called to live and order our lives in God’s love and grace. Christ calls us to serve and glorify God in all we do.

These last few months have been a poignant reminder that living as the body of Christ has never been about physical buildings, but the orientation of our day-to-day lives guided by the Holy Spirit. Our efforts to grow and mature in Christ in this time means we prioritize others above ourselves in love through washing hands, wearing masks, keeping distance, and staying home. This also means resisting motivations that seek to divide us and refraining from gathering prematurely which increases exposure to the virus.

I grieve that returning to our church buildings filled with joyful singing, hugs, and shared meals is not realistic at this time. Yet, we humbly embrace the reality and accept that we will be re-entering physical spaces in phases reliant on the Holy

Spirit’s guidance and input from experts in the fields of science and healthcare.

We don’t know when it will be safe to once again gather without reservation. Yet, as in the prophetic tradition, we are called to exchange what we know as “normal” and move forward in new ways inspired by the Holy Spirit. Your Session will discern, together with our congregational and denominational leaders, what a phased, careful re-entry looks like for us at Avondale.

...acknowledging the grief that this pandemic presents while at the same time FINDING HOPE...

Remember we are and always will be Easter people. And the practice of resurrection means acknowledging the grief that this pandemic presents while at the same time finding hope in what God is faithfully revealing to transform our hearts, our church, and our world.

Until that time, may God’s continual grace be with you. Grace & Peace, *Jim*



Avondale PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Worship Services broadcast online

Avondale Children’s Center

The Avondale Children’s Center (ACC) reopened on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. There are many new regulations that must be followed that the DHHS has set for us, but the most important piece is that in order to limit the spread of germs, only staff and children will be allowed in the school.

Our last Zoom class was May 21. The teachers loved connecting with the children on Zoom. ACC staff spent Friday, May 22 getting the school ready to welcome back the children!

Our amazing ACC Parent Board will be celebrating our teachers with a *cont. next page*

In this edition...

- Avondale Adventures
- Worship Broadcasts
- Finance Update
- Children’s Center
- Member News
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Mark Your Calendar

ACC Update cont.

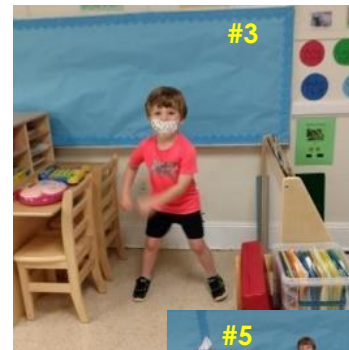
WELCOME BACK TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK! Here is what they are doing:

Tuesday, May 26 - WE "DONUT" KNOW WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT YOU! - Donuts to welcome back teachers and staff!

Wednesday, May 27 - THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR YOU - Let's shower our teachers and staff with homemade notes! Please send homemade notes/drawings to school to show them how much we appreciate their care and love for our little ones!

Thursday, May 28 - THANKS A "LATTE" FOR ALL YOU DO - Starbucks gift cards for teachers and staff to enjoy their favorite caffeinated treat!

Friday, May 29 - CATERING TO THEM - The Parent Group will provide a catered box lunch for staff and teachers to celebrate our first Friday back!



GAME: Make-up a caption for these pictures. How about this for #3?
"Look! I can still do the Floss!"

PICTURES: Reopen day May 26, 2020

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of...

Lee Weigle

Eleanor Ramey

Lee Weigle

Lee Weigle

Eleanor Ramey

Eleanor Ramey

Eleanor Ramey

Lee Weigle

Inez Rudisill

Given By...

Linda Haigh

Linda Haigh

Elsie Ameen

DJ and Leslie Saleeby

DJ and Leslie Saleeby

Joyce Cagle

Paula Huffines

Nanette Walsh

DJ and Leslie Saleeby

"The joy you have,
may it continue to grow;
the faith you have,
may it continue
to deepen,
the peace you have,
may it continue to flourish,
the love you have,
may it continue to spread.
God be with you."

