



We believe in sharing love and grace with God and one another.



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Being Jewish - Wednesday, June 3 @ 5:30 PM - Temple Beth Or
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, June 4 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday June 4 @ 12:00 PM
- Sunday Services - Sunday, June 7 @ 8:00 & 10:30 AM

From the Rector...

I have never seen a dog enjoy a walk as much as Archibald does. He might be a basset hound with really short legs, but we are barely out the door before he has moved into position, taking the lead and only slowing down to sniff the occasional patch of grass—or run into parked cars when distracted by cats. As much as Archie loves a walk, however, he does not love his lead.

Bassets can be challenging to walk. They may be short, but they are strong. Years ago, our first basset hound, Flash, would pull so hard on the leash that I started having shoulder problems because of it. When I asked the vet what to do, he recommended a spiked collar. It worked. I didn't love the idea of spikes digging into Flash's neck, but all it took was a short tug on the leash and he would immediately come to heel. Our walks improved dramatically—and so did my shoulder.

Years later, I discovered The Gentle Lead. Instead of spikes, it is modeled after the bit and bridle you would use with a horse. There is no bit in the dog's mouth, but you do slip their nose through a loop that runs around the chin and fastens behind the head. It is much gentler than metal spikes and makes it far easier to guide the dog. (And for anyone who



