



Ascension Extension

APRIL 2025

www.ascension-westminster.com

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Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court St.
Westminster, MD

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Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



Rector's Message

Embark on a Sacred Journey: Holy Week and the Triumph of Easter!

Dear people of Ascension, this April we stand on the threshold of Easter, the culmination of our Lenten pilgrimage. But before the radiant joy of resurrection, we are invited to walk alongside Jesus through the profound and transformative days of Holy Week. This is not merely a remembrance; it's an immersive experience, a journey into the heart of our faith, where we witness the ultimate act of love and redemption.

Palm Sunday: A Whirlwind of Emotion! Feel the energy as we begin with Palm Sunday! The sanctuary will burst with the vibrant red of royalty and sacrifice as we recreate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Imagine the cheers, the waving palms, the electric anticipation. Yet, even in this moment of glory, the shadow of the cross looms. We will hear the Passion narrative, a stark reminder of the journey ahead, a dramatic shift from jubilation to profound sorrow.

Maundy Thursday: A Lesson in Love and Humility! Join us on Maundy Thursday as we gather for the Last Supper. Witness the tender act of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, a powerful symbol of servant leadership. Experience the sacred mystery of the Eucharist, where bread and wine become a tangible expression of Christ's love. As the service concludes, we will enter into a poignant silence, a moment of deep reflection as the altar is stripped, preparing us for the somberness of Good Friday.

(Continued on p. 2)

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Day Off: Monday

rector@ascension-westminster.com

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am -3:00 pm

office@ascension-westminster.com

Ascension is called to be a family of faith so reflecting the life of Christ, that we draw all people to him.

April Worship

April 3

Memorial Service: Dennis Hatfield

11:00 am H.E. Rite II

12:30 pm Reception, Fellowship Hall

April 6

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Youth Sunday

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

April 13

Palm Sunday

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study

Palm Sunday Procession before the 10:15 am service.

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

11:45 am Fellowship Hour

April 17

Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm H.E. Rite II, Stone Church

April 18

Good Friday

11:00 am **Community Cross Walk** begins at Church of the Ascension

12:00 pm **Community Good Friday service** at Westminster United Methodist Church

6:00 pm **H.E. Rite II, Stone Church**

April 20

Easter Sunday

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

Rector's Message continued...

Good Friday: A Silent Witness to Sacrifice! The silence of Good Friday is deafening. We enter into a space of profound reverence, contemplating the weight of Jesus' sacrifice. The cross, a symbol of suffering, becomes a testament to God's boundless love. We will walk with Jesus through his crucifixion, reflecting on the depths of his pain and the immensity of his gift.

Easter Sunday: A Symphony of Resurrection! Then, the darkness breaks! Easter Sunday explodes with the brilliance of white, the color of purity and victory! The air will be filled with the resounding Alleluias, a joyous declaration of Christ's resurrection! Bring your bells and join the symphony, ringing out the triumphant news of new life each time we say or sing Alleluia! Feel the surge of hope as we celebrate the dawn of a new era, where death is defeated and love prevails.

This Holy Week is a seamless narrative, a continuous journey from the palms to the empty tomb. We are not just spectators; we are participants in this sacred story. By attending these services, we open ourselves to a deeper connection with Christ, allowing his transformative love to reshape our lives.

I warmly invite you to attend, in-person or online, these deeply meaningful services. Let us walk together, experience the full spectrum of emotions and meanings, and emerge on Easter Sunday with hearts overflowing with joy and renewed faith.

May this Holy Week be a time of profound spiritual renewal and a powerful reminder of the enduring love that conquers all.

In Christ's love,
Pierre-Henry+



Worship Assistants: April 2025

Altar Guild: Team 3

Ellen Anderson, Dorothy Carpenter, Jennie Grabill, Lisa Jamison, Melissa Leahy

	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicians	Worship Slides
April 6 8:00 am	Cheryl Vecera		Jennie Grabill		
April 6 10:15 am	1. 2.	Olivia Carpenter	Ellen Anderson	1. Betsy Reinders 2. John Holbert 3. Helen Lang 4. Sandy White	Emelia Howe
April 13 8:00 am Palm Sunday	Bill Sears	1. Roberta Wilhelm 2. 3.	Beverly Baker		
April 13 10:15 am Palm Sunday	1. 2.	1. Buck Lyon-Vaiden 2. Kevin McIntyre 3. Barbara Sears	Kat Dittrich	1. Helen Lang 2. Kevin McIntyre 3. Betsy Reinders 4. Rick Reinders	Jeanne Cox
April 17 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday		John Holbert			
April 18 6:00 pm Good Friday	David Kreider	1. Liz Lowe 2. Barbara Sears 3. John Holbert	Kat Dittrich		
April 20 8:00 am Easter Sunday					
April 20 10:15 am Easter Sunday	1. 2.	Betsy Reinders		1. Betsy Reinders 2. John Holbert 3. Sandy White 4. Bobbie Gooding	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
April 27 8:00 am	Bill Sears		Jennie Grabill		
April 27 10:15 am	1. 2.	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. Helen Lang 2. John Holbert 3. Sandy White 4.	Jeanne Cox