- Rev. Veronica,
May 2018 Newsletter



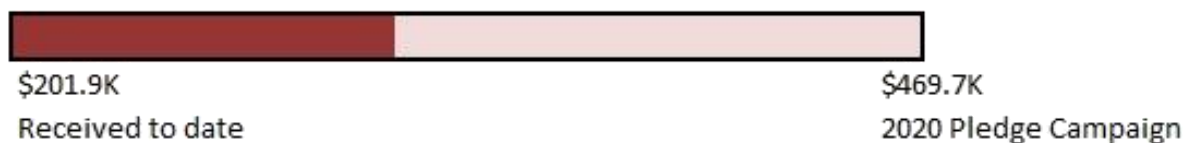
Birthdays in June

1 Stephanie Tomey	15 Brynn Stewart	24 Keagan Cavanaugh
2 Kim Flowers	Louise Chambers	Tyler Mann
5 Barbara Witzel	16 Zach Chambers	25 Margaret Martin
Hannah Yocum	17 Heather Hogston	26 David Thornberry
Millie Norris	18 Ann Patterson	27 Caleb Burgh
6 Will Moss	19 Grace Marren	Julia Wardlaw
7 Brian Tomey	20 Aiden Yount	Kellen Pavlin
Travis Ferguson	Emily Zuyus	Michael Harrison
	Helene SanDom- inick	28 Kelly Platt
10 Sam Parler	Mickey Nash	29 Betty Parrish
12 Sean Hogston	22 Gram Chambers	Charlie Eakes
13 Knox Martin, III	23 Stella Beall	Gabrielle Eyer
Pat Gribble	24 Connie Stout	30 John Callaway
Vickie Rolfe	Covert Suydam	Mac Patterson
14 Chick Martin		

Wedding Anniversaries in June

2 Drew and Elizabeth Russell	2012	17 Tina Wilson	1978
4 James and Rebecca Harris	1994	18 Will and Jennifer Vick	2005
6 Sue Haag	1942	20 Tim and Willette McLeod	1981
Bill and Marcia Halsey	1981	Vince and Kay Chelena	1992
8 Rogers and Olivia Magee	1968	23 Eric and Martha Hayes	1990
Bill and Julie Caldwell	2002	26 Michael and Sue Gibbs	1999
12 Henry and Hannah Stockwell	1965	Eric and Amanda Shanks	2010
16 Travis and Mindy Ferguson	2012	29 Ann Sanders	1985
		30 Marsha Rose	1962

2020 Stewardship: Raising The Consciousness \$ Pledges



115 Families Pledged
61 Pledge Increases
16 New Pledges

\$10,625 average received weekly

as of 5/13/2020

Our friends at Sharon Towers

Sharon Towers, the retirement community where many of our neighbors and parishioners live, has shared the news that there has been a COVID-19 outbreak there. Read more here and find ways to help:

<https://conta.cc/2M2Y3Bx>



Birthdays in July

1	Evie Steude	8	D. J. Saleeby	20	Patti Oswald
2	Jim Neely	9	Nathan Tomey		Sarah Jane Stout
	Laura Meier	11	Lincoln Ely	21	Robert Rogers
3	Dana Vorholt		Reid Parler	22	Gray Thomas
4	Marilyn Nolan	12	Libby Barron		Joy Callaway
	Ted Camp	13	Ann Gregory		Rich Worf
6	Dorothy Patterson	14	Jackson Wilson	23	Jack McGinn
	Jackie Ely	15	Baden Stuhr	26	Ava Zuyus
	Melissa Wray		Jack McKenzie		James Higgs
	Mindy Ferguson	16	Belinda Camp	27	Mary Martin
	Olivia Magee	17	Sage Wright		Taylor Cavanaugh
	Page Woods	18	Stephanie Barber	28	Lois Payne
7	Eric Shanks	19	Amanda Shanks	29	Katherine Wood
	Mark Brantley		Jane Shumate		Louise Lawson
	Mary Harris		Luke Mitchell		Sigrid Sacra

Wedding Anniversaries in July

8	Jim and Nancy Buchanan	1980	21	Bill and Leslie Thomas	1997
10	Zach and Shea Chambers	1999	22	Tom and Carey Cavanaugh	2000
15	Libby Phillips	1967	30	Terry and Sandy Brodof	1966
19	Drew and Mary Margaret Martin	2014		Bob and Tina Gaddy	1966

Staff News

Personnel Ministry Update

Personnel met recently to discuss plans for summer staffing that will ensure their safety during these uncertain times. As you know we are now in phase 2 which does lift the stay at home order; however, we are encouraged to continue working from home if possible. All staff will continue working from home through the summer with the option to come into the office on assigned days if necessary. James will be on campus Monday through Friday maintaining buildings and working on projects. Jessica Shanks will be in the church office every Wednesday from 1-6 PM should you need to stop by for any reason. We do ask that you please contact Jessica to set-up a time to avoid having too many visitors at once. We will continue making deposits every other Wednesday and all check requests will be processed and mailed on Tuesday of each week. As always, the Avondale staff are here to serve! Although we work from a distance, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us if a need or question arises!

