

weekly announcements

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Making Christ Known by our Love for All



Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 21, 2025

Sponsor Christmas Flowers | Deadline is TODAY

Sign up on our website or in Terrill Foyer if you would like to sponsor Christmas flowers. The deadline is TODAY!

Jam Session | TODAY

Calling all musicians! This Sunday at 11:45 AM we will be gathering in the Nave for a casual jam session! Bring your instrument and/or your voice — all skill levels welcome! We'll be playing songs from the Alleluia III book, along with festive Christmas music. Whether you love to strum, sing, or just want to be part of the music-making, come join us! Contact Sam Herman with any questions you might have, youth@ascensionepiscopal.org.

Advent Wellness Group | TODAY

This Advent, explore “Practicing Generosity with all your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind” through Living Compass. Pick up a devotional booklet for personal use, and/or join a small group today at 4:30–5:30 p.m. for discussion and reflection. We will meet in the McDowell Suite. Contact Mary Beth Basu at marybethbasu@gmail.com for details.

Pier 23 Christmas Cookie Swap | TONIGHT

Join us on December 21st from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a Christmas cookie swap hosted by Callahan Thompson (RSVP to Emily Collette, emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org for the address). Bake one to two dozen cookies to share with your friends, and bring home cookies made by other Pier 23 (20s/30s group) members! Dinner will be provided.

EYC Christmas Party | TONIGHT

Cozy and Crazy Christmas! Join us December 21 from 5:30–7:15 p.m. at Ascension for festive fun, a hot cocoa bar, cookie decorating, games, and a Dirty Santa gift exchange (max \$10). Wear your favorite Christmas PJs, ugly sweater, or holiday socks! *EYC is for those in 6th - 12th grades.*

Christmas Eve Services | December 24

Join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth. Our Family Service with Eucharist begins at 3 p.m., perfect for worshiping together with children. At 5:30 p.m., enjoy the Music of Christmas, a beautiful prelude of carols and instrumental pieces. Then at 6 p.m., we gather for a Traditional Service with Eucharist, filled with candlelight, scripture, and song. *Nursery available at both services!*

Christmas I Worship | December 28

Next Sunday at Ascension join us for a regular worship service at 8:00 a.m., and **Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion** at 10:30 a.m.

Parish Retreat | January 3-4

Join your parish family for fellowship, meals, and our Saturday night Three Kings Party potluck! The retreat begins at 11 a.m. Saturday and ends after Sunday worship, with an optional Friday night stay. Lodging: \$140/room per night; meals: \$15/adult or child 5+, \$1 ages 1–4, free for infants. **Register in Realm by Dec. 31.** Contact Rev. Jack Alvey for financial assistance: jack.alvey@ascensionepiscopal.org.

Episcopal Church 101 | Begins January 11 - 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 to enroll or with questions.

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) for more information.

News & Notes

Parking Lot Construction

Both parking lots are scheduled to be re-striped on Monday, December 22nd. If you plan to come by the church on Monday, know you may need to park at Publix or the City Center. You can also call ahead to see if the work is complete before driving to church. Thanks for your patience.

Holiday Church Office Closures

December 24 - 26, 2025 and January 1, 2026

Faith Formation Update

Faith Formation (Sunday School) for all ages is taking a break until Sunday, January 6th when all regular formation will resume at 9:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation will feature two classes. Episcopal 101 will meet in the Sunshine Room (start time of 9:15 a.m.) and Seven Signs in John's Gospel will meet in Ware Hall at the usual formation time. Breakfast will also resume on January 6th.

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. Begins **January 6**.
- **Adult Faith Formation – *Seven Signs in John's Gospel*** - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Ware Hall. Begins **January 11**.
- **Women's Bible Study** - Continues on Tuesdays at 12 p.m. in the Sunshine Room. Resumes **January 6**.

The Abbey Volunteers

Help pack lunches Wednesdays or distribute Thursdays in Avondale. Sign up in Sign-Up Central or contact 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.

Threads of Love | Fridays

Bring your knitting, crochet, or needlepoint project and enjoy fellowship Fridays, 1–3 p.m. in the Sunshine Room. Contact Marguerite Handlin at kinneym@bellsouth.net.

A/V Guild Volunteers Needed!

The A/V Guild is looking for a few new recruits to help stream our Sunday services. Members would typically be responsible for one Sunday per month. You don't have to be a computer wiz to figure it out but some computer skills are required. This ministry helps connect people to the gospel who would otherwise not have access to church. Please reach out to Matt Hottle (matthewshottle@gmail.com) to find out more.

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.

Scan to see announcements on website

