Our home sits in the forest. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful place. At the bottom of our lot there is a little creek. A large tree fell over the creek many years ago. When we first moved out there the grandchildren all loved going down to the creek with me and one of the favorite things we have done over the years is walk out over the tree, over the middle of the little creek, sit on the tree and play what I call the “Listening Game”.

The “Listening Game” amounts to sitting on the tree, sitting quietly for a few minutes, listening to what the woods is saying to you and then telling a story you heard from the woods. It’s been a favorite game for all our grandchildren and even to this day with the youngest being sixteen and fourteen they all love going down to the Listening Tree and playing the game.

At first, it’s hard for them to just sit quietly. It takes some effort to get children and teenagers to learn to sit quietly. Once I get them to sit quietly the next challenge is to get them to “listen” to the woods. At first they protest to me that the woods don’t speak and there isn’t anything to listen to. It takes more effort but I convince them to try and to start hearing “the voices of the forest”. At first, it’s the sound of the birds, the leaves falling in the fall, the trickle of the creek, and the rustling of the leaves as a squirrel scurries about. It doesn’t take long before they realize there are lots of sound in the woods and listening does make a difference. The final step is to convince them to listen for long ago tales lost in the woods but still present. It’s a whole new level of “listening” but eventually they learn to hear a “story” from the woods and then to spin it and share it with the rest of us sitting on the tree. Now you see why I call it “The Listening Tree”. Over the years my grandchildren have become better and better at listening to the woods and sharing amazing stories they hear the woods speaking to them.

We all need to learn how to listen to the world around us. I love sitting in the forest and listening to the sounds and the stories the woods tells to me. There are sounds in the city too. Of course, the sounds of cars and trucks and buses and street cars and cacophony of voices, and all the sounds of the city are easier to hear and louder but the city “speaks” too. We just have to learn how to listen.

Long ago, our ancestors learned how to listen to the forest, and the towns and cities and the world around them in order to survive. We are only fully in the world when we learn how to listen to the world and to be a part of the world. Do you listen? Do you really listen? If so, wonderful, there is a lot to hear. If not, why not join me on the “Listening Tree”? You don’t have to come to my house and walk out on the fallen tree, you just have to practice “listening”. Who knows, maybe you’ll hear the voice of the Lord.

God bless you for your faithfulness and for sharing your blessings with others.
NEWS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY
PRAYER LIST

Please let us know if you know of someone who is sick or is a shut-in. Thank you.

Michael Lastre – Keep in your prayers.

Dolores Wachtman – Keep in your prayers.

Wauneta Wine – Please keep Wauneta and Jim in your prayers.

Al Abraham – Recovering at his daughter’s home in Kansas. Call the church office if you would like Al’s address while in Kansas.

Edwina Meheaux – Now at Homecrest. Please keep in your prayers.

Marge Skucas – Please keep in your prayers.

Patty Clark - Please keep Patty in your prayers.

If you would like to send cards, please call office for address.

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3 Erica Hanson
4 Bettie Cox
5 Alex Wright
15 Pat Laine
16 Rich Konzmann
17 Sydney Konzmann
25 Monica Hanson
26 Beth Appleyard
29 Dominique Jordan
31 Elena Lynn
Kathy Long

Worship Services are Now Back In Person !!!!
11:00AM Sunday

Worship services will continue to be offered online as soon as we can get it posted. Keep checking www.aspenhillcc.org, click on videos, choose the date you want.
NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

FELLOWSHIP…Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance
So excited to be back to safe live Worship Services. Masks and social distancing are in practice; however, we are enjoying fellowship time outside after the services. We have been setting up a refreshment table serving individual packaged goodies and punch boxes. If you would like to sponsor the outdoor refreshments one Sunday, just call the office and let us know. Remember, we are still offering services virtually. Take Care & Continued Blessings!

PROPERTY…Jeff Price
Greetings from the Property Ministry! The Church is now open for Worship with COVID restrictions. We have gone to great lengths to keep everyone safe and the Church clean. I hope to see you there!

OUTREACH…Connie Spoon
It’s wonderful to be back to in-person Sunday services to reconnect with one another and share our love of Jesus Christ. The Outreach ministry of Aspen Hill Christian Church provides a wide variety of community support throughout the year including fully stocked back to school backpacks, Thanksgiving baskets, and Christmas toys for local children in need. Consider becoming involved with these events as they occur. Our food pantry remains stocked with non-perishable items.

WORSHIP…Carol Knott
Mother’s Day will be celebrated on May 9th. What better way to honor and celebrate your mother by starting the day in church. It is always interesting to see how our minister acknowledges our mothers. And on May 23rd our graduates will be recognized. If you have any children or grandchildren you would like to be honored, let the church office know. May 23rd is Pentecost Sunday. On this day the gift of the Holy Spirit is celebrated. It commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and is recorded in Acts 2:1-31. Many Christians recognize the descent of the Holy Spirit as the birth of the Church. Hope to see you in church!

