



# This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for  
October 4](#)

[Link to Ms. Kate Siberine's  
Sermon from September 27.](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese  
of Washington's Website](#)

## Calendar Highlights

**Saturday, October 3**

9am Overeaters Anonymous,  
Undercroft Commons  
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft  
Commons  
11am Overeaters  
Anonymous, Chapel

**Sunday, October 4**

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main  
Church  
8:15am Choir Rehearsal,  
Choir Room  
9am Holy Eucharist, Main  
Church  
9am Godly Play, Room 6  
9am Joyful Path, Room 11  
9am ESOL Class, Room 1  
10:15am Holy Eucharist for  
Families with Young  
Children, Chapel  
11am Holy Eucharist in  
Spanish, Chapel  
11am Godly Play, Room 6  
11am Joyful Path, Room 11  
11:15am Holy Eucharist,  
Main Church  
1pm Personnel Committee  
Meeting, Room 1  
5pm Holy Eucharist and

## Myths

Western rationalism no longer understands myths and their importance. Although almost all historic cultures valued myths, we are the obvious exception. Western culture has replaced these effective and healing story lines with ineffective, cruel, and disorienting narratives like communism, fascism, terrorism, capitalism, and consumerism. Each in its own way is a watertight explanation and refuses any outside critique.

Each human has a *de facto* worldview that determines what is important and what is not important to us, and we largely operate unconsciously--until we are awakened from our sleep. Worldviews usually have a symbolic story to hold them together, such as that of "Honest Abe" chopping wood in Kentucky and educating himself in Illinois. Clever "myths" like this become a standing and effective metaphor for the American worldview of self-determination, hard work, and achievement. Whether they are exact historical truth is not even important. We want and need them to be true. And that is okay.

Myths are true basically because they work! A sacred myth keeps a people healthy, happy, and whole--even inside their pain. They give deep meaning and pull us into "deep time," which encompasses all time, past and future, geological and chronological, and not just our little time or culture. Such stories are the very food of the soul. When we start fairy tales with lines like "Long ago, in a faraway land" we are reaching for deep time truth....

We belong to a Mystery far grander than our little selves and our little time. Great storytellers and spiritual teachers always know this. The postmodern world has rejected most myths except two, and these are especially lethal for the soul and for the poor and for the future: "I produce therefore I am" and "I consume therefore I am." This will never work for the soul, but we--believers and clergy included--have drunk this fairly new version of Kool-Aid.

The merely rational mind is dualistic and divides the field of

Blessing of the Beasts,  
Chapel

#### Monday, October 5

11:30 am Cancer Support  
Group, Room 1  
6:30pm Overeaters  
Anonymous, Undercroft  
Commons  
7pm Listening Heart  
Community, Library

#### Tuesday, October 6

9:30am Staff Meeting,  
Library  
7pm Spanish Bible Study,  
Ascension House  
7pm Still Water Mindfulness  
Practice, Chapel  
7pm Codependents  
Anonymous, Room 1  
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

#### Wednesday, October 7

10am *Daring Greatly* Book  
Group, Library  
6:30pm Yoga, Chapel  
7pm Spanish Class, Ascension  
House  
7:30pm *Daring Greatly* Book  
Group, Library  
8pm Gamblers Anonymous,  
Chapel

#### Thursday, October 8

10am Yoga, Chapel  
7:45pm Choir Rehearsal,  
Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

## Worship Leaders

Sunday, October 4

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-  
Wilkinson

*Flower Delivery:* Esther Sawyer,  
Adoma Baffoe

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayers:* Diana  
Gustafson, Kate Siberine, *Chalicians:*  
Edna Leake, Leslie Sanya, *Healing  
Prayer:* Janet King, *Acolytes:* Ron  
Hayden, Jackson Douglas, Aidan  
Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Frank

the moment between what it can presently understand and what it deems "wrong" or untrue. Because the rational mind cannot process love or suffering, for example, it tends to avoid them, deny them, or blame somebody for them, when in fact they are the greatest spiritual teachers of all, if we but allow them. Our loss of mythic consciousness has not served the last few centuries well and has overseen the growth of rigid fundamentalism in all the world religions. Now we get trapped in destructive and "invisible" myths because we do not have the eyes to see how the great healing myths like the Exodus, Cross and Resurrection, Krishna and Arjuna in the chariot, and Buddha under the Bodhi Tree function and transform.