Church Staff

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson	Rector
Ann Fariss	Parish Administrator
Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Communications Associate/Handbell Choir Director
Mary Butler	Organist/Adult Ensemble Director
Donna Parker	Organist/Praise Ensemble and Children's Choir Director
Travis Collins	Digital Ministry Associate
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant
Erin Hagan	Nursery Assistant

Preparing for Holy Week and Easter



Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 20

Easter Candy and plastic Easter Egg donations are due in the Church Office by **Sunday, April 13.**

Easter Flower donations in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for someone/something are due by **Wednesday, April 16.**



A donation form can be found on p.11 of this newsletter, in the weekly Enews, or on the Resources page of the church website.

Holy Week Worship Assistants are needed on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday (*especially Ushers and Acolytes!*). Please volunteer in [Sign Up Genius](#) or by calling the Church Office.


Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157



PALM SUNDAY
Sunday, April 13, 2025

Worship Services:
8:00 am - Stone Church
10:15 am - Holy Cross Hall

Church of the *Ascension*
Connect. Grow. Serve.




Maundy Thursday
April 17
6:00 pm
Stone Church

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Good Friday
April 18
6:00 pm - Stone Church

Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court St.
Westminster, MD 21157



Easter Sunday
April 20
8:00 am
Stone Church

Easter Egg Hunt
after the 10:15 am
service

10:15 am
Holy Cross Hall

23 N. Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Church of the *Ascension*
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The Vestry		
Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson		Rector, Stewardship, Digital Ministry, Memorials
Kim Tompkins, Sr. Warden	2027	Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Altar Guild
Gary Lang, Jr. Warden		Buildings & Grounds
Nancy Starner, Treasurer		
Deborah Rio, Registrar	2028	
Beverly Baker	2026	
Liz Lowe	2026	
Roberta Wilhelm	2026	
Diana Baker	2027	
David Anderson	2027	
Mark Howe	2028	
Melissa Leahy	2028	

Notes from the March 18 Vestry Meeting

Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Kim Tompkins (Senior Warden), Gary Lang (Jr. Warden), Beverly Baker, Liz Lowe, Roberta Wilhelm, Debbie Bargar (Finance Chair), David Anderson, Mark Howe, Deborah Rio, Melissa Leahy. Excused: Diana Baker.

After the opening prayer led by Fr. Pierre-Henry, the Vestry approved the Consent Agenda, including the minutes from the February 18, 2025, Vestry meeting as well as reports from the Rector and Senior Warden.

Debbie Bargar, Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed the Financial Reports for February 2025. The total income for February was \$42,597.44 and the total expenses were \$43,765.37, resulting in a \$1,167.93 deficit for the month.

The Vestry elected Nancy Starner as Treasurer and Deborah Rio as Registrar for 2025. One delegate and one alternate will need to be elected in the near future for the Diocesan Convention scheduled for November 21-22, 2025.

Beverly Baker provided a thorough update for Fundraising activities including a Dinner Dance in June, a Purse Bingo in September, a Spaghetti Dinner in October and Breakfast with Santa in December. These events are also posted on the bulletin board outside of the Holy Cross Hall. The Fellowship Hall is also being rented out for events and advertising will be added to the church website. Kim Tompkins reported that the remaining open lead positions for the Mistletoe Mart have now been filled and transition discussions will begin. The Mistletoe Mart will take place November 13-15, 2025. Gary Lang provided Buildings & Grounds updates, including lighting sensors for the Fellowship Hall building, carbon monoxide sensor testing, and scheduling a Spring workday. Options regarding the honeybees, wasps and yellow jackets in the Stone Church will be researched as the weather gets warmer.

Fr. Pierre-Henry is pursuing the open Music Ministry position as Donna and Joe Parker will move to Texas in early May. The Vestry also approved a new Children and Youth Director position for this year.

David, Mark, Deborah and Melissa were warmly welcomed to the Vestry!



