

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
December 20, 2020

Welcome to the Church of the Messiah
We are delighted to have you worshipping with us.



CHRISTMAS BLESSING

I will light candles this Christmas
Candles of joy, despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage where fear is ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all my living.
Candles that will burn all the year long.

– Howard Thurman on the website of www.inwardoutward.org
on December 14, 2020

Church of the Messiah

Mission Statement

The Church of the Messiah is an inclusive and welcoming community

- *Committed to serving God by serving neighbors near and far;*
- *Affirming the dignity of every human being;*
- *Believing we are called to be stewards of creation.*

- *adopted by the Vestry of the Church of the Messiah on February 10, 2015.*

ALL ARE WELCOME: A Word from the Rector and Wardens

As an Episcopal parish, our intention is to welcome any and all who come into our midst whether physically or virtually. In what can feel like uncertain and unsteady times, we are urgently encouraging everyone to be mindful of the importance that all people feel welcome and safe, regardless of who they are. To that end, we deeply appreciate everyone honoring our request to refrain from engaging in conversation around the results of the recent national and local elections in a public church setting. Thanks very much for practicing this art of hospitality.

IMPORTANT NOTICE and UPDATE ON REGATHERING

At the vestry meeting on Monday, October 12, 2020, the sense of the vestry, in conversation with the rector, was to delay “in person” worship in the Stone Church until Easter. While all of us recognize this may be disappointing for many people, we reached this very important decision based on the following considerations:

First and foremost, our primary goal is do all we can to ensure the health of anyone who comes to worship in person. Because a large portion of the congregation is over 60 and others have compromised immune systems, by current CDC guidelines, these individuals are at a higher risk to contract COVID-19. We did not want to put anyone’s health in jeopardy, nor have people feel obligated to attend “in person” worship.

Second, the present virtual service online streaming continues to have very positive results. People from across the country are able to attend the services either live or view them later on our website. Going forward, one piece of our “new normal” will be to continue to live stream our services even after we have “in person” worship so we include any and all who wish to attend, regardless of their location.

Third, in an effort to vary our worship experience, on the first Sunday of the month we will have a virtual communion service. What this means is the service will be a normal communion service, but at the time of the distribution of communion, no one will receive. Instead, we will all share in prayer that underscores our connection through the gift of God’s love as theologically represented in the bread and wine of the Eucharist. We will look forward to hearing people’s response to this service and making our decisions regarding offering a virtual communion service on occasion.

REGATHERING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

As required by the diocesan guidelines, a “Regathering Oversight Committee” has been formed. The members are: *Phil Alatalo, Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon, Susan Morse, Heather Shepley, Jean Taft (ex officio) and Matthew Sutherland. Brittany Lord and The Rev. Deborah Warner will represent the staff.* We will be going forward following the detailed diocesan guidelines so that when we regather in the Stone Church and the Parish and Community Center we will do so in full compliance, based on the safety protocols from the diocesan, state and CDC.

Much of our discussion recently has centered around how to celebrate Advent and Christmas *outdoors and virtually*. There will be much more information about this in coming weeks. However, please know that exciting plans are underway to connect us outside as a community, while at the same time, maintaining our physical distance.

On behalf of the vestry and the parish, thank you very much for your continuing support in this unprecedented time.

- The Rev. Deborah Warner, Rector

ZOOM AND LIVE-STREAMING INFORMATION

Our Sunday worship services *continue to be* live-streamed at 10 AM via Zoom.

INSTRUCTIONS TO DOWNLOAD ZOOM:

1) Go to this link: <https://zoom.us/download> and follow the directions to download Zoom. Depending on what type of device you are using, the link will take you to the Zoom website or the App Store if you are on a mobile device. Zoom is **free**, and **there is no need to sign up or create an account**. All you need is the software/app installed on your device.