Avondale Staff

Office: 704-333-6194

Rev. Jim Ewing
Senior Pastor

Jim@avondalepresbychurch.org

Rich Stanley, Music Director
Rich@avondalepresbychurch.org

Jessica Shanks, Administrator,
Property & Membership
Monday-Friday
Jessica@avondalepresbychurch.org

Caroline Starnes, Communica-
tions, Tuesday-Friday
Caroline@avondalepresbychurch.org

Jacqueline Howells, Finance
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
Jacqueline@avondalepresbychurch.org



Join Avondale for
"Moments of Grace"

May 27 @ 8 PM

<https://youtu.be/92VK49e7p4>

Member News

Church Triumphant

With deep sadness we share that Mrs. Inez Rudisill joined the Church Triumphant on April 21, 2020. Inez joined Avondale church in 1991. A private family graveside service and burial was held in Asheville and a memorial service will be held in Charlotte. [Read her obituary.](#)

High School Seniors Class of 2020

We celebrate and give thanks for our high school senior class of 2020! Please send a note of encouragement and hope as they embark on their next journey!

Marin Blake
Brylie Major
Ben Meier
Statton Taylor
Caroline White
Grace White
Ava Zuyus



Members on the Move

Dave and Holly Thomson - moving away to their new lake home near Wadesboro, NC.



Laura Meier – running for County Commission. www.meierformeck.com
Betty Patterson's son – had an accident and surgery, but last word was he was doing fine.

Music Ministry News

On Sunday afternoon, May 17, the Avondale Worship Band gathered virtually to say goodbye to a founding member of the band -Dave Thomson and his wife Holly. Dave and Holly have been Avondale members since 2001. This week they are moving out of their Charlotte home and into a beautiful new home on Blewett Falls Lake near Wadesboro. Dave and Holly have been active participants and leaders in worship and in a host of fellowship events over the years. Their smiling faces will be sorely missed. The party included lots of reminiscing via a Zoom call, plus music, games, and a meal made by the Bowens and delivered by the band. Dave was honored as an *Emeritus Band Member* by

Rich Stanley and Jim Bowen. Dave and Holly hope their Avondale friends will visit them on the lake once travel restrictions are eased.

#AlwaysAvondale #TimeTravel #FeelingFlashback #MusicMoment

Travel back to March 2019 to Avondale's "75th Anniversary Bingo Night" and enjoy a video featuring Dave Thomson as "Fiji Dave" and more Avondalers performing as the Soggy Bottom Brothers. [The video is titled "Earl Scruggs and Banana Boat."] <https://youtu.be/780ke4PfHNM>

Tom Stout: "Tonight to play for us, we welcome the Saggy Bottom Brothers!"

Merle, aka Jim Bowen: "Uhh, it's Soggy...The Soggy Bottom Brothers."



Graduates

Who is graduating? Please share news of family graduating or having graduated since last May. All the news will be shared in Worship Sunday, June 7.

[Send news now or by June 3!](#)

"Called to love God, love one another and serve community"

Avondale
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Please share

Birthday Blessings



with these Avondalers celebrating
90+ years this year!

<u>Avondaler</u>	<u>Turning in '20</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	
Sue Haag	90	January	19
Betty Marshall	91	February	6
Mickey Melton	97	February	10
Ellen Watson	92	February	26
Fran McCoy	93	March	3
Claire Graham	90	March	29
Chuck Hendrix	90	April	15
Edith Gardner	93	May	12
Rachel Caudle	96	May	24
Betty Boyd	90	May	30
Louise Chambers	97	June	15
Mickey Nash	92	June	20
Alex Hegenbart	98	August	2
Francis McNair	92	August	26
Rose Graham	92	October	11
Betty Myers	97	November	13
Viola Clontz	97	November	29
Scott Coble	91	December	25



Conversation Starters

Have you been calling people more often?
Spending more time at the dinner table?
Avondale's ASAP program shared a great list of
questions to spark conversation! [LINK](#)

Member Directory

www.avondalepresbychurch.org/directory

password 1944A



"Called to love God, love one another and serve community"

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Avondale in Action

Worship

Since Sunday, March 15, 2020, Avondale has not been able to gather in person as a church family due to the coronavirus global pandemic. As we pray for the time when we can be together again, we are grateful to our church family for creating Worship services and broadcasting them via the internet. Each week, worship and music ministries bring us sermons, readings, music and more. Our pastor, ministries and staff share special celebrations with us like highlighting children, teachers, and mothers. A Taizé Prayer Service was shared on Maundy Thursday and "He Has Risen" video for Easter. On May 17, more than 40 youth and advisors brought us a creative, worshipful Youth Sunday service while continuing to social distance. Find our Sunday service broadcast [here](#) at 9:30 AM weekly. Find past Worship services and Bulletins [here](#).

