



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



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, Aug 13 @ 7:00 AM
- Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage - Saturday, Aug 15 @ 11:00 AM
- Backpack Blessing - Sunday, Aug 16 @ 10:30 AM
- Morning Prayer - Daily M-F @ 8:00 AM on FaceBook

From the Rector...

I am in Fish Creek, Wisconsin this week hanging with my seminary friends on our annual retreat. Each year the four of us find some place to gather for a few days, talk church, catch up on life, and share stories. We also try to have a little fun.

This morning we went hiking at Peninsula National Park. As we hiked Eagle's Trail on the side of Green Bay, I couldn't help but notice the rock formations and the intricate weave of roots that carpeted our path. The roots and rocks kept us on our toes as we scrambled over them.



At some point, our conversation turned to which was stronger--the roots or the rocks. A tree had fallen in the midst of the path. When it fell, it pulled up a rock that the roots of the tree had captured and now held suspended in the air. The rock was no small thing. it was more like a boulder. Though rock seems heavier and stronger than roots, it was telling that the roots were stronger than this rock...that is until the roots rot and then the rock will fall. The roots might be stronger than the rock while they are living, but once they have died and rotted away, the rock will still remain.

Looking at that tree and stone, I realized that living things can demonstrate strength and durability while things that are impermeable have a resilience that living things will not know. Each demonstrates a certain kind of strength. Who is to say which is better?

Rocks cannot determine where they will go or even what they will do. Roots reach to that which nourishes them and makes them healthy. A rock might last forever, but a root has "free will" so to speak.

Scripture talks about the root of Jesse. As Christians, we trace Jesus' lineage to King David--the root of Jesse. The imagery is an allusion to how we are connected not only in the present but across time and space through relationships, family lines, nationalities, even religion. Scripture speaks of rock as well, typically as a foundation upon which to build. To build upon rock is to ensure a solid foundation.

As Christians, as humans, we need both living connections and strong foundations. We need roots and rocks.

That is my hope for this retreat--to be rooted in the knowledge and love of God through the friendship I share with these women while trusting in Christ as our rock--the foundation of our relationship.

Light and Life,
Candice+

candice@coascension.org

SERVE

CHANGE OF CLAWS!

OUR LOBSTER FEST IS
MOVING!



NEW DATE:
OCTOBER 8!

COOLER WEATHER.
FRESH MAINE LOBSTER.
SAME **GREAT** TRADITION!

RIVER REGION LOBSTERFEST

GOOD FOOD. GOOD TIMES. GOOD COMPANY.

WE'LL SEA YOU THERE!

