

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
May 8, 2022

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



God,
you are our beginning and you will be our end;
we are made in your image and likeness.
We praise and thank you for this day.
This is the day on which you created light
and saw that it was good.
This is the day in whose early morning light
we discovered the tomb was empty,
and encountered Christ, the world's true light.
This is the day you have made;
we shall rejoice and be glad in it.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book = He Karakia
Mihinare o Aotearoa, Auckland: New Zealand,
1988, p. 106*

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!

ZOOM AND LIVE-STREAMING INFORMATION

Our 10 AM Sunday worship service will be live-streamed 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 1st

Based on the recommendations of the Regathering Oversight Committee, on Monday, March 14th 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.
- Thank you for your continuing support. – The Rev. Deborah Warner, Rector

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE WARDENS

Thank you to all of you who worked so hard to make last Sunday so very special. It was a lovely and fitting tribute to our dear, now retired, Rector, on a most glorious spring day. We all wish Deborah the very best as she embraces her new life.

As our parish approaches an uncertain future, we are reminded of Charles Darwin's theory regarding survival of the fittest. Many have re-interpreted his theory as "survival accrues to those most adaptable to change". And that will indeed be our challenge in the coming months.

We will all need to embrace change if we want our parish to survive and thrive. Storm Swain is not Deborah Warner, nor should we expect her to be. Yet we are certain we will all learn something new in our pastoral journey with Storm at the helm.

We all need to keep our hearts and minds open to the many changes that are inevitable as we segue from our Rector to our Bridge Priest to an Interim Priest to a new Rector. It will not be easy, but we are both very confident if we adopt the right attitude and keep an open mind, each of us can make this faith journey an individual success, and together we can make it a collective success for the church we all love.

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. 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. Hard copies are available at church.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE NEWS

Spring is here, and summer is soon to follow! With warmer weather arriving, the Cemetery Committee would like to encourage church members and community residents to visit the lovely Herb Garden and Memorial Garden on the south side of the Stone Church.

The Herb Garden is a special location with beautiful plantings that has been the site of spring and summer baptisms. The Memorial Garden offers a sacred final resting place for the cremated remains of loved ones. The plaque on the church wall contains the names of many past church members and local residents. Benches between the two Gardens allow for rest and quiet reflection.

PATHWAYS UPDATE

As previously reported, working with the Pathways Committee (Paul Graney, Charles Mann, Susan Morse, Terry Soares, Jean Taft, The Rev. Deborah Warner, *ex officio*), landscape architect Tom Lee has designed a plan for walks and pathways to link the Stone Church and the PCC and also provide a direct route from the street to the patio entrance to the Woods Hole Room, effectively unifying our campus. In keeping with the expanded use of the side entrance to the Stone Church, Tom has worked hard to create a clean, uncluttered entrance design that emphasizes the beauty of the west face of the Church. It includes both stone steps and a gently inclined walkway for handicapped access, both connecting to walkways to the PCC. Following Tom's presentation on March 14th, the Vestry approved the overall design. Terry continues to work with Grafton Briggs to develop preliminary cost estimates, with selection of materials to be determined once costs are known. The construction decision will hinge upon the relationship of the cost to the funds set aside for this project, mostly raised as part of the Capital Campaign, donor-designated for pathways.

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 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.

WOODS HOLE LIBRARY PLANT SALE



Plant Sale

Woods Hole Library
Saturday, May 14
9am till noon
rain or shine

Donations of
plants most
welcome!

annuals perennials shrubs house plants
info: whpl.plantsale@gmail.com or 508-548-8961

*A Sermon for the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship:
The Rev. Deborah Warner and Messiah, Woods Hole
given on Sunday, May 1, 2022
by the Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts*

Grace and Gratitude

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. ~Eccles. 3:1

Before moving back to Massachusetts eight years ago, Tricia and I lived for 18 years in Chicago and Cleveland. The shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Erie are beautiful – but they are not the ocean. We missed the salt air. We learned to eat lake perch instead of cod. And we grew thoroughly unaccustomed to the tide. (It turns out the Great Lakes do have a bit of tide, but not so as you'd notice – registering a variation of just 1 to 4 centimeters!)

So we were unprepared the first time the manager of the building where we now live on Boston's Commercial Wharf called to say that we'd better go out and move our car. A king tide was coming in fast, more than two feet above regular high tide. By the time I got dressed and went out, the water was about seven inches up the side of the tires. Believe me when I tell you, this never happened in Cleveland!

The tide is a ceaseless reminder of the dynamic quality and rhythms of our world and of our lives. In Woods Hole you know all about the tide. The up and down, out and in, swelling and contracting rhythm of the ocean waters are mirrored also by other cycles of life in this village: winter/summer; isolation/congestion; WHOI students arriving and departing; a booming summer economy/a winter when some places will be shuttered. Up and down, back and forth, in and out.

Here at the Church of the Messiah, your life contains similar rhythms. Week by week, the pandemic notwithstanding, you come to this place to be nourished and strengthened; then you are sent out to serve. You come in to care for one another; you go out to care for others. You come in to sing and pray and share meals, deriving strength to go out and engage with the world around you. You have other rhythms, too. Longer cycles of triumph and challenge, of joyful times and sad ones, of birth and of death. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

Since September 2005 you have lived into these cycles with your pastor, priest, and friend, the Rev. Deborah Warner. Now that time together is itself a manifestation of those cycles and phases, as on this bittersweet day your partnership in ministry as rector and congregation comes to an end. Now each of you – Deb, and people of Messiah – prepares to begin a new chapter of your respective story.

