

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
June 26, 2022

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



‘They that would die well and happily
must in their lifetime,
according to their capacities,
exercise charity;
and because religion is the life of the soul,
and charity is the life of religion,
the same which gives life to the better part of a person,
which never dies,
may obtain of God’s mercy to the inferior part of the person
in the day of its dissolution.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)
Holy Living, Holy Dying,
Christian Classics Ethereal Library,
Grand Rapids, bk. II, Section III, p.46

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 cemetery committee and the vestry have started working with the town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee to upgrade the dirt path connecting the bike path to Church Street and to close off access from the bike path through the cemetery to Church Street. Allowing people to traipse through the cemetery's hallowed grounds is both undesirable and inappropriate.

There must be some kind of easement or lease which eliminates the church's liability for anything that might happen on the access path. The dialogue is just beginning, but we have established that there is interest on both sides in pursuing this end.

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

Dear Parishioners,

After a week when we farewelled two of our members in beautiful celebrations of each of their different lives, in the space of two days, I was reminded of Bishop Jeremy Taylor's *Holy Living, Holy Dying*, where he recommends a practice of daily examination of the state of our souls, to prepare ourselves for death. Having lived in a first responder household, where my husband was a half-time FDNY chaplain for 15 years, we were always aware that death was a constant possibility. Therefore, in one of our filing cabinets I had a list of what hymns, readings, reflections, etc. my husband wanted at his funeral, and he knew mine. We talked about this, as for us, both having been hospital chaplains, and disaster chaplains, death was an acknowledged part of life. We're aware that is not the same for everybody. However, a funeral reminds us that this is the eventual reality for all of us.

Jeremy Taylor wanted people to die well without unfinished business. Not all of us have that luxury, however, all of us can prepare for possibilities that will make it easier, for those who love and care for us, when we do. One of the best times to discuss funeral planning is when we don't need to, as it can take a lot of the anxiety out of the time when it is needed. When you have a full time Rector of many years, she may know your preferences, your favorite hymns, and who in your family to involve in planning, however in the months to come, when you have a Bridge Priest or Interim, they will not necessarily know these things. I, therefore, invite you, as both a practical and spiritual exercise, to, (if you have not already done so):

- 1) Write down your funeral preferences – service, hymns, readings, persons you would like to speak, for consideration by your family
- 2) Nominate your Health Care Proxy and discuss with them your medical preferences by outlining them in an Advance Directive or Living Will
- 3) This may also be a time to discuss whether you would like to make a planned gift or bequest to the Church in your will.

The Episcopal Church foundation has a helpful booklet to help us consider these issues. [Planning-for-the-End-of-Life-Booklet-02.10.22-1645825144.pdf](#) You could make the relevant pages available to the Church to have on file for a later time when they may be needed, or updated, from time to time. Jeremy Taylor reminds us that contemplation of one's own death is not a morbid thing, but an opportunity to express values, and orient one's life in a way to express grace and gratitude, and to care for those who will remain.

Having said that I continue to wish you a full and fulfilling life, and a blessed week, ahead.

Peace,

Storm+

Bridge Priest

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are excited to begin our work for calling our next Rector to the Church of the Messiah.

Our committee members are:

Julia Alling and Frank Gormley - co-chairs.

Denise Jay - Clerk.

Debbie Dougherty - Committee Chaplain.

Members - Jim Galloway, Steve Wagner, John Vose, Mary Fran Buckley and Terry Soares.

The Committee initially met with Kelly O'Donnell from the Diocese, who reviewed the process for initiating and conducting the search for a new Rector. The Diocese has many resources available to our group and already provided materials and guidelines for us to follow. It was acknowledged that the search process will likely take one year to find a new Rector.

Our first group meeting included stating the Charge of the search Committee, shared responsibilities and group practices. We also discussed what we felt each member's skills were that they would bring to the group as well as meeting frequency. It was decided that we would be meeting initially every two weeks and then monthly as we moved into the Fall.

Our second meeting was on June 6th and focused on establishing communication guidelines, starting a Church profile, discussions on surveys to the Parish to gather information and to initiate the Appreciative Inquiry which will establish what is important to the Parish in a Rector. Updates to our Parish website will be done. We will be updating the Parish on our progress through regular notices in the Good News after every new meeting.

The Search Committee met with the Vestry at their monthly meeting on June 14th and shared our progress, draft timeline and next steps.

A meeting was held on June 19th to review the draft timeline and to begin to establish a set of questions to include in the Parish Survey.

We are excited to start the search process and will be scheduling focus groups and gatherings to hear thoughts from the Parish. It is important for our committee to have input from the Parish! Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the committee with your thoughts, comments and ideas as we seek a new Rector.

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.

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, Bruce, Betsy, Amy, Bob, Debby, Sandra, Helen, Dicky and Jean.

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 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.

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.



Please like us on Facebook

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>

Rev. Dr. Storm Swain

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