2) Then join us for Morning Prayer this Sunday at 10am by clicking this link: <https://zoom.us/j/632447285> We suggest you plan on getting to our virtual church at 9:45am to give yourself plenty of time to get settled. You can go ahead and test this link now ahead of time to make sure that everything is working. Because virtual church hasn't actually started yet, you will end up looking at a screen that may show a live video of you if you have a camera. On Sunday at 9:45am when you join, you will be looking at the sanctuary.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Our prayers are asked for those who suffer from racial profiling, addiction, anxiety, are survivors of abuse or assault; are undergoing treatment or living with cancer, are unemployed or homeless. We pray for refugees seeking safety and security in this and other countries and for all who are ministering to their needs. We pray for all who are suffering from or ministering to those with the COVID-19 here and around the world. We offer our prayers on behalf of those suffering from dementia and their families. We pray for those who are victims of natural disasters and changes in the earth's climate.

As children and young people in our families, parish and community continue school or college in person, online or through home schooling, we pray for them and for adults working with them for patience and a spirit of wonder.

In our parish prayer list, we continue to pray for Charlie, Larry, David, Wayne, George, Miriam, John, Robert, Michael, Katherine, Axel, Miyoko and Richard.

ATTENTION EVERYONE WHO LOVES CHRISTMAS STORIES!

We hope you are enjoying the Parish Story Shelf that began the first week in Advent and will continue through Christmas and Epiphany. You and your family are now able to access and listen to stories and poems --some old favorites, some new, but all to bring you the joy and excitement of the Christmas season.

An e-mail will be sent each week with details on how to access the Parish Story Shelf readings for that week. In addition to the link provided, it can also be accessed through our website:

www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org on the Advent and Christmas Resources page.

Note: The Parish Story Shelf will be available for those who attend services or are Messiah members ONLY. We ask that you do not share access to the Library with individuals not members of Church of the Messiah or on social media. Thank you! *Susan Morse*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DREAMS CONTINUE TO UNFOLD

Thanks to the dreams and careful planning of our Regathering Oversight Committee, our Christmas preparations continue. Lights have been added to the windows of each building and now deck the balcony as well as bushes. Henry Dick was very generous and donated a magnificent 12-foot Christmas tree that now stands proudly by the handicap ramp. (It was moved from the corner of the patio because of the recent windstorms.) Tammy Amon was kind enough to pick up Christmas wreaths and creative enough to adorn them with liturgically appropriate colored bows.

Our *Love First* families have done a beautiful job painting the wooden crèche figures and creatures for our exterior crèche. San Lyman helped put some “guiding lines” onto the figures to help these young painters. John Vose is putting the finishing touches on by fastening the figures to a board or the railing to prevent them from “taking flight.”

Finally, over the past month and a half, Brittany Lord has been working with seven Episcopal Churches on the Cape and Vineyard to produce a superb Advent and Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols which we will offer virtually on Sunday December 27th in lieu of a “live” virtual service.

For more information on when the recordings will be available and other Advent and Christmas resources, please visit the Advent and Christmas Resource page on our website:

www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Although we will not be having “live in-person” worship inside the Stone Church during Christmas, we will be decorating the Altar for Christmas. If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone, please send a check payable to the *Church of the Messiah* with *Christmas Flowers* written on the memo line. Please tell us the name you wish listed in our Christmas bulletin. The deadline for getting the names to the church office is **Friday, December 18th**.

CHRISTMASTIDE THIS YEAR

A separate registration form (an e-vite) has been sent to those who have indicated they will attend one of the outdoor services. Please complete the form and return by December 17th.

**EACH PERSON ATTENDING THE IN-PERSON, OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
MUST WEAR A FACE MASK
AND AGREE TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING
WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THEIR POD.**

*Following this directive
is the most precious gift you can give others and yourself
this year.*

**Our Christmas Eve Eucharist will be recorded and available for
viewing on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.**

Sunday, December 27th

10 AM “Advent and Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols” (recorded)
with Episcopal congregations across the Cape and the Vineyard.