says a dog just needs better leash training, I would ask if they have ever owned a basset hound—or, as I prefer to call them, the most stubborn dog breed in the world.)

Archie and Petunia both use The Gentle Lead. (Cutty uses a simple slip lead because golden retrievers are basically canine honor students.) We walk almost every morning, and they strut through the neighborhood with their heads held high and perfectly in step with one another. They stop to sniff all their favorite places, keep a close watch for birds, squirrels, and cats, and occasionally pause to receive attention from neighbors who want to pet them—which they absolutely love.

Getting leashed up is almost as exciting as the walk itself. Cutty hangs back and watches the chaos unfold while Petunia grabs every leash she can find and performs an enthusiastic happy dance. She is chaos wrapped in fur. It usually takes some convincing before she finally releases her brothers' leads so everyone can get strapped in. Even then, she is far too excited to stand still but, she willingly lowers her head and lets me put The Gentle Lead on her without hesitation. Archie is another story.

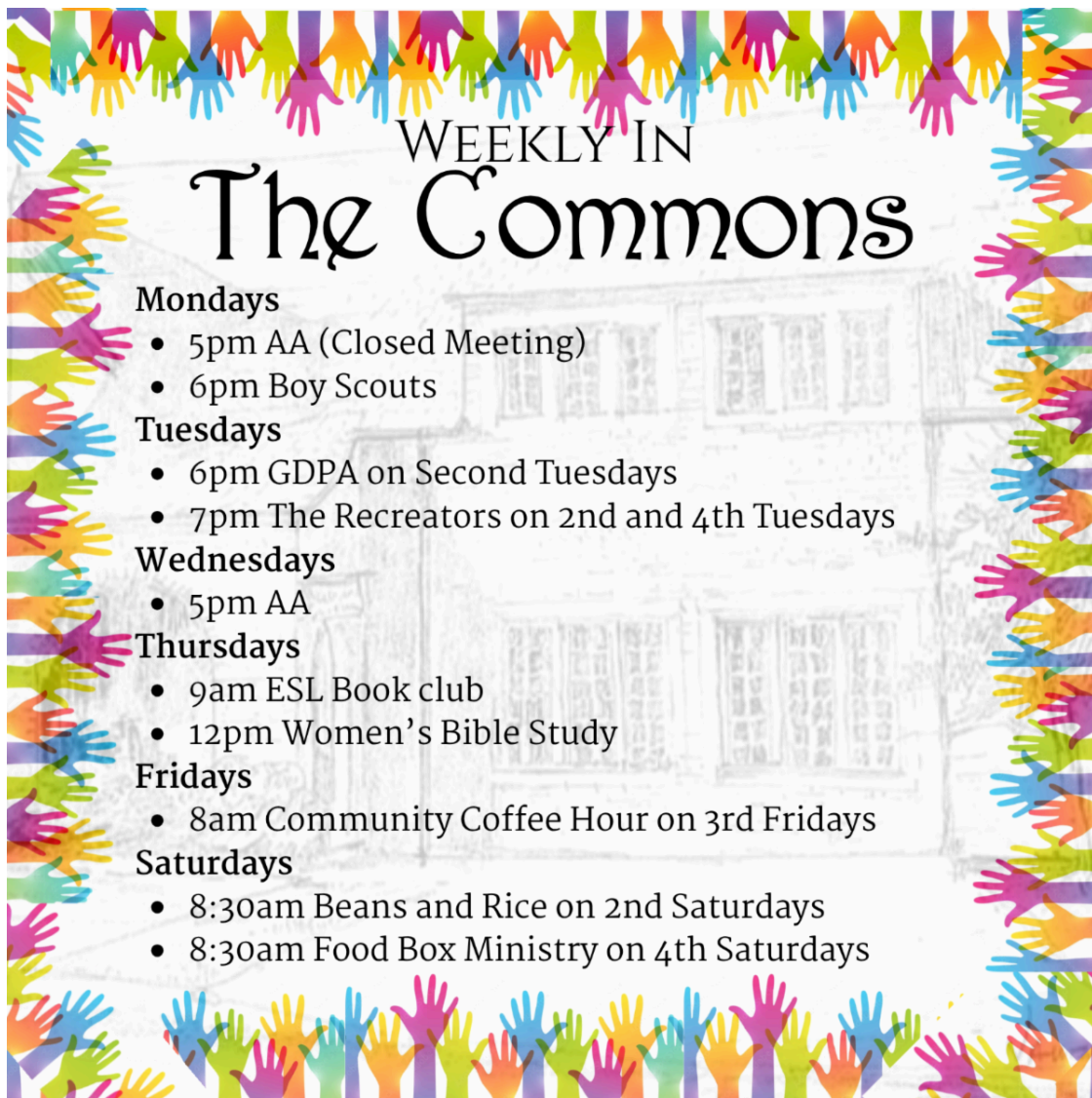
Archie does not want that lead touching the top of his nose. The top of a dog's nose is one of the most sensitive and submissive points on their body, and because The Gentle Lead applies pressure there, it gives you greater control. Oddly enough, Petunia—the dominant dog in our pack—accepts it easily. But Archie, sweet and submissive Archie, fights it every time. Eventually, he relents and allows me to put it on because he knows it is the only way he gets to go out the front door and experience the world. He may not like the lead, but he loves where it takes him.

