



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



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Office Closed - Monday, July 6
- Colors of Creation Camp - July 7-9
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, July 2 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, July 2 @ 12:00 PM

From the Rector...

We have a new fur baby. Charlie is a one-and-a-half-year-old golden retriever. My cousin rehomed him for a time, but it ultimately wasn't the right fit, so he has come to live with us.

On Sunday afternoon, we made a quick trip to New Orleans to meet my aunt and uncle, who were bringing Charlie from Texas. New Orleans was about the halfway point for both of us, so we met in the parking lot of an Academy Sports for the handoff.

Charlie handled the transition remarkably well. He was a little hesitant when it came time to climb into our truck, but my aunt gently coaxed him inside, and I spent the next two hours stroking his head. By the time we crossed back into Alabama, he had begun to settle in. He curled up on the dog cushions in the back seat and drifted off to sleep.

A life disrupted is rarely an easy one. Disruption brings anxiety and uncertainty because everything that once felt familiar—whether good or bad—is suddenly gone. The routines, rhythms, and relationships we counted on no longer exist in the same way. New patterns must be learned. New trust must be built.



We know this feeling ourselves. We experience it when we move, get married, welcome a new baby, lose a loved one, change jobs, or even introduce a new dog into the family. Disruption changes everyone involved. Charlie's life has now been upended twice, but the Frazer household is also adjusting to a new reality. And some of us are handling the transition better than others.

Archie seems convinced Charlie is simply a new playmate. Cuthbert has barely been fazed and, as expected, getting along well. Petunia, however, has other ideas. She has long ruled our household with an iron paw. While Cutty and Archie understand the rules, Charlie has yet to learn them, and Petunia is finding it much harder to establish her authority. Steve and I keep assuring her that these things take time, though if we're honest, we are somewhat concerned. Of course, Charlie has been with us for less than a day, so we're choosing hope over worry.

Charlie, for his part, seems to be settling in well. He likes his kennel in the kitchen and already loves exploring the backyard. Steve took him for a walk this morning, and he thoroughly enjoyed discovering the neighborhood. He lies down to drink water and eat his dinner. It's a little odd, but at least he isn't trying to steal anyone else's food. Mostly, he just seems to want to belong.

Still, I find myself wondering what must be going through his mind. Does he understand that he has been rehomed yet again? Does he miss my cousin? Texas? His former family? We can't ask him those questions, but anyone who has ever loved an animal knows they experience far more than instinct alone.

In the creation story, God gives *nephesh*—a Hebrew word often translated as "living being" or "living soul"—to every creature that has the breath of life both humans and animals. Scripture reminds us that all living creatures share in the gift of God's breath and bear the dignity of life that comes from the Creator. Perhaps that is why we recognize so much of ourselves in the animals we love. They experience fear and trust, delight and grief, companionship and loneliness. Their lives, like ours, are shaped by love and loss.

Charlie seems to be feeling all of those things right now. He is understandably anxious about his new surroundings, yet he is also overflowing with curiosity and joy. Every new smell, every toy, every walk seems to fill him with delight. When we offer him a calm and reassuring presence, he slowly begins to trust that he is safe.

His *nephesh* has undoubtedly been wounded by loss. But I also trust that the same God who breathed life into him continues to hold him, guiding him toward healing and new joy. Already, in these first few days, Charlie has brought unexpected joy into our home. I have every reason to believe that, in time, he will discover that he belongs here—and perhaps, in welcoming him, we will discover once again how God patiently welcomes each of us whenever life has left our own souls feeling displaced.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

GROW

Ascensionaire's Selma Field Trip! RSVP by July 9!

Included in your
Retreat is a
Delicious
Fresh Food Buffet
where each dish and
baked goods are
made in-house
using local
Ingredients

Food Restrictions
are honored
Jambalaya on the
5&Dime Spread

Gluten Free
Lactose Free
Nut Free
Vegetarian
& Vegan
Diners will
Also find many
options from
which to choose



July 16 10am-2:30pm 201 Broad St

5&Dime
One Day
Creativity
Retreat

Come spend a Day
in Selma, Alabama

at the 5&Dime's
OneDay
Creativity Retreat

We invite
YOU
to Come Play
while slipping
into the
Right side of
Your Brain

You will be
PLAYING with
Cyanotype (sunprints)
and
Collage

It is Impossible
to Mess Up!!!

