

weekly announcements

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Making Christ Known by our Love for All



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost | August 10, 2025

Upcoming Events

Blessing of the Backpacks | TODAY

Students of all ages as well as teachers are invited to bring the backpacks to the 10:30 service to receive a blessing as they start the new school year. Everyone will receive a momento during the backpack blessing as a reminder of God's love and blessings throughout the school year.

Ministry Fair | TODAY

Join us for the *Faith in Action Ministry Fair: Sharing the Fruits of Your Spirit* on Sunday, August 10th in Ware Hall, immediately following the 10:30 service. Enjoy snacks and refreshments provided by our Ministry Teams. You'll have the opportunity to meet with our ministry leaders and learn more about how God is gathering us in Christ's fellowship and service.

Men's Fireside Chat | August 12

Join the men of Ascension for a Fireside Chat on Tuesday, August 12th at 7:30 PM on the Ware Hall Patio. We'll spend time in fellowship, planning for the fall, and discussing ways to stay Christ-centered in an often chaotic and confusing world. Bring a chair, favorite beverage, and a chair. Contact Martin Hoerner for more information at mhoerner@gmail.com.

Pier 23 Pool Party | August 16

NEW DATE AND TIME. Join us for a fun-filled evening at the Pier 23 Pool Party, hosted by John and Mary Claire Bandy, on August 16th at 5:30 p.m. at their home. Please bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert to share with everyone. To help us plan, kindly RSVP to Andrew Ault (asault@crimson.ua.edu) or Emily Collette (emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org) by August 12th. We can't wait to see you there!

Women's Gathering | August 19

Our next Ascension Women's gathering will be at Monday Night Brewing on August 19th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Come enjoy good food and fellowship with your fellow women at Ascension! Reach out to Emily with any questions emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org.

Sunday School Open House | August 24

Youth, children, and adults are invited to a special open house during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:15) to learn more about Sunday school offerings for all ages. This is also a great opportunity to meet Ashley Monachelli who is our new Director of Family Ministries as well as Sam Herman who is our new Youth Minister. Additionally, our volunteer teachers will also present. There will be breakfast pastries and other sweet treats.

Godly Play Information Session | August 24

Curious about what our 4K-2nd graders are doing during Godly Play? Join us for an informal info session on Saturday, August 24th from 2:00-3:30 PM in the Sunshine Room. We'll start there, then head over to the GP Room to explore the space and learn more. Please RSVP to Ashley Monachelli, ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org, so we know how many to expect. We'd love to see you there!

EYC Kick-Off | August 24

We will have our EYC Kick-Off August 24 from 5:30 - 7:15 pm. Grades 6 - 12 are invited to have pizza, play games, and start our study of Luke. Grab your Bible and bring a friend! Contact Sam Herman for more information, sam.herman@ascensionepiscopal.org. Mark your calendars for our fall EYC dates! Dinner will always be provided and we will meet from 5:30 - 7:15 pm.

*September 7, 14, 21, 28 | October 5 (Club 345 included) and 19 | November 2, 9, 30 | December 7, 14, 21 (Christmas Bash).

Kickoff Sunday | September 7

The program year officially kicks off on September 7th with the return of breakfast and Sunday school. The nursery will open at 9:15 a.m. and formation for all ages will run from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Following the 10:30 service, we will have a Tailgate Lunch in Ware Hall hosted by Pier 34. Bring a favorite tailgate food and wear your favorite team's colors!

Bible Presentation | September 7

At the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, we believe engaging with Scripture is vital for spiritual growth. This year, we're excited to start a new tradition: presenting Bibles to our third-grade students, marking their faith development and readiness for independent Scripture study. We're also extending this new tradition to include our fourth and fifth-grade students in this year's presentation. This Bible presentation is a heartfelt gift from the congregation, symbolizing our support and encouragement. We pray these Bibles become treasured possessions and powerful starting points for each child to cultivate a deeper relationship with God through daily study of His word. We envision these Bibles as lifelong companions, guiding students on their faith journey. Please register your child for this memorable celebration via Realm. This will enable us to have Bibles for all of our children. For questions or more information, please reach out to Ashley Monachelli, ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org. We are here to assist and look forward to sharing this joyous occasion with you.

News & Notes

*There is no August Soup Social, we will resume in September.

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.

Giving Hope | August

School will be starting soon and that means that the Ascension Backpack Program will be gearing up, as well. The goal of the Backpack Program is to alleviate child hunger in Vestavia Hills by providing nutritious, easy-to-prepare food on weekends when other resources are not available. Packs of food are distributed to participating schools and then discreetly given to children in need, at no cost to the participating schools or children. Volunteers from Ascension prepare the meal packs each week and deliver them to the designated elementary schools.

The goal of our Giving Hope outreach for August is to stock the shelves for this wonderful program. You can help by donating any of the following: **individual microwave mac and cheese, individual microwave Chef Boyardee, peanut butter crackers, applesauce squeeze pouches, individual packs of trail mix, beef jerky sticks, protein bars, breakfast bars, and shelf-stable protein drinks.**

The Abbey Volunteers

Every Thursday morning, members of the congregation distribute sack lunches for those experiencing hunger in Avondale. Members of the congregation also gather on Wednesday to pack these sack lunches. To learn more and sign up, visit Sign-Up Central or contact Ross Parker at rossparker@att.net.

First Light Volunteers

Every month, members of the congregation serve a hot meal to the women and children at First Light Shelter. We also need teams to cook and/or serve the meal. To learn more and sign up, visit Sign-Up Central or contact Caralyn McDaniel at caralynmcdaniel@gmail.com.

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