

# weekly announcements

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Making Christ Known by our Love for All



**First Sunday after the Epiphany | January 11, 2026**

**Episcopal Church 101 | Begins TODAY - February 22**

Beginning in January, join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. to learn about the Episcopal Church and what it means to follow Jesus in our tradition. Required for those seeking confirmation or reception, and open to all who want to learn more. The bishop will visit on March 1 for confirmation. Email [jack.alvey@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:jack.alvey@ascensionepiscopal.org) to enroll or with questions.

**Faith Formation Resumes | TODAY**

We're excited to kick off a new winter season of Faith Formation that begins today! Join us as we reconnect, learn, and grow together in faith. Don't forget to join us at 8:45 a.m. for a hot breakfast!

**EYC | TONIGHT**

Spring EYC is here! Middle and high school students are invited to join us for Spring EYC! We'll meet from 5:30–7:15 p.m. on January 11th & 25th for dinner, fellowship, games, and meaningful conversation. Come as you are and bring a friend — dinner is provided! Questions? Contact Sam Herman at [youth@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:youth@ascensionepiscopal.org)

**Rock Solid (Club 345) | January 14**

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension welcomes children in grades 3-5 to join us after school to build a strong foundation of faith. This spring we will explore the stories of Jesus that remind us to trust in Jesus and love others! If you have any questions please reach out to Ashley Monachelli Director of Family Ministries [ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org).

**MLK Day of Service | January 19**

Ascension invites you to participate in a day of community service and engagement on January 19th, MLK Day. We will meet at Ascension at 9:00 a.m. for a quick breakfast and prayer service, then head to various volunteer locations in the Birmingham area until noon. Please register to attend by Monday, January 12th. Contact Emily ([emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org)) for more information.

**Women's Ministry | January 20**

Save the date for our next Women's Ministry event! We will meet on January 20th, details TBD.

**Soup Social | January 21**

Join us for soup and fellowship, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Ware Hall. No cost—just come and enjoy! Contact Kathy Lounsbury at [lounsbury.k@icloud.com](mailto:lounsbury.k@icloud.com).

**Cursillo Informational Dinner | January 25**

Mary Beth Basu and Rebecca invite you to an informational dinner about Cursillo on Saturday, January 25, from 5:30–6:30 p.m. in Ware Hall. This gathering is open to past Cursillo participants as well as anyone interested in attending a future Cursillo weekend. If you enjoyed the Parish Retreat, you'll love Cursillo! We'll share information, answer questions, enjoy fellowship, and of course sing a couple of songs. Chili will be provided, and guests are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. All are welcome—come learn more and enjoy a relaxed evening together!

### **Men's Fireside Chat | January 27**

The monthly men's evening gathering is *moving* to 4th Tuesdays. Join us for the first gathering of 2026 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. We will meet at Buddy Sharbel's house, please RSVP via Realm or e-mail Martin Hoener, [mhoerner@gmail.com](mailto:mhoerner@gmail.com). Drinks and snacks will be provided.

### **Episcopal Place Birthday Party | February 1**

We're excited for our Groundhog Day-themed birthday party at Episcopal Place. It will take place on February 1st from 1–3 PM. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 12 PM to help with setup. We'll need volunteers to contribute snacks and small treats to use as gifts, see the sign-up-genius on our website to volunteer! For more information, please contact Kelly Burke at [kellybo09@me.com](mailto:kellybo09@me.com).

### **Casual Eucharist | February 1**

Join us on Sunday, February 1 at 5:00 p.m. in Ware Hall for a Casual Eucharist. Come as you are for an evening of worship and Holy Communion in a relaxed setting. Music will be led by Sam Herman and parish volunteers and will feature hymns and songs from *The Hymnal 1982*, *Alleluia III*, and other contemporary sources.

### **News & Notes**

#### **Giving Hope January**

This month for our Giving Hope Outreach we are collecting donations to support the food pantry at Grace Episcopal Church in Woodlawn. Most needed items include rice, canned soups and vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, and granola bars. Thank you for your support!

#### **What's New in Faith Formation in 2026?**

- **Rector's Bible Study – *A Who's Who of the Bible*** - Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Sunshine Room.
- **Adult Faith Formation – *Seven Signs in John's Gospel*** - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Ware Hall.
- **Women's Bible Study** - Tuesdays at 12 p.m. in the Sunshine Room.

#### **The Abbey Volunteers**

Help pack lunches Wednesdays or distribute Thursdays in Avondale. Sign up in Sign-Up Central or contact [rossparker@att.net](mailto:rossparker@att.net).

#### **First Light Volunteers**

Serve a meal to women and children at First Light Shelter. Sign up in Sign-Up Central or contact [caralynmcdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:caralynmcdaniel@gmail.com).

#### **Breakfast Teams**

Join a Breakfast Team! We're looking for team members (men and women) to help cook breakfast on a rotating basis every 4 weeks before Sunday School. Team leaders are already in place—we just need you! If you're interested or have questions, email Christy at [christy.smith@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:christy.smith@ascensionepiscopal.org).

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