



# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

## *Empathy*

### empathy

noun 'empeTHĕ

the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

Life is always changing. We're always changing. Things I knew for sure just a few years ago I'm not so sure about today. Things I believed have changed over the years as well. Things I thought I was good at, I now realize I could have done a lot better at. It's life, as we grow, our perspective changes, our knowledge base widens, and we see things through a different set of eyes. It's natural, normal, and I'm sure I'm not the only one experiencing these changes. Our physical vision gets worse with age, but hopefully, our spiritual and emotional wisdom gets better.

Empathy is the ability to feel and understand another person's feelings. I always did my best to have as much empathy for people as possible and feel like I was faithful in doing so. When people who I considered "old" shared the difficulties that come with aging, I thought I understood and reflected care and understanding for the things they described. When people faced loss in their lives and carried the heavy burden of grief, I felt their pain, I cared for them, and I thought I understood and reflected great empathy for them. When someone lost their job or talked to me about how hard retirement was or how difficult life had become, I understood, and I responded with appropriate levels of empathy...or so I thought. As I look back, I'm not so sure. I certainly could have done better.

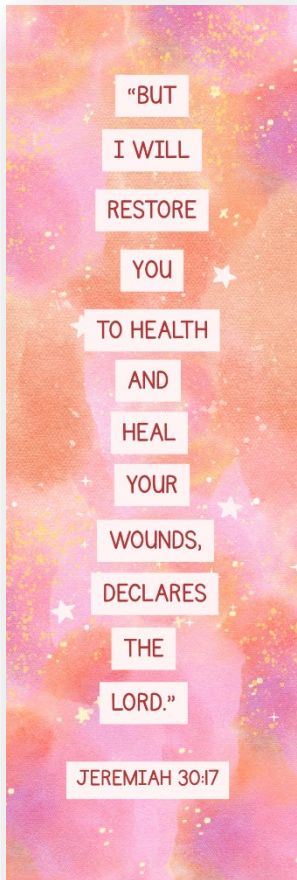
Now, as I go through some of the same experiences, I look back and wonder if I was as empathic as I thought I was. It seems as if our empathy can only be experienced as deeply as possible when we ourselves go through the same experiences, the same deep losses, or the same situations.

I now know the deepest levels of grief I could have ever anticipated. I now know the never-ending pain of growing old and my calendar being filled with doctor appointments. I now know the struggle of trying to retire from a job I love and have been successful at. I now know the conflicting feelings of what I will do when I retire, and whether I can be genuinely happy at not having an office to come to every day or a position to identify with. Eighty is a long way from twenty-one, and my level of empathy is growing daily, albeit at a high cost.

I wish I could go back and have another shot at hearing and responding to the feelings of all the people who shared their losses, their pain, their hurts, their struggles, and life situations with me. I'm sure I did the best I could at the time, but from where I sit now, I wish I had been more empathetic.

The old saying "until you've walked a mile in my shoes, you don't really know what I feel like" is true. I can't go back and say "sorry, wish I had been better at being empathetic," but I can do better with whatever time I have left and whatever situations present themselves to me. We can all do better. Let's forgive ourselves for past failures and do our best in the future. As the Bible says...

**"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." Romans 12:15**



***Please let us know if you are aware of someone who is ill 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.*

*Gwen Mott, who is home and recovering from a serious but unknown illness.*

*Janis Hanson is homebound but still loves cards, calls, and even visits. See Jack before coming over to visit, however.*

*Amy Buckingham and family as they recover from the grief of losing Blake.*

*Patty Chance (Bob's sister) is being treated for cancer.*

*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.***

**May**

- 4 - Good Samaritan Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland
- 11 - Henson Valley Christian Church, Fort Washington, Maryland
- 18 - Heritage Christian Church, Silver Spring, Maryland
- 25 - Hyattstown Christian Church, Hyattstown, Maryland



We are getting ready to print a new directory. Please make sure we have your updated contact information. If you need to make changes please do so this week with Cyndi at [office@aspenhillcc.org](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org) or call 301-871-7222.

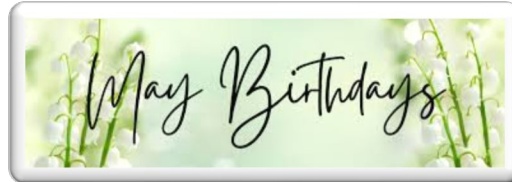
Thank you!



**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](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org) or call 301-871-722**



Alex Wright – May 5  
Franklin Payne – May 11  
Monica Hanson – May 25  
Beth Appleyard – May 26  
Dominique Jordon – May 29



Arlyn Sanchez – May 15  
Cecelia Samuels – May 21

*Please let the Church Office know if Your Birthdate or Anniversary Is wrong or missing. So we may correct it.*



***Average Attendance for March 2026***

Month...	In Person 35	Online 14	Total 49
YTD...	In Person 35	Online 19	Total 49

## Highlights From The Board



### Board Meeting Highlights

The Board meeting was held on April 8, 2026.

Financial reports were reviewed.

An update on our Search Process was provided.

Ministry Reports were shared.

Our minister, Dr. Chance, shared his activities and ministries, and stressed that we all need to share the Gospel and the wonderful church we are all part of, bringing new disciples and members to the church.



### 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](mailto: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

### 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.



### Christian Education

### 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 Class 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](http://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.

May 10, during the worship service, we will observe Mother's Day. Our mothers will be honored, and those who have been like a mother in our lives.

We will observe Pentecost Sunday on May 24th. This is when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and other followers of Christ. We recognize Pentecost as the "Birthday of the Church".

Refresh your memories - Read Acts 2:1-31. Come to worship and celebrate with us!



## 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 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](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org).

# Thank You



Thanks to everyone for a joyful Easter Day!  
We couldn't do it without all of you.

*Dr. Chance*



*Thank You*



**An Inclusive Message for All**

To the Mothers, Mentors, Aunties, and Friends: Thank you for stepping into the role of caregiver and sharing your heart with those who need it.


To Those Who Have Lost Their Mothers: May you find comfort in cherished memories and peace in the love that continues to connect you.

To Those Longing to Be Mothers: Your hope and strength are honored today, and you are not alone in your journey.

To Those with Complicated Relationships: We acknowledge the complex emotions this day can bring and honor your resilience.

To Those Who Mother Themselves: We recognize your self-compassion, strength, and the nurturing energy you pour into your own life.

Today is about celebrating the spirit of motherhood in all its forms—the care, the sacrifice, and the unconditional love that binds us together. You are valued.





# May 2026

- May 3 St. Paul's Breakfast 8:30 am
- May 6 Program Council 7 pm
- May 10 Mother's Day
- May 13 Board Meeting 7 pm
- May 17 Newsletter Deadline
- May 24 Pentecost Sunday
- May 25 Memorial Day Office Closed
- May 31 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing

*Aspen Hill Christian Church*

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