

## The Easter season is here!

### SOME THOUGHTS ON THE BOTH THE RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR PARTS OF EASTER

*By Rev. Glenn McDonald*

Over the centuries, two Christian holy days have gradually become secular holidays.

Christmas has morphed into a month-long public celebration – complete with its own traditions of cheery decorations, Hallmark holiday movies, and going into credit card debt to help keep America's economy humming. It's entirely possible to "do Christmas" without acknowledging the underlying story of the birth of Jesus.

Easter has been harder to tame. Behind the Cadbury eggs, brightly colored bonnets, and family gatherings, there remains a suspicion that at the heart of Easter there is an aching important message.

Christians would say it's all about hope – the hope that life isn't over when it's over. That hope isn't based on feelings or sentiment, but on something that actually happened in space and time. A man named Jesus, who lived twenty centuries ago in a backwater province of the

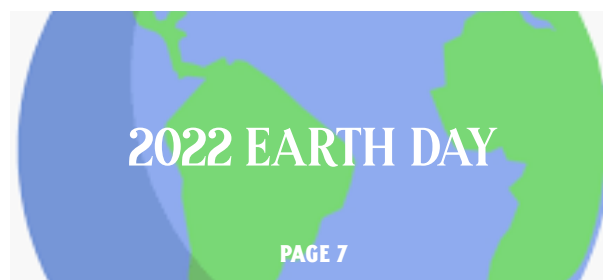
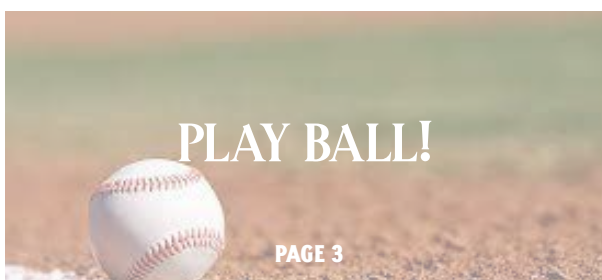


Roman Empire, was brutally executed on a Friday afternoon by the Powers That Be. But the following Sunday morning his tomb was empty. Jesus himself began showing up, with a resurrected body, in the company of those who had enrolled as his lifelong learners – men and women he then commissioned to spread his Good News throughout our broken world.

Is Easter about kids hunting for colored eggs, the return of spring, and pull-out-all-the-stops church services? Yes. All of the above.

But more than anything else, Easter is about hope. Hope for the future of individuals. Hope for the future of the cosmos. And hope that even the smallest choices we'll make today can have a lasting impact.

In case you missed the news release a few years ago, cosmologists believe they now know how the



# PikePulse

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help build a stronger sense of community by keeping our fingers on the pulse of Pike Township and publishing positive, upbeat, and relevant news.

Pike Pulse is the only free newspaper in Pike Township that is delivered by the US Postal Service to every residential and business address.

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universe is going to end. Current research confirms that we are not going to experience the so-called Big Crunch, in which all of reality is destined to be vacuumed up by a gigantic black hole. Instead, the cosmos is headed for the Big Chill. All the fuel in all the stars is going to burn up; not a spark will remain. The absolute heat death (or total entropy) of the universe will mean the end of all motion, all activity, all memory, and all life.

Unless there is Something or Someone else in the universe beyond what our senses can perceive, our future is...well, there is no future. Suddenly our oh-so-important lists of things to do don't seem quite so important.

This is where, for many Christians, Easter comes to the rescue. Many of the Easter songs and Easter sermons that have been written over the years assume that the whole point of Jesus' resurrection is that his followers don't have to be afraid of death, since they've been given (like Jesus) tickets out of this world.

But Easter is infinitely more than just the expectation that one day Jesus is going to "beam us up." The Bible turns out to be not just instructions on how to get people into heaven, but how to get heaven into people – right here and right now. That's something Christians affirm every time they pray the Lord's Prayer: "May your kingdom come and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."



The nineteenth century Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy found himself asking: "My question – that which at the age of fifty brought me to the verge of suicide – was the simplest of questions, lying in the soul of every man...a question without an answer to which one cannot live. It was: 'What will come of what I am doing today or tomorrow? What will come of my whole life? Why should I live, why wish for anything, or do anything?' It can also be expressed thus: Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?"

After all, if receiving a Get Out of Doomsday Free card is the only real point of Jesus' resurrection, then it sure seems as if a good many of the things that we're doing right now don't matter very much.

