

This Week at Ascension

Trust in the Slow Work of God by Pierre Chardin

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) was a French philosopher and Jesuit priest. This poem speaks to the sometimes excruciating experience of waiting on God. Do you find yourself often impatient, struggling to trust that God's ways are higher than your wishes? Take a few minutes to reflect upon the wisdom Chardin shares here.

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way
to something unknown, something new.
Yet it is the law of all progress that is made
by passing through some stages of instability
and that may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow.
Let them shape themselves without undue haste.
Do not try to force them on
as though you could be today what time
-- that is to say, grace --
and circumstances
-- acting on your own good will --
will make you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new Spirit
gradually forming in you will be.

Give our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God,
our loving vine-dresser. Amen.

HEADLINERS

Parish Town Hall Meeting at 10:15 on Sunday, February 4

Meet with Randy and Vestry members for updates and a Q&A session about Ascension's transition.

February 13 is Shrove Tuesday!

That's right, Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year! We need a team of people to organize this annual event. Sign the clipboard Randy will be passing around in church if you want to be part of creating this fun event!

Palm Sunday is a 1A Sunday!

There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. Afterward will be Randy's farewell celebration. Save the date: March 25.

Ash Wednesday is February 14

We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and offer the Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The evening service will be bilingual. The Labyrinth will be available for meditation in the Chapel from 10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. "Ashes to Go" will be offered again this year for morning commuters at the Shady Grove Metro Station.

Pledge Envelopes

Please don't forget to pickup your pledge envelopes located on the table outside the Parish Office if you haven't done so. If your pledge envelope is not there and you did not pick it up please contact Lin by e-mail at office@ascensionmd.org.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Interfaith Dialogue and Reflection Series

Church of the Ascension will be one of the hosts of a four-part program series of interfaith dialogue and reflection titled "Abraham's Children." The four sessions will be held in March on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 PM as follows:

- March 7 at Church of the Ascension ([205 S Summit Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877](https://www.ascensionmd.org))
- March 14 at Kehilat Shalom ([9915 Apple Ridge Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20886](https://www.kehilatshalom.org))
- March 21 at Islamic Center of Maryland ([19411 Woodfield Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879](https://www.icmd.org))
- March 28 at Tikvat Israel Congregation ([2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD 20851](https://www.tikvat.org))

Developed by the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies in Baltimore, Abraham's Children offers text study and dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths in an effort to engage "the complexities of what is shared and what is unique in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions." The Faith Community Working Group of Montgomery County and the Greater Gaithersburg Interfaith Alliance is teaming up with Church of the Ascension, the Islamic Center of Maryland, Kehilat Shalom and Tikvat Israel Congregation as co-sponsors of the series. For more information or to sign up, write Richard Lederman at ledermanrc@gmail.com or call him at [240-441-8074](tel:240-441-8074).

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We will begin study and discussion of Michael Morwood's book *Is Christ God? Finding Our Faith From Amazon*: "In the new millennium, the most central question is how to understand God and Jesus. This book is an invitation to Christians—and non-Christians—to challenge their inherited notions of how and why Jesus is to be thought of as divine." You can order the book by following this link: [http:// amzn.to/2CRGzCs](http://amzn.to/2CRGzCs). Read chapters 3 and 4 for the coming week's discussion.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes are offered 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 will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at [301.275.0617](tel:301.275.0617) or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Randy's yoga class is every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel. These are gentle, entry level classes anyone may enjoy. No props are needed. There are some mats, blocks and blankets for those who want them. If you have your own mat, bring it. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

Godly Play

The Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Leaven. The Parable of the Sower, which is found in all three synoptic gospels, describes Jesus' promise of abundant harvest.

Children's Formation

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the meaning of being of service to others. I John 3:18 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Also the meaning of this Mexican proverb: "A good deed is the best prayer." Come and join us in Room 2 after the 9:00 a.m. service (10:15).

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Ministerio

Ascension members prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Felicidad

Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month. The next program is February 18 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Gaithersburg HELP

This organization provides emergency food and other support to needy families in Gaithersburg. Non-perishable food collected at Ascension every week, and during specific holiday in-gatherings, helps to stock the pantry. Donations may be brought to church at any time and left in the narthex. For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at [301.519.1074](tel:301.519.1074) or melanie.mitchell@verizon.net

Moile Med

Mobile Med will not be at Ascension House starting tomorrow January 2nd (until the beginning of March). I have posted signs on the Ascension House bulletin board and on the door to the chapel. Signs list the alternate location as well as a number to contact for more information.

Jean Cohn
spangle1@comcast.net
[240.372.3652](tel:240.372.3652).

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Zumba at Ascension

We will have Zumba classes at Ascension every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Undercroft Commons. Zumba is a dance fitness program created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990s. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue and mambo.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Episcopal Relief and Development, The Companion Diocese Committee - Jerusalem, The Committee on the Partnership with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Mike Darracott, Sally and William Glick, Sue Jenkins, Margaret Joseph, Melanie Mitchell, Easton Pool, Fran Spina, Ruthie Swain, Kim Weaver, Suzanne Winterhalter, Sharon Wood, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We give thanks for the birthday of Wadi Dennis, on February 3.

QUICK LINKS

[Link to Service Leaflets for February 4](#)

[Link to Podcast of Tina's Sermon on Sunday, January 28: "Unclean Spirits"](#)

[Link to Sermon and Other Videos page](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Website](#)
