



*May-June*  
**2022**



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CALL CONNECT COMMIT CELEBRATE



From Pastor Erik

I'm in a season of "lasts" right now, much like graduating students or soon-to-be-retirees. While the "lasts" for me are across several areas of life and vocation, most of them are here at Avery UMC as we prepare for a pastoral transition next month. It's been 8 years since I've had "lasts" in a pastoral appointment, and I forgot how emotional it can be.

I've already had my last Christmas Eve, Holy Week, and Easter services, my last confirmation class, and likely my last baptism at Avery. Hopefully I've had my last funeral, but one never knows. This week was my last Church Council meeting. And soon—June 12, to be exact—I'll put on my robe in Avery's pastor's office one last time. Then I'll head upstairs, preach my last sermon, serve you communion for the final time, and have one last chance to greet you at the sanctuary door. Then we'll gather for a meal and say what will surely be emotional goodbyes.

This time the "lasts" are more difficult for two reasons. First, many of these things are not only lasts for me at Avery, but also my lasts in pastoral ministry for a while. Many of you have asked where I'm headed after this, because normally by now I would have announced the church I'm going to next. Though I'm still working out details, I do know that my next chapter will not include serving a local congregation. Soon I'll share more about where I believe God is calling me and what I'll be doing after I leave here. For now I'll say that I intend to continue following God's path as an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church, and I'm excited about the new opportunities ahead for me. And I'm excited for you, because Pastor Bill is going to help you continue seeking God and growing in discipleship and service.

Second and most importantly, these lasts are hard for me at Avery because of the deep connections we've made over these last eight years. Before coming to Avery UMC and Washington, PA, I had never really been able to put down roots in a congregation or community. Since graduating high school I've been somewhat of a nomad, living in Ada, OH; Atlanta, GA; West Newton, PA; and Beaver Falls, PA—all between the ages of 18-31, and never in one place more than four years.

*ctd.*

Then I came here, and almost instantly this felt like home. I've never called a place home before; now Washington, PA is and will continue to be my home, at least for the foreseeable future. I have loved becoming part of the fabric of "Little Washington" or "WashPA", representing God in schools, government meetings, local businesses, hospitals and nursing homes, and town events and festivals.

I've also loved the way this congregation has been home to both me and my wife Lisa. You have been our church family for 8 years and we're going to miss you all so much. We've lived through so much together—highs and lows, tears of joy and tears of sadness, ministry that exceeded our expectations and ministry that completely fell flat.

We'll recognize this shared history in more detail next month, but before we head into those final "lasts", I want you to know just how much you all mean to me, and how much I will always cherish these eight years at Avery. Saying goodbye is going to be hard for me and Lisa, and that's because we love you so much. It can be tempting to avoid those goodbyes, lingering and stalling like my mom used to do every time we started walking toward the door at Grandma and Pap-Pap's house. But those lasts come eventually, and we must face them together with faith and trust in God. Let's make the most of these final days and weeks, and give God thanks for all that has been and all that will be.



***Pastor Erik's last Sunday will be June 12.***

***His last official day at Avery UMC will be June 15.***

***He will be available for pastoral care emergencies June 16-30.***

## WORSHIP

- May 22      6th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 2:42, 46-47  
Luke 24:25-32  
*“Sundays are for Preaching and Feasting”*  
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- May 29      7th Sunday of Easter  
Romans 12:4-5  
1 Corinthians 12:12, 27  
Matthew 25:40  
Micah 6:8  
*“Live Personal and Social Holiness”*
- June 5      Pentecost Sunday - remember to wear red!  
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21  
*“Rattlin’ Dem Bones”*
- June 12      Trinity Sunday  
Pastor Erik’s last Sunday at Avery  
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- June 19      2nd Sunday after Pentecost  
Guest Preacher:  
Rev. Sandra Marsh McClain
- June 26      3rd Sunday after Pentecost  
Guest Preacher:  
Rev. Sandra Marsh McClain

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

There are many ways you can help to provide a meaningful worship experience for all who gather in our sanctuary. Whether or not you’ve helped in the past, consider serving in one of these meaningful ways. Sign-ups are posted in the back of the sanctuary.

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR SIGN-UPS

To provide and prepare Fellowship Hour drinks & snacks, please sign up in the Welcome Center. Contact Bylle Davidson for further info.



## William Lawler Appointed to Avery UMC

William is a native of Claysville, PA and graduated from McGuffey High School. After graduation he attended Median School of Allied Health and received a diploma in Physical Therapy Technician. He grew up attending Claysville United Methodist Church in the Washington District, where he served on the SPRC Committee as well as the outreach committee. He also sang in the choir and served as an usher as well as a worship leader. In 2003 Bill became a certified Lay Speaker.