If the point of life is to escape this world, then why bother with art and architecture? What's the point of rescuing endangered species? Why work for justice and putting an end to poverty and plagues if the earth has been given a death sentence in some cosmic Big Chill?

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It so happens that Christians also believe something else. Something far more profound. The future of the universe is a new creation. God isn't going to throw away the world he has made, but remake both the heavens and the Earth. At the end of his longest essay on the resurrection, the apostle Paul writes, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (I Corinthians 15:58).

In other words, nothing that is ever done for the Lord – those things that are truly on God's heart – will be wasted. In his book *Surprised by Hope*, Bible scholar N.T. Wright declares, "What you do in the present – by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing

poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself – will last into God's future." Even though this world is broken, we are not "oiling the wheels of a machine that is about to roll over a cliff." By caring for the earth, we are not "restoring a great painting that is about to be thrown on the fire." Instead, we are accomplishing things that will ultimately become part of God's new world. Every moment counts, and

The time that we invest in teaching a physically or mentally challenged child to walk or to read; the hours that we sit with a family member who is afflicted with dementia; every act of kindness and expression of gratitude that reflects God's love is not in vain.

God's Good News is that

our lives aren't over when they're over. Neither are the smallest choices we make about the ways that we treat other people and the ways that we steward what God has entrusted to us. They will all find their way, through the resurrecting

power of God, into the new creation that God is making. Nothing will ever be lost. Nothing will ever be wasted. That's at the heart of the good news – the hopeful good news – that we celebrate every Easter.





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# Play Ball!!

**AFTER LONG PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS LITTLE LEAGUE IS BACK ON**

*By Eagle Creek Little League*

After a long pandemic-restricted winter indoors, it's time to get the kids outside for some outdoor fun with their friends.

Eagle Creek Little League, Pike Township's Little League-affiliated baseball and softball program for boys and girls ages 4 through 16, is currently holding sign-ups for the upcoming season.



Little League requires players to live within ECLL's boundaries or attend a school within them. A map showing those boundaries, which cover the majority of Pike Township, is available on the league's website.

Registration fees are \$100 for T-ball and \$120 for other divisions. There are discounts for signing up multiple siblings. Those struggling with finances can apply for a Little League T-Mobile Grant to pay for registration fees.



Parents can sign up their kids online through the league's website ([eaglecreekll.com](http://eaglecreekll.com)) or at one of several in-person events, on April 2, April 9 and April 16. Sign-ups each of these days are from 10-11 a.m. at the league's complex.

ECLL's seven playing fields are located in the southeast corner of Northwestway Park, at 5102 W. 59th St.

The league's baseball and softball programs are designed to help teach the fundamentals of the game, and to build skills as players progress and grow older. Coaches help teach novice players and develop new skills in seasoned players. All team members play in every game, regardless of skill level or ability.





ECLL features several age divisions. First-time players ages 5-6 start out in T-ball, where they hit the ball off a tee and learn the basics of the game. They move on at ages 7-8 to a division where coaches softly toss pitches to them in a game environment. At ages 9-12, they play baseball or softball – with players providing the pitches – on diamonds with 60 feet between bases. They move on to regulation baseball on 90-foot diamonds in Junior League (ages 13-14) and Senior League (15-16).

Little League Baseball and Softball, the world's largest organized youth sports program, has been

at the forefront in looking out for the safety of its participants, from developing a better batting helmet to mandating pitch counts to help protect young pitchers' arms.

ECLL's president (Chad Sanders), board of directors and all managers, coaches, umpires, groundskeepers, concession-stand workers, etc., are unpaid volunteers. Little League encourages participation by all parents in the program, and there are ways to help that don't require coaching knowledge, though Little League International offers training programs for coaches and umpires.

The program began in 1956


as the All-American Little League, with fields located at then-Marian College and Cardinal Ritter High School. The league has changed locations several times through the years. It was renamed the Ransburg Little League in 1974 when that company provided a site for its diamonds. It became Eagle Creek Little League when it moved to its present site in 1998.

This season's games are scheduled to begin April 23 and conclude in early June. Games are 1.5-2 hours long, and are usually scheduled on weeknights and Saturday mornings. Some division schedules may include games against teams from neighboring Little Leagues.

Following the regular season, all-star teams are selected to represent ECLL in tournaments that lead to world championships in several divisions (including the fabled Little League World Series) and state titles in lower-age divisions. ECLL won state championships in the Junior League Baseball division in 2014 and 2015.








