



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance



Finding God In the Beauty of Nature

As I worked at my home office the other day, I looked out the window from my desk and saw an absolutely stunning image of nature. On top of the post upon which my electronic bird feeding is attached sat a beautiful, bright red cardinal. Another bird, too small for me to identify at that distance, was on the feeder itself. In a few moments, the Cardinal joined the other bird, and together they shared the bounty of birdseed I provided. It was a beautiful scene that reminded me of God's presence in my daily life.

In the first place, the sheer joy of seeing these birds brought me to a sense of God's presence. Like the Psalmist of the Bible, I see God in nature. Seeing God in the everyday signs of nature is a profound experience. I see God in the early morning as a stream of sunlight shines through the otherwise dark forest. Seeing the power of God in the roar of a mighty

waterfall is a powerful way to experience God's presence, as is sitting by a quiet stream and sensing God in the calmness of the stream as it flows softly over the rocks. The Psalmist often described nature as a reflection of God's majesty and sovereignty. Every part of creation speaks of the Lord's divine craftsmanship.

Some would look out the window and simply see two birds, one on top of a post, the other eating the life-giving free food provided in the feeder. That would be a shame. To see only the material sights and sounds of nature and not to see God at work is to shortchange yourself. Of course, people who have no faith miss the glory of God in the beauty of nature. There is certainly always the power of seeing the beauty of nature without it reflecting anything at all about the creator, but to do so is to miss the handiwork of God.


The Psalmist (Psalm 19:1) writes, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." When you look at the sky, day or night, when you see the sun rise and set, they are telling a story of the powerful and active presence of the Lord.

When the Psalmist writes "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers...what is mankind that you are mindful of them?" he is reminding us of the grandeur of the universe and our own insignificance. But, because God loves us and invites us to share in the creation, we are more than insignificant.

There are many more psalms and other writings throughout the Bible that connect us to experiencing God's presence through nature. Just two birds at a feeder is one perspective, but it's a much smaller view of the world.

Look for God wherever you go. Look for God in everything you see. Know that the signs of the Lord's presence are unlimited in your daily comings and goings. I saw God at work when I looked out the window. Thank you, Lord, not only for reminding me of your presence but also of the beauty of the world you have created and of my responsibility to be a good steward of that world. +

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

 **A Prayer for You**

May peace settle gently over your heart today.
May your mind find clarity, your spirit find rest,
and your steps be guided toward goodness.
May you feel the quiet strength that comes from
knowing you are loved, seen, and never alone.
And may hope rise within you like the morning
sun, steady and warm, lighting your way forward.

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 appreciates our prayers. He is back home now.

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

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.

March

- 9 - Fort Washington Christian Church, Fort Washington, Maryland
- 16 - Garfield Memorial Christian Church, McLean, Virginia
- 23 - First Christian Church, Falls Church, Virginia
- 30 - First Christian Church, Hagerstown, Maryland

We have had updates since we released a new directory in

December. Please let us know of any other corrections, as we are going to release a new directory with all the updates.

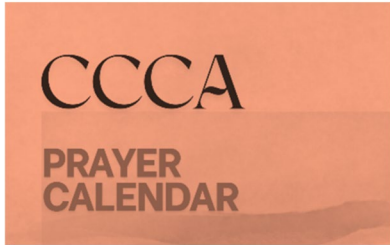
If you have a change in your address, phone number, or email, contact Cyndi in the office so she can keep our information up to date. You can reach her at office@aspenhillcc.org or call 301-871-7222.

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

John Small	March 03
Roberto Lopez	March 05
Gifty Amuzu	March 09
Lloyd Samuels	March 10
Linda Vincent	March 10
Tim Gartrell	March 12
Mason Chance	March 18
Jane Small	March 27

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

- The Board meeting was held on February 12, 2026.
- Financial reports were reviewed.
- An update on our Search Process was provided.
- Ministry Reports were shared.



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.

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

Fellowship / Amy Buckingham and Mary Chance



If you plan to sponsor a fellowship period, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall on the poster next to the kitchen door, and let the church office know. 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. It was really great to see both Colson and Jayna Knight come to teach the class last week.

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.

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

There are many ways to observe these 40 days. You can give something up, such as certain foods, television, or social media. You can give more of your time and talents. You can spend more time in prayer and reading the Bible.

A very easy way to travel on this journey is by attending worship every Sunday and observing our Lenten banner program. Each Sunday is different, see you in Church!

Average Attendance for January 2025

Month...	In Person 31	Online 24	Total 55
YTD...	In Person 31	Online 24	Total 55



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

Outreach



The SOUPER Bowl was a huge success! Thanks to your generosity, many people were fed with an abundance of soup, all coming from your faithfulness. The second halfers, those with birthdays between July and December, won the contest, but the real winners are the people who were fed. Mid-County United Ministries thanked AHCC for the donation of 303 lbs. of food (257 cans). Thank you all for your participation.

The Week of Compassion is going on the last two Sundays in February, and thus far, your giving has been wonderful. Through this outreach effort, we respond to emergencies along with other Christian churches throughout the United States and all over the world.

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.



Easter Flowers

It is time to put in your orders for Easter Flowers. Order forms can be found in the weekly bulletin, or you can call your order in to the office.

Easter Lilies - \$30.00

Daffodils - \$25.00

Azaleas - \$35.00 (Specify color: Red, Pink, or White)

Deadline for the order is March 15. Flowers can sell out, so please place your order today.

Indicate the name(s) of the people donating the flowers, and who they are given in memory of or in honor of.



SCHEDULE

MARCH & APRIL

2026

06

FRI

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

08

SUN

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

11

WED

BOARD MEETING

15

SUN

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

29

SU

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PALM SUNDAY
LENT MARCH 29 - APRIL 29

5

SUN

EASTER SUNDAY
SON RISE BREAKFAST

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