HOSTED BY
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

BENEFITING
ASCENSION DAY SCHOOL

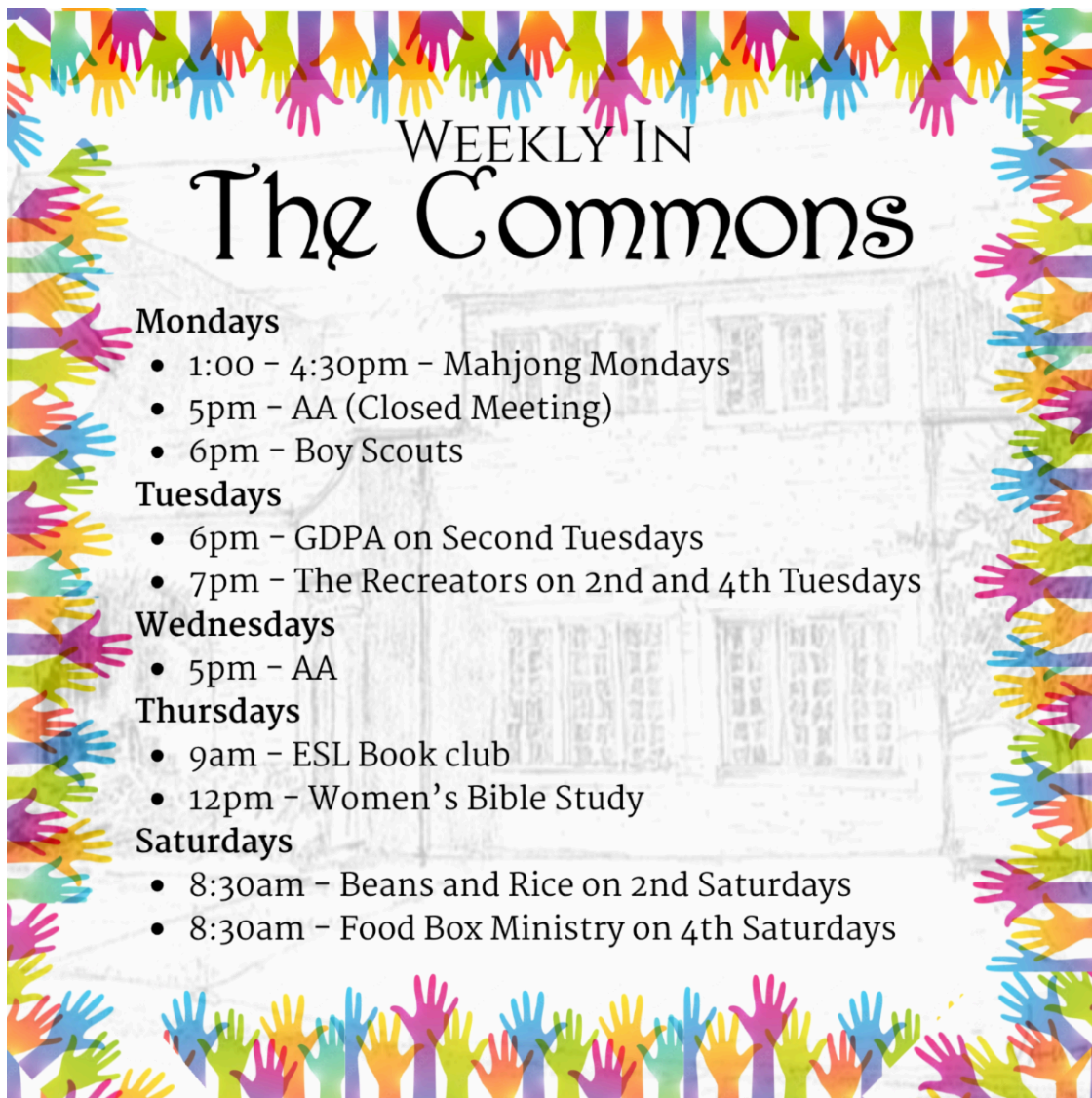
THE
RESPITE MINISTRY

ORDER TICKETS & LEARN MORE: RIVERREGIONLOBSTERFEST.ORG

Flower Vases Needed!



The Altar Guild is requesting medium and large flower vases! If you have vases you would like to donate please bring them and leave them in the Flower Room!

A decorative border at the top and bottom of the page, consisting of a row of colorful hands in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink) reaching upwards, set against a background of horizontal stripes.