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# International Marketplace

## GLOBAL VILLAGE WELCOME CENTER INVITES YOU TO TAKE A TRIP TO MEXICO

By Arnita M. Williams



*This is the third of a five-part series, which covers the southern tip of our continent, North America. It includes Mexico, which is on exhibit at the Global Village Welcome Center.*

### Mexico

As you approach the exhibit, you're greeted by the prominently displayed green, white, and red flag, with the national coat of arms centered on the white stripe.

Upon entering the exhibit, you catch an eye-ful of colors and designs. Bright yellow, red, green, purple, and brown. Solids, florals, and stripes are also notably displayed and intermingled within designs of

ethnic dress. Pinatas and quilts also reflect much of the same.

Artifacts display symbols, which tell the story of Mexican customs and culture. There's a game marked with cultural symbols that is interactive. You can engage in some on-the-spot entertainment.

Holidays and celebrations are also an important aspect of Mexican culture. Mexico celebrates Cinco de Mayo (Fifth of May) annually. In the United States, the holiday is celebrated by Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, as well as people of non-Mexican heritage.

Cinco de Mayo festivities include parades, food, music, dancing, and battle reenactments. The battle reenactments commem-







Holidays and celebrations are also an important aspect of Mexican culture. Mexico celebrates Cinco de Mayo (Fifth of May) annually on May 5th, hence the name. In the United States, the holiday is celebrated by Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, as well as people of non-Mexican heritage.

orate the anniversary of Mexico's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla, also known as Battle of Puebla Day.

If the tour piques your interest and you want to get an actual account of the country, a flight

to Mexico is 1,883.96 miles. You can also drive across the border from the U.S. to Mexico.

Business owners and residents of Mexican descent make up 14% of the Pike

Township populace and are assets to the diverse community of which Pike proudly boasts.





## GLOBAL VILLAGE WELCOME CENTER INVITES YOU TO TAKE A TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA

*This is the fourth of a five-part series, which covers the continent of South America. It includes Peru and Venezuela, which are on exhibit at the Global Village Welcome Center.*

As for the national flag of Peru, it has taken on several revisions. "The current national flag was finally established on February 25, 1825. It is red and white with a coat-of-arms in the center," according

of Peruvian culture. Peru celebrates 12 festivals per year, one for each month.

Cuisine from Peru consists of ceviche, which is the national dish that consists of mari-

nated seafood, causa, a potato dish and lomo saltado, which is the most popular meat dish.

If the tour piques your interest and you want to get an actual account of the country, taking a flight to Peru is 3,520.31 miles.

### Venezuela

Another stop on the tour at the Welcome Center is Venezuela. Artifacts, native dress, along with the national flag are on display.

The national flag is donned with yellow, blue, and red horizontal stripes, respectively, with eight white, five-pointed stars in the center, arranged in the form of an arc. The first seven stars symbolize the seven provinces of the country. The eighth star represents the historic province of Guayana.

Pabellon crillo ( rice, plantain, beans, and beef), hallacas ( meat tamales), pan de jamon



*The "Inca city of Machu Picchu was built atop the Andes mountains in Peru." Machu Picchu is one of the most famous landmarks in the country and a great tourist attraction.*

### Peru

At the entrance, it's difficult to overlook the beautiful, gigantic mural of Machu Picchu. The Inca city of Machu Picchu was built atop the Andes mountains in Peru. It is one of the most famous landmarks in the country and a great tourist attraction.

to World Atlas.com.

Peruvian native dress, dolls, quilts, and artifacts are also on exhibit at the Welcome Center, which tell the story of the customs and culture.

Holidays and celebrations are also an important aspect





(ham bread),and bollo pelon (corn dough filled with beef stew) are some of the main, most traditional, and most pop-

*Pabellon crillo – Rice, plantain, beans, and beef, Hallacas – Meat tamales, Pan de jamon – Ham Bread, Bollo pelon – Corn dough filled with beef stew are some of the main, most traditional, and most popular foods in Venezuela (nomadparadise.com)*



ular foods in Venezuela.

Venezuelans celebrate and share two major holidays, like the U.S., which are New Year’s Day and Christmas Day. They also celebrate Easter in March and April. Carabobo and Bolivar’s Birthday are holidays native to the country.

If you desire to take a flight to Venezuela to enjoy the country first-hand, it’s 2,058 miles from the U.S.