2020 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OFFERING

In keeping with our practice of sharing our holiday offerings, this year one half of our Christmas offering will be divided between the Greater Boston Food Bank and Maya Childcare, Inc. in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

More people than ever are experiencing food insecurity this year due to the economic issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Greater Boston Food Bank seeks to ease the stress and pressure on food banks across Eastern Massachusetts, including the Falmouth Service Center. These centers are trying to meet considerably higher needs, including from those who are coming to food banks to ask for help for the very first time in their lives. Clearly, this is especially true here on the Upper Cape.

As we know and have read, the toll of poverty reaches far beyond our country's borders. The Maya Childcare, Inc program in Quetzaltenango Guatemala supports the Acorn Childcare Center. Even in the midst of a global pandemic and two hurricanes ravaging their country, the Acorn Childcare Center continues to provide young children and their families with nutritious meals, clean water, and opportunities to read and learn in a supportive, nurturing environment. They offer the physical and emotional support necessary to deal with the scourge of poverty. Thanks to Rachael Rhude's deep commitment and connection to this program and ministry, we are able to see and learn first-hand what a difference our contributions will make.

The other half of our 2020 Christmas Holiday offering will go to meet our parish financial obligations, some of which are unexpected due to the pandemic; but clearly, have helped to keep us connected.

Please make checks for your Christmas Holiday offering payable to the *Church of the Messiah* and write *Christmas Offering* on the memo line. All checks should be dropped off or mailed to the church office at 16 Church Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

On behalf of those whom your contribution will support, thank you very much.

DMW

CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION: Caring for this corner of the earth

DOUG TALLAMY PRESENTATION, 'Nature's Best Hope' AND NEW WEBSITE

Over the past number of weeks, we've looked at various ways to include native plants in our yards and control invasive plants, and have spoken about the importance of native pollinators and other insects in our ecosystem. I've also mentioned a few times about entomologist and professor, Doug Tallamy, and his books that discuss this topic. This past Friday, he gave a wonderful presentation that was hosted by St. Barnabas Church. Here is a link to a recording of the presentation:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2DjZXYcPDWQkil2E8Btpw34tz2Tux6N214BIK8GGepuThbwB_XLR_Y8luxud4oY1-.07zsRvDbajw6RAkK?startTime=1605311799000

I highly recommend viewing this webinar! There was lots of great information provided. Thank you to the outreach committee at St. Barnabas for arranging this event.

Doug Tallamy also has a new website that is full of great resources. It was started only a few weeks ago, so I'm sure it will continue to develop: <https://homegrownnationalpark.com/>

I think one of the most important take-aways from all of this is that there are SO MANY, SMALL things that every single one of us can do to make a difference, and collectively all these small things will add up to have a bigger impact!

~ Brittany and the Environmental Committee

WAYS TO SAVE THE PLANET – Simple Things Can Make a Difference

This Circle Should Be Broken

I always liked the phrase, Let the circle be unbroken. It reminded me of the many cycles in our lives, life cycles, the earth, and even outer space. Circles/spheres are so much a part of nature, flowers, sand dollars, the moon, pearls, berries, the sun, and the pupils of our eyes. They all suggest LIFE.

But there are circles that should be broken! For the safety of our neighboring sea creatures these rings are circles of DEATH! We all are familiar with the danger of those plastic six-pack can carriers and those soda can rings. Sadly, they still turn up on beaches, so are probably in the ocean too. But there are others as well. Please be vigilant and snip those other, perhaps not so obvious circular rings, that can trap marine creatures or disrupt life processes.

Here are some that you may not have thought of:

Milk and cream rings on the cartons or jugs. Cut them

Rubber bands, especially now, on disposable masks. Cut them! So many found on beach! Dispose properly.

Rings that are now on metal cans that open without a can opener.

Tied ribbons that may be ripped off presents without untying. (Which reminds me that we still find lots of balloon and their tied ribbons on the beach. Never buy helium balloons or participate in a balloon launch!)

Get the rings off plastic water bottles. It takes some doing, but maybe you shouldn't buy them anyway!

Bottle caps are usually not recyclable and are ingested by fish and sea mammals.

Cut up those heavy duty plastic bands that come around packages.

