

# THE SALTSHAKER

MARCH 2023 | VOLUME 269



## Easter *at* AVPC

Easter is always a special time for the heart of our church family at AVPC. It is a time for the church to come together to celebrate the gift of Jesus, and his victory over sin and death. Below is the list of events planned.

### April 2 | PALM SUNDAY

Early Service | 8:30 AM / Late Service | 11:00 AM

Children's Palm Branch Processional

### April 2 | GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

12:00-1:00 PM | Sanctuary

*Join us as we remember the suffering of Christ on our behalf.*

*Church Office Closed*

### April 8 | EASTER EGG HUNT

10:30-11:30 AM | Altadena Park

### April 9 | EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunrise Service | 7:00-7:15 AM | Cemetery

*Join us as we celebrate Christ's victory over death and hell.*

Breakfast | 7:15-8:25 AM | Fellowship Hall.

*A light breakfast will be served after the Sunrise Service.*

Early Service | 8:30 AM / Late Service | 11:00 AM

## INSIDE

- 2 Pastor's Pen Session/Diaconate Minutes
- 3 Women's Ministry GHK Update
- 4 AVPC People News
- 5 Children's News
- 6 Youth Happenings Ministry Opportunity
- 7 Missions News: Faith Promise
- 8 March Birthdays Missions Conference Budget Report



I have been reading a book lately entitled *Think Again*, by Adam Grant. Grant is a professor of organizational psychology at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. One of the errors he defines in this book is one he calls the “attachment” error. It is when you attach yourself to a conclusion prematurely and then interpret additional data to support this conclusion. It is the opposite of the open mind that delays reaching a conclusion and that welcomes contrary evidence to the conclusion toward which you are leaning. For example, someone on an interview committee too quickly forms a positive opinion about a particular job candidate. Perhaps this candidate reminds the interviewer of someone else they like, or just presents well. Attaching oneself to this candidate in such a premature way will prevent objectivity and prevent the interviewer from seeing little red flags that may be presenting themselves.

It struck me that there are many applications of this principle, and one of them regards the way we read and study the Bible. It suggests the importance of being open to new perspectives on a passage rather than just repeating previous assumptions we have made about that passage. It is often in the space where we bring curiosity, humility and openness that God’s Spirit enters in to speak to us through his word. This often requires that we slow down our pace of reading a passage. It also is helped by learning to ask questions of that portion of Scripture. Give this a try in your Bible reading. Ask God to help you see the passage with fresh eyes. If you notice something curious, don’t just skip over that curiosity. Explore it some. Be open to new insights and applications.

-Brad Allison

### SESSION MEETING • JANUARY 17, 2023

- **Pastoral Transition Committee Report:** The committee is making progress on reviewing the church’s senior pastor job description. The committee also recommended making changes to the pastoral transition timeline previously adopted by the Session. The reason for the change being to give more time for the pulpit committee to prepare for their work when they are elected.
- Brad Allison presented and reviewed the 2022 assignments for ruling elders.
- Approval to transfer the 2022 surplus of \$51,063.44 as follows: \$40,000 to “Capital Reserve Roofing”, \$10,000 to “Capital Reserve Equipment”, and the remaining \$1,063.44 to “Capital Reserve”.
- The session approved the following to serve as commissioners for General Assembly 2023: Brad Allison (Teaching Elder), Blake Harris (Teaching Elder), and Karl Poythress (Ruling Elder).

### DIACONATE MEETING • FEBRUARY 14, 2023

- Request not to exceed \$20,000 from capital reserve for the repair of sanctuary drywall and painting of the sanctuary.
- Michael MacCaughelty reported on encouraging care team updates including how the Disability Support group team has been very fruitful by being encouraging and helping direct people to resources for help in many different areas.

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Please join your Altadena Valley sisters at our 2023 retreat, as we connect in meaningful ways with one another through fellowship, prayer, sharing of the word, and worship.

Registration forms are located in the Parlor and Welcome Center. You can also register on our webpage, ([www.avpc.org/events/event-registration](http://www.avpc.org/events/event-registration)) or by using the QR code below. The cost is \$30.



# GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

God's House said goodbye to Mrs. Carlee, our music teacher, last month, but the Lord provided us with 2 more wonderful teachers – both from AVPC. We are so thankful for Mrs. Melissa Parker and Miss Hannah Snow, who have stepped in for the Spring to help us out! The children already love them. The children were so excited about Valentine's Day. They enjoyed their class parties, the decorations, and treats. We pray each of them will always know the love of God.



# AVPC PEOPLE NEWS

## OUR CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Denise Davidson, following the death of her father-in-law. Our prayers are with you and your family.