No Art Experience
Required
(Infact, being a beginner
may be a benefit)

During Lunch
YOU get to
Break Bread
&
Listen to
Two Selma
Special Guest
Stars:
Joyce O'Neal
&
Henry Hudson
Share their
unique
Selma Story

Thursday
July 16
10am-
2:30pm

Arrive
10:00

Playtime
10:00-
11:30

Lunch &
Talks
11:30-
1:30

Finish
Projects
1:30-
2:30

Depart
2:30

\$50 Per
Person
Contact
Fay
Worrilow
By July 9

The **Forgotten Books**

Scripture Between the Testaments



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

Register Now!

EfM

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

As we look forward to a new year together, EfM (Education for Ministry) extends an invitation to anyone interested in a community experience that is a "... unique four-year, small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection." Ascension's EfM year begins the week after Labor Day and runs through the month of May (please note that you don't have to be an Ascension member to participate, and you can commit to participating on a year-by-year basis). You can find information about the program on Sewanee's website at <https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/>, or by contacting co-EFM Mentors Eric A. Kidwell (ericakidwell31@gmail.com) or Russ Wishum (russ.wishum@gmail.com), who will be happy to answer your questions.

In Trouble and In Wonder

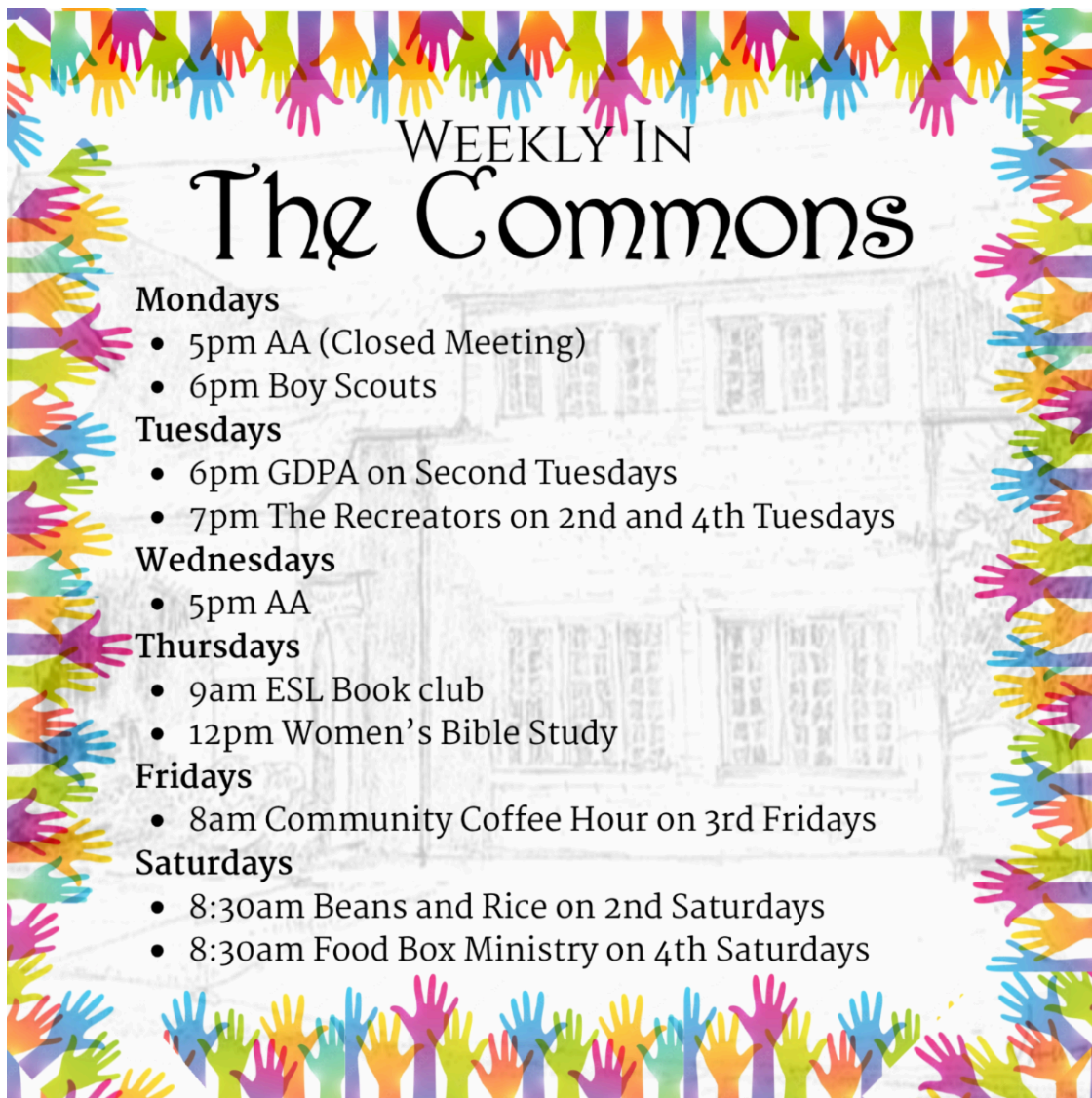
The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

