

Happy Anniversary!

- 5 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Chambliss
- 11 Mills & Barbara Pruden
- 22 Earl & Joan Wade
- 25 Glenn & Rhonda Joyner



Happy Birthday!

- 4 Jenny Tripp
- 6 Anne Briley
- 10 Charles Lewis
- 18 Asher Pantan
- 26 Samuel Lee

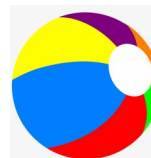
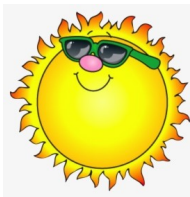


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Rev. Asher Pantan, Senior Pastor
Rev. David Archer, Associate Pastor
Mrs. Holly Hilliker, Children & Youth Director
Mr. Ishmael Strickland, Worship Leader
Mrs. Bettie Jungers, Administrative Assistant



Like many of you, I was pleasantly surprised by the recent announcements from the CDC, as well as from our own state leadership concerning the downward COVID-19 trends in North Carolina. It has been great to see the effectiveness of the vaccines available to our community. I know the vaccine has been a big topic of discussion around the world. It is my personal belief that getting vaccinated is not only a way to share in helping continue these downward trends, but also a practical way to love your neighbor as yourself. I realize not everyone is able to do so, but I was personally vaccinated in order to best care for those come into contact with week in and week out at the church. This week, Jane Archer so kindly did medical research into the common questions surrounding the vaccine, as well as addressing any safety concerns.

As you may or may not know, Jane was a dedicated Clinical Pharmacist working in hospitals in NC and VA for over 40 years. Her role in the health care team has been devising and monitoring medication therapies for patients with a variety of illnesses. In the past 7 years since, she has been associated with Vidant Edgecombe Hospital in Tarboro. Much of her time was spent in the areas of Infectious Disease and Antibiotic Stewardship. She has a passion for helping medical teams finding the best solutions for whole patient care. She is a trusted voice in the medical community and her opinion on this topic is one that I respect.

Please take time to hear her heart behind the words that she shares.

Grace and Peace, Asher

Questions & Answers about Covid-19 Vaccinations by Jane Archer

Covid-19 vaccination has become available to most Americans in the fight to end our current pandemic. Many people have opted to take the vaccine. Life is beginning to return to normal, with the numbers of new infections, deaths, and hospitalizations decreasing. However, there are still those who resist being vaccinated, often due to invalid or poorly interpreted data that has been available from less than reliable sources. This article looks at these questions and objections from the perspective of multiple reliable well-designed studies from medical and health related sources which have been trusted for many years. A list of those sources used for this article is recorded at the end.

Covid-19 is no worse than the flu; why should I be vaccinated?

The New England Journal of Medicine published an article comparing clinical manifestations and risk of death in patients admitted to hospital with Covid-19 vs seasonal influenza. This comparison shows that Covid-19 confers higher risk for adverse outcomes, such as death, mechanical ventilation, ICU admission, renal failure, dialysis, stroke, and sudden cardiac death than that of influenza.

What are some other benefits of taking the vaccine?

Vaccination has been statistically associated with markedly fewer transmissions of Covid-19 virus. Vaccination, in addition to protecting yourself, is also the best way to protect your community, your family, and the rest of the world. Relying on natural immunity to achieve "herd immunity" to Covid-19 would mean hundreds of millions of people would have to recover from Covid-19, and during the time it would take for that many people to recover, many more people could experience Covid-19 complications or death.

Can a Covid-19 vaccine cause a Covid-19 infection?

None of the Covid-19 vaccines contain a live virus, so infection caused by the vaccine is impossible.

Is the one shot Covid-19 vaccine as effective as the two-shot vaccine?

There has never been a head-to-head comparison of these agents but preliminary data indicates they are both effective.

Covid-19 vaccines were developed at a rapid pace. How can we be sure they have been thoroughly tested?

Although Covid-19 vaccines were developed rapidly, this does not mean that safety steps have been skipped. These vaccines have been through the same rigorous process as other approved vaccines; however, the process was expedited with early funding to ramp up manufacturing and processes such as Operation Warp Speed. Safety has been a top priority since day one, and safety monitoring will continue as vaccines are distributed and administered.

Covid-19 vaccines were developed with new types of technology. How do we know they are safe?

The Covid-19 vaccines that have been developed and released in the US are in two categories:

- mRNA vaccines: The Moderna and the Pfizer vaccines work by giving our cells a blueprint to make a piece of a SARS-CoV-2 “spike”, which is harmless to the vaccine recipient. This triggers an immune response. The mRNA (messenger RNA) is then broken down.
- Vector vaccines: The Johnson & Johnson and Astra-Zeneca use a non-replicating, modified, weakened version of a different virus that the body “sees” as Covid-19. This virus cannot cause disease in humans, but it triggers an immune response.

Covid-19 vaccines ***do not*** contain the virus that causes Covid-19.