Knotted plastic bags break up and make rings. Take home those doggy poop bags! They are routinely found on beaches!!!! (I really want to catch someone doing that!)

Anything that is circular may trap a sea creature. Those plastic rings should probably be discarded in regular trash. They are not recyclable to my knowledge. Neither are gift ribbons as far as I know. So much of America's recycling goes to third-world countries. And what can't be recycled may be dumped in the water allowing all those ringy /circular things to do their damage. Snip any and all plastic circles!

Perhaps we could write to the milk companies to come up with a better way to seal containers, or buy milk in glass containers. West Falmouth and Woods Hole Markets sell milk in returnable glass containers.

Thanks, everyone in advance for breaking up the deadly circles.

I know I am probably preaching to the choir. (No pun intended.)

Sincerely, Maureen Nolan and our sea friends.

REUSABLE BAGS ALLOWED AGAIN

Supermarkets and other retail stores are allowing reusable bags again, and in some cases shoppers must bag their own groceries or other purchases.

WOODWELL CLIMATE RESEARCH CENTER HAS AN EXCELLENT NEW WEBSITE!

The *Woodwell Climate Research Center* webinar lecture series continues, helping people of all ages understand current research in climate change. To register for this free series, please go to the Woodwell Climate Research Center website: www.woodwellclimate.org and follow the prompts. *You can also view previous webinars in the series on this site, as well as many very interesting and informative articles!*

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS: Although our church office is closed, we monitor the mail, voicemail and email on a regular basis. Please continue to send financial contributions by mail to the Church of the Messiah, 16 Church Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543. These can be sent on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual basis. We also have the capacity to receive stock transfers. For further information, please call the church office at 508-548-2145 and leave a voice mail.

LATEST UPDATE ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2020

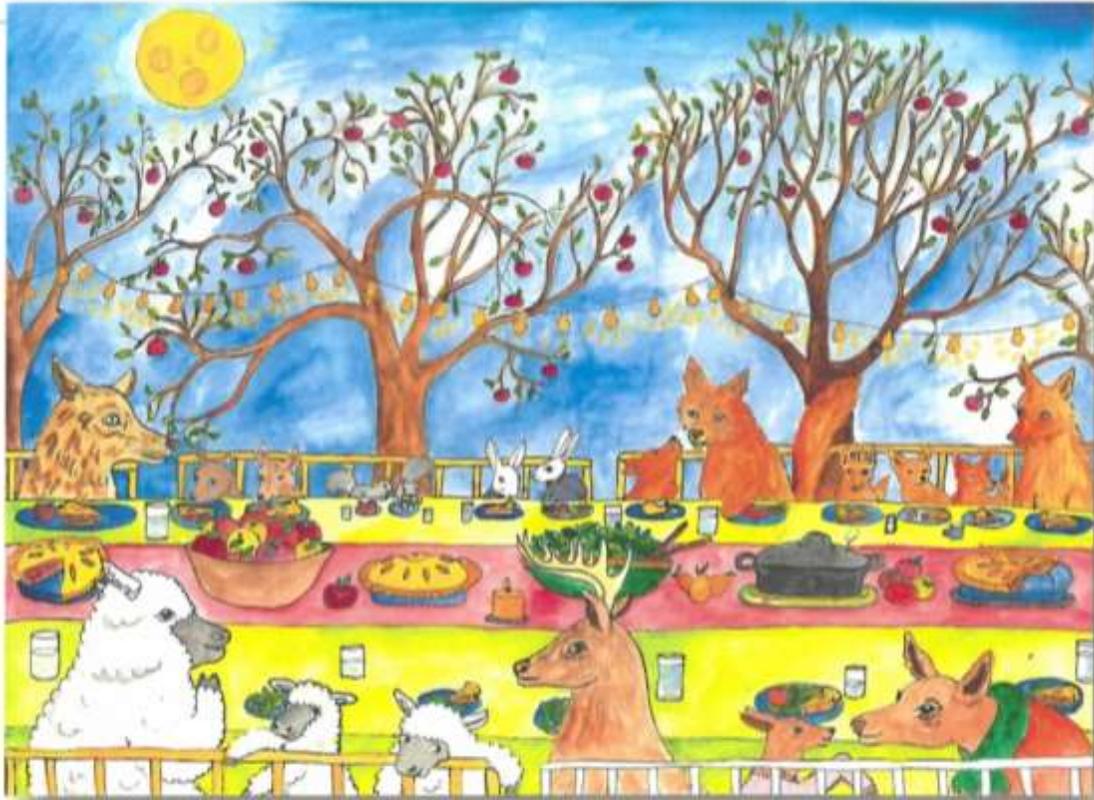
With the completion of the transformation of the First Church to the welcoming and modern new Parish and Community Center, the Capital Campaign will formally end on January 31, 2021, although payments on pledges will continue to flow in. By the end of September 2020, through the generosity of 348 individuals, families and foundations, we raised \$2.428 million against our stretch goal of \$2.5 million. In response to our November 1st letter, as of December 7th, we have donations and pledges from 80 individuals. If contributions continue to come in over the holidays, we will exceed our goal of \$2.5 million and have the funds needed to begin work on handicap accessible pathways to connect the Stone Church and the PCC. If you have not already done so, please remember the Messiah's Capital Campaign in your year-end giving.