Sunday, May 31, we gather virtually to celebrate the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost. June 7, Trinity Sunday, we will celebrate graduates of all ages in our service of Worship. Please let us know of graduates you have in your family. [LINK](#)

Bible 101

Sundays following service it's Bible 101 on Zoom. This Sunday School continues and is growing. We'd love more to join us! Contact the office if interested.

Women's Bible Study

Hear from women of Avondale as they describe what was learned in our most recent Bible study: "Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" by Max Lucado. Find the video on [Facebook here](#).

Join us Thursday, May 28 at 8 PM for a social and game night via Zoom! On Thursday, June 4 at 8 PM, we will kick-off a nine week summer study on the Sermon on the Mount. Email Amanda at amandajshanks@gmail.com for additional information and to request a workbook!

Reopening Task Force

If you haven't read the recent letter from our leadership about Avondale's Reopening Task Force, [read it here](#). Prefer a human voice? Listen to Rev. Jim Ewing's [voice message here](#).

Ways to Help

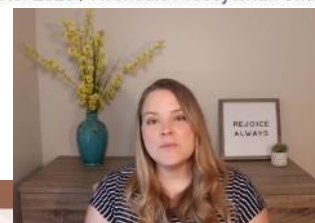
Avondalers, please:

- continue to offer prayers,
- check on your fellow Avondalers,
- notify Rev. Jim or another member of our staff team with any pastoral concerns, and
- practice the spiritual disciplines of what the Apostle Paul calls "fruits of the spirit." These are:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...."



"He Has Risen" Easter 2020 / Avondale Presbyterian Church



Avondale in Action

2020 Vacation Bible School Update

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of July 20-24 for kindergarten through fifth grade children. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and for the safety of our children and volunteers, we have made the decision to cancel our in-person camp. We will, however, have a virtual VBS full of music, creativity and Bible lessons to be done as a family! We hope this will allow for meaningful conversations, fun activities, and growth in your faith! Look for more information coming in June!

Member Care Ministry

Member Care, often quietly offering care to our members during times of challenge and joy, has been cheerfully loud in helping us celebrate our super seniors! Recent big birthdays to cheer about include: Betty Boyd - 90th, Chuck Hendrix - 90th, and Rachel Caudle - 96th, Olivia Magee's mom. Members have come up with creative ways to celebrate these joyous milestones of our church family, while also social distancing.

ABC Ministry Family Meal Bags

ABC Ministry is doing weekly meal bag distribution to 6-8 families and are pleased to be adding more fresh foods and items they can cook with in recent weeks. A thank you to all who contributed to the Special Meal Bags Offering! Find the link on our eWorship webpage or please [click here](#) to donate now.

ABC Youth

The ABC out-of-school time program has continued meetings since the pandemic began to serve the kids whose parents are essential workers. Currently, the kids are meeting in the Fellowship Hall due to some repairs being made in the FLC. If you need to go to the FH, please connect with Jessica Shanks first.

PWA & ASAP Update

The focus of Presbyterian Women of Avondale (PWA) is the children and women of Avondale and we feel that includes the children of Bethlehem Center. What better way to celebrate Mothers' Day than to help fund meals for children of Bethlehem Center.

ASAP folks, our Avondale seniors program, are staying in touch with our "Faithful Friends", our less mobile friends, and staying safe!

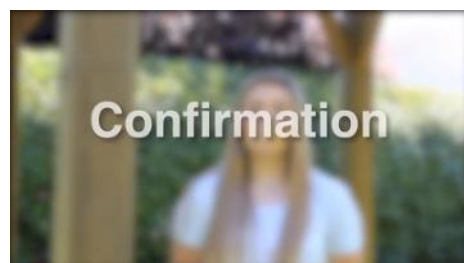
Avondale Website

Have a few moments to reminisce? Want a podcast for your walk? We've updated some of our online media and history. [Link to media](#)
Don't get our weekly eNews email in your inbox?
You can read it on our website [here](#).

