

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Fourth Sunday of Easter : May 12, A.D. 2019

Life saving food--life affirming hope

In early March, we decided that our Lenten offering in the rice bowl would be oriented toward relieving hunger. Do you remember this? You responded VERY generously, and we now have more than \$1,600 to put toward this goal.

I have been in touch with Rise Against Hunger, a US based charity with outreach in 74 countries around the globe. Rise Against Hunger was founded in 1998 by Ray Buchanan, a United Methodist minister. His mission at the time was NOT to provide meals to poor people in poor places forever. Rather, he looked for ways to produce long-term sustainable change in agriculture, education, government, and local communities. His humanitarian goal is to eliminate hunger by 2030.

The organization works with local partners (churches, schools, community groups) both here and abroad to assemble and distribute the meals. The food is dehydrated high-protein, highly nutritious, and shelf-stable.

Rise Against Hunger also responds in disaster relief situations to feed the hungry. I think this is a worthy project for Ascension to undertake, and I think that you would like to know that Charity Navigator gives them 91.16 (an excellent score).

We are planning to host a meal packing event during which we should be able to pack more than 10,000 meals in about two hours. Wouldn't this be wonderful? Our proposed date is Sunday, June 9 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. At this moment, though we haven't collected quite enough money to bring the event to fruition. If you are willing to add just a bit more to the rice bowl during the next three Sundays we should be able to participate as planned.

Here's what the Bishop of Rome Francis said recently, "You pray for the hungry; then you feed them. This is how prayer works."

Blessings,
Javier

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. Ken Howard

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!

Mother's Day Food Drive

In honor or in memory of our mothers and those who mothered us, on Mother's Day, we invite you to donate a bag of groceries to replenish the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. There are forms/envelopes available on the welcome desk in the narthex where you can designate your contribution in honor of your mother. That person will receive a letter notifying them of your gift. For donations in memory of your mother, we will add her/their name(s) to a list for special prayers.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The 10:00 Joyful Path class is learning about Mildred Norman Ryder who answered Jesus' call to leave family and friends and follow him by becoming a "peace pilgrim". She walked across the United States several times in the 1950's, 60's and 70's teaching people about peace. For this service, all children will meet in the place of peace located in room 4 each week, and then separate by age groups.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

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

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play we will study the Parable of the Deep Well. This parable is not a parable of Jesus but has its roots in the traditions of the rabbis. From time to time we wonder what parables really are. The Parable of the Deep Well helps us find our own interpretation of what a parable really is. The parable tells the story of a person who crossed the desert and came to a deep well where she took her time to look at the well and to learn how to draw out the refreshing water.

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/or practice. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at 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 chapters 14 and 15 for this coming Wednesday.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, 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 good time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Tai Chi is cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather. Contact Claire Rosser at Cjrosser@aol.com or 301-275-0617 for information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Summer Work Camp for Youth

Work camp is from July 21st to 26th in Philadelphia, PA. Transportation, food and materials are provided in the \$350 fee. Scholarships are available. We need commitments to attend ASAP!

We need to Update your Information

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

Baptisms on the Day of Pentecost June 9

Are you interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself, your baby or other family members young or old? Speak with Fr. Javier during coffee hour, or contact him at the office at 301-948-0122.

Ascension T-shirts

If you are interested in getting an Ascension T-shirt, please call or email Berenice at 249-281-3736 or berenice.rodriquez.84@gmail.com. T-shirts are \$10.

Get your Food Handlers card from eFoodhandlers

An eFoodhandlers card or certificate means you have been trained to properly handle and prepare food. Study and take the test for free; you'll get your printed food handlers card and certificate when you complete the program. Please provide a copy of your certificate to the office. To take the course click the link below.

<https://www.mdfoodhandlers.com/Register3.aspx>

Men’s Shelter Lunch Program

The Men’s Shelter Lunch Program provides bagged lunches for homeless men. Lunches are assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Generous Ascension members donate the supplies. Depending on the season, we provide 40 to 80 lunches each month. The next program is on May 19 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Yard Sale & Car Wash - June 1



Put our Annual Summer Yard Sale and Car Wash on your calendar for Saturday, June 01, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you have furniture or clothes to donate, bring them to the office. Come find treasure and have your car washed too! We also need help. If you are available, come join us! Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org or at 202-903-6426 or at the Ascension Office.

