Join us in prayer-

Psalm 19:14

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.
Dear Church,

This has been a strange year filled with grief and confusion, and as I look ahead to Easter morning I can’t help but notice the emotions of Jesus’ followers in a different way. After watching their teacher and friend be crucified, they were filled with grief and confusion at their loss and everything they had experienced. This wasn’t what they had expected when they joyously entered Jerusalem. Their world felt different than it had just days before. They grappled with what to do next. Some returned to his tomb for final goodbyes and rituals. Some gathered and hid in a locked room. Some actually began their journey home. I can’t imagine what it must have been like for them to suddenly realize that Jesus was alive again! There was much celebrating and rejoicing once it really sunk in, to be sure, but what about the deep and heavy grief they had endured and carried with them for three days? Did it just disappear? How do they reconcile the unspeakable joy with the overwhelming confusion and devastating grief? Jesus’ time with them after the resurrection was brief, and he would leave them again as they moved forward doing the work of building God’s kingdom without him. We know that human emotions are complex, so we know what a wonderful but strange experience the post-resurrection time with Jesus was.

As I was preparing for Holy Week this year, I found myself realizing how strange it is to be observing this sacred week with Avon Christian Church for the second time, but the first time actually in person. Last year was a Holy Week like we’ve never experienced before, yet even this year I think we can all agree, things still feel different. Our services this week include in-person, live-streamed, virtual, drive-in, and outdoors. Easter is often one of the highest attended worship services of the year, yet this year many are not quite ready to join us in person yet. We are all experiencing our own grief, confusion, and joy as things open up again and in-person gatherings resume, as we and our loved ones are vaccinated, and as we find ourselves looking for a sense of normalcy. The good news, no matter what we are carrying with us from this past year, is that resurrection still happens anyway. Like the Disciples, we are faced with the question, where do we go from here? As we continue to return to the church building during the season of Easter, we have an opportunity to choose to live into the resurrection as individuals and as a church more fully and deeply than before. I pray that as we move forward as a church family together we are able to live into that resurrection promise.

Peace,
Pastor Danielle
Financial Update

March 2021
As hard as it is to believe, we are approaching the conclusion of the first quarter of this new year. It is difficult to predict how the year will progress based on just two months of complete data, but the early signs are encouraging. Our return to in-person worship on March 14th is also a very positive development. Here are some observations on financial trends through the end of February.

Giving Trends
I’m very pleased to report that February giving was tremendously strong. Pledged giving was $16,877, slightly below budget. However, unpledged giving totaled $18,253, about 2.5 times budget projections. Through February, over $54,324 has been received, approximately 8% ahead of budget. As you review these figures, please keep in mind that some in the congregation give weekly, while others give on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Therefore, a giant month (like February) may reflect quarterly or annual giving.

If you haven’t yet submitted a pledge, it’s not too late to do so. Please contact Financial Assistant Linda Aders to make your pledge for the rest of the year or submit your pledge online. Pledging allows the Finance Team to better plan for expenses throughout the year.

Spending Trends
Similar to what we saw in January, overall spending in February was below budget. We spent only $25,402, compared to the projected $28,432. For the year, our spending has totaled $51,980 versus a budgeted $57,165. With re-opening to in-person services on March 14th, expect some expenses to increase (such as nursery, worship, fellowship, and Christian education ministry teams). Still, we have done a marvelous job of containing costs through the first two months of the year.

Thanks to everyone for their strong financial support of our ministry at Avon Christian! We will continue to closely monitor giving and spending trends as the year progresses, making adjustments as necessary. As you know, we were blessed to receive a grant from the Center for Congregations last summer to help us make the necessary upgrades to our technology to allow live streaming of worship. Part of the congregational commitment was to match 10% of the grant, or $519. If you would like to make a contribution to the church’s matching portion of the grant, you can designate your gift through the memo of your check or in the notes section of Givelify. We are so grateful for the ways this grant has helped us to transform the ministries of our church over the last year, and we are looking forward to continuing to offer multiple opportunities for people to connect with Avon Christian Church in the future.

Interim Treasurer, Tim Campbell
It’s often a tradition for Good Friday to focus on Jesus’ seven last words before his death, but what about Jesus’ next words after his resurrection? In his final teachings before Jesus leaves his followers once again, Jesus offers them and us some profound wisdom for how we are to live out our faith and build God’s church to be a witness to life, love, and resurrection in the world.

