

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*Pentecost Sunday: June 9 A.D. 2019*

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## **Pentecost—The Birthday of the Church**

Do you remember that last week I urged you to wear red to church today? Was it hard to do? I hope not, because I want you feel completely festive for this important church Feast of Pentecost. We all know that the “important” feasts in the church year are Christmas and Easter; but there is a third very important feast, and that is Pentecost. How does this come to be?

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus’ mother and family and many other disciples gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish Harvest Festival of Shavuot which occurs fifty days after Passover. So it was natural that these grief-stricken followers of Jesus would cluster in a private space (“the upper room”) to comfort each other and review all that had happened. After all, ten days is a terribly short time in coming to grips with grief, and they were hardly ready to take on the mission that Jesus had told them was theirs. I’m not sure that God had to create an intensely theatrical moment to capture their attention, but He did. There was the sound of RUSHING wind, and the appearance of TONGUES of FIRE which descended and rested over each of the participants. Though they had been together indoors, the disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel, and they went outdoors and began to preach to the crowds that had come to the festival. They didn’t preach like frightened first-timers, either; they preached with boldness and vigor, and by a miracle, they spoke in the various languages of the people present. This created a sensation!

Peter took the opportunity to address the crowd, preaching to them about Jesus’ death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. He connected this act with the prophecy of Joel, something that would have buttressed his sermonizing with the crowd. This was so effective that three thousand converts were baptized that day. I imagine that the disciples realized that something powerful and God-given had happened –though I’m not sure whether they knew that this sudden ability to connect with the outside world, with non believers from other cultures, was the gift of the Holy Spirit. They were ordinary men, not scholars, orators, or prophets—until that day. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit filled them with ability to prophesy, the gift of truth-telling, and they began their new life. For us, the promise of Pentecost is that now we understand. And now we can speak, and now our voices can spread the spirit of love and understanding everywhere. We have been shown the model of what and how to be the church, and we are urged to get at it! This is the birthday of the Church and we’re all invited to recall it and to celebrate!

## **TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS**

*We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.*

At Ascension, our mission is to represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be. We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

## TODAY AT ASCENSION

### Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Eugene Wright

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4.

All children are welcome!

### Let's Rise Up Against Hunger!

Our men's shelter lunch program and our work with Gaithersburg HELP are just two examples of Ascension's commitment to ending hunger in our local community. Now, with an eye toward broadening our reach even further, we are joining an effort to end global hunger as well. Today, June 9th from 4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m., we are gathering in the Parish Hall (Undercroft) for a meal packaging event with the organization Rise Against Hunger. Founded in 1998, Rise Against Hunger recruits volunteers to produce millions of nutritious meals annually that are then distributed to partners in countries around the world. These partners, best able to address the causes and effects of hunger based on their local presence and expertise, use these meals to change lives by promoting education, improving students' health and nutrition, addressing gender inequalities, stimulating economic growth and fighting child labor. To accomplish our goal of packing 10,000 meals in just two hours today we need at least 40 volunteers. Please know that this is a family friendly event where everyone can contribute - there is a job for everyone! So please come and join us this afternoon!

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

Since we have had such a small group of children attending Sunday School at 10:00 this year, we have been keeping everyone (preschool-5th grade) together in the Godly Play class, rather than offering both Joyful Path and Godly Play. We always meet in Room 4, the Place of Peace which is also our infant/toddler class. Today is our last day of 10:00 Sunday school. We're hoping all the kids can join us as we celebrate our year of learning together.

### A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

Using the story of Harriet Tubman's life, we are continuing to learn about willpower. She overcame many obstacles in her life and world and prospered and succeeded.

### Godly Play

In Godly Play, we will learn about how Paul discovered the power of the holy spirit and went to the ends of the earth to teach people the message of love.

### Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Room 2. You don't need to know Spanish to come, we get together to learn and practice. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org).

### Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book "Enlightenment Now" by Steven Pinker. This book claims that reason, science, and humanism have brought progress in the sense that health, prosperity, safety, peace, and happiness have tended to rise worldwide. We invite you to participate in our discussions. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read chapter 20 for this coming Wednesday.

### Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in room 2, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

### Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel, a time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Contact Claire Rosser at [cjrosser@aol.com](mailto:cjrosser@aol.com) or 301-275-0617 for more information.

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### We need to Update your Information

2019 Church Directories are available on the table in the narthex. Have you moved? Had an addition to your family? Please check your information and if there is any change let the church office know so our records can be updated.

## Fill out our 2019 Survey on Service Satisfaction

The survey is ending! If you haven't filled it out, this is your last chance. The Worship committee has started analyzing input. What's the survey about? This past year has seen significant changes to the Sunday services of Ascension. We need clear, concrete input on our members' likes and dislikes of the service changes. Please complete a survey form being as frank as you can. The survey is totally anonymous. If you would like to speak personally with Father Javier, another clergy member, or any member of the vestry or the Worship Committee, say so, and we will get in touch with you. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6MKNHRW>

## Father's Day Food Drive

Honor your dads, living and departed, while helping others. Bring a bag of groceries to church before or on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, for the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. Forms for dedication information are found in the Narthex. As always, we will give thanks for the ministry of fatherhood in the Prayers of the People at all services on the 16th.

## Education for Ministry (EFM)

Education for Ministry (EFM) is an in-depth look at our common faith. This program from the University of the South offers a structured approach to understanding and living the Christian faith. Peg Ruppel and David Mitchell, the EFM mentors here at Ascension, want to form a new EFM group. We are exploring different schedules for a program and we can answer your questions. Get some coffee and join us in the undercroft.

### Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our church.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you are prompted -

- ◆ To login with your Amazon account.
- ◆ Then search for "Church of the Ascension" and select Church of the Ascension from the list with location "Gaithersburg MD"
- ◆ That's all. It will be connected to your account; every time you shop, and when you go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), your selection will be there and will track your purchases.

Just make sure you select the right "Church of the Ascension" at Gaithersburg MD as this:

The screenshot shows a search bar with the text "Church of the Ascension" entered. Below the search bar, there is a dropdown menu with the following options: "Church of the Ascension", "About -", and "Christian". To the right of the dropdown menu, the location "Gaithersburg MD" is displayed, and a yellow "Select" button is visible.

## One Ascension Sunday/Picnic— June 30

The time is near when we will again celebrate as One Ascension - at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 30, this time as our annual Parish Picnic, as well as a celebration of summer. There will be no other services that day. The main dish will be provided by our Parish Life group. Bring a dish to share! A summer salad, fruit, and/or a dessert are always welcome.

Watch for a sign up sheet to help us know who is coming and what you might bring to share.

## Worship Leaders! Now is the time...

...to submit your black-out dates for the July, August and September quarter. Contact Sari Stoddard *before June 15* at [sari.stoddard@verizon.net](mailto:sari.stoddard@verizon.net) or 301-325-8791.

## Help Wanted - opportunities galore

We are accepting applications to serve in any of our Worship Leader positions, at 8:00 or 10:00. Not sure what the positions are? Take a look at the back of the Sunday service bulletin. We will reveal everything you need to know, and you will work with practiced parishioners who enjoy their duties. Most positions serve 2-5 times in each 13-week quarter. Speak to a Welcome Team or Worship Committee member or contact Sari Stoddard - and join in!

## Tutors needed!

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County needs English tutors to help adult learners gain a better understanding of the English language and improve their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Volunteers are asked to commit to two hours of tutoring each week and should plan on two hours of preparation each week as well. No experience is necessary. For more information, visit <http://www.literacycouncilmcmd.org/>

## Summer Bible Study: Parables

Some of Jesus's most picturesque but curious teachings are found in the Parables. Please join us in June and July for a friendly discussion and reflection upon some of Jesus's most valuable lessons. We will be meeting in room 2 at 6:30 p.m. on June 11, 18, 25, and July 2, 9, 16. Come join us for some or all of the meetings! Contact Fr. Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org) to obtain a discussion guide or further questions.