## PRAYER MINISTRY NEWS

The Session has asked the Prayer Ministry Team to launch a new prayer initiative to equip and encourage the congregation to faithfully and consistently pray over the pastoral transition process. Each month, beginning in March, there will be a new Prayer Prompt bookmark in the Parlor and Welcome Center with a specific theme, and four Scripture verses for you to use in praying for the Pastoral Transition Process. We hope you will take advantage of this guide and use it as you take this important decision before the Lord.



## UPCOMING CAMP DATES

**JUNE 5-8:  
CAMP SOLID ROCK**

**JULY 10-14:  
W.A.C.K. WEEK**



## OPERATION COLLEGE CARE PACKS

Looking for a way to express love and care for our college students? The Young Adults are sending care packages to each college student/college age church member in March. If interested in bringing an item, contact Blake Harris at [blake@avpc.org](mailto:blake@avpc.org). All items are due by March 8.



## MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND

Are you thinking about church membership at Altadena? Come to our next Membership Event, Friday, April 21. There, you will meet church staff members, hear about ministry opportunities, and get to know others who are new to the church. Attendance at this or another weekend offered throughout the year is required for church membership. You can visit the Events tab of the church website, drop down Event Registration; email Christine ([christine@avpc.org](mailto:christine@avpc.org)) or call the church office to register and request childcare. The deadline to register is April 17.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

From the Flag Parade to meals with missionaries, the Missions Conference is one of my favorite weekends of the year. From the Children's Ministry perspective, it is a designated time to connect our children with the Universal Church and Body of Christ, helping them understand that God is writing a grand story beyond their daily lives or the life of AVPC. My prayer is to intentionally find opportunities to grow the connections the children experienced this year. Here are some simple ways to extend missions into the life of your family:

1. Each week, our worship bulletin notes a missionary of the week. Take the time to show your children the missionary's photo on our wall. Identify their location on a map and pray for them daily throughout the week.
2. Have your child make the missionary a card or help them send an email. Many of our missionaries have children who would love a pen pal!
3. Read missionary stories. Stories like Amy Carmichael, Hudson Taylor, and David Livingstone make God's wonder working power come alive for children.
4. Engage your children in Faith Promise. There is no age requirement for Faith Promise. Walk your child through the concept and process. Invite them to be part of the pledge, whether with your family or on their own. Hold a lemonade stand, garage sale, or find another creative way for them to participate in this church-wide effort.

Let's pray missions becomes a foundational habit for the children of AVPC, impacting the global Body of Christ both now and in the future.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant ~  
Catie Lumpkin  
AVPC Kids Ministry Director



# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

“Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.” Thus, we have the first command in scripture to sing a new song. This command is repeated throughout the Psalms, in Isaiah, and finally at the end of all things in the book of Revelation. I was so encouraged during the missions conference to see our youth taking a lead in the worship at the Friday evening service. What a gift to watch these young people worship with such enthusiasm and to be able to worship with them. For those that love traditional hymns, please continue to do so! The call to a “new song” in scripture does not necessarily imply that the Lord is after new musical styles. No, the “new song” is about experiencing God’s goodness and grace in a new way and praising him for that. However, there is nothing wrong with a new song though! (Even the oldest hymns were new at some point)

We are seeing young people experiencing God afresh in their lives as they struggle with a world that is seemingly full of such danger, a world that threatens to close in on them. As I write this, there are a group of students at Asbury College in Kentucky that have been praising the Lord at a chapel service that started over a week ago! When you look at the students in our congregation, are you gripped with fear for the future, or do you see valuable members of this church who are earnestly seeking God and who have great enthusiasm in praising his holy name? As we were reminded recently in the fellowship hall Sunday school class by Frank Thielman, at some point all of us had an older generation wringing their hands over our younger generation. The Lord has worked throughout the ages and he will continue to do so. Thank you for valuing our younger brothers and sisters and please continue to pray for them and to allow them opportunities to sing a new song with us!

*-Clint Cvacho, Youth Director*

## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

**MAY 7**  
Youth Sunday

**JUNE 19-23**  
The Edge  
(Junior High)

**JULY 15-22**  
Yakama Mission Trip  
(Sr High)

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY



All able bodies – young and old – are encouraged to come help with another Park work day, scheduled for Saturday, March 18, at 8 AM. A variety of projects are on the list, including path and wooden fence improvements. Please bring your work gloves and garden tools, such as shovels and wheelbarrows. After a morning of hard work, pizza will be provided for lunch. Enjoy!

