



## News & Updates from ALC

February 2024

### Pastor's Corner

On Wednesday February 14th, roses will be purchased, cards will be exchanged, secret admirers will confess their love; and what will we do, dear church? We shall put ashes on our forehead and be reminded that from dust we were made and from dust we shall return. What a glorious paradox for us to contemplate together!



While the world around us (and perhaps ourselves) gets swept away in romance, we will be grounded in the Love of God which has claimed us both in life and in death. No other valentine could compare!

With this kind of enduring Love, we can be honest about what draws us away from God and from loving our neighbors. Starting with Ash Wednesday, the Lenten season gives us an opportunity to reorder the loves in our life. It asks us to seriously consider what and who we love, for we know that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mt 6:21). We do this kind of reflection not to become perfect or to achieve salvation, but because we have a merciful Savior who yearns for us to live freely and fully into the new life we’re given in Christ.

There will be many opportunities during Lent to ground yourself in God’s Love in worship, Bible study, fellowship, and outreach. Notably, our Wednesday Soup Suppers, led by Lynn D’Esmond, Sheryl White, and Annie Chmielewski, will study the apostle Peter in a series called, “Wandering Heart.” There will also be a rotating cast of opportunities after our 10AM Worship together; please plan on

lingering a little longer on Sundays to participate. If you've felt drawn to check out the Women's Devotional Group or the Grief Group, I'd encourage you to make this the season to dip your toe in these enriching spaces as well.

Lastly, make those dinner reservations for February 13th so that you can join us on the 14th at 7PM to hear about the greatest Love of all.

Pastor Kayla



## 2023 In Review

To view the 2023 Video Review for Ascension click the link below. Special thanks for John Carducci for his work in putting this video together!

[ALC 2023 VIDEO REVIEW](#)

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for Soup Suppers and A Lenten Devotional for 5 weeks during Lent:

Wednesday's at 6:00 pm for simple supper and Devotional at 7:00 pm

Beginning Feb. 21, 28 March 6, 13 and 20

We will again be using the devotions from The Sanctified Art, this year's title is: WANDERING HEART Figuring out faith with Peter



This Lent, we will be focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

The lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" were as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, there is a selected phrase

from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

In this devotional and series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

We hope you come and share this journey with us!  
As we wander through Lent, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace.  
May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Artfully yours,

The Sanctified Art Creative Team Along with Anne, Sheryl and Lynn from ALC  
Please sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex or see one of us if you have any questions.

## **FAMILY FUN "NIGHT" SPECIAL TIME!**

Our next Family Night will be at a special time! Join us February 18th following the worship service at 11am. This is an interactive way to worship, serve our neighbors, and *be* together. Designed for all ages and all people. Come worship with us!



## **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER**

On Feb. 13th at 6:30PM there will be a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at St. Bartholomew's in Trenton. Meet Doreen @ ALC at 6PM to carpool)

# SHANE CLAIBORNE - BEATING GUNS

Both SEPA Synod and our ministry partner, Rev. Erich Kussman from Saint Bartholomew's have invited Ascension to the following opportunity:

The Office of Social Equity & Community Presents...  
Equity in Action Visiting Scholar

## SHANE CLAIBORNE BEATING GUNS

The program will feature a presentation on gun violence by Shane, a live blacksmith demonstration transforming a gun into a garden tool, music from Common Hymnal, and guest speaker Reverend Sharon Risher - daughter and cousin to three victims of the Emanuel 9 murdered by a white supremacist at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.



THURSDAY  
February 22nd



TIME  
05:00 PM



PHILADELPHIA EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL  
19 S. 38th St. Philadelphia, PA

REGISTER:

<http://tinyurl.com/EAV-Shane-220>



Social Equity  
and Community  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



## CARING FOR FRIENDS

Last year we prepared a total of 3075 breakfast bags this year for hungry people in the Philadelphia region! Caring for Friends now provides food and friendship to kids and homeless persons as well as their homebound clients. We are now assembling snack bags (no oatmeal, granola or protein bar instead) which are easier for their homeless clients to consume.

We will be assembling bags **March 10** after worship. Your donations with the help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant and assistance assembling the bags are

# MISSION MINISTRY

always appreciated! As Jesus says in John 21:17 “Feed my sheep”, we are doing that here at Ascension.

Snack Bag items needed:

- 1 gallon plastic storage bags (zip loc)
- 6.75 oz 100% juice boxes (orange juice preferred)
- Granola, protein or oatmeal bars
- 6 packs of peanut butter or cheese crackers
- 1 oz boxes of raisins or other dried fruit

There are also dinner trays and soup containers in the Narthex at church that you can fill and freeze at home. Please be sure to fill out the labels completely and include our church’s identifying number (**287**) on the labels. The dinner trays need to be covered with foil as they are reheated in a toaster oven by the clients. They may be placed in the large freezer in the kitchen at Ascension. Thanks for your continued support of this critical mission. Contact Sheryl White (215-962-6942, whitey61@aol.com) if you need supplies or have questions. <https://caringforfriends.org/about-us/>

## DELAWARE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Please help us stock the pantry shelves with following items:

- |                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| small cans of soup, broth | reusable shopping bags           |
| black beans               | (regular size - not extra large) |
| pasta varieties and sauce | toothpaste                       |
| baked beans               | toilet paper                     |
| rice                      | deodorant                        |
| shampoo                   | bars of soap                     |

Thank for your generous support of our hungry neighbors! Over 10,000 families are served over the course of a year.

<https://www.facebook.com/DelawareValleyFoodPantry/>

## **Women's Devotional on zoom**

We will continue our zoom Devotional Bible Study on on zoom Saturday mornings at 9:30am.

The book for our Bible Study is:

**Soulfull: A Weekly Devotional to Nourish the Body, Mind, and Spirit** by  
Farrell Mason

Join Zoom Meeting

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83498726279?pwd=a2EvR1Bla0hOYjNmUVNGV3MxY204Zz09>**

Meeting ID: 834 9872 6279

Passcode: 706045