

**The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
September 25, 2022**

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



To each of you
Placing a drop of hope
Into this bitter ocean of fear and pain
It is your single drop
That will turn it sweetly salt again

Nazneen Ahmed
From 'ধন্যবাদ (dhonnobad),
'A drop of hope: Poetry from a Vaccination Center.'

***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!

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, Miyoko, Helen, Dicky, Bobby, Lydia, David, Nancy, Meriweather and Susan.

We pray also for the soul of Joseph Martyna, and for Connie, Jonathan, Wendy, Romey and all who grieve his death and celebrate his life.

Dear Parishioners,

This past Saturday, I sat at a wedding reception, next to a 15 year old. I asked him, "I know people ask persons your age all the time what you want to do in life, but I'm wondering how the last couple of years of COVID has changed or shaped that for you?"

It turns out he is thinking about a career in the Air Force, but is really excited about a book he's reading at the moment on Immunology, and is wondering about how that might play a part in his future direction. I spoke about one of my brothers-in-law, who is now a Colonel in the Army Reserves, as an orthopedic surgeon, and has done five tours of duty, and that both might be possible for him. It was really heartwarming to see his face light up as he talked about Immunology. Yes, he is a 10th grader studying biology, but there was also a sense that he could see how important it was, from these past years that have shaped our society, and the ways we are together.

This past week we invited people to move forward to receive Communion at the altar rail, still inviting people to keep some distance, and continuing to use both a Chalice for sipping, and one for intincting the consecrated wine. For many it was a Homecoming, on a spiritual level. Even those of you who have been worshipping in person, other than the Choir and Music Director, have not stood or knelt at the Altar rail for some time. A number of people came up to me afterwards and shared how important that was for them. This was followed by a wonderful gathering of those able to join in a homecoming picnic, where some people got to see others they had not for a long time, and I got to meet some people anew.

This past week, President Biden unexpectedly said, in a 60 minutes interview, "The pandemic is over." As a response to this, the President's Chief Medical advisor, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said the following day, "We are not where we need to be if we are going to quote 'live with the virus.' We still must be aware of how unusual this virus is and continues to be in its ability to evolve into new variants which defy the standard public health mechanisms of addressing an outbreak." This highlights that the trouble with language around the pandemic being over, is that it sounds like the COVID-19 virus is either here or it isn't – a

bifurcated view that bears very little relationship to the levels of risk in a community. “The Pandemic is over,” **does not** mean COVID-19 is over; it does not mean the epidemic is over; it does not mean that the public health emergency is over; and it does not mean the level of risk to vulnerable persons is over.

What it does mean is that our healthcare services are **no longer being overwhelmed** by the case levels, amount of hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19. There is much to give thanks for. In the past week cases are down to around 423,000 for the week, down from a record weekly total of over 5.5 million in early January; around the country around 30,000 people are in hospital due to COVID, down from 160,000 in January; the average number of people dying in a week from COVID-19 is down to 2895, from a record high of over 23,000 per week in January 2021, and the positivity rate is currently 9%, but that is compared to 30% only a month ago.

In Massachusetts, the COVID risk levels are designated as ‘Medium.’ Around 625 people are in hospital with COVID a day, our positivity rate for tests is around 7%, and roughly one person a day is dying from COVID. In Barnstable County 79% of residents are considered to be fully vaccinated, (this ranges from 2% for those under 4 years old, to 41% of those 5-11, to 93% of those over 70. (mass.gov) The unvaccinated case rate is currently three as high as that of those who contract COVID who are vaccinated, and the death rate for those unvaccinated, during the worst times, is 10-15 times as high. We can see from these figures why people may get excited about the fields such as immunology and epidemiology.

What this says to me is the vaccinations are working. They may not fully prevent you from getting COVID, but you are less likely to be hospitalized, or to die from the virus. What this also says, is that nine months ago, in the middle of Winter, there was a peak higher than at any time, due to the Omicron variant. We do not know what this Winter will look like. There is still significant risk, especially as we will head into months **where ventilation will be competing with the need to keep warm.**

What negatively impacts risk is pre-existing health conditions, travel to areas with higher case rates, and poor prevention strategies. What we know about our congregation is that we have persons who are at high risk, persons who are caring for others at high risk, and we have people who travel, for work, for family, and for pleasure. We can rejoice in case numbers, hospitalizations, and death rates coming down on a theoretical level. On a spiritual level, we can join in compassion with those families who have members who are sick, and those who have died. Statistics mean little, if it is someone that you love who is the ‘1 person’ a day who is dying in this state, or one of the 100s per day in the rest of the country. No-one in our community is expendable.