FINANCE

Tidbit

LOAN

Our **Middendorf Revolving Loan** is restricted to assist in the “construction, renovation, and improvement of church property. It includes, but is not limited to, church buildings, rectories, and other capital assets. It is restricted to brick and mortar, or the acquisition of property, but NOT for program or other intangible purposes.

We have a 10-year loan with a simple interest rate at 4% per annum. Our **monthly payment** on our \$150,000 loan is **\$1,448.41 per month**. Our current **loan balance** is **\$135,045.26**.

Mistletoe Mart #51 will take place November 13-15, 2025! **Mark your calendar!**

Thank you! We have now filled the remaining open team lead positions for the Facility Tear Down/Set Up team and have volunteers who will assist the Decorating team this year and assume the lead role by Mistletoe Mart 2026. Transition discussions will begin shortly and the rest of the Mistletoe Mart committees are busy planning for this year's Mart! We truly appreciate the open, honest and supportive discussions which took place during our Annual Parish Meeting held February 23. We have an amazing parish family!

We are currently on track to have 44 vendors for Mistletoe Mart 2025 (Several vendors are purchasing double spots). Vendor jurying was completed at the end of March.

Based upon the proceeds from Mistletoe Mart 2024, the committee's donations to both Ascension and Committee Outreach initiatives are:

- \$ 33,700 to Ascension
- \$ 10,000 to Community Outreach, including:
 - Access Carroll
 - Bridging Life (CC Times Holiday Hope)
 - Caring Carroll
 - Carroll County Food Sunday (CC Times Holiday Hope)
 - Carroll County Youth Service Bureau
 - Church Homes Foundation (Timber Ridge)
 - DreamBuilders MD, Joyce's Crew
 - Ghanaian Mothers' Hope (Summer Reading Program)
- HSP of Carroll County
- Meals on Wheels
- NESAP
- Target Communication & Educational Services
- The Arc of Carroll County
- The Shepherd's Staff (Festival of Trees)
- Westminster Rescue Mission
- YMCA Turkey Trot
- 4H Fair Cake Sale / Auction

Thank you, again, for your ongoing support for the Mistletoe Mart! We are grateful!

Mistletoe Mart Co-Chairs
Jenny Beeker, Kim Tompkins



DreamBuilders MD

dreambuildersmd.org

Just over \$20,000 was made during the March 8 Spaghetti Dinner, Silent Auction and Raffle fundraiser! In addition to funds from other sources, about \$10,000 is yet to be raised toward the goal of \$75,000 needed to build 3 new homes in Kentucky in June. A big THANK YOU to all from Ascension who contributed in any way!

And the winner of the 75" TV is JEANNE COX!!!
Congratulations and many thanks for buying the raffle tickets!
Many thanks for your continued support of DreamBuilders!



2025 Projects:

April 26: Two story townhome in Columbia, MD

- Remove carpet from 2nd floor: 3 bedrooms, hallway and closets, approximately 500 sq. ft.
- Paint baseboard in all rooms
- Install Vinyl Tile laminate flooring throughout
- Install shoe molding throughout

June 15-21: Return to Hazard, Kentucky for the third time to build 3 new homes.

May Newsletter



Claggett Center Summer Camps

claggettcenter.org/youth-programs



Registration is open!

Church of the *Ascension*

Children and Youth Ministries



Youth Sunday

youth@ascension-westminster.com



Youth Sunday

Sunday, April 6 will be Youth Sunday during the 10:15 am service! The children and youth are invited to be active participants in the liturgy. The Children's Choir will sing. If your child is interested in ushering, reading, being an acolyte, singing or anything else, please let us know.

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 20



Peep Show: April 11-21

The Foundations Sunday School Class placed an entry in the 2025 Carroll County PEEP Show. It's title is "O Holy Peep." It was designed by Lila, and the class had a hand in creating parts for the display.



Please come out and vote for their entry at the Town Mall of Westminster in the old Sears store from **April 11 to 21**. (Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm. Sunday: 12pm-6pm)

Free Summer Programs

We're excited to announce the return of our Free Summer Programs, offering creative, educational, and fun experiences for children in our community! To make this year's program a success, we need your help.

Dates & Times: July 14–18 and July 21–25 (excluding Wednesdays). Sessions are 1–2 hours, with time slots between 9 AM–12 PM and 12 PM–7 PM.

How You Can Help:

- Lead a Session: Share a skill, hobby, or activity with kids ages 3–12.
- Assist with Setup: Help organize materials and prepare spaces.
- Provide General Support: Assist participants, manage supplies, or help clean up.

