

**The Church of the Messiah's**  
**Good News**  
**May 29, 2022**

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



Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who work, or watch,  
or weep this night,  
and give your angels charge  
over those who sleep.  
Tend the sick, Lord Christ;  
give rest to the weary,  
bless the dying,  
soothe the suffering,  
pity the afflicted,  
shield the joyous;  
and all for your love's sake.

*Amen.*

*The Book of Common Prayer, New York:  
Seabury Press, 1979. p. 134.*

***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 Bridge Priest and the Wardens**

As an Episcopal parish, our intention is to welcome any and all who come into our midst whether physically or virtually. We are delighted to have you here. Welcome!

## **NEWS FROM THE WARDENS**

The Transition Review has been completed by the diocesan consultant. He concluded that we are a fairly healthy parish and, given careful monitoring and oversight of operational expenses, we will be able to afford a full time Rector. This is good news.

One of his recommendations is that we upgrade our bylaws, which haven't been modified since 1985, and are not in compliance with diocesan standards. Susan Morse has graciously agreed to chair a committee to accomplish this task. Joan Holden and Mary Fran Buckley will serve with Susan. Thanks to all three for "stepping in and stepping up". Once revised, the new bylaws must be approved by vote of the church membership.

We also just completed the 2021 Financial Audit and are busy implementing several recommendations to improve our financial controls.

Rachael Rhude and Patti Dibella are working with Colette Potts as a consultant to develop a plan to restart the Love First Christian Education program. This is a key objective in our newly adopted strategic plan.

The full Strategic Plan (9 pages) will be distributed to all parishioners at the beginning of June. We ask that you read it before Sunday, June 5th, which is Pentecost. We will be launching the execution of the plan that day and will be asking everyone to volunteer to work on at least one of the objectives. There will be a short presentation at the services that Sunday.

\*\*\*There will be lemonade and cookies on the lawn after the 10am service this Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Covid epidemic curtailed so many activities during the past two years. One of them was our monthly dinner at the family homeless shelter in Cataumet. Although we seem to be experiencing an uptick in Covid cases again, management at the shelter will allow us to resume our dinners if we would still like to provide them. At the moment there are 16 families at the shelter, and at last report, many of them are Haitian. If we have volunteers to take dinner to these residents, we will begin on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>, and continue to provide dinners on the first Wednesday of every month.

I have led the team for many years and would like to turn the responsibility over to a new head. Please consider if you would like to take on this ministry or share it with someone else.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE A DISH FOR THE DINNER ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>.

Carol Casey  
508-299-8330  
[mccrwc@hotmail.com](mailto:mccrwc@hotmail.com)

Dear Parishioners,

Last week, around the same time that I am writing this, I was engaged in oral exams for one of my classes – ‘Pastoral Theology: Formation and Practice.’ Each student had to answer three questions, the first two on theory, and the last, longer one, relating that theory to an assigned case. One of the questions called the students, amongst other topics, to discuss ‘Loss, Violence, and Coping,’ going deeper to talk about different types of grief, traumatic reactions to violence, and functional and dysfunctional ways of coping. As I spoke with one of my students, theory became real life. He is a pastor near Buffalo, New York – four days before, violence had erupted in his community through an apparently racially motivated shooting at a supermarket, in which ten persons died. His daughter shops at that supermarket. His community is grieving, it is traumatized, and they are struggling to cope. The average age of the victims was 62, and included store employees, the security guard, grandmothers, a taxi driver, an advocate against illegal guns, and a father picking up a surprise birthday cake for his three-year-old. A week later we are in the same position, but this time with more than twice the number killed, at an Elementary school in Texas. As we know, almost twenty of these victims in this shooting were children. The teachers shot include a 44 year-old who taught children with Special Needs. Several of these students were to graduate two days after the shooting. The perpetrator also shot his own grandmother. Perpetrators in both shootings were just 18 years-old.

There is much that we can and will say at a later date about these events, and there is much that needs not be said as we can but empathize with so many families who are dealing with shock and trauma, and grief in the years to come; families who are facing into their first Summer with the shocking loss of their children. At this early stage, I simply want to note that in the face of such horror, rather than being over- or underwhelmed by such events, **we are called to prayer and action.** Theologian, Cornell West tells us that “justice is what love looks like in action.” In relation to action around such shootings, it is important to note the following – our objective is **‘Gun Violence Prevention.’** Often, we talk about ‘Gun Control’ which becomes a political and partisan conversation. However, ‘Gun Violence Prevention’ is something we can all potentially support as “a faith issue aligned with our baptismal covenant, “to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.”” [The Gun Violence Prevention Toolkit, The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.]