In our faith communities, we affirm both the principle of caring for others, and making wise decisions for ourselves. **At the 8:30am service, we have moved to a “Mask optional,” state because we are not singing.** I mask during Communion at both services, both for your sake, and my own. At the 10am service, we continue to mask as, both the Choir and the Congregation sing hymns. **If we move to a mask optional state,** some people may choose to mask during hymns but remove the mask for other times.

In General:

- Get a booster vaccination of the new two strain booster, if you are eligible
- Stay home if you are sick, and worship through joining the service by Zoom
- Mask in situations of higher risk

In Church

- Mask if you are at higher risk, if you care for those at higher risk, if you have a cold, sniffle, sneezing, coughing, or you are around others who are, or if you want to
- Keep some distance from others if not in a well-ventilated space
- At the Altar Rail, where vulnerable persons may be unmasking, keep space between you and others
- Do not take offense if others' needs are different than yours, and you have to accommodate them
- Talk to the priest or Wardens if you are concerned.

This letter, is to give people a 'heads up' that the Regathering Committee and I are in the process of reviewing the Guidelines for the 10am service and the Regathering Committee will make a decision shortly. It may well be the we will have a temporary guideline for when the church is ventilated well, and a reviewed guideline for the colder months.

Please feel free to let me know if you have strong opinions (either way). May you all continue to be as healthy as possible during this time, and vaccinate both for COVID and the Flu to prepare for the months ahead.

Peace

Storm+

Bridge Priest

NEWS FROM THE WARDENS

Happy news: Storm will be with us for at least another month so this Sunday will definitely NOT be her last Sunday at Messiah.

Thank you to all of you who attended our Homecoming Party and contributed food. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

The vestry met on Monday night. In concert with the search process, we will be rebuilding our website with a contractor starting the week of October 10th. It will be built on a platform which will enable Nancy, Storm, Brittany and the vestry to update it ourselves. If anyone has any ideas or requests relative to our website, please let one of us know.

The Love First program is advertising for a coordinator to run the program. If you know a teacher or retired teacher who might be interested in this part-time position, please let Rachael Rhude or Patti Dibella know.

We will be issuing a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) to local contractors for the renovations required at the rectory.

The vestry has decided that the bulletins for our Sunday services are a key component of our liturgy and we will continue to utilize them. We will also continue our attempt to minimize the paper required for them.

Here are some reminders from Dicky Allison:

1. Games are available for loan in a big blue tub in the basement of the PCC. Suitable for use during snow days, lockdowns, quarantines.
2. September is Disaster Preparedness month. Forms will be in the back of the church in the coming weeks if you haven't filled one out yet. Neighborhood groups will be reactivated in the coming months.
3. Bring your United Thank Offering boxes to church when you remember.

A NEW YEAR FOR OUTREACH

The first meeting of the Outreach Committee this year will be held on **Thursday, October 6th**, at 10 am at the PCC. Many of you indicated an interest in joining the committee and we hope you will be able to come to the meeting. We will be planning for the 2022-23 year and welcome all ideas from interested men and women.

This first meeting is on a Thursday but we are open to changing the day and time of the meeting to suit the convenience of the members. We want and need the participation of everyone in the church. Please join us! Contact Carol Casey (508-299-8330/mccrwc@hotmail.com) with any questions or comments.



MUSIC NEWS: Choir and Chime Choir has started!

Autumn is rapidly approaching and choir rehearsals resumed on **Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00pm**. After a long break, we are resuming our hand chime choir which also started on **September 7th at 7:00pm**.

We are always welcoming new members! If you are interested in singing and/or ringing with us, please speak to Brittany. All experience levels welcome!

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee Parish Survey distribution has begun. The information gathered in the surveys will be used to help us discern what the Church of Messiah will be looking for in a new rector. The surveys have been distributed to the seasonal congregation, the choir and hand chimes group, as well as attendees to last week's 8:30 and 10:00 services.