Business owners and residents of South America make-up 7% of the Pike Township populace.

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# 2022 Earth Day at the J

## ECO-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, FOOD AND FAMILY FUN ON MAY 1

By Hannah Fogel



Indianapolis, Ind. (April 2022) – The 2022 Earth Day at the J will take place on May 1 from 1 to 4 pm. This year's celebration will feature nearly 30 organizations with informational and hands-on activities ready for attendees. More than 5,000 people of all backgrounds and faiths are expected to come and celebrate sustainability and going green. This eco-friendly event is open to anyone and everyone who wants to celebrate Earth Day, and admission is free.

One of the core Jewish values is tikkun olam, Hebrew for repairing the world or making the world a better place. It implies that each person has a hand in working toward the betterment of his/her own existence as well as the lives of future generations. It is a natural fit for the Jewish community Center of Indianapolis to celebrate Earth Day as a signature event for the Indianapolis community.

**Highlights of this year's event:**

**The AES Electric Car Show**



Make this the year for you to get up to speed on electric cars with the AES Electric Car Show. Get a glimpse at these cars and see how easy it is to start driving electric! This year

featuring the Tesla Model 3, the Tesla Model X, the Audi E-Tron and the Chevy Bolt.

**Interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities.**

The JCC will host nearly 30 booths from organizations across Indianapolis including the Girl Scouts of America, Elders Climate Action and the Hoosier Environmental Council. They'll be offering information, crafts, games and prizes that all focus on sustainability and going green.

**Arts with a Purpose**

Arts with a Purpose, presented by the JCC's Early Childhood Education department, will have hands-on visual activities for children of all ages. This event will include live music from Cathy Morris and will take place in Celebration Plaza.

**Beer Garden sponsored by Sun King**



Sun King and Ash & Elm Cider will provide drinks, which will be available for purchase for attendees over 21. NY Slice, Ritters Frozen Custard and Java Brew Coffee will also have food trucks on-site as dining options.

**WTTS Street Team**



The WTTS Radio Street Team will be providing musical entertainment for everyone to enjoy at this fun, outdoor event!

Find more details on this year's Earth Day celebration at: [JCCindy.org/earth-day](http://JCCindy.org/earth-day)

**About the JCC Indianapolis**

Guided by Jewish values and traditions, the Indianapolis

J provides inclusive experiences that lead to personal growth and community building. Together, we inspire all people to become the best versions of themselves. JCC Indianapolis is a registered non-profit community center that is an affiliated agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Inc., the United Way of Central Indiana and the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America.

## Wedding Announcement



Clint and Diana Fultz are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Elaine to George Navas on May 22, 2021 in Savannah, Georgia, with friends and family in attendance. Elaine grew up in Pike Township and attended Savannah College of Art and Design. She currently works for Chicago architecture firm Antunovich Associates. George is from Belleair, Florida and played tennis for The University of Michigan. He is currently working for FanDuel. The newlyweds have recently purchased a home in Atlanta, Georgia.



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# Firefighter PPE

## DIFFERENT NEEDS FOR DIFFERENT SITUATIONS

By PTFD

Firefighters respond to a variety of different emergencies every day and safety is our top priority at Pike Township Fire Department. Each emergency calls for different gear to help keep our firefighters safe. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is what a firefighter wears to stay safe while on scene. Whether it's responding to a motor vehicle crash, a medical emergency, or when fighting a fire, PPE serves to keep our firefighters safe.

PPE is designed to protect firefighters from serious injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with fire or other hazardous materials. The type of PPE can vary depending on the nature of the emergency. The most common form of PPE is the gear that firefighters wear when responding to fires. This gear is specifically made to help regulate their body temperature while in a fire as well as cover every part of their body to prevent burns. Firefighters are required to wear turnout gear (protective coat and pants) and other personal protective equipment such as a helmet, gloves, boots, and a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). After each fire, all PPE is washed to get rid of any debris and carcinogens.

Other emergencies require alternate PPE. For car accidents, our firefighters wear their jackets, pants, and helmet - and will add a reflective vest for safety along the road. It is still important to have the body covered, especially if the situation requires a vehicle extraction.

For water rescues, our specialists use a full-body water suit. For ice/winter water rescues, our firefighters wear a Mustang Survival Ice Commander Rescue Suit. These suits are waterproof with a watertight hood, integrated gloves, and attached boots. The flotation and insulation performance of a zip-in buoyancy liner allows firefighters to immerse themselves for long periods of time in icy-cold water, while maintaining mental and physical capabilities.

