



Expectations and Limitations

December 2025

There was a recent article in the Washington Post about a woman who was making “fake calls” to churches asking for help with providing infant formula to her. She explained over the phone that because of the loss of SNAP benefits, she was not getting the help with her expenses she was dependent on, and would the church provide her either the formula or money to buy the formula?

She was actually not on SNAP benefits, nor did she need formula for a baby. It was all a “test” to see if churches would provide help in that situation. She went viral on TikTok about churches helping or not helping. In the article, the church featured went the extra mile and not only offered to provide formula for an infant (that of course didn’t actually exist but the pastor would deliver the formula if needed. Great for the church, but not a fair picture of churches that help or can’t help, and the fake call really bothered me more than anything else.

Even though the church featured in the article was represented in a positive light, the article pointed out there were lots of different reactions on TikTok about the call, the misrepresentation of the need for help, and about the fact that churches can or can’t offer unlimited help. I personally think the woman making fake calls for help was not right and set churches up in an unfair way.

We receive both legitimate and fake calls for help, do our best to respond as best we can. Sometimes we can and sometimes can’t provide help. No church can respond to every call, and too often the calls are not honest calls for help or at least well beyond the scope of help we or any other church can provide. It’s always a tough call and one that weighs heavily on my heart all day. In fact, even as I am writing this article, I got a call for help with food. In this particular situation, we could and did provide a bag of food for someone in need. It felt good to be able to offer help. We can help those in need sometimes, but not all the time, and only because our members and friends make it possible with donations. Cyndi is wonderful at working with people in need.

I think the woman who used fake calls for help and became viral on TikTok was totally inappropriate and left churches in a difficult place with being tried and judged on whether they were or were not faithful in offering help to those in need. After all, even the Apostles said in the Bible, “Silver and gold have I none but what I have I give to you”. We always do our best to help others. We are providing over \$1500.00 for Thanksgiving meals to people in need who would otherwise not have a Thanksgiving Dinner. We provide year-round help with Thanksgiving, Toys for children at Christmas, Week of Compassion, Back Packs for Kids, and local outreach in many different ways and forms. But sometimes we just don’t have the resources to meet every need every time.

There were, of course, many different reactions on TikTok to the woman and her fake calls seeking help from local churches, but I think it was unfair and set churches up for judgment that isn’t deserved or fair.

I am proud of our church for all the ways we provide help to those in need, and I am deeply grateful for the generosity of the people in our church who make it possible for us to be helpful. But, there are limitations, and there are unfortunately people taking advantage of the church, so we make the hard calls, do what we can, and always provide the names and places where people can go for help beyond what we are able to provide. God bless you, for as the Bible says, “Since you do it for the least of these, you do it for me.” We do our best, but we can’t do everything.





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

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

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

David Jordan, who is struggling, appreciates our prayers.

Janis Hanson, who is limited to being home due to other health issues.

Paul Leiberton, who is dealing with health issues.

Linda Vincent, who had Hip Replacement surgery.

Mary Chance, who had hip replacement surgery on November 11.

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.



Please lift the following congregations in your prayers this month.

December

7-United Christian Church, Lexington Park, Maryland

14-Retired clergy and spouses in the Capital Area Region

21-Our Region and all churches that are currently in Search and Call for their next Interim or Settled Minister

28-United Christian Parish, Reston, Virginia



A New Church Directory is available in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy on Sunday.

If you have a change in your address, phone number, or email, contact Cyndi in the office so she can keep our information up to date. You can reach her at office@aspenhillcc.org or call 301-871-7222.



The Annual Meeting is on December 7. The meeting will begin at 12:15 pm.



Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday and Friday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Wednesday 8:00 – 2:00 PM

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Nicolas Lastre	December 01
Edwina Meheux	December 01
Catherine Wright	December 02
Pamela Canova	December 05
Jeff Price	December 11
Gwen Mott	December 26



Robert Force & Pamela Canova Force	December 17
Brooks, Donald & Holly Brooks	December 29

Please let the Church Office know if Your Birthdate or Anniversary Date Is Wrong or missing, so we may correct it .