The Great Fifty Days of the Easter season is a perfect time for such leave-taking, because our faith has a deep affirmation for these moments. Easter declares that our life in Christ is a never-ending journey of rebirth and renewal: that it will continue that same tidal rhythm of endings and beginnings, of farewells and hellos, of fulfilled commitments and new opportunities – and that is how it should be. In all of that, we are nourished by a deep well of gratitude and grace.

Gratitude and grace. These two words spring readily to mind when I think of the life of this place and of its faithful priest.

I have known Deborah Warner since the summer of 1987. (That’s 35 years, Deb!) As a brand-new deacon I became the curate at St. John the Evangelist in Hingham. Within days of my arrival I received a visitation – the Visitation of Deborah, who was my immediate predecessor in that position. She stopped by to congratulate me, to welcome me, and to say she hoped I would enjoy my time in that parish as much as she had. (I did!) I was immediately impressed and drawn to this this new colleague who was bright, and enthusiastic, and funny, and clearly faithful, and hardworking, ... and more than a little impish!

But of course – you know all these things. You know them, because you have been blessed by the ministry of this priest these past 17 years. I can honestly say that I do not know another priest anywhere who more fully embodies the model of village parson than Deborah Warner. She has been the devoted leader of worship at this church, and consummate pastor to its people. But in the manner of the English country church where every resident of the town is considered an extended part of the parish, Deborah has been not just the Rector of the Church of the Messiah, but every bit the Vicar of Woods Hole. In the Annual Report of the Parish, the Service Record listing baptisms, weddings, and funerals, has this note which is not typical of our parish registers: *“These numbers reflect the total number of services whether or not the person(s) or family involved were or are associated with the Church of the Messiah.”*

If God’s grace extends to all humankind regardless of credal identity – which we believe it does – Deb’s pastoral presence in Woods Hole has reflected that boundless grace. If you go with her to Pie in the Sky, she will disappear behind the counter where the staff considers her one of their own. If you stop off with her at the library, the librarians and patrons alike smile and return her greeting, by name.

This faithful ministry has been embraced and mirrored by this wonderful parish church and its leadership. The renovation of your original 1852 church and consolidation of your ministry campus these past six years has been one of the finest manifestations of property stewardship we have seen in this diocese in the past decade – a stewardship aligned with the church’s mission. That your renovated parish hall is known as the Parish *and* Community Center is reflective of the deep connection you and your rector have forged between church and village, the permeable walls of this place. Good for her, and good for you!

So now we gather to say thank you – to Deborah, and to God for blessing so richly this partnership in ministry for close to two decades. In her recent Annual Report, Deb wrote this closing paragraph:

It has been my honor. ... Yes, there have been hard times and harsh realities that have made us take stock of who we are in ways we could never have imagined. Through all of it, we have been extraordinarily blessed with generous friends and parishioners, vestry and lay leaders and staff who have and continue to give their time, talent, treasure and heaven only knows what else, so that we have, can and will continue to do that work to which God is calling us in a hurting, fragile yet magnificent world.

In the year ahead the Church of the Messiah will traverse an in-between time. There may be some bumps in the road, as there are apt to be in transition periods. One of those bumps will be letting go of one another. You will not stop loving each other – but you will no longer be in the relationship of pastor and parish. Deb, though still nearby, will need to step away from being your priest, in order fully to give herself to what comes next for her, and in order to create the space into which your next priest can enter with full embrace. This is hard, but this is important.

Meanwhile, people of the Messiah, in this time of transition, the parish will need you, each one of you. It is part of being the church that sometimes we are carried by the community around us, and at other times it is our turn to do the carrying. During the interim, you might need to do more of the carrying. So, do it. Do not drift away, do not stay away. But show up, and step up. And look up, because in this in-between time the Spirit will come upon you, just as the Risen Christ came to the disciples in today's Gospel, saying "Tend my sheep," and "Follow me." The Spirit comes, sometimes announcing its presence loudly with fanfare; other times the Spirit slips quietly into our midst, strengthening us in ways not seen, with grace barely noticed. But come it will, for come it always does.

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely. "The front row please," she answered. "You might not want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor is really boring." "Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired. "No," he said. "I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly. "Do you know who I am?" the man asked. "No." she said. "Good!" he answered.

My dear friends, we know who you are. After 17 years of your partnership in ministry, your diocesan friends and companions know you. We know you, Deborah Warner. We know you as faithful priest, creative leader, and pastor's pastor. These things will not change, and you will be led by the Spirit to find new ways to exercise those gifts, even in retirement.

Church of The Messiah, we know you as well. We know you to be a people bright and resourceful, generous and kind. We know you to be compassionate towards one another, committed to your village, concerned about the endangered Creation around you. We know you to be a faith community limited only by your imagination of just what God might have in store for you, just what calling is next on the journey.

Go forward now, friends. Like a walk along this very street – anchored at one end by the strong stone sentry of this church, and at the other end by the noble Nobska Light, go forth! Rooted in your faith, illuminated on your path – go with God.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Please like us on [Facebook](#)

May 2022 - June 2022

May 2022							June 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
29	30	31					27	28	29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 8 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	9 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual) 5:00pm Vestry mtg.	10 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	11 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	12 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC)	13	14
15 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	16 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 10:00am Outreach Comm. Mtg (Virtual) 3:00pm W H Meditation	17 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	18 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 10:00am Environmental Comm. Mtg. (Virtual)	19 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC)	20	21
22 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	23 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual)	24 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	25 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	26 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC)	27	28 10:00am W H May Festival (W H Ballpark)
29 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	30 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual)	31 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	Jun 1 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	2 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC)	3	4
5 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	6 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual)	7 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	8 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	9 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC)	10	11

Church of the Messiah

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5/4/2022 12:30 PM

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 & 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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