SERVE

A decorative border at the top and bottom of the page, featuring 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

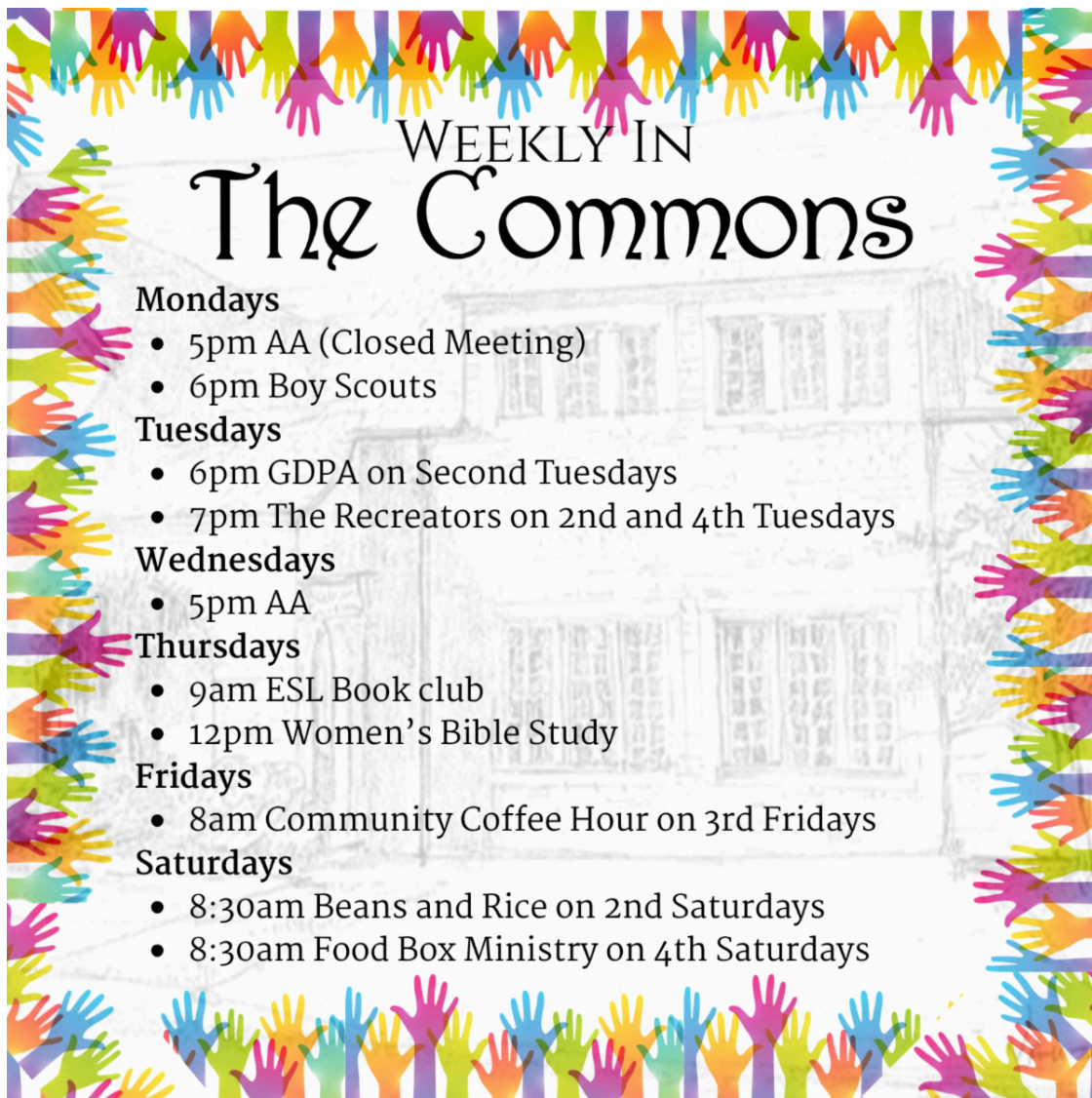
- 9am ESL Book club
- 12pm Women's Bible Study