While on EMS scenes, our firefighters will often not wear their full on jacket and pants, but will be wearing medical surgical gloves and a mask. EMS runs usually require lots of patient interaction, so there is a need to protect our responders from germs and bodily fluids. Even though our PPE can look different than common equipment worn by other professionals, it is necessary to ensure our first responders' safety.



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May 11th, 2022, 7:00 PM

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Pike Township Government Center

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## Pike Pulse wants to hear from you!

### A CALL FOR OUR READERS TO TELL THEIR STORY

*By - Larry Oliver, Editor in Chief*

First off, let me just say thank you so very much from all of us at the Pike Pulse for your readership and engagement! We have been so grateful for the interactions we are having with the community through this publication. We just wanted to take a moment and thank everyone and encourage everyone to reach out to us about content. This could be a story you want to tell or have told, this could be utilizing our growing classified section, it could be an idea of something that we should cover, this could be bragging on your neighbors or neighborhood, a letter to me, the Editor, a celebration of life for a loved one, or even just a shout out for graduations, weddings, or other accomplishments. The bottom line is that we want to hear from you as much as we can. The easiest way to submit your ideas and content is on our website [PikePulse.com](http://PikePulse.com) but you can email us as well at [Larry@pikepulse.com](mailto:Larry@pikepulse.com). We can't promise we can run or cover everything that everyone asks but we can promise to continue to be a mirror and a voice for the Pike community to the best of our collective ability.

This newspaper is for the Pike community, about the Pike community, and largely BY the Pike community and we want to keep it that way and grow in that idea. To do this, we could really use tons of readership involvement. If you live or work in Pike Township and think you have something interesting, inspiring, or of value to the community to share, we really do want to hear from you either via our website, my email, or even call us up at 317-349-7200. Just as many hands make for light work, many members of the community being involved makes it so much easier to be relevant and current while being much more effective for everyone.

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed and benefited from our work at the Pike Pulse. We love our community and believe we need a quality publication to connect through, and our readers are the key to success. We implore you to become a part of our team by keeping us in the loop and submitting content or story ideas. We so appreciate all of those who have already contributed in some way and look forward to working together with all of you to keep improving, growing, and reflecting this amazing township!

Thank you,

Larry G. Oliver - Editor in Chief

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## SPRING SHOPPING EVENT

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

Write to:

1. By email: larry@pikepulse.com or
2. By letter: Larry Oliver, Editor-In-Chief; *Pike Pulse Newspaper*; 4710 Century Plaza Rd; Indianapolis, IN 46254

What are the guidelines?

- To be published you must include your name, address, daytime phone number, and/or email address. Anonymous letters will not be published.
- Your letter should be fewer than 300 words. I may, however, allow for longer letters, but may have to split your message between publications.
- I am most open to publishing your thoughts about Pike Township issues – positive or negative. I also encourage responses to Pike Pulse articles.
- Please write in a thoughtful and cordial tone. I will probably not respond to or publish letters that attack, ridicule, denounce, or impugn a person's character, or impute immoral or dishonorable attributes to others based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

How are letters selected for publication?

We welcome letters that offer a new perspective or add depth to a discussion of an issue covered in Pike Pulse. The publisher and I will be the final decision makers about what is published.

Are letters edited?

Our editing team will check spelling, punctuation, and grammar. We may check the facts of your statements. An editor's note may be added.

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2022  
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**Join us for a Little Eagle Creek Walk Where the Eagles Soar!**

**FRIDAY - April 8th, 2022 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Meet at Vinny's Drive Bar  
707 N Lynhurst Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46224

It's spring--the perfect time to check out the eagle's nest near Thatcher Golf Course.

Discover the hidden beauty of Little Eagle Creek watershed on a special walk to spot the creek's resident eagles. We will begin and end our walk at Vinny's Drive Bar, which is located next to Eagle Creek and minutes from Indianapolis Motor Speedway. It has a heated patio, sports bar and driving range. We will walk along the levee to A.J. Thatcher Golf Course where we will meet and talk to a golf pro, Bryan Crouch, about scoring a couple of 'birdies' on the 4th hole.

The nest is occupied year-round by two mature bald eagles aptly named Ben (Hogan) and Babe (Zaharias). Eagles breed early in the spring and Babe, who has already laid her eggs, will be nesting comfortably as she waits for her eaglets to hatch by the end of April after a 35-incubation period.