We know that the Good News is that nothing can separate us from the love of God, and God’s love is there to embrace those on the other side of death. But in these temporal times, to ground and center our action, and to care in spirit for those affected, you may wish, as you remember those grieving, responding, identifying, and fearing, to pray one of our ‘Common Prayers,’ as on the front cover. It is from the place of prayer that we can then act, both in our local community, and nationally, to prevent this increasingly commonplace happening, and work in solidarity with the victims of such disasters.

Yours in Christ,

*Storm+*

Bridge Priest

## **THE NOONTUNES SUMMER CONCERT SERIES RETURNS!**

After a two year absence, we are thrilled to bring back our summer concert series this season. **There will be three concerts during the month of July on Wednesdays at 12:15pm.**

This year's schedule is:

**Wednesday, July 13th:** Jeanne Prendergast, soprano and Mark Lawlor, organ

**Wednesday, July 20th:** Schola Cantorum

**Wednesday, July 27th:** Sarah Bach, soprano and Emily Murphy, piano

We are looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of these concerts. We welcome donations of any amount and all donors will be listed in each program during the series. Donations may be made "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone and will be listed that way in the program.

Brochures are available in the back of the church that include more information about Noontunes and being a sponsor. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you! - Brittany Lord

## **CEMETERY COMMITTEE NEWS**

Outside water taps have been turned on in the cemetery. Old U. S. flags will be removed from graves in anticipation of new flags being placed in time for Memorial Day.

If your loved one's grave needs a metal flag holder representing a specific branch of service, please contact the town's Veterans' Services Department located at 59 Town Hall Square, 508-495-7453.

Please be aware that small objects and stones placed on gravesites and headstones may be removed at the discretion of the committee or the landscape workers to prevent mowing hazards. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

## **PATHWAYS UPDATE**

The Pathways Committee is still waiting for a cost estimate from Grafton Briggs for the redesigned pathways project. Apparently, landscapers and their suppliers are all extremely busy and under-staffed.

## **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Our prayers are asked for those who suffer from racial profiling, addiction, anxiety, abuse, dementia, cancer, emotional distress, are suffering from or ministering to those with COVID-19 here and around the world. We pray for all who are unemployed or homeless. We pray for those who are victims of natural disasters and changes in the earth's climate. Along with so many around the world, we pray for the people of Ukraine as they continue to suffer from Russia's invasion. Finally, we pray for all who serve in the diplomatic corps and in the armed and peacekeeping forces.

In our parish prayer list, we continue to pray for Charlie, Larry, David, Robert, Miyoko, Emily, Steve, Janet, Bunk, Sarah, Johnny, Bruce, Betsy, Amy, Bob, Debby, Sandra, Helen, Ted and Dicky.

## **ZOOM INFORMATION**

**Our 10 AM Sunday worship service will continue to be virtual 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 Sunday services at this link: <https://zoom.us/j/632447285> We suggest you plan on getting to our virtual church at 9:45 AM to give yourself plenty of time to get settled. When you join, you will be looking at the sanctuary until the service begins.

### **UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS as of April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Based on the recommendations of the Regathering Oversight Committee, on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> the vestry voted the following COVID protocols based on the latest diocesan directive sent to clergy and lay leaders on March 7, 2022. The directive allows for local discretion.

- Masks are to be worn for indoor worship.
- A quadrant of seating has been set aside for people wishing or needing to maintain physical distancing. Others are invited to sit there as long as the physical distancing procedure is followed.
- With the exception of the seating set aside for people wishing or needing to maintain physical distancing, kneelers have been placed on the floor.
- Communion is offered in both kinds: the larger chalice for those who wish to drink from the common cup, and a small chalice for those who wish to receive communion by intinction. We are using unwrapped communion wafers.
- Hosts are needed to prepare the coffee and tea which will be served in the Woods Hole Room after the 10 o'clock service. The room is to be properly ventilated – with windows and the door to the balcony open. Masks are to be worn to the degree they do not interfere with consuming beverages. Purell will be available.
- Weather permitting, coffee hour will be held outside on the patio.