The survey can be obtained in several ways:

- A link to the survey will be posted in the Good News, that will allow you to print a copy
- Copies will be available in the back of the Church and distributed after the 8:30 and 10:00 services
- Copies will be available in the Church office

The Search Committee has formed teams to reach out to parishioners by group for small group discussions for their survey responses:

- 8:30 a.m. congregation
- 10:00 a.m. congregation
- Zoom congregation
- Community Outreach Groups
- Love First Program
- Home-bound
- Woods Hole Community and Beyond
- All others

Members of the Search Committee will be available on Sunday, September 25th and Sunday, Oct 2nd after the 10:00 service to meet with anyone who would like to discuss their thoughts or have questions about the survey or process . We will meet in the Conference Room at the PCC and will be available until 11:45.

The Search Committee will have the following ways to gather responses:

- Meeting times for small group discussions will be scheduled for the various groups listed above and the schedule will be listed in the Good News
- Search Committee members will reach out by email or phone if there is a schedule conflict with meeting times or for those who want to discuss the survey one-on-one
- The surveys can be dropped off or mailed to the Church office, 16 Church St., Woods Hole, 02543
- The surveys may be left in the Survey Collection box in the back of the Church

Our goal is to have all the surveys returned by October 15, 2022.

The Search committee members contact information is listed below:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| • Julia Alling Co-chair | 978-257-6331 | allingjulia@gmail.com |
| • Frank Gormley Co-chair | 808-291-7018 | fxgormley@gmail.com |
| • Mary Fran Buckley | 508-540-0948 | maryfran55@earthlink.net |
| • Debbie Dougherty | 774-487-0570 | ddough1999@gmail.com |
| • Jim Galloway | 434-249-8629 | jng@virginia.edu |
| • Denise Jay | 240-515-1512 | djay58@gmail.com |
| • Terry Soares | 508-566-5442 | mtscapecod@gmail.com |
| • John Vose | 508-548-8251 | johntvose@gmail.com |
| • Steve Wagner | 508-548-0971 | spcawagner@comcast.net |

Thank you for your thoughts and input as we continue the search process.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY, October 10th, Christ Church in Plymouth

Join us for a powerful celebration of Indigenous lives, stories, food, and experiences. After bearing witness to personal and tribal stories shared by our guests, enjoy a midday menu of all-locally sourced, native-inspired recipes and share across the table and across cultures. Then, in a service of mourning and reconciliation, Bishops of both Massachusetts dioceses will respond to what was heard in the shared stories. You won't want to miss this event as we recognize and celebrate Indigenous people of Massachusetts and beyond and take this groundbreaking step as a church and as people.

Registration link for social media:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejc90hz1d16c469f&llr=s4blzzbab>

Find flier and promotional graphic here: <https://www.diomass.org/event/2022-indigenous-peoples-day-gathering>

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE NEWS

It may still be hot and sometimes humid, but now we are entering meteorological autumn and changes are on the way. And we can even think of winter and spring to follow in spite of the summer heat. Over the summer, Dee and Don Aukamp planted a batch of donated daffodil bulbs along one of the cemetery stone walls. They have planted numerous bulbs in recent years throughout the cemetery. Dee reports that there are new trees planted at the back of the Nims section, which is the section beyond the cemetery ring road at the base of the hill.

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.

- Effective Sunday, July 17, masks will no longer be required at the 8:30 AM service due to our ability to remain physically distant from one another. Anyone who prefers to wear a mask may of course continue to do so.
- 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.

WOODS HOLE INSIGHT MEDITATION COMMUNITY

The Woods Hole Insight Meditation Community meets every Monday from 3 – 4 PM. The format includes 10 minutes of introductions, 30 minutes of sitting with brief instructions, a 10-minute break for questions and a closing 10 Loving Kindness meditation. Our leaders include people who are experienced meditators and have done some teaching. Due to COVID, the group has been meeting online and recently introduced an in-person masked option. Further information can be found on our website:

www.woodsholeinsightmeditationcommunity.com.

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](#)

October 2022

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 25 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	26 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	27 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 11:00am WHWC BOD Mtg. 5:00pm Search Comm.	28 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	29 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	30	Oct 1
2 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	3 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	4 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	5 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	6 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	7	8
9 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	10 Columbus Day (Office Closed) 5:00pm Vestry mtg. (WH Room)	11 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 11:00am WHWC 5:00pm Search Comm. Mtg.	12 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	13 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	14	15 2:00pm Celebration of Life (WH Room)
16 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	17 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	18 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	19 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	20 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	21	22
23 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	24 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	25 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 11:00am WHWC BOD Mtg. 5:00pm Search Comm.	26 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	27 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	28	29 3:00pm Burial & Reception

Church of the Messiah

1

9/19/2022 1:48 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>

Rev. Dr. Storm Swain

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