



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

JANUARY 2025

BY CHANCE

“ Carpe Deim”



Borrowing from the title of an old soap opera series on television (not that I ever watched a single episode) “As the World Turns” we have arrived at a time in our own lives when the appropriate title might be “As the Year Turns.” A new year is a time for a fresh start. It’s a time to put the past year in the past. It will never be again although memories, both good and bad will remain in our heart forever.

For some of us 2024 will go down as a terrible memory and something to forget or at least leave behind us. For some it may have a great year and those happy memories can stay with us until the end of our days. For me, and I suspect for most of you the past year, just like all the other years contains a mixture of some good, some bad, some horrible, some to remember forever and some to let go over and start fresh.

Starting fresh doesn’t mean denying or buying the bad things that happened in the past year. It means finding some way to claim a new day, a new start, to look forward. Over time much of it blends together anyway and the one and sure thing in life that “life moves on.” Some of the past year will forever be locked in our consciousness, not to mention our unconsciousness. What was is and forever will be a part of us one way or the other as long as we are alive.

The key to claiming a fresh start in life is to acknowledge the past but not get stuck in it. Every new day is a new opportunity to claim what that day will be. Some days will continue to be a mixture of good things and bad things. I don’t make resolutions on New Year’s Day because I know I won’t keep them and knowing that I just can’t claim some high and lofty resolution. I guess I can make one resolution with any sense of fakery or trickery. I will resolve to keep trying to be a better person, to face the good and the bad with as much faith as possible and like our old friend Popeye I will “be what I yam.”

I hope you embrace the chance to start fresh. I hope we all seize the moment to take full advantage of another day and hopefully another year of life the good Lord has blessed us with. Ultimately, the choice of how we face and how we respond to whatever comes our way is ours and ours alone. As a favorite old song says, “Que Sara Sera”, the futures not ours to see whatever will be will be.”

If there is anything I’ve learned in life (and I’d like to think I’ve learned a thing or two along the way) it is that while I don’t have control over what comes next in my life I do have control over how I will respond to what comes my way.

May the new year bring new and good things into your life. May you be blessed with strong and loving family and friends and may you take full advantage of getting a fresh start in life as the new year dawns upon you. We can do that in the year of course but when the new year arrives the opportunity is here.

Carpe Deim...Seize the Day!

Prayer LIST

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

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

Patty Collins- Please keep Sam’s Splaine’s mother Patty, in your prayers. She loves telephone calls too

Please continue to keep in your prayers the Buckingham and Chance Family.

Susan Montgomery needs our prayers as she recovers from some difficult surgery.

Shawn Morran who works for Splaine Security and is recovering from a bad fall off a ladder.

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.

CCCA DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR



January 2025

5 - All Congregations in formation and prayerful discernment regarding Disciples of Christ affiliation

CHURCH DIRECTORY

We do our best to keep the church directory up to date. But we need your help to do that. Anytime your phone number, email or address changes please let the office know with either a phone call or an email so we can keep our records current.

A new Directory will be coming out in January so now is the time to call the office and be sure we have your correct address, email and other vital information.

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Please let the office know how you would like your newsletter delivered! USPS, Email or Both.
office@aspenhillcc.org or call 301-871-722



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

Please submit your articles, updates, and any information you might like to include in future newsletters to the church office. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 19th.



RanchRoast Chicken



Ingredients

Ranch Dressing

- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup whole buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh chives
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh dill
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice (from 1 lemon)
- 1/4 teaspoon celery salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Chicken

- 1 (4- to 5-pound) whole chicken, quartered
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

Instructions

Make the ranch dressing

1. Whisk together mayonnaise, sour cream, buttermilk, chives, parsley, dill, lemon juice, celery salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder, and 1/4 teaspoon of the kosher salt in a small bowl until combined. Cover and chill until ready to use.

Make the chicken

2. Place chicken quarters in a bowl and cover with 3/4 cup of the ranch dressing. Turn the chicken pieces to coat evenly, then cover and refrigerate for at least 8 hours.
3. Preheat the oven to 425°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, foil, or a silicone baking liner. Remove chicken from marinade and place on a lined baking sheet. Pat chicken dry with paper towels, season with salt and drizzle with oil. Roast chicken until browned and a thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the thigh registers 160°F, 45 minutes to 1 hour. Remove the chicken from the oven and let it rest for 10 minutes before serving it with reserved ranch dressing.

***If you have a cherished recipe you'd like to share on next month's Newsletter, please email it to office@aspenhillcc.org.**

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

Amy Buckingham & Mary Chance



FELLOWSHIP

Please be sure to sign up to provide the Fellowship Period following our Worship Service. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Room

We provide the coffee, you provide cookies, pretzels, whatever you like. We depend on our members and friends providing as much of the Fellowship as possible. Thanks for signing up.