## Creation Care in the Episcopal Church

Presiding Bishop Curry's Creation Care project includes resources for expanding our awareness of and engagement with environmental issues, and an opportunity to pledge to greater service in environmental stewardship. Please consider taking the pledge. If the suggested responses don't seem to fit your vision, consider using local projects as a starting point. The online address for Presiding Bishop Curry's Creation Care project is <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care>

## CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877  
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Friday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301-948-0122 ☒ Fax: 301-926-9012
- ◆ Fr. Javier's cell: 202-903-6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a prayer request card (pink or yellow, on the table in the narthex) or e-mail the office at [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org).

**Bishop of Washington** - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde  
[mebudde@edow.org](mailto:mebudde@edow.org), 202-537-6550

**Priest in Charge** —The Rev. Javier García Ocampo  
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**Pastoral Associate**—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand  
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**Deacon**—The Rev. Deacon Eugene Wright

**Minister of Music**—Andrew Kullberg  
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**Communications** — Jesse Velazquez  
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**Altar Guild Directors**, Sari Stoddard, [sari.stoddard@verizon.net](mailto:sari.stoddard@verizon.net);  
8 a.m. director Mardia Dennis, [mard908@gmail.com](mailto:mard908@gmail.com); 10 a.m. directors Dotty Pfadenhauer, [dottypfa@aol.com](mailto:dottypfa@aol.com) and Georgana Maines, [mainsesnh@verizon.net](mailto:mainsesnh@verizon.net)

## LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

**Senior Warden:** Betsy Hasegawa  
**Junior Warden:** Zadinga Ogada

### Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedrón  
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters, Susan McLaughlin  
2022: James Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis  
Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi  
Christian Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker  
Christian Formation for Adults: Peg Ruppel  
Facilities: Ted Bedell & John Pruessner

Finance: Avin Lalmansingh  
Mission: Paul Boynton

Pastoral Care: The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo &  
The Rev. Nan Hildebrand  
Personnel: Jean Cohn  
Worship: Gary McLaughlin & Curt Lindsay

### Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay  
Alternate: Fredy Diaz

## Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:

St. Columba's Church, DC  
St. Columba's Nursery School, DC  
Diocesan Ordination Service (June 15) Pray for those who are  
being ordained

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, June 10, 2019

11:00 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness - Room 1  
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Room 2  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

### Tuesday, June 11, 2019

7:00 a.m. Mobile Med  
10:00 a.m. Live Streaming—Library  
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library  
6:30 p.m. English Bible Study - Room 2  
7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel  
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

### Wednesday, June 12, 2019

10:00 a.m. Book club— Library  
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1  
7:30 p.m. Spanish Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Worship Committee - Library  
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

### Thursday, June 13, 2019

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Room 2  
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church  
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1  
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, June 14, 2019 Javier's Day Off

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

### Saturday, June 15, 2019

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2  
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Parish Hall  
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1  
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

### Sunday, June 16, 2019 Father's Day

**Preacher:** The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church  
9:30 a.m. Men's Shelter Lunches  
10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 years old and under - Room 4  
10:00 a.m. Godly Play and Joyful Room 4  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church  
10:00 p.m. St. Barnabas - Chapel  
12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2  
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish - Main Church  
1:30 p.m. Dia de los Padres - Parish Hall  
1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Chapel

| Attendance | May 19 | May 26 | June 2 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 8:00 am    | 30     | 31     | 27     |
| 10:00 am   | 108    | 126    | 125    |
| 12:00 pm   | 26     | 15     | 17     |
| Total:     | 164    | 172    | 169    |