In the meantime, we might see Ben flying in and out of the nest as he tends to fishing, hunting, and defending his territory.

RSVP through Eventbrite:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-a-walk-with-little-eagle-creek-where-eagles-soar-tickets-298702867317>

 or call  
**317-634-1100**

We recommend you bring binoculars to view the birds and walking sticks if you need them for the levee. We also request that you observe social distancing and bring a mask for any indoor activities. See ROW's COVID-19 Guidance here: <https://ourwaterways.org/covid-19-policy-and-guidance/>

The rain date for this event is April 15, same time and location.

# Our Pike Township Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate Nassif Kouton, wants to hear from you

If you have a concern about your neighborhood or anything in Pike Township, contact Nassif at: [nassif.kouton@indy.gov](mailto:nassif.kouton@indy.gov) or 317-327-5125, or 317-833-4530 (cell).

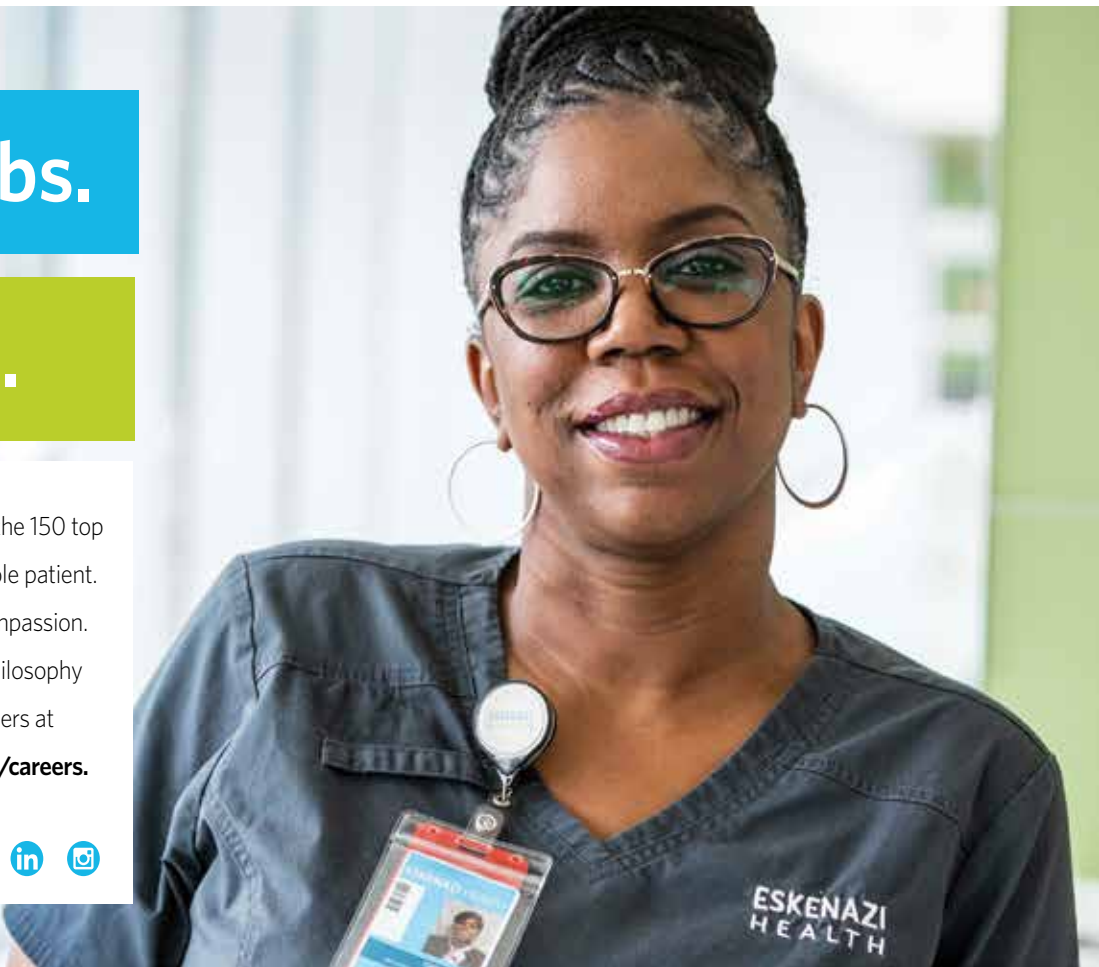


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