Spiritual disciplines can be a bit like that. We know we need to come to church, read Scripture, pray, serve, and make space for God in our daily lives. Yet for all sorts of reasons, we resist. Sometimes it feels inconvenient. Sometimes uncomfortable. Sometimes we simply do not want anyone—even God—guiding us. But when we finally submit ourselves to those practices, we often discover they lead us somewhere beautiful. They draw us closer to Christ. They deepen our joy. They anchor us in difficult seasons and open our eyes to grace we might otherwise miss.

Archie may not like his lead, but he loves his walk. We are not so different. Discipleship may not include a strap on the nose, but our lead can take us down a spiritual path where we walk with Jesus.

Light and Life,
Candice+

candice@coascension.org

A decorative border at the top and bottom of the page, consisting of a repeating pattern of colorful hands in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink) reaching upwards.

WEEKLY IN The Commons

Mondays

- 5pm AA (Closed Meeting)
- 6pm Boy Scouts

Tuesdays

- 6pm GDPA on Second Tuesdays
- 7pm The Recreators on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Wednesdays

- 5pm AA

Thursdays

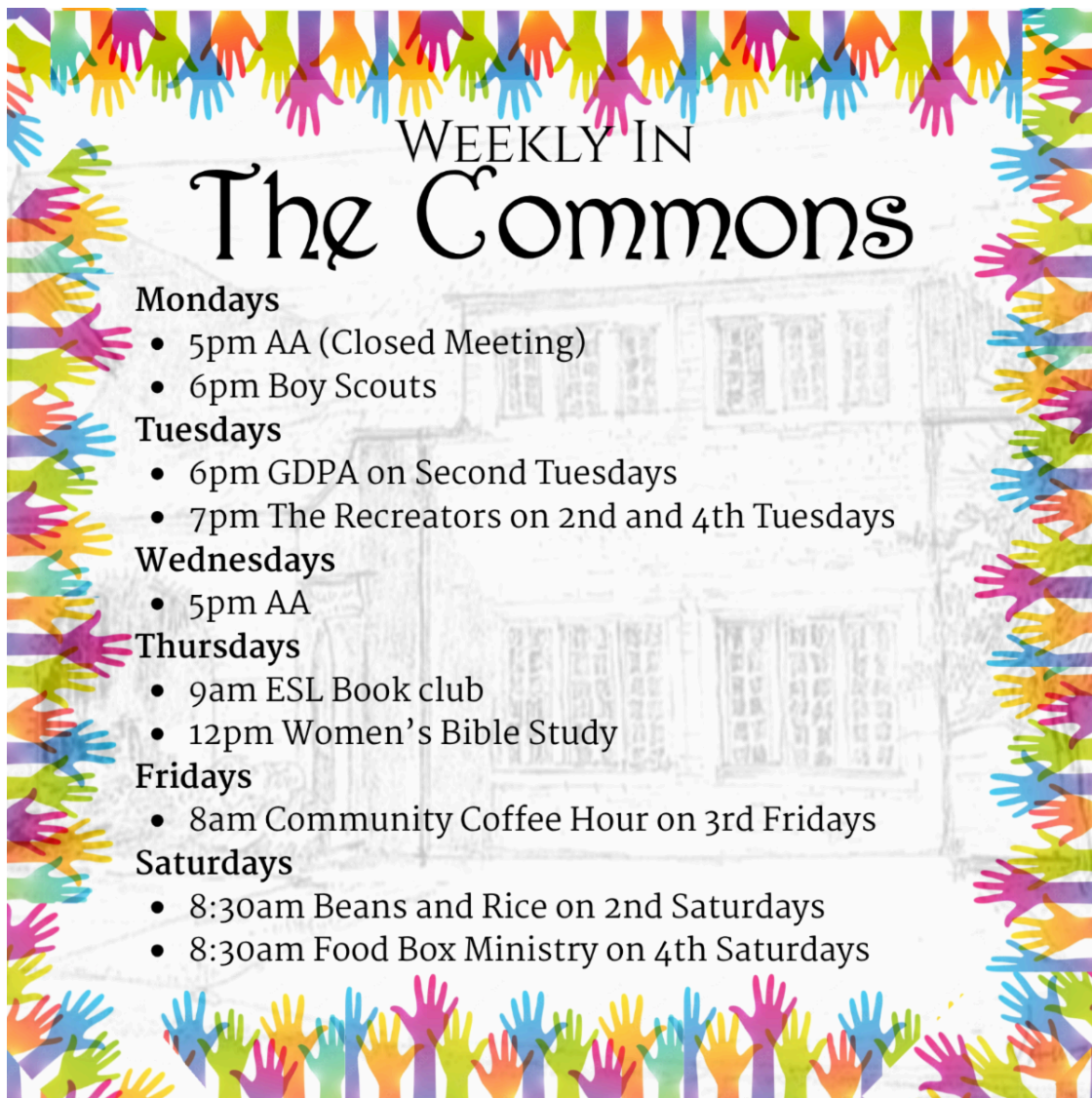
- 9am ESL Book club
- 12pm Women's Bible Study

Fridays

- 8am Community Coffee Hour on 3rd Fridays

Saturdays

- 8:30am Beans and Rice on 2nd Saturdays
- 8:30am Food Box Ministry on 4th Saturdays