After getting married Bill attended Liberty United Methodist Church where he served as SPRC Chair, lay leader and worship leader. Currently, Bill serves on the Washington District Lay Servant Ministry Committee, as well as the Washington District Connectional Ministry Team, and as the UM Men's leader.

Bill was told from an early age that he was eventually going to be a minister, but ran from his call believing he was not prepared to be a pastor. Prior to becoming a pastor, he worked as an EMT, Job Developer for Intellectually disabled individuals, a Physical Therapy Tech and in the oil/gas industry as an Operations Manager. It was in his last position when he again heard God calling him, and while meeting his wife for lunch, he asked her what she felt about him becoming a minister. She replied, "I have been waiting for you to ask me that."

In 2018, Bill attended Licensing School and is currently enrolled in the Course of Study at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Since 2017 he has served the Fairview/Nebo charge in the Washington District.

Bill has been married to his wife Karin since 2001 and in September of 2022 they will celebrate 21 years of marriage. Bill calls Karin his best friend and his partner in ministry. Together they have two children - daughter Charley (14), whose interests include reading, playing basketball and bowling, and son Lehman (10), whose interests include helping his uncle on the farm, driving tractors and bowling.

Bill's interests include cheering on Charley at her basketball games, attending bowling tournaments with Charley and Lehman, spending time with his family, going fishing, gardening and going to the Amish country in Ohio.

Bill says that his family has never been closer than when he finally answered God's call.

*Hello, Avery United Methodist Church.*

*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*Let me take a minute to introduce myself. My name is Bill Lawler and I have the privilege of being appointed to serve as your new pastor beginning July 1, 2022. I, along with my family - wife Karin, daughter Charley and Son Lehman, are excited to serve you, and we are looking forward to beginning this new chapter in our lives.*

*God has been good to us and we need to stop at times, just count our blessings and see what God has done for us and with us. I truly believe that Avery will be a blessing to us as we will to them.*

*During this transition I encourage everyone to be in prayer over the next couple of months not only for myself and family as we prepare, but for your current Pastor Erik Hoeke as he transitions into a new chapter in his life, for the leadership of Avery during this transition period, as well as the leadership of my current congregations at Fairview and Nebo as they also transition and prepare for a new pastor.*

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Bill*



***Pastor Bill's first official day at Avery UMC will be July 1.***

***His first Sunday will be July 3.***

## **DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE NEWS**

*Avery UMC is part of the Washington District within the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church.*

At Avery UMC, our primary focus is always the ministry we do here in Washington. But it's also important to recognize the support and resources we receive from our denomination, especially through our District and Conference.

Washington District Conference is held every spring. This year it will be on Sat. May 21 at the Crossroads UMC Boyce Rd. Campus. Pastor Erik will attend.

The 2022 Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference Session will occur June 2-4 at Erie Bayfront Convention Center. This year's Lay Delegate is Dana Stainbrook (J.R. Pond was elected but is no longer able to attend). Annual Conference includes an ordination service, a memorial service, bible study, reports, and legislation voted on by delegates. Every year the legislation covers the Annual Conference budget, approvals of several nominating reports and proposed celebrations, and matters of pastoral compensation and benefits. This year's legislation also includes proposals for how to allow churches to leave the denomination if they desire. You may follow along via live stream at WPAUMC.org.

**Pre-Conference Information Session & Conversation – Sun. May 22 at 11:30 am**

Dana & Pastor Erik will summarize proposed legislation and invite you to share your questions and opinions so they may best represent you at Conference.

Following Annual Conference, Dana will give a report in worship on Sun. June 19 and be available for questions or concerns.

## **AVERY IN ACTION**

Each quarter we designate a cause to support with our *Avery in Action* funds.

In the Second Quarter of 2022, all *Avery in Action* funds collected will be given to the Thomas Campbell Apartments Activity Fund. A deadly fire on Dec. 23, 2021 damaged several of the 56 apartments, displacing residents long-term as repairs continue. Thomas Campbell Christian Center, which provides housing for low and moderate-income elderly individuals & handicapped, mobility impaired, and disabled adults, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Sept. 2021.

## TRUSTEE UPDATES

*The Trustees of Avery have been working in several areas to maintain, improve and upkeep the building. Here is a report of activity this year so far:*

The church's chimes are being replaced. This job is ongoing. Thank you to ALL who contributed to the cost. We met with a representative from the Chime Master Corp. and from our local Stereo Outlet. We expect this job to be completed soon. When it is, and update will follow - and you will hear the chimes, too! The closet that will house the new chime equipment was reorganized. Age-old sound equipment no longer of any use was removed. Other non-chime contents to be kept were rearranged and now much new room for storage is available. Holes in the walls and shelves were filled and one side of this closet is scheduled to be painted when work for the chimes is done.