### **NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH**

Many thanks to Mary Anne Mann who has worked extremely hard to research the history of the Church of the Messiah here in Woods Hole. Her research and subsequent essay are part of a response each parish has been urged to do as a means of further understanding the complex history of our diocese, especially with regards to Enslaved People and Indigenous People. Her essay was emailed earlier this week and is available on our parish website: [www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org](http://www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org). Along with other parish histories, eventually this essay will be available through the Community of Practice website through the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts: [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org). Hard copies are available at church.

**FINANCIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS TO THE CEMETERY MAY ALSO BE MADE ONLINE**

Contributions may be made **online** through Vanco Payment Solutions. These can be scheduled on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual basis. If you wish to donate now, please go to the church website: [www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org](http://www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org) and click on the *Donate* tab on the upper right of the Home page and follow the top link.

**Donations to the Cemetery Annual Appeal and Perpetual Care Fund may also be made online, via PayPal.** Click on the *Donate* tab and follow the bottom link to PayPal. Please indicate if you wish to donate to the Annual Appeal or the Perpetual Care Fund.

We also have the capacity to receive stock transfers. For further information on any of the above, please call the church office at 508-548-2145 and leave a voice mail.

**FALMOUTH SERVICE CENTER – A recipient of our Easter Offering.**



# June 2022

| June 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    | July 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su        | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 5         | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12        | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19        | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26        | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY     | SATURDAY                              |
|--|--|--|---|---|------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>May 29</b><br>8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person)<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual) | 30<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual)                               | 31<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open  | Jun 1<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open  | 2<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC)  | 3<br>Jul 1 | 4<br>9:30am Celebration of Life (PCC) |
| 5<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person)<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)             | 6<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual)                                | 7<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open   | 8<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open  | 9<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC)  | 10         | 11                                    |
| 12<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person)<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)            | 13<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual)<br>5:00pm Vestry mtg.         | 14<br>Flag Day (United States)<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>7:00pm WHCC Rehearsal (W. H. Rm.) | 15<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>10:00am Environmental Comm. Mtg. (Virtual) | 16<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC) | 17         | 18                                    |
| 19<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person)<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)            | 20<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>10:00am Outreach Comm. Mtg (Virtual)<br>3:00pm W H Meditation | 21<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>7:00pm WHCC Rehearsal (W. H. Rm.)                             | 22<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open   | 23<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC) | 24         | 25                                    |
| 26<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person)<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)            | 27<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual)                               | 28<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>7:00pm WHCC Rehearsal (W. H. Rm.)                             | 29<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open   | 30<br>10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open<br>6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC) | Jul 1      | 2                                     |

Church of the Messiah

## Church of the Messiah

### 2022 Vestry

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| The Rev. Dr. Storm Swain | <i>Bridge Priest</i> |
| Peg Nicholson            | <i>Warden</i>        |
| Michael Kasparian        | <i>Warden</i>        |
| Winifred Dick            | <i>Clerk</i>         |
| John Holden              | <i>Treasurer</i>     |

|              |      |               |      |
|--------------|------|---------------|------|
| Charles Mann | 2023 | Patti Dibella | 2023 |
| Susan Morse  | 2024 | Rachael Rhude | 2024 |
| Denise Jay   | 2025 | Paul Graney   | 2025 |

### Deanery Representatives

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Dicky Allison | Diocesan, Deanery Representative             |
| Helen Gordon  | Diocesan, Deanery Representative             |
| Jean Taft     | Deanery Representative, Convention alternate |

### Staff

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| The Rev. Dr. Storm Swain | <i>Bridge Priest</i>                       |
| Brittany Lord            | <i>Music Director, Organist</i>            |
| Nancy McDonald           | <i>Parish Administrator</i>                |
| Jennifer Kelly           | <i>Bookkeeper &amp; Financial Recorder</i> |
| Bruce Bagley             | <i>Church Sexton</i>                       |
| Doug Amon                | <i>Cemetery Sexton</i>                     |
| Jessica Morrison         | <i>Webmaster</i>                           |

### Rev. Dr. Storm Swain

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Phone: 508-548-2145, FAX: 508-548-2134

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Website: [www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org](http://www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org)