



*Spires* June 2021

# Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue • Lakewood, OH 44107 • [www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org)

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



We enter June with hopeful hearts as we continue to make our way through this pandemic. More and more people have been vaccinated and restrictions are being eased. As Episcopalians we follow the bishop's guidance and therefore here at Ascension, we continue to wear masks when inside as well as maintain social distance, being mindful that our children and some of our adults are unable to be vaccinated as of yet. However, we are now free to sing through our

masks and when reading or leading part of the worship service to remove our masks if fully vaccinated. Outside we are no longer required to wear masks for worship or fellowship.



Our hearts continue to be full of grief and anxiety as well. Many are still living under the heavy plague of sickness and death. In most places around the globe the vaccines have not yet become readily available. Some of us have family and friends in other parts of the world in this predicament. Many of us also know people here at home who are struggling mightily with the ongoing effects of loss, isolation, and broken relationships. Many are simultaneously exhausted and relieved, weary and rejuvenated, excited to socialize, travel, and have get-togethers while easily becoming tired, impatient, and unable to focus or keep sustained conversation going.

In the midst of all this I urge you to be gentle with yourselves and with others. Give the other the benefit of the doubt. Don't get caught up in trying to do too much, trying to see too many people, trying to make-up for too many cancelled events. Instead relish the day, the moment. Allow yourself time to process and learn from what you have gone through over the last 15 months. I also ask that you be patient and understanding with me. I am sure I have/will hurt or disappoint you or not be what you need or want at times but know that as your priest my door is always open, and you can express anything to me. I too am spent, dazed, and grieving.

We all have lots to process, lots to understand, lots to address. Collectively we have our places in the Body of Christ, the Church, which the world desperately needs as do each and everyone of us. I hope to see you as you are able to participate in worship, join in our yard clean ups and Frankfurter Fridays, reengage if you have detached and enjoy reconnecting. God feeds us through Word, sacrament, and community so that we can then feed the world and offer hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **SUNDAY 10:30AM SERVICE**

The entire service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am on

The Church of the Ascension Facebook page

[facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/](https://facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/),

and at

[www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org).

# FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN



## MAY MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

June 2021. I just cannot believe it. Vaccine relief has given us data driven proof that we can safely return to life as we (almost) know it. Warm weather is here with summer schedules, and schools in recess. And the Season of Pentecost began on Sunday, May 23rd. At the Outside Family/Intergenerational Service we saw 25 children and their families as well as other parishioners. We saw Jesus ascend to the clouds and the children waved their fire-sticks. We listened as a child narrated the Pentecost story and parishioners led us in the Lord's Prayer using their fluent non-English language.

You see Pentecost has descended upon us and with it is all the reason to continue worshiping and praying with us at Ascension. The Holy Spirit moves around us. Frankfurter Friday is scheduled for four Fridays this summer. Ascension Market is scheduled for the end of August. The Holy Spirit moves between us. Community Meals continue their take-out delivery three times each month. We may even see hospitalities return after Sunday services this summer. The Holy Spirit moves through us. After all it is Pentecost. It is a Pentecost that has come with such vigor and newness! May 23rd was the first outdoor service at Church of the Ascension where masks were not required and yes it just happened to be Pentecost. We have been changed this past year. However, we are now safer than we have been for the past year and most of us are aching to step outside and be part of our community again. We see and feel how the Holy Spirit has descended upon us and moves us too. Personally, I am excited. I cannot wait to be part of our greater community again!

Wishing you a wonderful June with families and friends seeing each other again. John and I have a visit planned with our Chicago family and our grandchildren that we last saw at an outside only visit with masks in October. I hope to enjoy a worship service with you, help serve a community meal, and see you at Frankfurter Friday. Pentecost moves us!