## What is Faith Promise?

“Before we ask where money for a faith pledge will come from, we need to consider what a faith pledge is. It is not first and foremost faith in what God will give me, but it is faith that God will enable me to give. It is more important that you pray for a giving heart than that you pray for added income. Giving is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:8) and experience teaches us that the gift of giving is an uncommon gift.”

–Paul Kooistra

### WHAT IS FAITH PROMISE?

**Faith:** That God will guide me through prayer on what I should give to missions this year.

**Promise:** That when God supplies that amount, I will give it to missions and fulfill my pledge.

If you are reading this article, you are probably someone who already gives (possibly a tenth of your income) to the Lord’s work. Now you are asked to be someone who may give more, just for missions.

**The Goal:** For our church to give generously to missions. (Our church supports missions work – that is, any ministry work approved by the Missions Team and Session that is outside the bounds of AVPC — primarily through our Faith Promise giving.)

YES, that plan does bring in money. However, let’s get a much larger picture of what Faith Promise can accomplish for you, others, and your church.

### FOR YOU:

“Your faith promise pledge for missions holds the potential to have a greater impact on your spiritual life than any other event this year. In faith promise, you will be asked to make a financial commitment agreeing to give a specific amount as God provides; ‘as you are able, and even beyond your ability to give.’ Faith promise is not designed to replace your normal giving, but to increase it and in increasing your giving, to expand your faith.” (Paul Kooistra)

### FOR OTHERS:

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and of your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.” (II Corinthians 9: 12,13)

### FOR YOUR CHURCH:

Where do we sow God’s gifts? An African missionary pastor gave a beautiful picture of this when he held his tightly closed hand in the air and said, “If we hold tightly to OUR things that God has given US, how will we ever have an open hand to receive all that God wants to continue giving?”

God loves to entrust good stewards with more resources to advance His Kingdom. How fun it will be for all who sowed well to stand beside a “great multitude...from every nation, from all the tribes and people and language...crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.’” (Revelation 7:9-10)

*More information can be found in the “What is Faith Promise?” pamphlet distributed in the Welcome Center and Parlor.*

**The deadline for Faith Promise pledges is Sunday, March 12.**

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1	David Allen	3/15	Brandon Ames	3/27	Faye Walls
3/2	Larry Church	3/16	Clayton Rasmussen	3/27	Gayle Young
3/3	Brooklyn Collier	3/17	Joel Bostrom	3/28	Nancy Becker
3/3	Clint Cvacho	3/17	Jay Lloyd	3/28	Sherrill Coley
3/4	Catie Lumpkin	3/17	Sue Ann Oaks	3/29	Kathy Light
3/4	Carol Popwell	3/18	Rebecca Linder	3/30	Paden Franklin
3/5	Kip Blighton	3/20	Carol Apol	3/30	Pete McAskile
3/5	Jim Davis	3/20	Michael Chick	3/31	Zoe Labreche
3/5	Mark McCallum	3/20	Gaylon Rogers	3/31	Allen Short
3/6	Tom Hinke	3/20	Randy Tipton		
3/6	Tara McCallister	3/20	Shari Wimberly		
3/6	Daniel Sommer	3/21	Jim Baird		
3/9	Isaac Lumpkin	3/21	Suzanne Brown		
3/9	Courtney McCrory	3/22	Ansley Cohen		
3/10	Tricia Foster	3/23	Reese Rasmussen		
3/11	Bailey Collier	3/25	Silas Allday		
3/12	Nancy Chambers	3/26	Jack Cwynar		
3/13	Addy Kate Armstrong	3/27	Ava Labreche		

# MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2023

The Missions Team would like to say "Thank You" to everyone at AVPC! Your participation and engagement during the various conference meeting times were amazing and our partner missionaries were truly blessed through the experience. Our missionaries were busy during the conference as they attended 12 Community Groups as well as various one-on-one meals in addition to the large gatherings. There were lots of stories about gospel ministry happening around Birmingham, Ireland, Kosovo, Thailand, and the islands of the Far East. We hope you were encouraged and challenged, as we were, to hear the stories of God working around the world for His glory.

All in all, it was an amazing time of fellowship and connection within the AVPC community.

But it doesn't end there! Now comes the privilege of praying and engaging with the missionaries you just connected with. Now you can pray for them, read their updates, send them notes of encouragement, and maybe even go visit them on the field. Why not take some time to pray about connecting on a personal level with one of the missionaries that attended? We know they would jump at the opportunity.

# JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$ 0	\$129,082	\$104,391	\$-7,406	\$17,285
MISSIONS	\$ 0	\$27,377	\$30,840	\$7,406	\$3,943
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$156,459	\$135,231	\$ 0	\$21,228