STEWARDSHIP…John Small
Hot Button Campaign Coming this Spring
How many of you remember the song Mañana sung by Peggi Lee?

“The window she is broken and the rain is comin' in If someone doesn't fix it I'll be soaking to my skin But if we wait a day or two the rain may go away And we don't need a window on such a sunny day.”

Unfortunately, real life is not as simple as the song. Several roof leaks were noticed about a week ago inside the offices and everything under the flat roof, including the hallway and the Conference Room. Unlike the song, the repairs cannot wait for the rain to go away so we will need to have the roof repaired as soon as possible. As a result, the money we raise for this year’s Hot Button Campaign will be used to offset the cost of the roof repairs.
Some background on our Hot Button Campaigns – For many years now our church in the Springtime has run what is known as the Spring Hot Button Campaign. The funds raised by the Spring Campaign are designed to be used for making needed improvements/repairs to our church which are not part of the Church’s annual budget. Thanks for your support!

**Graduate Sunday**

Graduates Sunday is May 23rd. Please update the church office with your High School or College graduating student’s name and include the name of the school they attended.

**Church Fair**

Please put **Saturday, September 18th** on your calendar for our Church Fair, an event that the church use to have several years ago.

We will have tables set up for the selling of Plants (real and artificial), Jewelry (costume and handmade), Crafts (including Christmas decorations and all types of wreaths), Books and an "Odds and Ends" table. In the past, these have been the most popular items that sell. If you are planning any "spring cleaning", we ask that church members put aside items no longer wanted and donate them to be sold at the fair. Items should be in reasonably good condition. Flyers will be made at a later date and distributed by volunteers around the area. We will also advertise on social media. In order for our fair to be a success, we will need lots of volunteers for various jobs, such as help to set up the tables and clean up following the fair. If you have any questions or want to discuss any "special talents" you have and are willing to contribute those talents for the fair, please see me, or call me at home, Thanks for any assistance you can provide to help make this fair a successful endeavor.

Linda Vincent
(301) 452-3917 (cell)

**Church Directory**

A new Church Directory has been printed and placed on the visitors station counter. Please pick one up on Sunday or drop by the church any time Monday through Friday 9:00 to 3:00. We have already been made aware of a few errors with emails or addresses. We are correcting these as they are reported. Please don’t be too angry with us if I have something wrong as data is gathered into our membership system from several files. There will be a reprinting of the directory in the next couple of months for corrections reported and it will include a larger print.
Highlights from The Board Meeting

The Board met via Zoom on April 14. Among the items discussed and actions taken were:

- Reports from the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Ministry Chairs, Elders & Deacons, Pastor, and others.
- Decided to not have a Bethany Beach Retreat this year.
- Set a date for a Strategic Planning meeting.
- Received a report from Dr. Chance regarding the beautiful estate gift from Mrs. Betty Williams. More details to come as they are available.
- Approved a motion to make the Leaking Roof our Hot Button Campaign this year.
- Agreed the timing and price are right to replace our Xerox copier at a lower cost than we are currently paying.
- Agreed the time is right to offer a “lighter” and “modified” Fellowship Period following Worship.
- Approved dates for coming events.
- Discussed the financial challenges that lie ahead as we do our best in these times of Covid 19 restrictions and burdens.
- Prayed for God’s continued guidance in these challenging times.

Flowers for Church Service

We all enjoy the flowers placed in the church each week by our members and friends. If you would like to provide flowers one Sunday, we have several ways to do so.

Contact the Church office at 301-871-7222.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall on the Flower Order Poster.

Or fill out the attached order form and mail to or drop by the church office.

Name:__________________________________________________________________________

Date Providing Flowers:__________________________________________________________________________

In Memory of:__________________________________________________________________________

In Honor of:__________________________________________________________________________

Other (i.e. Birthday etc):__________________________________________________________________________

Flower Color selection or Florist Choice:__________________________________________________________________________

Cost $25.00

You may take flowers home after service.
A lovely note from Edwina Meheaux

Submit Your Articles, Updates, & Information we might like to include in future Newsletters to Karen for possible inclusion in the future.

Please keep your giving up both faithfully and regularly. These are challenging times. The church has continued to provide wonderful ministry throughout the year and we need you to keep bringing your offerings in. Even keeping our budget to absolute minimum increases our expenses will exceed our income and we need each other to be faithful.

You can drop your offerings by the office...

Mail your offerings in... OR

Give “On Line”...
Worship is now in person
Sunday at 11:00AM

and online the following day at www.aspenhillcc.org, then click on the green “Videos” Tab. Be sure to click the thumbs-up icon and make any nice comments you want to. Comments help drive our visibility to others up. Share the links for our weekly worship with your friends and neighbors.

Linkages to LearningSent Us a Beautiful Thank you too.
Your financial support enables us to do wonderful things for the community. God bless you all and God bless Aspen Hill Christian Church for its witness with local outreach.