



# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

JULY 2023

## ***By Chance***

Hard times come into all of our lives. They aren't wanted. They challenge us at our deepest levels of being and can easily send us into a spiral of bad things. Hard times often hit us unexpectedly and leave us reeling. We all know of such times.

I have been in one for quite a while now. It all began with what was to be a simple dental procedure that had been on my schedule for three months. As is often the case, the dentist visit didn't go well. What was to be simple became hard and set in motion a sickness that I am still in the midst of. I don't know that I have been sicker for any longer period of time. Added to the misery we had to walk Tucker our beloved Springer Spaniel over the Rainbow Bridge. My heart is battered. Tucker has been a member of our family for over 15 years. He was projected to live only three to six months three years ago. He became known as the "miracle dog" at the vet's office and around the neighborhood. It didn't make the final decision any easier.

In the midst of hard times, we get to see what we are made of. We all have strength and heart and soul more than we know or see in easier times. Additionally, hard times give us a chance to find how much our friends and family surround us with love, faith, and strength that we badly need. Hard times have a way of bringing us closer to God as well. During hard times we experience how very much we need the Lord. Sometimes when we are weak we lean all the more on the Lord; if for no other reason because we have little choice. Illusions of immortality and reliance on self give way to a deeper realization of how much we need the Lord.

Yes, there are blessings that come to us in the midst of hard times. As I write this I have no idea when I will feel better. Today would be just; fine that hasn't happened so far. Sickness, loss of loved ones, loss of a job, loss of dear friends, financial ruin are just some of the disguises that appear as hard times.

I pray you will not experience hard times any time soon. I pray you aren't in the midst of hard times like I am right now. But sooner or later we come upon hard times. They are inevitable. I pray when you are in the midst of yours that you tap into the reservoir of good things that can flow into you during your hard times.

***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10:***

*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.*

*Ed & Dolores Wachtman*

*Bette Cox*

*Edwina Meheaux – Please keep in your prayers. Give her a call on the phone.*

*Patty Collins- Please keep Patty in your prayers. She loves telephone calls too.*

*Michael Lastre – Keep in your prayers*

*Susan Montgomery – Keep in your prayers*

*The people of Ukraine- Keep in your prayers*

*All those who suffer from grief and loss and who struggle with illness in any form.*

There are always others—keep all in your prayers, named or unnamed. Let us know if we've missed someone.

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**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Matthew Bennett
- 2 Matthew & Cassie Chance
- 4 Julie Courtney
- 9 Robert Flaherty
- 13 Gaylene Cottone
- 13 David Jordan
- 17 Joy Sharp
- 22 Robert Force
- 22 Jason Leonard
- 26 Robert Schneider
- 26 Mary Sigel
- 30 Paul Leiberton

**PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW IF YOUR BIRTHDATE AND/OR ANNIVERSARY DATE IS WRONG OR MISSING, SO WE MAY CORRECT IT.**

***CHURCH DIRECTORY***

**THE 2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY IS COMPLETE!  
YOU MAY PICK UP A COPY IN THE CHURCH OFFICE  
DURING OFFICE HOURS.  
ONE COPY PER HOUSEHOLD, PLEASE.**

# NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES



## **FELLOWSHIP...Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance**

The Fellowship Period is slowly building back up to the joy it was before the Covid Pandemic. We're so glad to see that. The after-worship Fellowship Period is an important part of church life. Please remember to sign up and provide the Fellowship Period on a Sunday that is open on our schedule and available for you. We like to keep it simple, maybe some coffee, cold drinks, and pre-wrapped sealed cookies or snacks. Keep it Simple! See you Sunday.

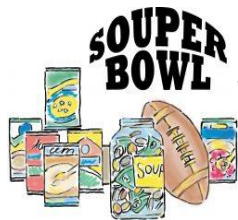


## **PROPERTY...John Small**

Currently, the building and grounds remain in good condition with no major problems. The mild winter was a blessing, requiring little work from our fearless snow team. That said, I would like to thank everyone on the snow team for their commitment.

Like any facility, from time to time there are small tasks that need to be done around the church. A few years ago, we had a group of people known as the Carpenters Club that would meet once a month to tackle these tasks. If you are interested in helping out and joining the Carpenters Club, please let me know. Thanks.

Property Ministry Chair, John Small  
John.smallmb66@mail.com



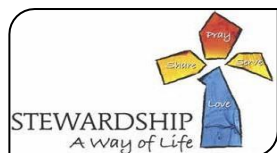
## **OUTREACH...Connie Spoon**

Our annual Backpack Drive will begin July 30 through August 13 for the Georgian-Forest Elementary School. Please refer to the list of suggested school supplies included in this newsletter. If you prefer to donate, we will shop for you. Please consider contributing to this worthy outreach project.



## **WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott**

Summertime is here and we may miss attending worship while on vacation. However, we are able to view our services as they are videoed live each week. Summertime is also a time to enjoy the beauty of God's nature and the many flowers in bloom surrounding us. The Bible tells us, "The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." -Isaiah 40:8. May we bloom as the flowers and be an example of God's grace to the world! See you in church!



## **STEWARDSHIP...**

Please Don't forget to send your offering in or place it directly in the offering plate on Sunday morning. You can also mail it to the church or drop it in the mail slot outside the main doors.

***Your offering makes the Lord's ministry possible! Thank you for all you do!***



ONLINE



## Highlights from the Board Meeting, June 21, 2023

- The meeting was opened with prayer and devotional.
- The Audit Report for 2022 was received and approved.
- Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports were received.
- The Pastor's Report was received.
- Ministry Reports were shared by the Ministry Chairs and good discussion was held in response to the ministries taking place in the life of the church.
- Upcoming events were reviewed and final details discussed.