Covid-19 vaccines ***cannot*** affect a person’s genetic material (DNA).

These types of vaccines are getting a lot of attention now, but they have been studied and under development for more than 15 years.

What are some adverse effects of Covid-19 vaccines?

- Short-term, mild to moderate effects include injection site pain or soreness, fatigue, headache, malaise, low grade fever with or without chills, muscle aches. These effects usually resolve in a few days.
- Serious and potentially serious adverse effects seem extremely rare.
 - ◊ Severe allergic reactions have been seen and have resulted in developing a 15–30-minute monitoring period after each vaccine injection.
 - ◊ Blood clots occurring in some patients after receiving the Johnson & Johnson & Astra Zeneca vaccines caused a vaccination “pause” of that product to determine risk. There were 15 reported cases out of more than 8 million doses, mostly concentrated in females < 50 years old and within 14 days of vaccination. There has been no direct cause-and-effect discovered, but monitoring is recommended after receiving this specific vaccine. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have not been associated with this adverse effect.

How long does it take to develop immunity after vaccination and how long does it last?

It usually takes a few weeks after any vaccination to develop immunity. The benchmark with Covid-19 vaccines is 2 weeks after the final dose. We do not know yet how long immunity will last, since we only have data for as long as the trials have been ongoing.

Can a Covid-19 vaccine cause a positive test for Covid-19?

The vaccines will NOT cause a positive ANTIGEN test (molecular or PCR), which tests for ACTIVE INFECTION. The vaccines may cause a positive ANTIBODY test, which tests for the presence of Covid-19 antibodies in your blood.

Are there any pregnancy and/or fertility issues with Covid-19 vaccines?

Pregnant patients are at higher risk for severe illness from Covid-19 infection or possibly preterm birth. Pregnant patients were excluded from initial trials of Covid-19 vaccines, but data are being collected and evaluated. Gynecology and obstetrics experts, as well as the CDC currently support offering Covid-19 vaccines to pregnant and lactating women. Covid-19 vaccines have not been shown to impact fertility and do not affect a person’s genetic material (DNA)

Do Covid-19 vaccines contain aborted fetal cells?

NO Covid-19 vaccines contain fetal cells or fragments.

Who should NOT get a Covid-19 vaccination?

- Children under 12 years of age (under current guidelines. These guidelines may be changing rapidly)
- A patient with a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. However, a different type of vaccine could be considered, or an allergist-immunologist could be consulted.
- Patients on major immunosuppressants should consult their physician. The vaccine would not be harmful for such patients, but their ability to produce antibodies might be impaired.

The choice of whether to be vaccinated against this infection (or any other illness) is a personal one. Be very sure that the information you base that choice on comes as a result of well-designed studies from good sources and as large a group of patients as possible.

REFERENCES: FDA, CDC, New England Journal of Medicine, Pharmacist’s Letter, American Medical Association, American Pharmacists Association, American Society of Hematology, Mayo Clinic, WHO, Society for Maternal and Fetal Medicine, The Cleveland Clinic, European Medicines Agency, NC Dept of Health and Human Services

A Note From Pastor Lee

It is time to restore church worship again.

The Korean Mission Church continues to meditate on Exodus for several months in book study, *Living Life*. As I meditated on the book of Exodus, I thought that maybe the time of the pandemic that we have faced and experienced now is another Egypt for us. In Egypt, just like during the pandemic, we were struggling, sad, and in pain and we prayed out to God. And, God heard our prayers, and God put us in a better environment than the first pandemic through the vaccine. I think it is the restoration of worship that God requires of us in this situation.

Through the pandemic, we have come to realize how precious it is to gather together in church and worship God. We learned how beautiful it is to come together to praise God, to listen to God's Word, to have fellowship and talk, and to hold hands and pray together. However, due to the pandemic, worship held together in churches was lost. Now, I think that God has opened the way for the restoration of the worship of gathering together in the church. Therefore, all those who have been vaccinated must come to church and restore the glorious worship previously offered to God in the church.

Maybe the way out of this pandemic just as it was in Egypt, is possible when our church worship is restored. Now, we must start our new exodus, the exodus from the pandemic. The beginning is to restore church worship again. I want you all to face each other in church and worship God soon.

Prayer Requests from CBF Field Personnel (Missionaries)

Request from Anna Anderson, Rural Ministry—Rocky Mount:

Pray for M: Recently experienced loss of all her belongings from fire

- 1) Pray she can find safe, affordable & suitable housing to rent
- 2) Pray for the stability of two grandchildren she is raising who lost all their belongs in the fire

Request from Marc and Kim Wyatt—for Refugee/Internationals (Welcome House) Research Triangle:

Pray for N From Iraq:

- 1) As she moves out of Welcome House and into her first permanent home in the U.S.
- 2) As she gets her first job
- 3) As she begins graduate studies, and continues to make friends
- 4) Finally pray that she will experience the greatness of God’s love