In Faith, Susan O'Donnell, Senior Warden

# FROM LEAH ROMANELLI DEJESUS, SEMINARIAN



Thank you, Ascension! The past nine months worshiping with and learning from you have been so meaningful to me. You taught me what it means to be a congregation through hardship, stress, and ever-changing measures of safety. Although I know we're not entirely out of the woods, yet, I value the ways you've shown me that a group of people can respond together from a place of faithfulness, stewardship, and care for each other and not fear or scarcity. I so admire the ways in which Ascension goes with the flow and adapts to every new situation. I'm sure it can be tiring, but it doesn't even seem to affect your spirits for long. You know that the important thing is

to continue to worship and serve together—however that can look in any given moment. Thank you for such deep life lessons!

You'll see a little less of me this summer as I head to Cleveland Clinic for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). While Alex and Javier will still be in the pews, I will be on call at the hospital many weekends and catching up on sleep and doing homework in my free time. CPE is required for all postulants to the priesthood and I also have to complete it this summer in order to be able to take the pastoral theology classes this fall, which continue to build on the summer's learning. The program will (hopefully!) teach me to be a non-anxious presence during times of crisis, empathize with people's difficulties without letting them become my own, and better learn to handle my own emotional triggers that may give me a stress or fight-or-flight response. Unsurprisingly, all of this will be extremely useful in parish ministry someday (God willing)!

As I'm able, I hope to be able to drop in to worship with my family or help at Frankfurter Fridays. Unfortunately, I won't know my work schedule from one week to the next, so I can't say when or how often.

You are all in my prayers and I carry your love and support with me. I look forward to being back with you consistently, again, at the end of August!

Thanks & peace,  
Leah

## FROM RITA ROZELL

In September 2013 I came to the Church of the Ascension as a visitor, to wish my boss well in his new church. Little did I know that day would change my life. Shortly after my arrival Fr. Vincent asked me if I would be willing to help with Sunday school which consisted of two children and a third every other week. It was small and it would be easy for me and a great way to become active in my new church. It would also give the current Sunday school teacher a well needed break. Little did I know how it would change me.

Fast forward-a few years, we have a Sunday school that has consisted of 10 or more children. We have yearly Easter egg hunts with 30 or more children, a Jesse Tree service, a monthly children's choir, and for a few years a youth group with 6 to 7 young people meeting monthly and regularly attending diocesan events.

Then a pandemic hit in 2020 and our physical doors were closed and our families couldn't come. Everyone wants to stay home and stay well. What can we do to help families feel safe at church? Aha! An outdoor service.

As you all know, on Easter Sunday we held a glorious outdoor service for our families. The service was so well attended and so well received that we decided to do it again, so on May 27 that's exactly what we did. Once again, it was amazing. (If you have not had the opportunity yet to watch the video on our website or Facebook page, please take a few minutes, it's worth it.)

We will continue these outdoor family services throughout the summer. Please mark your calendars for June 27, July 25, August 22 and September 26.

Let me take this opportunity to send out a BIG thank you to all the parents, grandparents, parishioners and especially the children and youth who attend and participated. It truly is a success because of each of you.

Faithfully,  
Rita Rozell

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

### **VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONIST**

#### **In Need of a Volunteer Receptionist on Mondays 9am-1:30pm**

We are in need of a volunteer receptionist to answer phones, receive the mail, and be in the building for the AA group at noon on Mondays from 9-1:30. You will not be asked to do secretarial work. If you are able to serve the Church in this way please talk with Father Vincent. Jim serves as voluntary secretary from 9-1:30 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The office is closed on Fridays.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE AT ASCENSION

Community meals continue their regular schedule: the first Tuesday of the month, the second Thursday and the fourth Monday of the month.