### FACTS & FIGURES WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR JUNE

The good news is attendance is increasing and heading in the right direction. Visitors are being welcomed and contacted as available and able to do so. The bad news is there is a long way to go to reach pre-pandemic numbers. If you haven't returned yet now is the time and please invite and bring friends and family to join you.

*"I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1*

(INCLUDES BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

June Average Total: 53 (33 in person / 15 online)

Year to Date Average: Total: 56 (34 in person / 21 online)

11:00AM Sunday

The Worship service will also continue to be offered live and online. Keep checking [www.aspenhillcc.org](http://www.aspenhillcc.org), click on the You Tube link and choose the date you want.

**Worship in person at 11:00 every Sunday & Live on our YouTube Channel**



We are doing our best to get people back in person, but we do understand that some people cannot make it to church on certain Sundays. To view online click [www.aspenhillcc.org](http://www.aspenhillcc.org), then click on the Watch Us Live on YouTube icon. Once at our YouTube Page be sure to click the thumbs-up icon and subscribe to our channel. You can also make any nice comments you want to, that helps us be more visible. Comments help drive our visibility to others up. Share the links for our weekly worship with your friends and neighbors.

Please submit your articles, updates, and information we might like to include in future newsletters to Cindy for possible inclusion in the future.

The deadline for the newsletter is the third Sunday of each month (July 21 for the August issue.)

#### Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-3:30 pm, Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

The office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4.

(Note: Cindy will be away from the office July 17-21)



Please let the office know how you want your newsletter delivered! USPS, Email or Both. [office@aspenhillcc.org](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org) or call 301-871-7222.



### July Meetings

Program Council & Board Combined Meeting – July 12 @ 7:00pm





## *Help us re-stock our food pantry.*

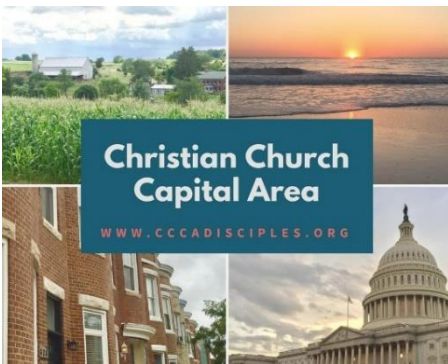


### Items needed:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Soup
- Beans
- Juice boxes

Items may be dropped off in the wooden box outside the Fellowship Hall or bring them to the church office during office hours.

### 2023 Capital Area Prayer Calendar for This Month



Ephesians 6:18: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the LORD's people. You are invited to participate in the Capital Area Prayer Calendar by offering a prayer each day for the listed congregation, institution, or event during the week listed. Please pray for their pastor/executive director, lay leaders, and the community(ies) they serve. Pray also for the missionaries serving the world through our Global Ministries.

For weekly prayers, go online to: [http://www.globalministries.org/weekly\\_prayers](http://www.globalministries.org/weekly_prayers) [Note: The Capital Area has a special relationship with two missionary sites: China and Colombia] \* Indicates a discrepancy b/w what is listed on the Global Ministries website and their printed calendar.

- July 2 The National Convocation, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples and Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries - [www.nationalconvocation.org](http://www.nationalconvocation.org) Wally Burman, Costa Rica
- 9 Our Ecumenical & Interfaith Partners - <https://councilonchristianunity.org/> Miriam Chimhungwe, Botswana
- 16 Shepherd Park Christian Church, Washington, DC - <http://www.shepherdparkchristianchurch.org> G. Lou, China
- 23 Springfield Christian Church, Springfield, Virginia - [www.springfieldchristianchurch.org](http://www.springfieldchristianchurch.org) Carlos Sediles, Mexico
- 30 Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC - <http://www.mparkchurch.org> Sean Amato, Egypt



## Annual Backpack Drive to Benefit Students at Georgian Forest Elementary July 30 – August 13

Please purchase an inexpensive but sturdy backpack and in the backpack place the following items:

- Black binder (1-inch or 2.5-inch)
- Black composition book
- Colored pencils
- Wide Rule loose leaf paper
- Box of 24 Crayons
- Zipper Pencil Case
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Yellow highlighter
- Pocket folders
- Large Erasers
- Pencils
- Lots of love and hope and prayers for the child receiving it.

Please bring your donation to church on Sunday or stop by the church office during office hours.

## Thank you!



May 25, 2023



Derrick B. Owens  
Board President

Senior Minister  
Aspen Hill Christian Church  
13501 Georgia Avenue  
Aspen Hill, MD 20906

Dear Friends,

Mid-County United Ministries gratefully acknowledges the February 5, 2023, donation of 245.6 lbs of nonperishable food items, donated both onsite and at the storage facility. The donation is valued at \$552.53. We appreciate your ongoing support very much. Our clients benefit greatly from your support.

Your gift makes it possible to offer assistance to those in need. Your generosity is very much appreciated by our clients, and will help tremendously in restocking our pantry. In addition, we will continue to be able to offer assistance with eviction notices, utility cutoffs and prescription medicines.

We are most grateful for this support.

Sincerely yours,

Dayna Brown  
Executive Director

*Thank you for your  
partnership with MUM!*

11002 Veirs Mills Road, Suite 710, Silver Spring, MD 20902 T: 301-929-8675  
[www.mumbelp.org](http://www.mumbelp.org)

*MUM is an independent 501(c)(3) organization registered within the State of Maryland.  
Gifts and donations to MUM are tax deductible as allowed by law.*