Highlights From The Board



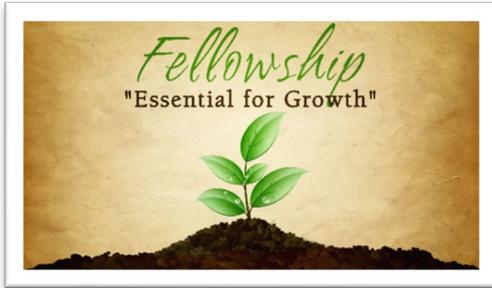
Board Meeting

and will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

- The Board meeting was held on November 12, 2025.
- Financial reports were reviewed.
- An update on our Search Process was provided.
- Ministry Reports were shared.
- Budget for the upcoming year was discussed.
- An amendment to the Constitution was discussed and approved

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

Fellowship / Amy Buckingham and Mary Chance



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

The Fellowship hour is growing, so come on over, bring our visitors with you, and enjoy being together around the tables.

Christian Education / Position Vacant At This Time



Christian Education...We have an Adult Sunday School Class each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Small Conference Room.

We have Children's Church during the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to our volunteers who lead Children's Church each week: Phyllis Brown, Pam Force, Lisa Knight & Jayna, Jennifer Sharma, and Lou Ann Rector.



Worship / Gwen Mott

Don't miss this time of worship! In-person and Online Worship Services are available every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. www.aspenhillcc.org /go to "See Us on YouTube link and click on the current week or any week in the past that you would like to see.

November 30, 2025, is the beginning of the Advent season. This is a time that we start our preparations for the celebration of the birth of Christ. On each of the four Sundays before Jesus' birth, we have a special service. There will be lighting of the Advent candles and the creation of the nativity scene. Do join us, bring a friend, and remember the true meaning of Christmas, Christ's birth.

Average Attendance for October 2025

Month...	In Person 34	Online 13	Total 47
YTD...	In Person 35	Online 17	Total 52



Property

The property is in relatively good shape. A few minor issues have been addressed, with special thanks to Roberto Lopez. We are currently working on cleaning out and updating some of the old offices and the library. If you would like to help with property projects, please talk to John Small.



Stewardship

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.

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. - Luke 6:38 NIV



Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one, celebrate a birthday, or an anniversary. Sign up to donate altar flowers. Sign up in the fellowship hall or email Cyndi at office@aspenhillcc.org. Please include the date of dedication, your name, and the dedication (dedicated to/for). AHCC requests a donation of \$30 (\$25 for the flowers and \$5 for delivery) to cover the cost of flowers each week.



Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be available for purchase beginning **11/23/25**. You can purchase them in memory or in thanksgiving for someone. We will use them to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. They will be available for pickup following the service. The ordering deadline is **12/07/25**. They come in 7-inch pots and are available for \$17.00. They are only available in red this year.

Outreach

The food pantry is fully stocked and available for anyone in need. Contact Cyndi in the church office for assistance. Call the office at 301-871-7222 or email her at office@aspenhillcc.org.

Our Thanksgiving gift card project was a tremendous success thanks to the generous members of this congregation. We collected more than \$1,500.00 for our neighbors, blessing **30** local families with a lovely Thanksgiving meal.

As the Christmas season approaches, we will collect new, unwrapped toys for the children at Georgian Forest Elementary School. Please consider donating toys to place under the tree. Deadline is December 14. If you need to drop toys off during the week, you can stop by the office between 10 am and 2 pm.

Connie Spoon



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING



Aspen Hill Christian Church

Date : December 7, 2025

Time : 12:15 pm

All are welcome!



Celebrating 
Jon Gilbertson 



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US TO
CELEBRATE JON'S 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO OUR CHURCH.

12.28.2025

11:00 A.M.

ASPEN HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
13501 GEORGIA AVENUE
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND
301-871-7222



**Aspen Hill Christian Church
13501 Georgia Avenue
Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906**