

Announcements

- We will host the luncheon for Phyllis King's funeral on May 23. If you can help bring food there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call Laura at 302-562-3630--thank you!
- Don't forget to stay after service today to vote! Members are considering the Single Board change to the way the church is led and governed.

Dates To Remember

- May 17 – Church Vote on Single Board Governance
- May 15, 19 & 28 – Office closed for admin. vacation
- May 20 – Admin Council Meeting at 6 pm
- May 23 – Phyllis King's Funeral at Chester Bethel; 11 am
- May 25 – June 1 – Pastor's vacation
- May 26– Office closed for Memorial Day
- May 31 – Joint Worship Service with Rev. Donald Schuler as guest preacher followed by fellowship lunch.
- June 6 – Hymn Sing on Sunday morning at 9:30
- June 13 – Thrift Shop Yard Sale from 8 – 1:00

¹https://www.amumc.org/uploads/1/2/6/3/126354521/order_of_worship_for_may_16_web.pdf.

May 17, 2026
7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

*CALL TO WORSHIP – for Ascension Sunday¹

Leader: Once Jesus lived a human life limited to a particular time and place; now he is present wherever people turn to him.

All: **Praise to the ascended Christ!**

Leader: Once only those who met Jesus face-to-face knew him; now his divine love extends throughout the world.

All: **Praise to the ascended Christ!**

Leader: Jesus has taken his place of authority and has been crowned Lord of all!

All: **Praise to the ascended Christ!**

*OPENING HYMN – “Christ Has Risen” TFWS#2115

OPENING PRAYER

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.²

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he arose

² The Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*.

from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,³ the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of life, through Jesus Christ you have bestowed upon the world the light of life. Sanctify this new fire and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled with holy desire to shine with the brightness of the Risen Christ. Amen.⁴

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 96

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 28:16-20

SERMON Week 6/6 of “Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously” – Council of Bishops’ sermon series

SPECIAL MUSIC

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Come, Rejoice in God” sung 2X
TFWS #2017

THANKSGIVINGS AND INTERCESSIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may place your cash or check offering into the plates we pass around at this time or mail your tithes and offerings to the church office. Thank you for working as Christ’s hands and feet in the world!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him, the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*CLOSING HYMN – “Blessed Assurance”

UMH #369

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Rising in body or in spirit*

***If you are a church member, please remain in the sanctuary for our vote on adopting the Single Leadership Board system of church governance.*

Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544

³“Catholic” in this instance means “universal.”

⁴ From Duke University Chapel worship bulletin, April 4, 2010.