In closing, let me offer this wish from Jungian analyst Clarissa Pinkola Estés: "I hope you will go out and let stories, that is life, happen to you, and that you will work with these stories from your life... water them with your blood and tears and your laughter till they bloom, till you yourself burst into bloom."

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*

---

### Announcements

(click for more info)

### HEADLINERS

[Movie Nigh, Friday, October 2](#)

[Blessing of the Beasts, October 4](#)

[Godly Play, October 4](#)

[A Joyful Path, October 4](#)

[Daring Greatly](#)

[Wednesday Night Yoga Returns](#)

[Annual Giving Campaign](#)

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Christian Formation for Children Registration Form](#)

[Christian Formation for Youth Registration Form](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

### WORSHIP

[All Saints' Sunday Choral Evensong](#)

Sanya, Wadai Dennis, *Altar Guild*:  
Leslie Sanya, Wadai Dennis

9:00 AM *Readers*: Stephanie Mitchell, Susan Ahalt, *Prayers*: Barbara Mansfield, *Chalicians*: Diana Gustafson, Major Clemens, *Healing Prayer*: Javier Ocampo, *Acolytes*: Sam Mendiamsa, Kofi Dickson, Lisa Dickson, *Welcome Team*: Nii Armah Akuete, Ruby King, Charles Dickson, Swithin Kwamana-Poh, *Altar Guild*: Margaret Joseph, Dorett Sutherland

11:15 AM *Reader*: Peedy Terry, *Chalicians*: Christian Nwankwo, Sarah Rubin, *Healing Prayer*: Laura Shay, *Welcome Team*: Page Salazar, Avin Lalmansingh, *Altar Guild*: Laura Shay, Lynne Shaer

5:00 PM *Reader/Usher*: Christine Yankus-Eng

*Eucharistic Visitors*: Barb Mansfield, Pamela Irons-Forth

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

[Worship Rosters, October - December](#)

## SERVICE

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

[Ascension's Cancer Support Group](#)

[Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)

[Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation](#)

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Ascension's Adventure Group to the National Zoo](#)

[Spanish Classes](#)

[ESOL Classes](#)

[Hospitality Hour](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

[Capital Campaign News](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

[October Ascendant](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

---

## Prayers

**FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:**  
In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Francis Church, Potomac, The Washington Animal Rescue League, Pray for the humane treatment of all of God's creatures, especially companion, rescue, and service animals.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Andrew in the Valley - Harrisburg and St. Paul's - Lock Haven

**PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:**  
Peg, Hollis, Susan, Johnetta, Nancy, Janet, Lou, Fran, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for Ascension's Minister of Music Discernment Team.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families. For all people affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

God our strength and our redeemer, We ask for your loving presence and for your peace to be with the people of Syria, of all religious traditions and of none. Be with those in positions of leadership, that their decisions may hasten peace and bring an end to violence. Be with those who are in fear for their safety and their lives. Be with those who have lost their homes, livelihoods, and loved ones. Give them strength and courage. And be with us, as we listen and discern your call to us. Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love - as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for Syrians and all those displaced by war and violence.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**

The altar flowers are given by Tunde Ayinde, in loving memory of Judge M.O. Adio and Nike Ayinde.

**THANKSGIVING:**

We give thanks for the life of Una McGrath, who died on September 27.

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension**

205 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2315  
301-948-0122

[ascensionmd.org](http://ascensionmd.org)