WEEKLY IN The Commons

Mondays

- 1:00 - 4:30pm - Mahjong Mondays
- 5pm - AA (Closed Meeting)
- 6pm - Boy Scouts

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

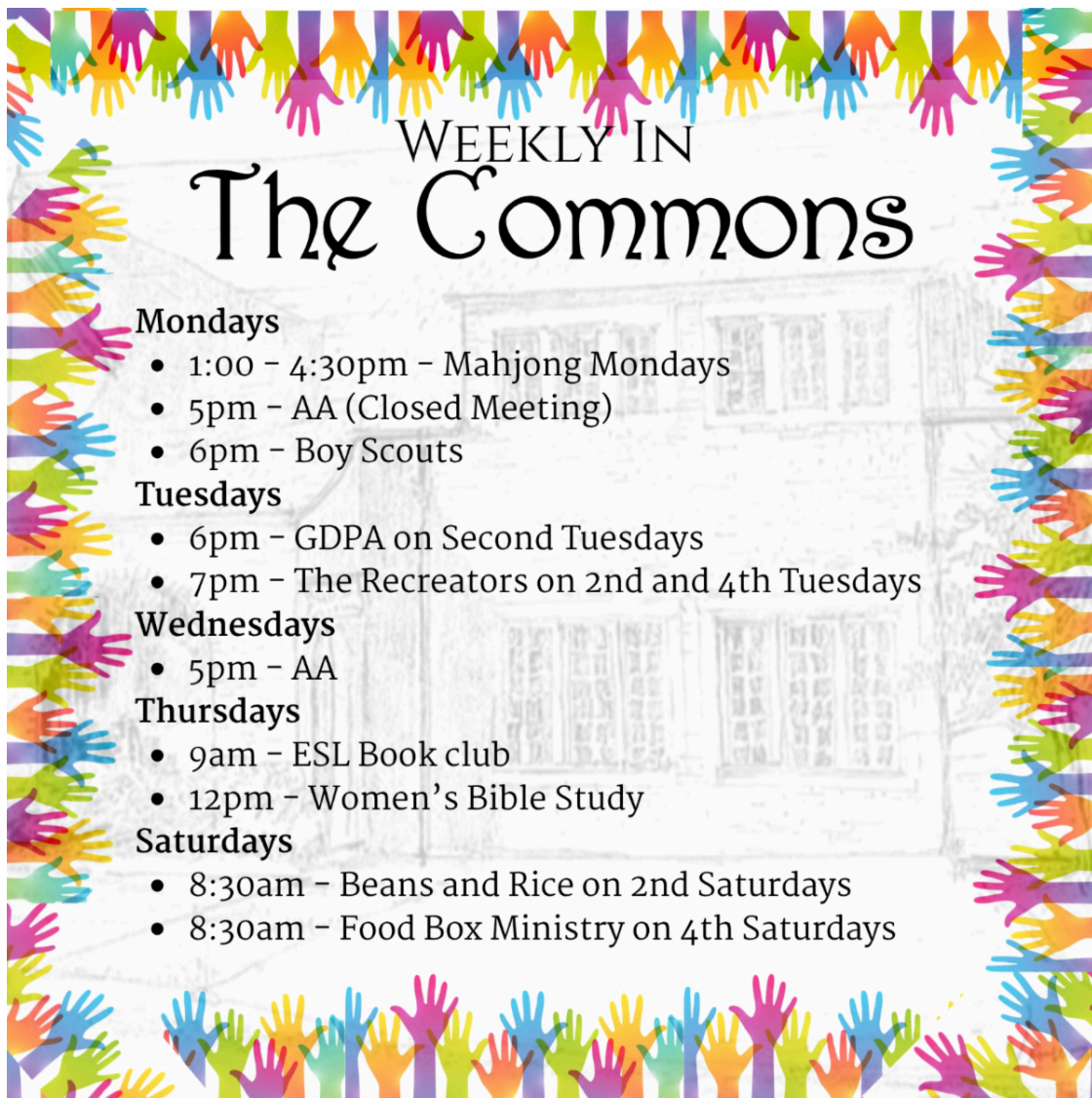
- 5pm - AA

Thursdays

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

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.

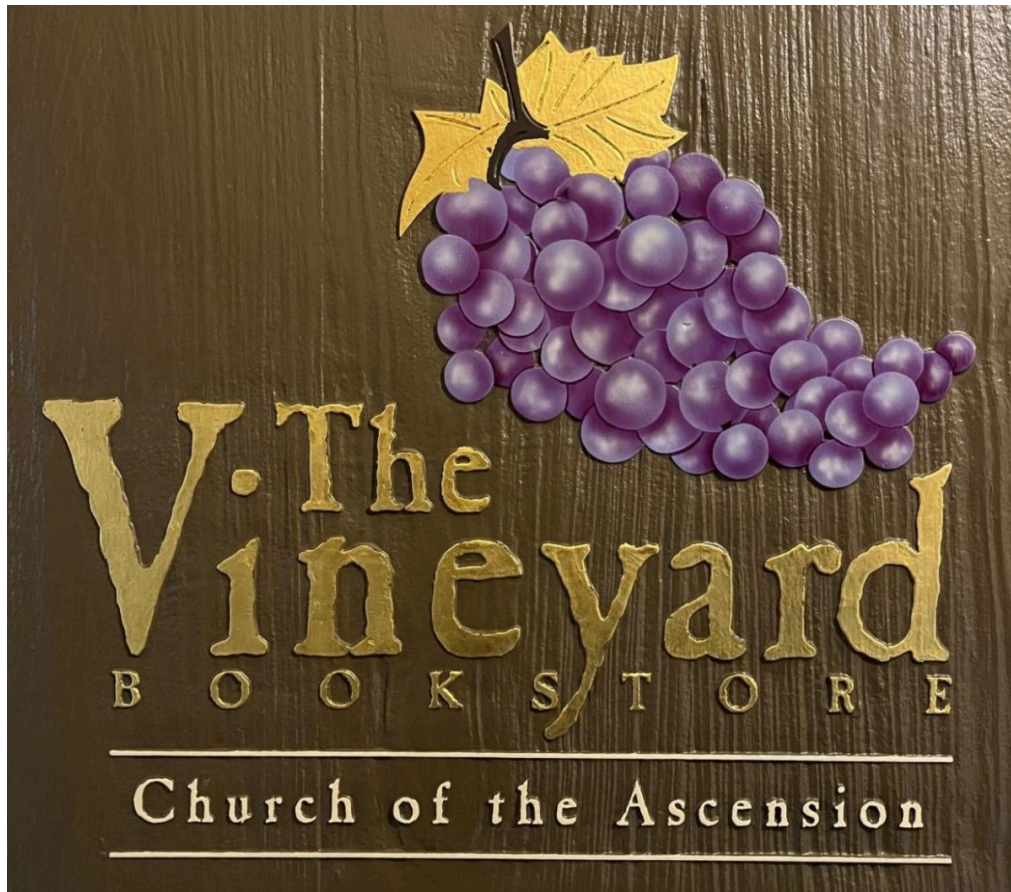
Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

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

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.