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

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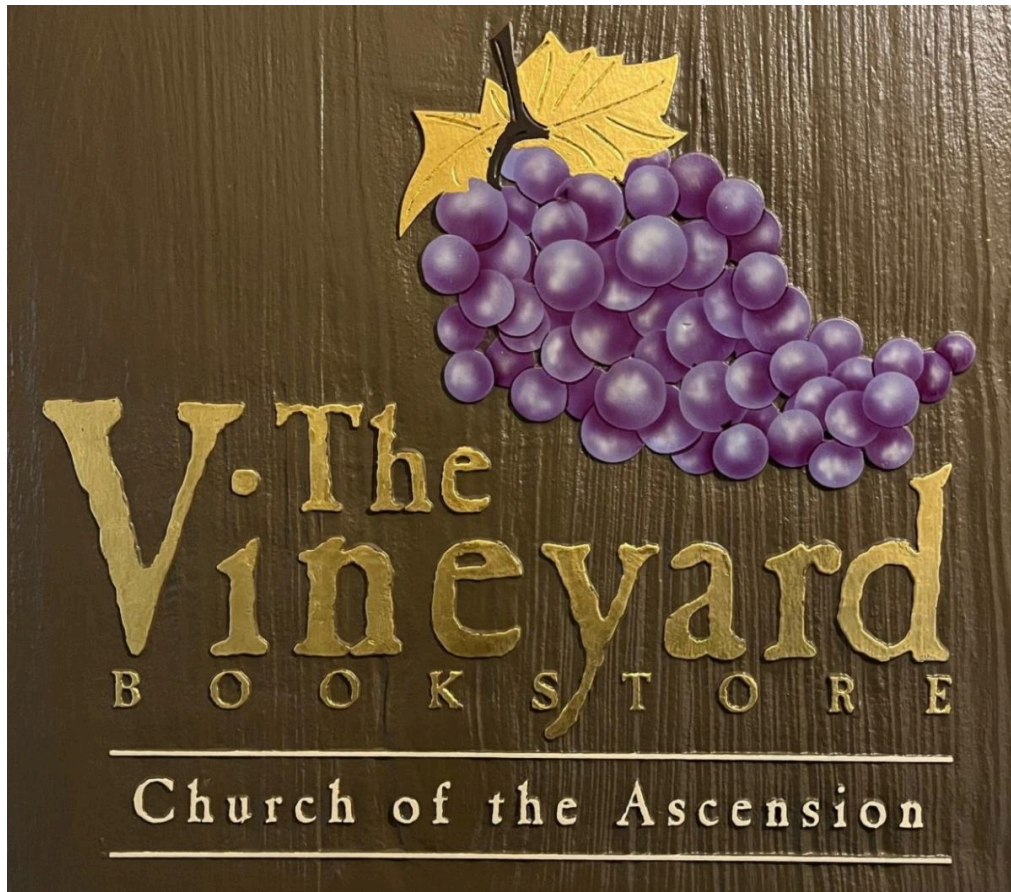
Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