Prayer for the times

"God, our refuge and strength, these are truly trying times for all of us as we face a rapidly spreading virus...We have seen the worst in people and the best. Yet, through it all, we take hope in Christ and Christ's promise to never leave us. We are holding one another in prayer... we are still deeply connected through our common humanity, spirituality, and strong faith in you, our God. Amen."

- Adapted from the pastoral letter to the PC(USA) by Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) and Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency



Avondale Adventures

Avondale Adventures Winter 2020 started out full of energy and excitement. We had 16 preschoolers and 15 elementary children enrolled! We also expanded to offer a Bible study and dinner with our ABC youth!

Our theme for the season was "Showing Our Love Through Action" based on Isaiah 58. Every week the evening was focused on a specific command given by God in this chapter on how to show our love through action. Thanks to the creativity and dedication of our many volunteers we were able to apply these lessons through conversation, games and crafts! The different commandments allowed us to focus our love on many different people such as members of the church, family, missions of the church and those with disabilities.

One of our many memorable Wednesday evenings was Ash Wednesday! The congregation was invited to join us for a pancake dinner and prior to worship, a children's Ash Wednesday service and burning of the palms was held in the courtyard. This was a great event to allow children the opportunity to learn more about Ash Wednesday and participate in a meaningful way.

Ash Wednesday was also the start of our fundraiser to support our mission of "Showing Our Love Through Action." The children began selling butterflies in hopes of a butterfly release on Easter with the proceeds being used to purchase items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog for our brothers and sisters in need around the world. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 our program was cut short by 3 weeks. However, everyone did a great job continuing to sell butterflies and with the wonderful support of our church family, the Adventures children were able to make a difference in our own community and around the world! Check out what they were able to do with hard work and YOUR support!

Food for families - Avondale Adventures donated \$523 to be used for the purchase of food for families in our community affected by the pandemic.

Balls & Books - We purchased soccer balls and children's books for a refugee family relocated to Charlotte.

2 Family of Chickens - These chickens will supply eggs for food, feathers for pillows and blankets, and fertilizer for crops.

10 Jerry Cans - Jerry cans help to transport water more efficiently, freeing women and girls to spend more time on enriching activities. UNICEF estimates that women and girls around the world spend 200 million hours everyday fetching water.

1 Fishing Net - Fishing nets are an expensive purchase in most remote villages. This net will help to ensure a livelihood and food source to a community in need.

Rich Stanley and the Adventure's choir worked very hard preparing music for Palm Sunday. Fortunately, we were able to share one of the songs learned in a video montage! If you missed it, visit the church website for a link to view. [LINK](#)

We do still plan to have a butterfly release when the time is right and safe! Until then, the company we ordered from has been kind to postpone our delivery. [LINK](#)



Thank you to our
MANY volunteers
that help make
Avondale Adventures
possible and
SO FUN!
We are
looking forward
to a time
we will be joined
together again
**ON WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS!**



Avondale Presbyterian Church
2821 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

Newsletter Publishing Schedule

Avondale Avenues is published every other month on the last Tuesday of the month. Content deadline for the next newsletter is a week prior to publication. Send submissions to caroline@avondalepresbychurch.org.

Mark Your Calendar:

Women's Bible Study

Join in these Zooms gatherings!

May 28 at 8 PM - Women's Social/Game Night

June 4 at 8 PM - Summer study kicks-off on the Sermon on the Mount.

Worship

Join us in Worship on our YouTube channel.

May 31 at 9:30 AM - Pentecost

June 7 at 9:30 AM - Trinity Sunday

Avondale celebrates graduates! Notify us of your graduates in the last year. [LINK](#)

Vacation Bible School

July 20-24 - virtual Vacation Bible School
VBS will be full of music, fun activities, and Bible lessons sparking meaningful conversations, creativity, and growth in your faith! For K-5th grade. More information coming in June.

www.AvondalePresbyChurch.org

Avondale, Worship, Ministries & the Coronavirus

To be better prepared, the leadership of Avondale has put together a Task Force to evaluate and plan for our reopening at Avondale. This is a challenging task with many scenarios to consider. Once a safe plan is developed and adopted by the Session, we will communicate it to you. Until then,

**WE HUMBLY SEEK
YOUR PRAYERS**

for the Task Force and the Session as we work to keep everyone safe.