Join us for this Easter season worship series beginning April 11.
GRADUATION TIME

CLASS OF 2021

Graduates - High School and College
We want to honor those who are graduating in 2021. Please send your Graduate’s information to the office and include a photo, brief bio including what school and/or program she/he is graduating from, post-graduation plans to office@avonchristian.org.
Indiana will downgrade the state wide mask mandate to a mask advisory on April 6, 2021. Avon Christian Church will continue to wear masks beyond April 6, 2021 while in the building. We thank you for your kind cooperation.
Juliets

Juliets will be going to Carl’s Donuts and Bakery on Friday, April 2nd, at 1 PM. They are located on Rockville Road behind La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant. The address is 7481 East Highway 36, Suite B, in Avon. Please let Carol Flinn know by email at mcflinn13@hotmail.com or calling 317-939-2968. Hope to see you all there.

Bible Study

Canceled for Wednesday, April 7. It will resume on Wednesday, April 14. We will use "The Wired Word" web-based curriculum.

April Book Club

7 pm on Wednesday, April 28th.

We are reading Born a Crime by Trevor Noah with discussion led by Beth.

Contact the office for details.
Baby 'Lego' Bateman will be arriving soon! Let's welcome his arrival with a party! Please plan to attend a Baby Shower for Pastor Danielle, Sam, and Baby 'Lego' to be held Sunday, April 25, 2021 in the church parking lot (by the Fellowship Hall), following the 10:35am Worship Service! Danielle and Sam are registered at Amazon and Target. RSVP to Maggie Archibald at may.m7180@gmail.com
Birthdays

Kelly Rickert  3-Apr
Tyler Cochran  5-Apr
Mary Lou Keppel  8-Apr
Cheryl Croghan  8-Apr
Jim Dussinger  8-Apr
Stephanie Rainbolt  10-Apr
Colton Bullington  13-Apr
Finley Compton  15-Apr
Judi Bartley  16-Apr
Hannah Shelley  18-Apr
Ben Saucerman  19-Apr
Emma Bullington  19-Apr
JD Summers  20-Apr
Ainsley Olson  22-Apr
Ray Claus  24-Apr
Grant Falbe  25-Apr
Rachele Baker  26-Apr
Ann Hodson  28-Apr

Anniversaries

Linda & Paul Britton  18-Apr
Vickie & Larry Champion  29-Apr
Deb & Ray Claus  13-Apr
Kelly & Eric Rickert  17-Apr
March 2021
Worship Attendance and Giving

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Because of the church community's generosity, our total giving for the month of March was $26,079.00. 1% of this amount gives us a contribution to DMF of $260.79. Additionally, $445.00 was collected and deposited for Week of Compassion. The year-to-date receipts for Week of Compassion is $620.00.
Worship Bulletin
Attached on the Sermon of the week’s post

Newsletter
News & Updates on the Newsletter tab

Calendar
ACC Calendar is available on the website right next to the Newsletters

May Newsletter Publish date: April 28, 2021
May Newsletter Deadline: Noon April 26, 2021
Giving
Online Giving on our Website
https://www.avonchristian.org/mega_menu_contentgiving/

Giving with the Givelify App
Download in your Mobile App Store
Check out “Givelify Mobile Giving App Demo” from Givelify on Vimeo.
https://vimeo.com/88298407

View this video for more details on how to get started, https://youtu.be/8RVHos0Ivi4

Electronic Giving
Please contact Linda at lindaa@avonchristian.org.

Online Bill pay through your bank
Phone your bank if you need assistance setting this up. You can set up recurring or one-time payments.

Mail
Write which fund to apply on the memo line and mail your check to:
Avon Christian Church
Attn: Linda Aders
7236 E County Rd 100 S
Avon, IN 46123
AVON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)
www.avonchristian.org
office@avonchristian.org

CHURCH STAFF
Rev. Danielle Cox, Senior Minister
Rev. Paula Pettis-Garrett, Associate Minister
Linda Aders, Financial Assistant
Melissa Shriner, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Merchant, Nursery Director
Kurt Schakel - Organist/Accompanist

ACC BOARD
Tracy Wheeler, Moderator
David Hyslop, Vice Moderator
Tim Campbell, Treasurer
Laura Foust, Secretary
Bob Burns, Elders
Cheryl Croghan, Diaconate
Mary Ann Otto, Diaconate
Deb Claus, Member-at-Large
Lura Lawson, Member-at-Large
Ann Hodson, Member-at-Large

MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS
Megan Mathena, Co-op
Debi Campbell, Christian Ed
Beth Roberts, Church Growth
Kenda Hamersley, Fellowship
Larry Champion, Outreach
Greg Cochran, Personnel Working Group
Rachele Baker, Sports
Cheryl Croghan, Worship
Marianne Berlin, Worship
Kelly Payne, Disciples Women
Rick Olson, Disciples Men

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT
VIRTUAL HOURS
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:30am - 3:30pm
CLOSED—FRIDAYS
General office email not monitored over weekend

ELDERS
Bob Burns
Deb Claus
Rob Hanesworth
Kathy Owen
Kelly Payne
Dora Faye Shelley
Freda Strehle