

THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

NOVEMBER 2023

BY CHANCE

Consistently Inconsistent

**CONSISTENTLY
INCONSISTENT**

Contradictions are when one thing about something contradicts or stands in contrast to something else about the same thing. I am full of contradictions and inconsistencies. I'm consistently inconsistent.

Too often I take inconsistent stands on things or beliefs. I'm against sin in general but when I sin in particular somehow I look beyond my own sin. I'm fully aware of the importance of eating healthy but one my favorite sayings is "If you can't fry it why are you eating it?"

I think we're all guilty of being overflowing baskets of contradictions and inconsistencies. We say one thing and do another. We take stands on one thing but then an opposite stand on another thing which is substantively the same thing. We apply one set of standards or requirements for someone we like but then an entirely different set of standards or requirements for someone we aren't so fond of. One moment we can be princes of peace and in another moment "war lords" full of anger and attack. One day we can be gentle and kind, on another harsh and unforgiving. You get the picture, if we're honest with ourselves we can be both/and, yes/no, up/down, left/right and on and on. It's just part of human nature I suppose.

So, what do we do about it? We begin by recognizing our own inconsistencies and on alert for when we are reflecting inconsistent or contradictory behaviors. To go a bit further I think beyond recognizing our inconsistent and contradictory nature it's important to own it. Yes, sometimes I take opposite positions on the same issue. Beyond all this I think we have to hold ourselves to being as consistent and not contradictory as we can be.

The benefits of recognizing and dealing with our inconsistent nature is to not only hold ourselves accountable (seeing the beam in our own eye rather than the splinter in our neighbor's eye) to a higher standard of consistency but being more patient when we see others being inconsistent. One time in the middle of a strongly emotional discussion with a good friend I accused my friend of being "inconsistent". My friend paused, looked me in the eyes and said "True, I'll allow you your inconsistencies if you will allow me mine". He was so right. I repented of my attitude of judgement immediately and recognized we were both being inconsistent.

One of my favorite characters in the Bible is Paul. I like Paul for many reasons but one of the most important things I like and admire about him is that he is plainly and consistently "inconsistent". He sometimes contradicts himself in mid stride. I like that about Paul. He was human. We're all human. We all take inconsistent stands, express contradictory opinions, and go on about our business. So, let's recognize our inconsistencies and contradictions and go on with trying to do better.

*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 Wachtman – Please keep Ed in your prayers.

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

Patty Clark-Sam Splaine's mother. Phone calls welcome.

The people of Ukraine- Keep in your prayers

The people in the war in Israel.

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.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | Linda & Kenny Vincent |
| 5 | Blake Buckingham |
| 7 | Eric Long |
| 17 | Rich Link |
| 17 | Eleanor Pernia |
| 17 | Connie Spoon |

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 AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS. ONE COPY PER HOUSEHOLD, PLEASE.

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

OUR BELOVED ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY OBSERVANCE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 DURING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE. DON'T MISS THIS BEAUTIFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WE HAVE LOST IN THE LAST YEAR.

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES



FELLOWSHIP...Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance

Fall Pumpkin Fest

October 29

Following the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall

**Pumpkin Decorating
Apple Cider
Pumpkin Donuts
Bring a Pumpkin Dish or
Fall Festival Dish to Share**



PROPERTY...John Small

Each year about this time we put together "Snow Teams" to clear the snow from our sidewalks during the winter months. Montgomery County treats us like a business which means we have 24 hours from the time the snow (2" and above) stops falling to clear it from the sidewalks in front of the church or pay a large fine. Of course, we need our own sidewalk inside the driveway shoveled too.

Due to people moving out of the area, we are down to a very small number of volunteers. In the past we had two people per team with each team serving for a two-week period between the end of November and March. Last winter we only had one person per team, which isn't enough. We need more than one. We have a good big snow blower, salt on hand and hopefully a snowplow on our mower ready for use. We do pay for the lot to be cleared, but to add the cost of a person(s) to clear the sidewalks is prohibitive.

If you can volunteer to join our snow teams for the coming winter please let Dr. Chance or me know as soon as possible, but no later than two weeks from now. This way we can put our teams together and provide a schedule for the Snow Team members.

If you are interested in helping with our property ministry to keep our church facilities in good condition, please contact me (johnsmallmb66@gmail.com).



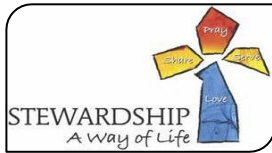
OUTREACH...Connie Spoon

Our next Outreach project is providing a Thanksgiving meal to the needy families of Georgian Forest Elementary School. We are trying a different approach by providing \$50 gift cards instead of the baskets with various items. This way the families can purchase the items they want and need. Gift cards with receipts or monetary donations will be accepted until November 19. Our food pantry is available for anyone in need. Please contact the church office for assistance.



WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott

Our church will celebrate All Saints Day on November 5, the first Sunday in November. This is a day when we recognize all those who have died in the previous year. We are celebrating these faithful members of our church who have passed on. Let us live our lives in ways and voices that others may see the love of Christ through us. Ephesians 1:11-23



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. We will soon be launching our Annual Every Member Commitment program. Be on the lookout for a thoughtful and creative and important EMC effort as we seek your pledges for our 2024 ministries. The cost of living is somewhere around 2.5 % so any increase in your giving of less than that is actually a cut in your giving. Faithful Living Equals Faithful Giving!

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



Highlights from the Board Meeting, October 11, 2023

- The meeting was opened with prayer and devotional.
- 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.
- The date for drafting our Annual Budget for 2024 was set. Our Annual Meeting will be presented with a proposed Budget for the new year on December 3 at 12:15 +/- p.m.
- The Nominating Committee Report was received and approved.
- A discussion was held and decision reached to continue allowing MUM to meet on the first Sunday of the month for their much-needed food distribution but to not move into the building at this time.



FACTS & FIGURES: WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER

The good news is attendance is increasing and heading in the right direction. 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.

(INCLUDES BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

October Average Total: 46 (28 person /18 online)
Year to Date Average: Total: 57 (34 in person /23 online)

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

11:00 AM Sunday

The Worship service will also continue to be offered live and online. Keep checking 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, 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 Rosemary for possible inclusion in the future.

The deadline for the November newsletter is October 22.

NEW Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM-2:00 pm



Please let the office know how you would like your newsletter delivered! USPS, Email or Both.
office@aspenhillcc.org or call 301-871-7222



November Meetings

St. Paul's Breakfast – November 5 @ 8:30 AM
Program Council – November 1 @ 7:00 PM
Board Meeting – November 8 @ 7:00 PM

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.

Welcome to our new Administrative Assistant Rose Nunez. She is excited to be a part of the AHCC family and is looking to meet everyone. Next time you are near the church stop by and meet Rose or give her a call on the telephone and welcome her to our Ministry Team!



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 [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.

- 5 University Christian Church, Hyattsville, Maryland - <http://www.uccmd.org> Cindy Moraga, Mexico
- 12 Whosoever Will Christian Church, Beltsville, Maryland - <http://www.whosoeverwillcc.org/> Leda Zakarison, Lebanon
- 19 Wilson Blvd. Christian Church, Arlington, Virginia - <http://www.wilsonboulevardcc.org> Mark Knowles, Lesotho
- 26 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Capital Area Region, your Regional Board, your Regional Minister, Staff, and Volunteers – www.CCCADisciples.org Sarah Driver, Egypt