Service Project June 9th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

As noted in Fr. Javier’s article on the front page, we are holding an Ascension-wide service project, organized by the Vestry and the Youth Group, on June 9th for the benefit of the nonprofit Rise Against Hunger, <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>. We will be packing 10,000 meals. This is a family friendly event where everyone can contribute. We are still a bit short of our financial goal and are seeking monetary donations. Please arrive at 3:30 p.m.; the event will last for two hours or until completion. Please sign up in one of the clipboards.

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), 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, 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:

Church of the Ascension Gaithersburg MD

About Christian

12-Month Evaluation for Father Javier

It has been 12 months since Javier became our Priest-in-Charge, and it’s time for the second formal evaluation of Father Javier by church members. We need everyone to fill out an honest and complete evaluation of Padre Javier. Blank evaluation forms are on the table in the narthex; fill one out and put it in the green and gold box there. As always, they will be absolutely confidential and used to make Ascension stronger for all of us. Please participate in this important process for Ascension.

Creation Care in the Episcopal Church

The online address for Presiding Bishop Curry’s Creation Care project is <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care>. The project includes resources for expanding our awareness of and engagement with environmental issues. This includes 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.

Are you already a Worship Leader? Would you like to Become One?

The schedule for July, August and September is under development. Now is a great time to explore offering your services on an occasional Sunday morning. For those currently on the service list, it’s time to *submit your black-out dates for the quarter*. Contact Sari Stoddard at sari.stoddard@verizon.net or 301-325-8791.

Help Wanted!

We are accepting applications from friendly folks to serve on the Welcome Teams at the 10:00 a.m. service. We will reveal everything you need to know, and you will work with practiced parishioners who enjoy their duties. The teams serve twice in each 13-week quarter. Speak to a current Welcome Team member and join in!

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County is in need of 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/>.

Ascension’s Adventurers to Visit Peony Field

All parishioners and friends are invited to join us on Saturday, May 18th, in visiting the Peony Field located in Seneca Creek State Park from 11:00 to 11:45 am. Come for all or part of this time. The group will have lunch together at Dogfish Head Ale House immediately afterward. Admission to Seneca Creek State Park is \$3.00 per person. Contact Richard Snay at rssnay@aol.com or 301-977-5259 by Thursday, May 16th.

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.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
mebudde@edow.org, 202-537-6550

Priest in Charge —The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Pastoral Associate—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
hildebrandnan@gmail.com, voice mailbox 13

Deacon—Eugene Wright

Minister of Music—Andrew Kullberg
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Communications — Jesse Velazquez
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard, sari.stoddard@verizon.net; 8 a.m. Mardia Dennis, mard908@gmail.com, 10 a.m. Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines, mainesgh@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 &

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:

Church of the Good Shepherd, Silver Spring
Good Shepherd Episcopal Preschool, Silver Spring
St. Dunstan's Church, Bethesda

Pray for all mothers and those who have been as mothers to us.

Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Thurgood Marshall (May 17)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, May 13, 2019

- 11:30 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, May 14, 2019

- 7:00 a.m. Mobile Med
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
- 6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, May 15, 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, May 16, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1

Friday, May 17, 2019

Javier's Day Off

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program - Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program - Library

Saturday, May 18, 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
- 6:00 p.m. Quinceañera
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Nan Hildebrand

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
- 9:30 p.m. Men's Shelter Lunches
- 10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3+ year old and under - Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Godly Play- Room 6
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Path - Room 2
- 10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas - Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2
- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Spanish) - Main Church
- 1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam - Chapel
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Counseling Network/CCN - Library

Attendance	April 21	April 28	May 5
8:00 am	47	25	35
10:00 am	300	109	109
12:00 pm	56	20	32
Total:	403	154	176