



SCHEDULE FOR DESERT DAYS

DESERT DAYS AT ASCENSION

“Desert Days” are designed to encourage and provide space for men and women to be alone with God in silence, to listen for whatever God might want to say. In the spirit.

The Anchorage, a Christian retreat center in South Carolina, offers retreats regularly and shares resources to help local groups host days to “leave everything, following Christ into the desert.”

As part of our ongoing prayer and faith community health ministries, there will be five desert days in 2018:

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| February 9 | October 12 |
| April 13 | December 14 |
| August 10 | |

There is no charge to participate. Participants may bring brown bag lunch (microwave and refrigerator available). A basket for a freewill offering will be placed by the coffee.

Participants are invited to arrive between 9 and 9:30 for coffee and hot tea. At 9:30, Pastor Christina will provide a brief introduction to the space, such as where restrooms are, how lunch will be announced, where guests may roam, sit or walk for time alone with God (fellowship hall, prayer garden, columbarium, grassy areas) and to the schedule.

Participants will be asked to share brief introductions with each other, giving your name and a sense of what nudged you to be there that day.

- 9:00 Welcome (tea/coffee)
- 9:30 Light a candle to honor God’s presence
Introductions
- 10:00 Opening Prayer – using music and scripture
- 10:10 Brief introduction to centering prayer and lectio divina
- 10:15 Centering Prayer Sit #1 (20 minutes) *optional*
- 10:50 Find space to be with God – sit quietly, walk
- 11:20 Ring bell for lunch
- 11:30 Lunch – all together. Please use lunch to ask this question for the group to share “What are you learning from God, what has God been saying to you?” **
- 12:30 Regather in prayer with music and scripture
- 12:40 Explanation of the afternoon
- 12:45 Centering Prayer Sit #2 (20 minutes) *optional*
- 1:10 Find space to be with God
- 1:50 Ring bell for closing prayer
- 2:00 Ask folks to share something of the gifts of the day, so that there is a ripple effect of all gifts given
- 2:05 Quiet time of preparation
- 2:10 Sharing
- 2:25 Benediction or prayer to close
- 2:30 Adjourn

**The Anchorage asks groups to record the responses (with or without names) and send a copy to them. The notes from these lunchtime conversations provide leadership for the direction of The Anchorage. It is the way their Servant Leaders listen for God’s leading when they meet. Since God has called us together it provides an open forum for God to speak.