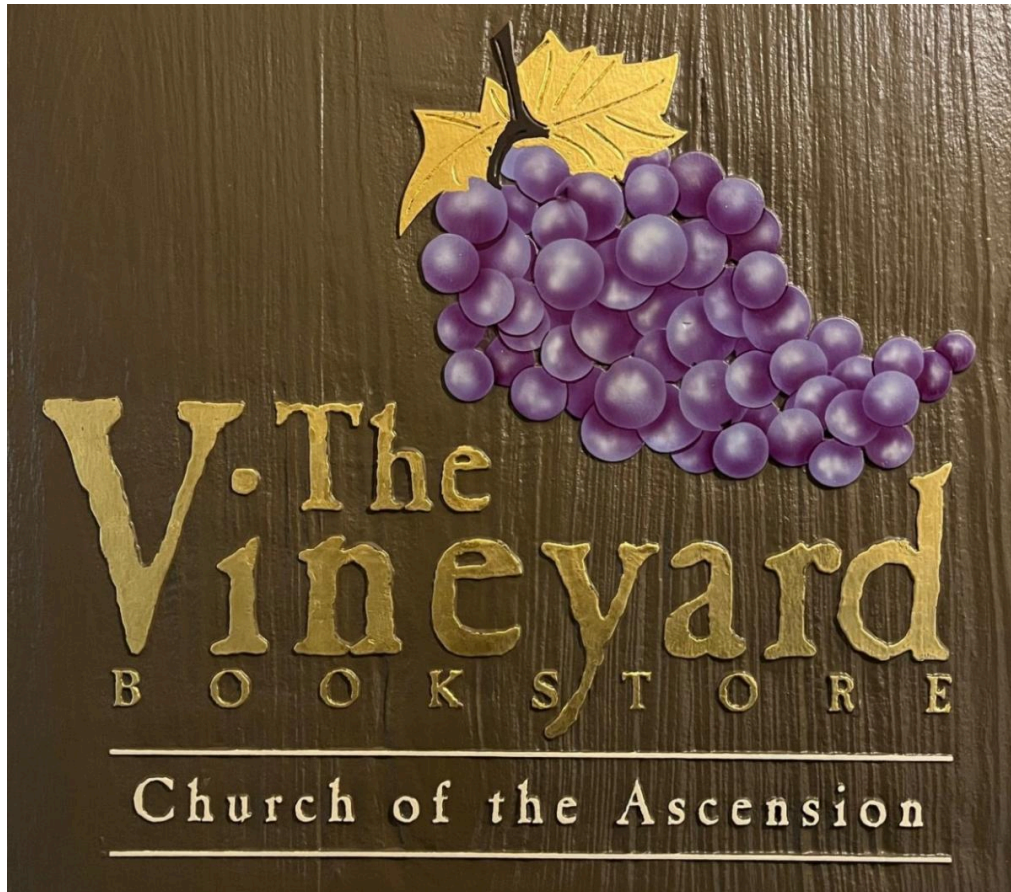
A faint, light-colored background image of a building with many windows, possibly a school or community center, is visible behind the text.

Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

Historically, pledge fulfillment at Church of the Ascension declines during the summer months, because of vacations and travel. Yet, our church consistently operates on \$90,000 each month year round, paying for salaries, church maintenance and ministry expenses. We need to avoid a shortfall this summer.

To all, as you plan your summer activities, please consider your stewardship obligations in order that our church can meet its obligations and our hard working employees, facilities and ministries are properly supported throughout the season.

Thank you for your consideration,
COA Finance Committee

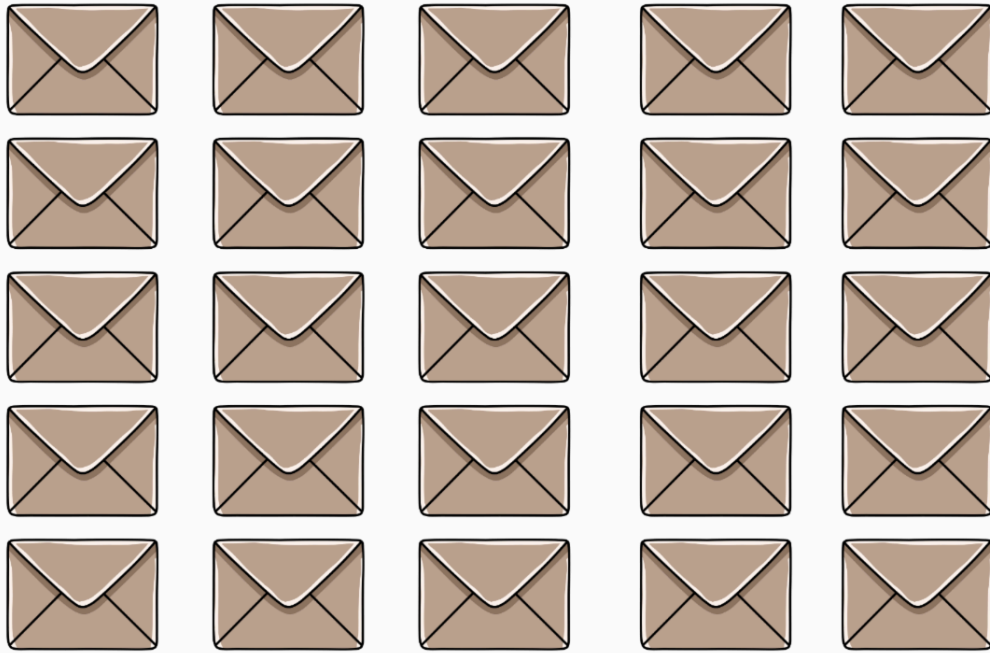


Downsizing? Decluttering?
The Vineyard is opening a new branch!

The Vineyard Treasure Shop

Please bring your “nice as new” items: home decor, artwork, antiques, serving pieces, decorative items, etc... to the small Vineyard room this summer. We will price and display everything for our Fall kick-off. Want to join the Vineyard Bunch? Call or text Lang Cardinal with questions or to volunteer.