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

The Vineyard will Reopen on September 13

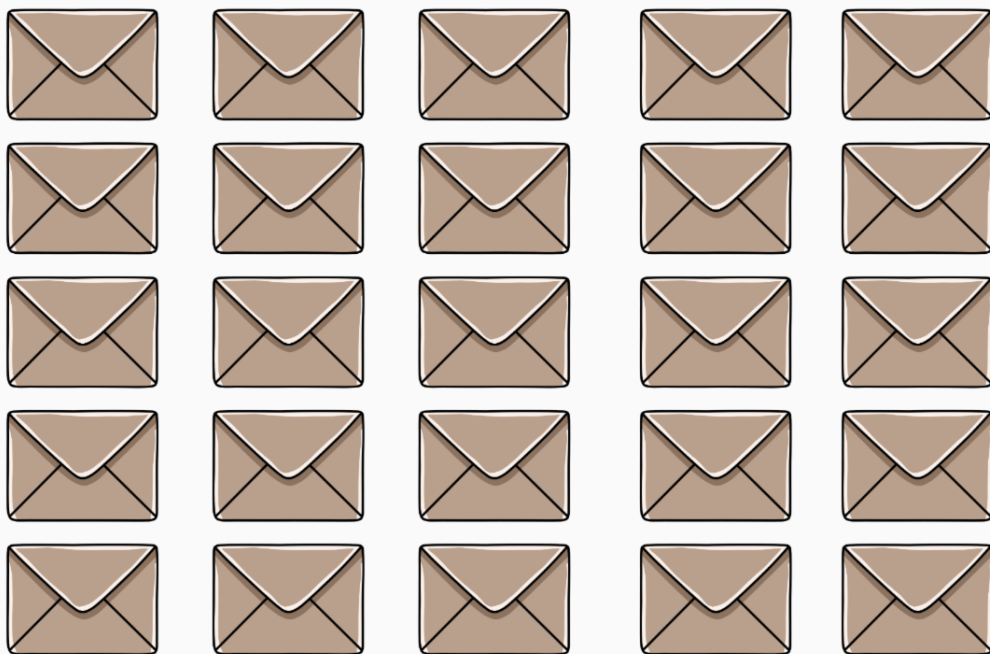


Downsizing? Decluttering?
The Vineyard is opening a new branch!

The Vineyard Treasure Shop

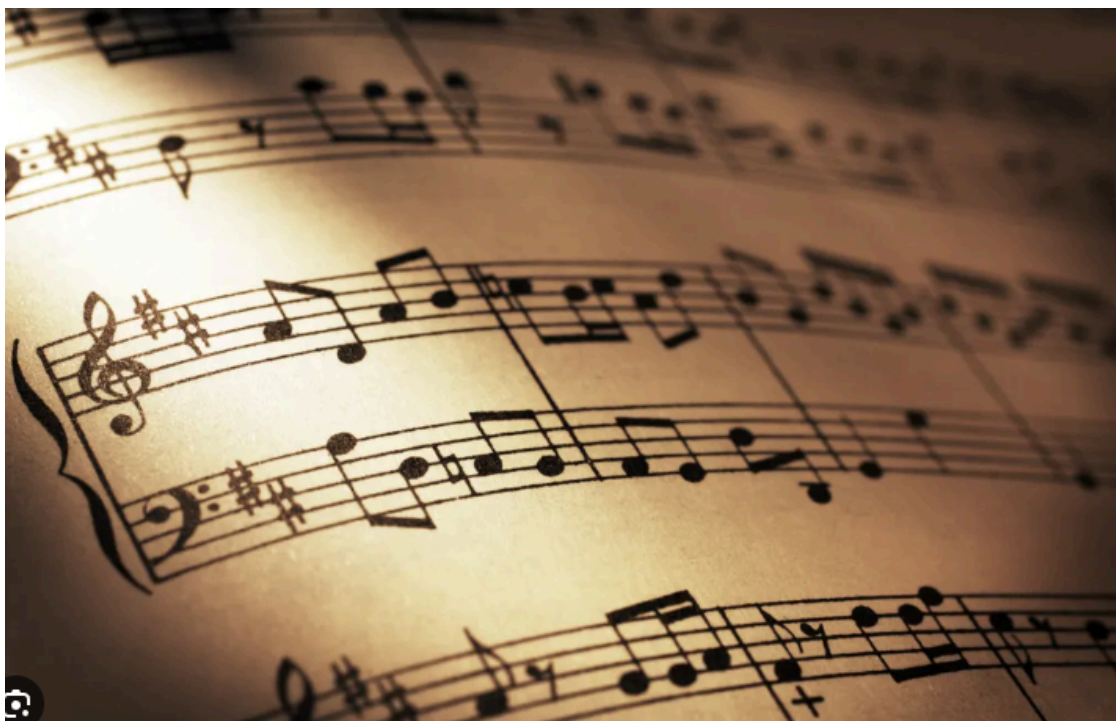
Please bring your “nice as new” items: home decor, artwork, antiques, serving pieces, decorative items, etc... to the small Vineyard room this summer. We will price and display everything for our Fall kick-off. Want to join the Vineyard Bunch? Call or text Lang Cardinal with questions or to volunteer.