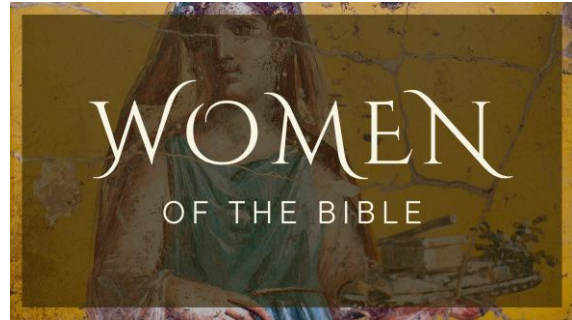
Safeguarding Certification: Required for at least one adult per session. Email us at youth@ascension-westminster.com for certification info.

Support Provided: You'll receive a child roster (ages, allergies, etc.), activity ideas, and assistants to help during your session.

Interested? Email us at youth@ascension-westminster.com or contact Jackie Weschler to share your availability and how you'd like to help. Your time and enthusiasm can make this summer unforgettable for our community. Thank you for your support—we can't wait to hear from you!

Tuesday Bible Study**Tuesday at 9:30 am**

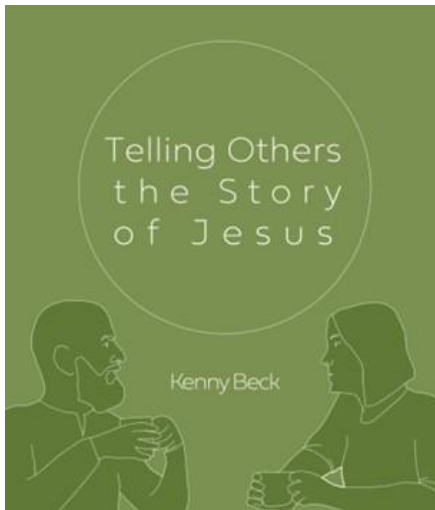
Our Women of the Bible study will meet on April 1, April 15 and April 29 at 9:30 am. Please contact Bill Sears for questions or additional information.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study****Sunday at 9:00 am**

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study Hour

SUNDAY
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

GUILD ROOM

Thursday Night Bible Study**Thursday at 6:30 pm****Telling Others the Story of Jesus**

In person and via Zoom

5 Sessions: April 24 - June 5

(We will not meet on Thursday, May 1 or Thursday, May 29.)

Most likely, if you are a believer, you want to share your faith in Christ with others. But many times, Christians aren't totally sure about what to say and how to say it. Drawing from New Testament stories, we figure out the basic core of the gospel, a core that can be easily shared with others.

Contact: Lynn Lyon-Vaiden



**BOOK
CLUB**

2025

Join us at 12:30 pm
in the Guild Room.

April 30: *Dream State* by Eric Puchner

May 28: *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

June 28: *The Engineer's Wife*
by Tracey Enerson Wood

July 30 & August 27: We will share
our favorite summer reading books.

September 24: *David Copperfield*
by Charles Dickens

October 29: *The Grapes of Wrath*
by John Steinbeck

We will not meet in November & December.

Winter Wear Blowout Sale

60% off Fall/Winter Clothing and Accessories

March 28 & 29

April 4 & 5



Friday: 10am-1pm
Saturday: 10am-3pm

1844 Shoppe
23 N. Court St.
Westminster, MD

Themed Potluck Lunch: April 25



In Loving Memory

Our sister in Christ, Mary Lee Schmall, died peacefully on March 6 at Brightview Assisted Living in Westminster. Homebound for several years, Mary Lee was very active at Ascension which she joined in September of 1961.

The funeral was held on March 21 and was followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.



We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Dennis Hatfield. Dennis, who was 62 years old, passed away unexpectedly early on March 21 due to a heart attack. Dennis and his family were member of Ascension for many years, and many remember them very well.

The funeral service will be held at Ascension on **Thursday, April 3, at 11:00 am**. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

One Usher and one Chalcist are needed. Please use Sign Up Genius to volunteer or contact the Church Office.

St. James' Guild will host the reception.

Please RSVP if you will attend and/or help by providing a food donation, by setting up, by serving during the reception or by cleaning up after it ends.



Easter Flowers 2025

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Flower Fund, and help beautify the church at Easter time, while remembering loved ones or in thanksgiving for someone/something, please list the names below and mail or return to the Church office by no later than **Wednesday, April 16th**.

Checks should be made payable to **Church of the Ascension** in any amount. Please write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line of your check.

Your Name: _____

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