



# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance



## A Lesson From the Wild Crocus

As you may have read in a previous article or post from me in other years, I have always enjoyed the natural beauty of wild crocus. Tiny wild purple crocus sprouts up this time of the year all over my front yard. The beauty of these little flowers leaves me in awe. Crocus is among the first of the wildflowers to pop up in the yard every spring. They show their beautiful purple flowers only for a few weeks, and then they're gone until the next year. Nature is a beautiful thing.

There's also a bad thing about these beautiful little flowers. They are dangerous for dogs. They are tiny but lethal. Should a dog, especially a small puppy who doesn't know any better, ingest them? They can cause serious damage to the digestive tract of a dog and even death. Nature is a wild and beautiful thing, but also a dangerous one. I still love my wild crocus, but I am on absolute alert when our new puppy is out in the yard.

The Psalmist and the people of years past were much more in tune with the world around them than we are in our world and lived with a deeper awareness of not only the beauty of nature but of its dangers as well.

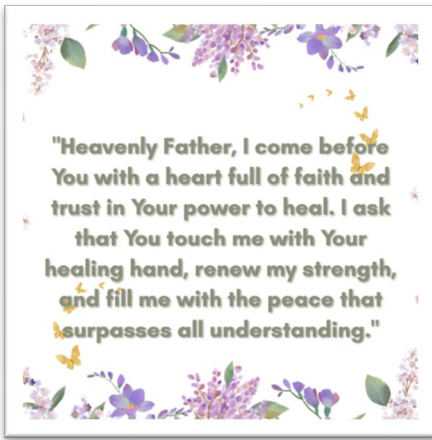
Life can be like the crocus, beautiful and dangerous at once. Sometimes, what is good is also bad. Sometimes, things we see beauty in and are drawn toward can pose a serious risk to us. There are countless things in nature that are beautiful, but that are deadly as well.

Loving someone can bring joy and meaning like no other but can also bring pain and hurt like no other. Being wealthy and financially secure brings security and freedom to us but also brings great risk. Jesus often spoke of the dangers of wealth. While none of us would choose being poor, we don't always think of the dangers that come with being wealthy.

Even faith and church have their rewards and their risks. Faith is not only good, but essential to help us through life's ups and downs. Faith can be the regulator of our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors so that we live as the Lord wants us to live and be the people he calls us to be. Faith can guide us down the thorny and dangerous paths we sometimes find ourselves on so that we choose the right paths. Church can be and is one of the best parts of a good life, but church and faith also have their downsides. If, in coming to faith and church, we think we are better than others, or are in it for self-glory, control, or power, then the underside of faith destroys all the good of faith.

Throughout all of life, we have to discern both the good and the bad in everything. Throughout life, we have to pay attention to what is going on around us, be aware of the good and bad in everything we do or take part in and separate the bad from the good. We can do that by being informed. We can do that by avoiding the bad and coming to the good. We can make everything in life better by knowing and avoiding the dangerous or bad parts of just about anything in life.

The lesson of the crocus is that there is beauty and danger in all of life. All these years, and I never knew the risk that my beloved little wild crocus plants posed to my pets. Enjoy life, embrace life, live life to its fullest, but remember to be aware of the dangers that come with everything, even in the most beautiful and seemingly safe things in life. May we all enjoy the beautiful things of the world but be aware of their dangers and risks.



*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. He is in Brooke Grove Rehab Center.*

*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.*

*Tom Blankenship is now at a Rehabilitation Center as he recovers.*

*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.***

**April**

- 6 - First Christian Church, Boonsboro, Maryland
- 13 - Haitian Pentecostal Church, Salisbury, Maryland
- 20 - Capital Area Disciples Women
- 27 - Hospital, Military, and Institutional Chaplains, and clergy serving as Professors and in Non-Profit settings



**We have had updates since we released a new directory in December. Please let us know of any further corrections, as we will 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org) or call 301-871-722**



- Eric Burch - April 2
- Linda Groome - April 2
- Amy Buckingham - April 4
- Steve Sullivan - April 4
- Beth Konzmann - April 7
- Gorretti Mugatha - April 8
- Kay McGuire - April 15
- Carol Knott - April 19
- Tristan Chance - April 21
- Michael Lastre - April 23



Kathie & Tim Gartrell April 11, 1992

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

***Average Attendance for February 2026***

Month...	In Person 31	Online 20	Total 51
YTD...	In Person 31	Online 22	Total 53



### **Highlights From The Board**

- The Board meeting was held on March 11, 2026.
- Financial reports were reviewed.
- An update on our Search Process was provided.
- Ministry Reports were shared.
- A stipend was approved to assist our Admin. with health care expenses.
- 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 to bring 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 / 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 / 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. 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](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.