New outdoor light bulbs were installed in the ceiling of the portico and in the two lamps outside the other main entry. The portico lights are now operating on a timer switch to turn on and off automatically during the night, for security purposes. New bulbs were installed in all of the kitchen and serving room lights. Those rooms are VERY bright now!

In the kitchen and serving room, loose paint chips were scraped from all bottom corners of both kitchen windows, and one corner of the serving room window. Loose paint has also been scraped from one corner of the serving room. All these areas will be filled and painted soon. A broken handle on one kitchen microwave has been repaired and reinstalled. All clocks in the kitchen are now set to proper time - one just required a new battery. A new clock for the fellowship hall was purchased and installed.

There are plans for installing new flooring in the Sunday School room downstairs. The floor there is now linoleum tile that is significantly aged and worn. Bids for new laminate flooring are being pursued.

THANK YOU.

For God's glory, we care for His house.  
The Trustees

## Our Shut-Ins

### Jackie Carson

Strabane Woods #201  
319 Wellness Way, #201  
Washington, PA 15301

### Lillian Dentel

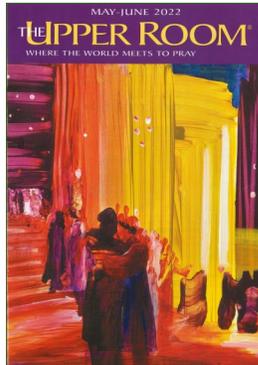
444 Longview Dr.  
Washington, PA 15301

### Clara Eslep

Townview Health Ctr.  
300 Barr Street  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

### Ruth Fullerton

105 Lacock St.  
Washington, PA 15301



May-June issue available

## Flower Chart



The 2022 Flower Chart is posted  
in the Welcome Area for sign-ups.

You may also call the church  
office to sign up for a flower  
arrangement and dedication.

## Birthdays

6/3 Michael Semple  
6/4 Ada Brumley  
6/6 Tucker Rawlins  
6/7 Marilyn Hill  
6/10 Buddy Batson  
6/11 Blaine Stump  
6/13 Abby Garda  
6/16 Bob Areford  
6/16 Jason Moninger  
6/20 Arlene Millick  
6/21 Floyd Marasco  
6/25 Denise Davis  
6/26 Easton Dulaney  
6/28 Ron Davis  
6/30 J.R. Pond

## Anniversaries

6/2 Bob & Cindy Miller  
6/6 Richard & Linda Pakisz  
6/16 Jan & Lindsay Miller  
6/18 Joe & Phyllis Kern  
6/30 Ron & Dolores Hess

# Calendar



## Every Week at Avery

### Sunday Morning Worship

On Site & Facebook Livestream, 10:30 am

### Regular Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm

## Contact Us

1100 Gabby Ave.  
Washington PA 15301  
Church Office: 724-225-0632  
averyum@comcast.net

[AveryUnitedMethodistChurch.org](http://AveryUnitedMethodistChurch.org)

Pastor Erik  
[erik.hoeke@gmail.com](mailto:erik.hoeke@gmail.com)  
412-480-7938

Sun. May 22  
10:30 am  
11:30 am

6th Sunday of Easter  
Worship  
Annual Conf. Info. Session

Sun. May 29  
10:30 am

Ascension Sunday  
Worship

Mon. May 30

Memorial Day  
*Church Office Closed*

June 2-4

Annual Conference

Sun. June 5  
10:30 am

Pentecost Sunday  
Worship

Mon. June 6  
9 am-3 pm

Intermediate Unit 1 Screens

Sat. June 11  
11 am-6 pm

Private Event / Heiskell Hall

Sun. June 12  
10:30 am

Trinity Sunday  
*Peace with Justice Sunday*  
Worship

Mon. June 13  
6:30 pm

Church Council

Sun. June 19  
10:30 am  
11:30 am

2nd Sunday after Pentecost  
*Father's Day / Juneteenth*  
Worship  
Annual Conf. Reporting

Sun. June 26  
10:30 am

3rd Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship

## Avery UMC on Social Media

Facebook

[facebook.com/averyumc](https://facebook.com/averyumc) 

Instagram

[instagram.com/averychurchwashpa](https://instagram.com/averychurchwashpa) 

YouTube Channel

[youtube.com/channel/UC6ABmZmH7GqiE7yyvm1QaCg](https://youtube.com/channel/UC6ABmZmH7GqiE7yyvm1QaCg)



*Sign up for our email list at* [AveryUnitedMethodistChurch.org](http://AveryUnitedMethodistChurch.org)