



Happy Easter  
Welcome to God's New Day

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This year, the big revelation for me from the Easter story is that **resurrection is something that happened to Jesus**. “He has been raised,” the angels said to the women who came to the tomb, not “He raised himself by his intense willpower,” or “he figured out a way.”

**Resurrection is not the same as bootstrapping yourself out of a tough situation.**

**Resurrection is not an accomplishment. It is a gift.** And gifts, if we’re honest, can be hard to receive. We are people who value effort and control. We build careful lives, set wise boundaries, and learn how to protect ourselves. So, it can feel unsettling when something as profound as transformation comes to us unbidden.

**Perhaps you have been the recipient of unasked-for, transformational love?** A word of grace you didn’t believe you deserved. Or a kind person who pays for your meal at a restaurant. Or the unknown organ donor from whom you received a much-needed new heart. **Acts of love are given often not because they are requested, but because they are needed. And resurrection is like that.** It is God’s way of loving the world back to life—not because we asked perfectly, believed strongly enough, or earned it, but because Love refuses to let death have the final word. It happens to Jesus. And it happens, again and again, to us.

You were not in charge of being born. You will likely not be in charge of when you die. And you won’t be totally in charge of being raised to life from everything that kills your soul or makes you hit rock-bottom. What you *are* in charge of is removing that which is in the way of you letting yourself receive transformational Love in this life.

And so the question becomes: **what might it look like to let yourself be found by the Spirit of Life this Easter? To trust that Love is at work, raising what you thought was finished, into something new, and vibrant, and life-giving?** My prayer is that you may glimpse signs of resurrection this Easter in your life and in the world. May you trust it. And, like Jesus, may you discover that you, too, are being raised to *be* love.

*Rev. Penny Nelson*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**April 2 | 5PM Maundy Thursday Worship:**  
A short worship service over the course of a simple, gluten free and vegan-friendly supper in the church hall to commemorate Jesus' last supper.



**April 3 | 11-12PM Good Friday Art Walk & Prayer Vigil:** Connect the story of Jesus' last day to our times. Reflect on artwork, light a candle, and quietly pray. As a vigil, you are welcome to come and go during this hour at no cost.



**April 7 | 1-3PM Seniors Theatre Group:**  
Ever wanted to try your hand at acting? Join Joe Callaghan at Avon United to read some scripts and dip your toes into a theatre group designed for seniors! Contact Joe (902) 788-4023 or email: josephcallaghan41@gmail.com



**April 26 | 7PM Sunday Session:**  
The Lupin String Quartet and Friends present a night of classical music, featuring selections from “Death and the Maiden” String Quartet by Franz Schubert, “Trout” Piano Quintet by Franz Schubert, and “Contrasts and Complements Piano Trio” by Roger Taylor.

## St. Patrick's Day, and the Tale of Two Bathrooms



On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Avon United's hall was *absolutely packed* with people for the St. Patrick's Day Tea Fundraiser that the Building Improvement Team planned. There were so many people that we had to put more chairs out--*twice!* It felt so good to be together as a community--to share laughter and music and stories, and reconnect with neighbours we hadn't seen in ages.

And while it was amazing to welcome so many people to our space, anyone who stood in line for the washroom that day would tell you: **we need a second washroom at Avon United.**



You see, **Avon United has the dream of becoming "the living room of Hantsport"**--a place where people of all ages and abilities feel welcomed, safe, and at home whether they are here for a concert or Bible study, a cooking program or AA. **And as our church programs and rental usage grow, our building needs to grow, too!**

We want to make improvements to Avon United's facilities to be more welcoming and serve the community better, including:

- Becoming more accessible
- Building a second washroom
- Painting the hall, front entry, and outdoor window frames
- Installing a new sign out front with our new logo
- Purchasing comfy furniture for the basement for pastoral visits and programming

**We need your support to continue hosting amazing programs, and upgrading our facilities to become more accessible and welcoming!**

**Avon United has such an exciting future ahead of us! Please consider making a special Easter donation to help our ministries thrive.**

Donations can be made via PAR, envelope, or e-transfer to: [hantsportpc@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:hantsportpc@ns.aliantzinc.ca).

- To donate to general church programs, mark **Easter** in the memo line of your envelope, cheque, or e-transfer
- To donate specifically to the Building Improvement Fund to help with future upgrades, mark **Building Improvement Fund** in the memo line

**Thank you for helping make Avon United a welcoming space for our community!**

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