Youth Mission Envelope Fundraiser!



The Youth Envelope Fundraiser is back! Once again we are raising money for our summer mission trip to Hinton Rural Life Center in North Carolina. We will have 100 envelopes numbered 1-100 and ask members to select their favorite number (or group of numbers) and donate that amount of money to our trip! Each donor will receive a thank you note from our trip as well as updates along the way!

WORSHIP

MORNING PRAYER

8:00 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY

LIVE ON



Attention Venmo Users



As electronic payments become more widely used we ask that anyone who uses Venmo to **please add a short summary of what the payment is for in the description field**. We now accept Venmo for Wednesday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, purchases in The Vineyard Bookstore, as well as for giving. This description will help us allocate the resources appropriately. Thanks!

CONNECT



Church of the Ascension is excited to be jointly hosting the **2026 Bach's Lunch Summer Organ Festival**. St. John's First United Methodist, Trinity Presbyterian, and Church

of the Ascension will be jointly hosting a Summer Organ Festival featuring great organists of our city during the **months of June and July**. Our own Becky Taylor is featured as an artist. Concerts are at noon on Wednesdays rotating throughout the churches followed by a light lunch for \$10. **Please see agomontgomery.org for full information.** The festival is sponsored by the Montgomery Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



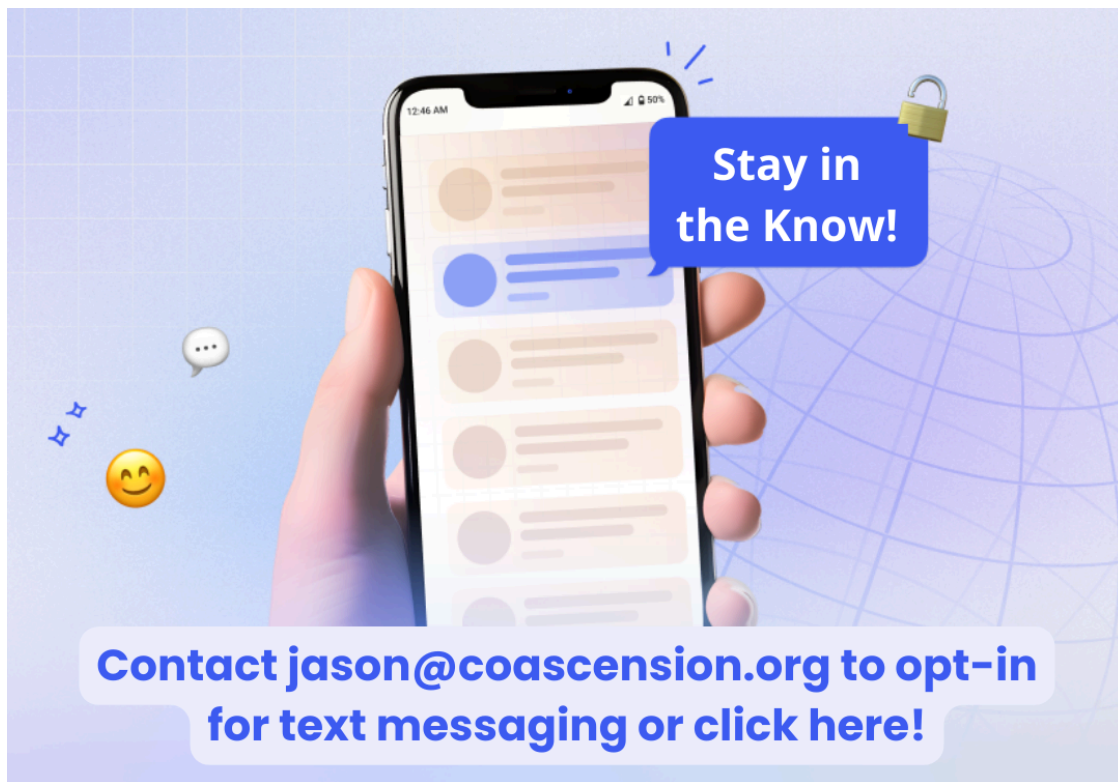
Ascension Children!

Let's beat the heat together and explore what it means to be co-creators with God as we engage in various creative projects and mindful exercises! COC Camp will meet in Joshua Commons. More information will be sent to you closer to camp time.