Easter Sunday, April 5, will soon be here. We join in as Christians, the most essential belief in our religion, Jesus's resurrection. We will have our beautiful Palm Sunday worship service on March 29. Leading to our Easter Sunday worship, celebrating the Risen Christ! Join us in worship by attending church and renewing your spirit. Special thanks to Rich Link for helping to coordinate our Lent and Easter plans during Gwen's time in the hospital and rehabilitation center.



## 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.

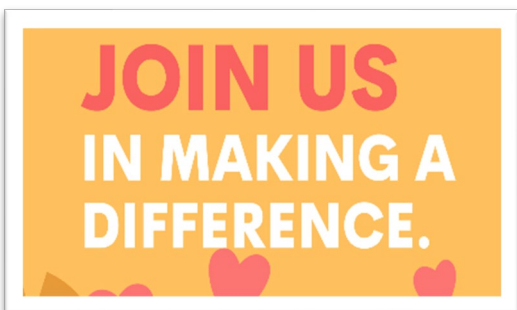
- Mail Slot – You can place your offering in the secure mail slot located at the church entrance.
- Online Giving – Visit our website <https://aspenhillcc.org> to make your donation.
- Sunday Service – Offering will be collected during our Sunday worship services.
- Mail – You may also send your gift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

Many thanks for the Week of Compassion contributions, which totaled \$1,273.07. These funds will be available immediately to help so many in need around the world. God bless you!

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).





*Easter flowers are given by:*

PHYLLIS BROWN.

LISA KNIGHT.  
IN MEMORY OF JOHN OLSON AND  
TREVOR KNIGHT.

CAROL KNOTT  
IN MEMORY OF RICHARD KNOTT.

JANE AND JOHN SMALL  
IN MEMORY OF MILTON AND ELEANOR SMALL,  
AND JOHN AND MARTHA MASON.

JACK AND JANIS HANSON.  
IN HONOR OF THE HANSON FAMILY.

JUDY AND SAM SPLAINE.  
IN MEMORY OF CHRISTINA SPLAINE.

JILL D'ANDREA IN MEMORY OF  
ALVIN ABRAHAM & MICHAEL R. D'ANDREA.

KIM & YONG-HE MORRISON

LINDA & KENNY VINCENT  
IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS  
AND DEAR FRIEND GARY SOURIS.

GWEN MOTT  
IN HONOR OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

MARY AND BOB CHANCE  
IN MEMORY OF BLAKE BUCKINGHAM,  
AND IN HONOR OF FAMILY & FRIENDS.



# EASTER SUNDAY SON RISE BREAKFAST

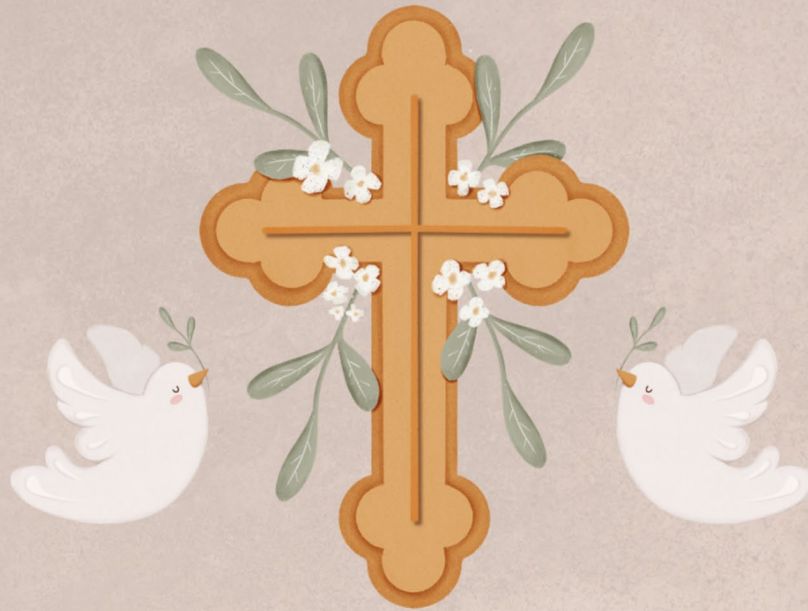
Join us for a joyful church  
family gathering.

Sunday, 5th of April 9:00 am

Aspen Hill Christian Church

Sign up to let us know what  
you will be bringing and how  
many will be attending.

Help is needed with setting up  
and breaking down.



# Holy Week

## SCHEDULE 2026

**11 AM**      **Sunday, March 29, Palm Sunday**  
Palm Sunday Worship

**Thursday, April 2, Maundy Thursday**  
Pause during the evening to remember the last supper.  
With prayers and breaking of the bread in your own way.

**Friday, April 3, Good Friday**  
At home, silent prayer at Noon or as available

**9 AM**      **Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunday**  
**11 AM**      Son Rise Breakfast  
Worship

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