WORSHIP

This Sunday!

Backpack BLESSING

Sunday, August 16th



Children and teachers are invited to bring their bags or backpacks to the service to be blessed for the upcoming school year!



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

JIM CONELY - GUEST ORGANIST SUNDAYS, AUGUST 16 AND 23

James Conely (EdD) has served as church organist in Florida, New York City, San Antonio, and Montgomery, including 25 years for Montgomery's former Capitol Heights United Methodist Church. He has played organ recitals across the United States and is currently active as a guest organist for Alabama churches. His publishers include J. Fisher/Belwin Mills, Summy Birchard, Abingdon, and most recently three Lorenz collections and a forthcoming "Christ, the King" set. He is a Colleague Certificate member of the American Guild of Organists.



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





Ministry leaders reach out to [Fay](#) in order to reserve your table at the Ministry Fair by Thursday, September 10th!



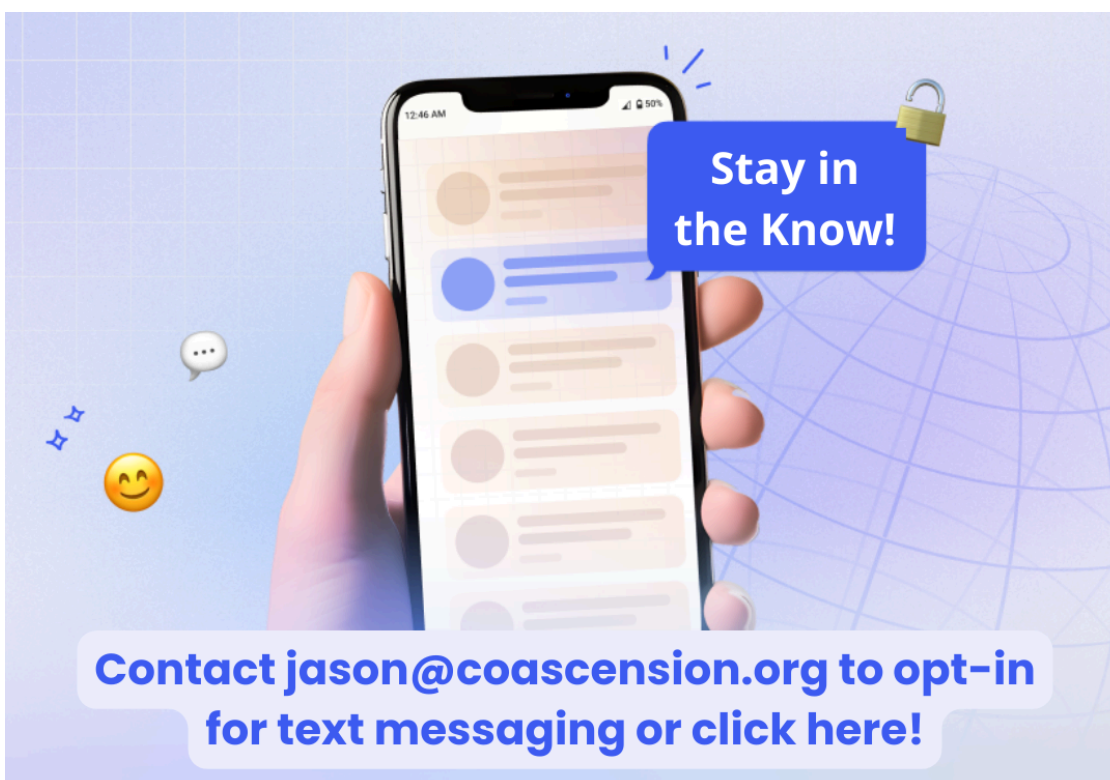
Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage



2026 Pilgrimage Event Details

- Event Date: Saturday, August 15, 2026
- Guest Preacher: The 13th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, Richard Lawson
- Location: Lowndes County Courthouse Square (1 South Washington Street, Hayneville, AL 36040)
- Time: 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m

Get Signed Up Today!



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.

Women's Bible Study Will Return August 20th!

In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector candice@coascension.org

Becky Taylor, Music Ministry beckytaylor@coascension.org

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Jason Pate, Director of Communications jason@coascension.org

Laura Mielke, Children Family & Faith Formation Minister laura@coascension.org

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.

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