To register your child, use the QR code or follow this link:

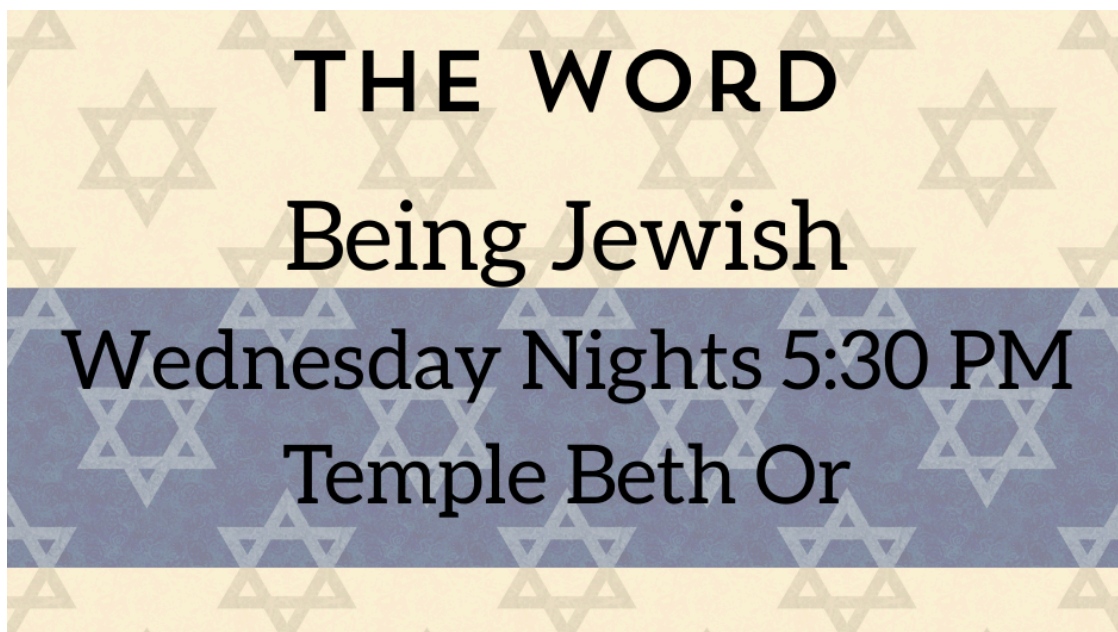
[REGISTER for Camp!](#)

Get Signed Up Today!



GROW

The Word will join a class hosted by Temple Beth Or examining the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and being Jewish after Gaza beginning April 29.



**BEING JEWISH
AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF GAZA
WEEKLY MEETINGS WILL BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
5:30 PM
TEMPLE BETH OR LIBRARY**

Stories have dominated communal Jewish life for centuries. There are stories of persecution and victim hood and, ultimately, of survival and even victory. We, Jews, know who we are by our stories, our religious beliefs and traditions, and Rabbinic teachings.

Today, we have 24-7 news reports, audio and video documentation of current events happening worldwide. The torture, kidnapping, and slaughter of innocent Jews by Hamas on October 7th will forever be in our memories and our stories. Governments and people still tell their stories, but what happens when the videos we see contradict the stories told? What do we tell ourselves today, after October 7th? Perhaps a more important question for Jews to address is what has occurred after October 7th.

For this class, we will initially read ["Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza: A Reckoning,"](#) by Peter Beinart (2025). The history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be covered, in the context of the history of the Middle East, as well as current documented events. We encourage the active participation of all attending and look forward to lively discussion. Some of us will disagree; some will agree; some will not be sure of what to think. We feel that this is an important discussion to have because now, in light of the stories we hear and see about events in Gaza and the Middle East in general, we now ask and must answer: "What does it mean to be a Jew?"

The **Forgotten Books**

Scripture Between the Testaments



Every Thursday - 7 AM
Breakfast & Bible Study
Ascension Hall
Men's Prayer Breakfast

In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

Staff Directory

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Fay Worriow, Administrative Assistant fay@coascension.org

PRAYER FOR THE ASCENSION

Almighty and everlasting Father, we stand in your presence, awed and silenced by your goodness and wisdom. We rejoice in the outpouring of your Spirit on the Ascension and our ministries. Help each of us to remember that we are walking in your sight, and that you are present with us at every moment. Through your Holy Spirit, guide us in our prayers and enable us to focus our thoughts on you, so that we may be filled with the knowledge of your will. Grant us the wisdom to ask what you would have us do; the strength and courage to carry out your work; and the grace to show our gratitude through good stewardship of your gracious gifts. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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