John Small



PROPERTY

If you are interested in helping with our property ministry to keep our church facilities in good condition, please contact me (johnsmallmb66@gmail.com). We have had several large building expenses but due to your generosity are able to keep our building in excellent condition.

Toys 4 Kids!

Thank you to everyone who generously donated toys or funds for the Georgian Forest Elementary School students. Our final total was 52 toys, 25 books and 12-\$10 gift cards for the older siblings. Our next annual Outreach project of "Souper Bowl" begins in late January. All soups will be donated to a local food pantry. Please consider a donation when we begin this important food drive.



Carol Knot & Gwen Mott

Worship

We are entering a new year and new beginnings. We may be thinking of ways to do better this year and also making a difference for others that we meet. And we have help in our new goals.

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

See you in church

STEWARDSHIP

Luke 6:38 ESV

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

+ EVANGELISM

Consider extending an invitation this week. Remember, it's not about pressuring anyone but about offering an opportunity for growth. Who knows? Your invitation could be the start of a powerful journey in someone's life.

education

We are looking for volunteers to serve the Education Department. If you feel called to help, and would like to get involved, please reach out to Mary Chance for more details.

Offering

AN ACT
OF
WORSHIP

To make giving as convenient as possible. We offer several options for you to contribute.

- Mail Slot – You can place your offering in the secure mail slot located at the church entrance.
- Online Giving – Visit our website <https://aspenhillcc.org> to make your donation.
- Sunday Service – Offering will be collected during our Sunday worship services.
- Mail – You may also send your gift by mail to the church office. Thank you for your faithfulness!

FACTS & FIGURES: WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

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)

December Average Total: 52 (41 in person /19 online) 😊

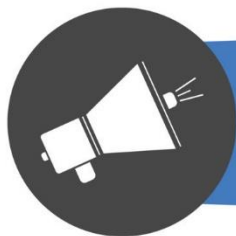
Year to Date Average: Total: 50 (34 in person /16 online) 😊

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

Worship in person at 11:00 AM every Sunday

11:00 every Sunday Live on
our YouTube Channel

Online
Worship Services



DON'T MISS OUT

January 1st – 31st

Community Bag Program: Starting this month and for the entire month of January, when you purchase a \$2.75 reusable Community Bag at the Giant Food located at **3860 International Drive, Silver Spring, MD**, \$1 is donated to AHCC.



Giant
Community Bag Program

We strongly encourage you to share this news and the flyer below with family and friends as well! The Community Bags are located on displays around the store and at the checkout. Please make sure you use the flyer when purchasing the reusable bag.

For more information about the program, please visit giantfood.2givelocal.com.

Thank you for your support

January 26th – February 29th

Souper Bowl... Each year we have a Super Bowl of our own. It's not the "Super Bowl" that's related to the National Football League, but a "SOUPER" Bowl related to our desire to help feed the hungry. We divided our congregation into two teams and each team competes with the other to see who brings in the most cans of soup. Then all of the cans of soup we collect go to Manna, a local food bank where people can go for help with their grocery needs.

This year the Teams will be the "First Sixers" and the "Second Sixers". You are a "First Sixer" if you were born between the months of January and June. You are "Second Sixer" if you were born between August and December. Being a Leo, I'm laying the challenge down now! Look out "First Sixers" we're coming after you".



The Souper Bowl begins January 26 and ends February 9th. The losers will have to stand and sing a song of defeat to the winners who will beam with pride at being "winners". Of course, the real winners are the hungry who will benefit from our Outreach efforts.

This bag is pure

Magic



Make some magic in your community by purchasing a reusable Community Bag. Every time someone buys this \$2.75 Community Bag at our selected Giant Food, our organization will receive a \$1 donation.

giantfood.2givelocal.com
Community Bag Program

At This Giant Food Location:

3860 International Drive
Silver Spring, 20906 MD

Our Selected Month:

January 2025

Benefiting Organization:

Aspen Hill Christian Church
13501 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20905



Dear Members and Friends,

Mary and I want to thank you for the Christmas gift you gave to us and to the entire staff at our church. Your love and generosity are wonderful, and you never cease to amaze me. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

May God bless you with a joyful and Happy New Year in the coming year.

Blessings,

D. Robert "Bob" Chance
Pastor, Aspen Hill Christian Church

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my departure from my role at AHCC to pursue a new opportunity with the Department of Health & Human Services. This decision was not easy, as my time at the church has been fulfilling.

Working alongside such a supportive and compassionate community has been a blessing. I am deeply grateful for the friendships I have built, the lessons I've learned, and the chance to contribute to the community. However, this new position aligns with my passion for helping others and allows me to expand my professional horizons in meaningful ways and I knew this was a chance I couldn't pass.

While I'm excited for this new chapter, I will always cherish the memories and connections made here at AHCC. Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged me along the way. I leave with a heart full of gratitude and hope to stay in touch as I begin this new journey.

With love,
Rosemary Nuñez.

Goodbye!
& THANK YOU