Charles Mann, Chair, Capital Campaign Phase 2
Sandra Rodgers, Chair, Capital Campaign Phase 1
Don Aukamp
Carol Casey
Deborah Dougherty
Arden Edwards
Mark Haycock

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH'S MINISTRY

As our capital campaign continues, we invite you to join together in praying the following prayer that was composed by members of the parish and the rector.

O God, Giver of all good gifts,
we thank You for the grace of serving You by serving our neighbors.
May our hearts be kind and generous.
May our ministry be rooted in love and bold in imagination.
Having transformed the Parish and Community Center, may our lives
and the lives of all who join us, continue to be renewed by Your love and the
power of the Spirit. Amen.



Card Illustration by Katrina Nevin

Give the Gift of an Orchard

In Spring 2021, Farming Falmouth will plant a pick-your-own community orchard at the town-owned Andrews Farm.

Donate \$25 to receive a pack of 5 holiday cards. Let your loved ones know that you have invested in their food future.



Learn more and donate: www.farmingfalmouth.org

Farming Falmouth is a 501c3 non-profit organization



Please like us on [Facebook](#)

December 2020 - January 2021

December 2020							January 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 20 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live -streamed)	21 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	22 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	23 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	24 Christmas Eve 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	25 Christmas Day Christmas Day (United)	26
Dec 27 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live -streamed)	28 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	29 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	30 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	31 New Year's Eve New Year's Eve (United) 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	Jan 1, 21 New Year's Day (United)	2
3 10:00am Virtual Holy Eucharist (Live -streamed)	4 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am Outreach Mtg. 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-stre	5 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	6 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	7 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	8	9
10 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live -streamed)	11 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-stre 5:30pm Vestry mtg (Live-streamed)	12 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	13 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	14 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	15	16
17 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live -streamed)	18 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-stre	19 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	20 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	21 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	22	23

messaiahfisher@comcast.net

Church of the Messiah

2020 Vestry

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Jean Taft	<i>Warden</i>
Nancy Rea	<i>Warden</i>
Winifred Dick	<i>Clerk</i>
John Nolan	<i>Treasurer</i>

Susan Morse	2021	Mary Fran Buckley	2021
Don Aukamp	2022	Paul Graney	2022
Charles Mann	2023	Peg Nicholson	2023

Deanery Representatives

Dicky Allison	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Helen Gordon	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Carol Casey	Deanery Representative

Staff

The Rev. Deborah Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Brittany Lord	<i>Music Director, Organist</i>
Nancy McDonald	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Jennifer Kelly	<i>Bookkeeper & Financial Recorder</i>
Bruce Bagley	<i>Church Sexton</i>
Doug Amon	<i>Cemetery Sexton</i>
Jessica Morrison	<i>Webmaster</i>

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner

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