



announcements

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

There will be no Sunday School for adults or children this week! We will resume on December 5th.

*At 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II will be celebrated in person, indoors.
At 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II will be celebrated online and in person, indoors.*

Please join us on Facebook. Having a Facebook account is not required.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!](#)

**[CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH
THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN!](#)**

Printed bulletins will be available for those attending in person.

Advent Devotions are available in the Narthex!

Copies of Forward Day by Day are available to those interested. They can be mailed for those not able to pick up in person; otherwise, they will be available to pick up in the Narthex.

UPDATED COVID-19 PROTOCOL

- **We are monitoring the numbers for COVID-19** in Norfolk and they are on the decline! Our goal is to keep everybody safe, and our plan is to maintain distance and mask requirements until the percentage of positivity ratings is below 5%. Once that happens, we will return to singing all hymn, masked, but will drop the requirement for masks during other portions of the service. We will continue our current procedure for communion.
- **The Day School is still operating under state mandates that require masks during Day School operations.** That means that anyone in the hallways or in the education wing is **REQUIRED** to wear a mask. Failure to do so could result in the revocation of tens of thousands of dollars in grants given to support our continued operation in this difficult time.
- **We give thanks to God** that strides have been made in reducing infection rates that allow us to make these changes. We will continue to monitor the situation and respond as things change. We appreciate your compliance and your patience!

Important reminder: No nuts are allowed in Rose Hall or anywhere in the education wing. There are children in the Day School whose allergies to nuts are life threatening. Also, because Virginia has not changed the requirements for masks in schools, should you be in the areas of the Church that are shared with the Day School, **you are required to wear a mask.**

UPCOMING CLASSES & EVENTS

Stewart is out of the office – Stewart will be on family leave from 11/29-12/18, as she cares for her mother who is undergoing knee replacement surgery. Though she will be available via email/phone during her absence, please contact our senior warden, Anji, if you have a pastoral emergency. Rev. Connie Jones will respond to pastoral care emergencies during this time, and Rev. Stan Sawyer will be standing in for Stewart on Sundays 12/5 and 12/12.

United Thanks Offering – It's nearing the end of November, and so it's time to wrap up the United Thanks Offering November Challenge! If you took a UTO Blue Box home, please be sure to turn it in this week! Thanks.

Lunch for the Romeos & Juliets – The Romeo and Juliet groups will be gathering for lunch on Friday, December 10th at 11:30am! Everyone is welcome to join in fellowship at the Olive Garden in Janaf Shopping Center. For more information, please contact Donna.

Wednesdays in Advent - a Service of Healing and Hope 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come for a quiet service, and a time to retreat from the hectic pace of life for a moment of healing and hope as we reflect on God's presence and promise.

Ascension at the Virginia Chorale Holiday Concert: Sunday afternoon, December 5, 4:00 PM, at Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norfolk. The Chorale offers a discount for groups of 10 or more - \$10 per person. For tickets, contact Sam. He will have your tickets at church that Sunday or at the door, but you must provide the payment to Sam. Or contact the Virginia Chorale office, 627-8375, info@vachorale.org.

Plastic bags collection bin – WAY more than just grocery bags! Ascension is helping Virginia Wesleyan University to collect plastic bags in exchange for a high-composite bench for their campus. Here is how it works: over the course of 6 months, VWU must recycle a minimum number of materials (500 pounds which are weighed and recycled monthly). The list of what is accepted is on the bin in the foyer, and includes Ziploc bags, grocery bags, as well as bubble mailers. Please **do not** use this for regular recycling. Bottles and cans and other recyclable items are not able to be collected for this project – only plastic bags and films.

Giving Joy at Christmas – Join us as we work with the Salvation Army to make Christmas morning one of joy and comfort for many folks in our community who could use some extra cheer this season! There are a few ways to help! You can choose to participate with the Angel Tree, purchasing gifts for a child in need, or you can fill a Christmas stocking for a child in need. Either way, you will be provided with a tag that gives some age/gender information, and sometimes information about what a child might like to receive. It is important to note: absolutely **no food, no candy, no weapons, and no play weapons can be gifted. Also, please do not wrap any items.** A mesh bag will be provided to you to put the gifts in. If you're not able to participate in directly shopping for a child, you are welcome to donate money which would allow us to purchase additional items. If you're not able to donate anything other than time, we welcome you to help us shop for additional items, as well as checking the gifts and stockings as they come in. There will be a bin in the Narthex available for you to drop off gifts and stockings. If you're interested in participating in any way, please get in touch with Anne.