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



We pray for our next Director of Music Ministry:

O God, who has blessed and sustained us through the years; we ask that you continue to lead us, stretch us, and direct us in our search for a new director of music. Raise for us, we pray, someone who will faithfully serve your people with love and compassion, leading us to be more deeply engaged in worship, that we may continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and be a beacon of love and hope to our community and the world. To the glory of your Holy Name.

Amen



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



Thank you to the Newcomer's for organizing and to The Recreators for providing great entertainment!



ASCENSIONAIRES SUMMER LUNCHEON

The Ascensionaires celebrated summer with a delicious lunch and joy-filled fellowship



**NO Bach's Lunch this Wednesday
Next Wednesday, St. John's Episcopal Church
Wallace Hornady, 12 Noon**



Bach's Lunch 2026

June 24 – Jacob Taylor - Trinity Presbyterian Church

July 8 – Wallace Hornady - St John's Episcopal Church

July 15 – Shannon Mathai - St John's Episcopal Church

July 22 – Jim Sadie - Church of the Ascension

July 29 – Becky Taylor - Church of the Ascension

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.

Next Week!



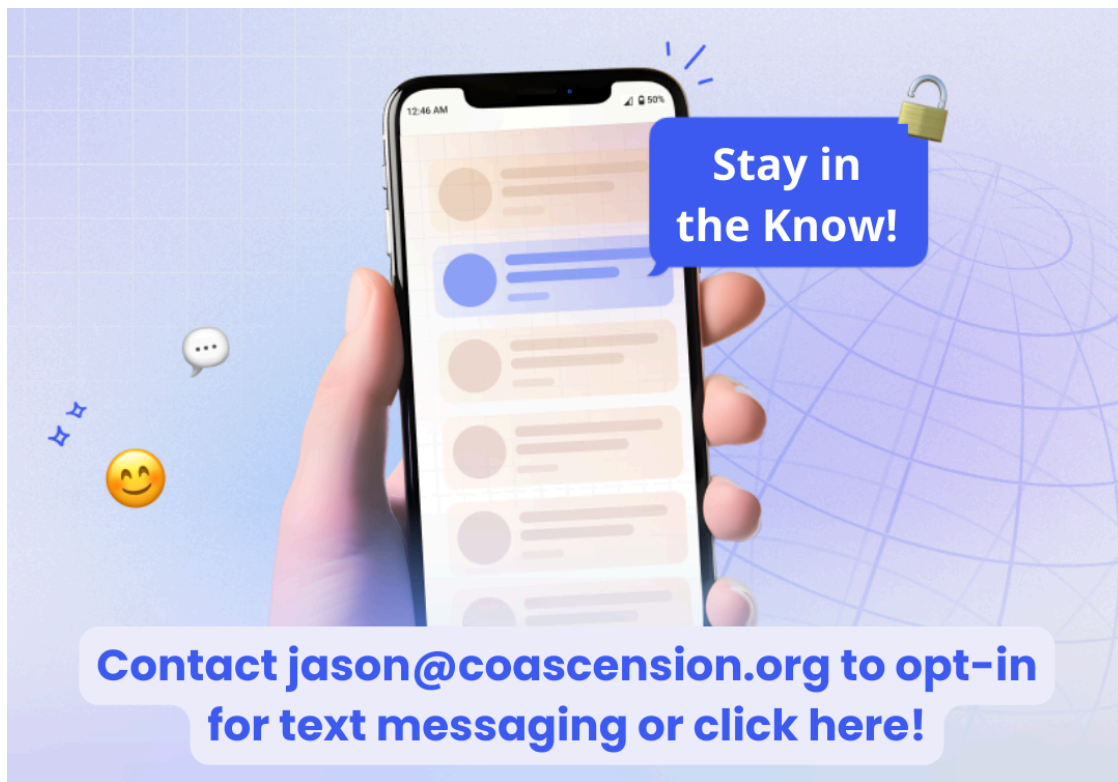
Ascension Children!

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!



Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector candice@coascension.org
Becky Taylor, Music Ministry beckytaylor@coascension.org
Will McQueen, Facilities Manager will@coascension.org
Tracy Hinton, Parish Administrator thinton@coascension.org
Jason Pate, Director of Communications jason@coascension.org
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Nick Mielke, Youth Family & Faith Formation Minister nick@coascension.org
Fay WorriLOW, 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.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Church of the Ascension | 315 Clanton Avenue | Montgomery, AL 36104 US

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