### June

6/5/21 Saturday morning yard clean-up

6/27/21 fourth Sunday, 9:30am Outdoor Family/Intergenerational Service

### July

7/3/21 Saturday morning yard clean-up

7/9/21 Friday, 6:30pm Frankfurter Friday on the front lawn

7/23/21 Friday, 6:30pm Frankfurter Friday on the front lawn

7/25/21, fourth Sunday, 9:30am Outdoor Family/Intergenerational Service

### August

8/7/21 Saturday, morning yard clean-up

8/13/ 21 Friday, 6:30pm Frankfurter Friday on the front lawn

8/21/21 Saturday, 9:00am Ascension Market

8/22/21 fourth Sunday, 9:30am Outdoor Family/Intergenerational Service

8/27/21 Friday, 6:30pm Frankfurter Friday on the front lawn

## Ascension Permanent Zoom Meeting Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82605560985?pwd=NUZPYmp5bFpSQXEzVGZEOXpjOEaQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 0556 0985

Passcode: ascension

Tap for cell phone to call automatically:

+13017158592,,82605560985#,,,,\*786753522# US (Washington DC)

Or Dial

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 826 0556 0985

Passcode: 786753522

## In-person worship on Sundays

Please do not come to church if you are not feeling well.

In-person services are at 8am and 10:30am in the church. Please come as you are able, we are no longer pre-registering for worship service.

Weather permitting, 8am Holy Eucharist will be in the West Garden in June, July, and August. Please bring your own chair if possible. Masks are not required.

All are required to wear a mask and keep a social distance of 6 feet when inside. Please bring your own mask. Masks will be available if you forget to bring one.

People may socialize outside on the lawn or in the garden without a mask.

Those attending services are asked to enter and exit through the front doors in the Narthex. As a rule, we will enter via the center aisle and exit via the side aisles, maintaining social distance. Those requiring the assistance of the elevator are welcome to enter and exit through the East Entrance.

## Noon day prayer Tuesdays At 12:12pm via conference call

On Tuesdays there will be a conference call enabling you to call in and join Father Vincent and other members of our Ascension community for:

- Noonday Prayer (10 minutes),
- A reflection from Forward Day by Day (5 minutes),
- Time for us to check-in with each other (20 minutes),
- Time to ask questions and exchange information (10 minutes),
- Prayer for the Church of the Ascension.

This will give everyone access to our priest and allow us to continue together in prayer and fellowship.

**We will start noonday prayer promptly at 12:12 and end just before 1pm.  
Please do not call in before 12:05pm.**

You can call in for all or part of the time.

We will use the Book of Common Prayer pp. 103-107.

Dial-in number: (425) 436-6300

Access code: 593523#

Use \*6 to mute and un-mute yourself when trying to talk.



# June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	2	3	4	5 9 am - Yard & Garden Cleanup
6 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	7	8 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	9	10 5:30 pm - Community Meal	11	12
13 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	14	15 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	16	17	18	19
20 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service)	21	22 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	23	24	25	26
27 8 am- Service 9:30 am- Family and Intergenerational Service 10:30 am- Service	28 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	29 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	30			

## YARD CLEAN UP

Join us for garden & yard clean-up Saturday May 1 at 9am.

There is something for everyone to do at every age.

An hour or two of your time will help us make the yard the beautiful place it is meant to be.

**Note for your calendar garden and yard clean-ups are the first of each month.**

## MONTHLY FAMILY OUTDOOR SERVICE

Because of the wonderful responses from our children and adults alike, we will have an outdoor family service (similar to what we had on Easter) once a month. It will be held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 9:30am. Our next Outdoor Family Service be be held on June 27th. All are invited to attend.

## JUNE CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

- June 05:** June Madden
- June 09:** John Welfley
- June 21:** David Buehler
- June 25:** Joe Kidwell
- June 28:** William Beyer
- June 28:** Ella Jane Fowerbaugh



### ANNIVERSARIES

- June 04:** Gregory Sent & Daniel Vanah
- June 24:** Ann & William Beyer
- June 24:** Mary Ann & Christopher Deibel
- June 28:** Melissa & Bret Schlosser

## PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

**OR**

## YOU CAN USE PLASTIC TO DONATE TO THE CHURCH!

At [theascensionshop.com](http://theascensionshop.com) you can use plastic to donate to the church. Credit and debit cards are accepted. One time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly contributions can be entered. All contributions will show on your annual statement. Just take a look! With thanks to theascensionshop creator Michael Crowdes; send questions to [crowdes@gmail.com](mailto:crowdes@gmail.com).