Poinsettias for Christmas - Every year, we enjoy decorating our Altar with beautiful poinsettias! Many of you donate these poinsettias in memory or honor of the loved ones in your life. We would love to continue with this tradition! This year, we encourage you to pick up the poinsettias of your choice from one of many stores in our area who provide them at affordable rates, such as Aldi, Home Depot, Harris Teeter, or Food Lion. Please bring your poinsettia(s) with you on December 19, when we will do the greening! If you'd like your poinsettias to be given in memory or honor of someone, please get the appropriate information to the office by December 20th so we can ensure it is included in our publications that week! Thanks so much! You can call or email the office for more info! 757-423-6715 or office@ascension-norfolk.org.

Tuesday Centering Prayer meets at 6:45 Tuesday mornings on Zoom for one hour. The group is reading, New Seeds of Contemplation by Thomas Merton. We have 20 minutes of silent prayer followed by a discussion of the reading. You are invited to join us at any time. Please call Sally.

Re-imagining Church: For some time the Vestry has been meeting to grow – spiritually and in relationship to each other as we discern what God would have Ascension be and do. The weekly meetings have been centered around the Book Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory, but the conversation is accessible to those who haven't read the book and engages us all in imagining Church in a new era. We've had fun, and we've grown as we dream about and work on making the vision of being a face of healing a reality in our community and beyond. The Vestry is psyched, and wants you to experience how meaningful and fulfilling our work together can be, so we decided to open up the meeting to any who are interested in attending. We meet on Thursday at 8:00 AM by way of Zoom. We would love to have you join us!

Click [here](#) to access the Zoom meeting! **Meeting ID:** 828 3467 0938; **Passcode:** imagine

Thursday Mid-Morning Women's Bible Study: We will watch a video, read scripture passages and discuss the questions together. I recommend joining the meeting early in case you have any issues connecting. I hope to see everyone Thursday at 10:00 AM! If you are not on the email group, please email Susan.

Click [here](#) to access the Zoom meeting link!

Meeting ID: 885 8898 1289 **Passcode:** Bible

Automated giving: Please keep us in mind during this time. We are still paying our staff, and our expenses are ongoing. Now is a great time to set up bill pay with your bank. For many banks, this is a free service, and it helps the church with steady cash flow when things like vacations, holidays, or pandemics hit. You don't have to do anything after the initial setup; you even save a stamp every month. This automates your giving and gives us an idea what to expect each week.

Prayer Ministry: Thank you to the group of people we call our prayer chain, or prayer ministry, who respond with faithful prayer to requests for prayer. If you would like to become a member of the Prayer Ministry or if you would like to request prayer, please contact the office at office@ascension-norfolk.org or call 757.423.6715.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE CHURCH CALENDAR!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Joe, Mason, Myrna, Gloria Margaret, Jimmy, Patti, Debra, Peggy, Erin, Barbara, Pam Don, Beulah, Cecelia, Shana, Sydney, Diane, Chuck, Louise, Doug, Nancy.

We pray for those who are deployed and their families.

We give thanks for the birthdays of Nate, Robert, Janet, and Jimmy.

We give thanks for our pastoral care team.

Note: Names of those not directly connected to the church will be in the bulletin for three weeks.

OUR VISION IS

Honoring the Past
Looking Forward in Hope
Be the Face of Healing
Healing is the Core Value

Your Vestry is here to serve you:

Doug Thompson	2019-2022
Anji Harris*	2019-2022
Mitch Burton	2021-2023
Debra Griggs	2019-2022
Kris Huddle	2021-2024
Cindy Jones	2021-2024
Susan Meredith	2021-2024
Olga Gonzalez Nichols+	2021-2024

*Senior Warden Pro Tempore; +Junior Warden Pro Tempore

Vestry norms: With God's help we will...

- Be rooted in God's love for each of us and the world.
- Be clear about our mission, have an action plan, and identify milestones by which we move toward it.
- Be transparent about results and share results and information with the church.
- Clarity of communications to the Parish.
- Be accountable and responsible to each other and as a whole for our work together.
- Ask "What went well; what can we do better?"
- Be respectful.
- Agree to disagree, but work toward consensus and broad buy-in.
- The Vestry works together to make decisions on behalf of the whole church. When a decision is made, that is the decision of the Vestry as a whole. We will not take disagreements to the congregation.
- Listen with our hearts as well as our heads.
- Be curious, asking probing questions to better understand situations and each other's perspectives.
- Think big and outside the box.
- Participate, each and every one of us.
- When communicating especially by email, make sure that the whole Vestry is included.

Vestry Minutes are available online at ascension-norfolk.org/vestry