

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
December 11, 2022

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



On Friendship

And a youth said, Speak to us of Friendship.

And he answered, saying:

Your friend is your needs answered.

They are your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving.

And they are your board and your fireside.

For you come to them with your hunger, and you seek them for peace.

When your friend speaks their mind you fear not the "nay" in your own mind, nor do you withhold the "ay."

And when they are silent your heart ceases not to listen to their heart;

For without words, in friendship, all thoughts, all desires, all expectations
are born and shared, with joy that is unclaimed.

When you part from your friend, you grieve not;

For that which you love most in them may be clearer in their absence,
as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain.

And let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit.

For love that seeks aught but the disclosure of its own mystery
is not love but a net cast forth: and only the unprofitable is caught.

And let your best be for your friend.

If they must know the ebb of your tide, let them know its flood also.

For what is your friend that you should seek them with hours to kill?

Seek them always with hours to live.

For it is theirs to fill your need but not your emptiness.

And in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures.

For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.

*The Cypress trees on the altar for the Advent season
are given to the Glory of God
in honor of Laura Kelly, for her many years of service to the
Church of the Messiah's Cemetery Committee and Altar Guild.*

*The Advent Wreath is given to the Glory of God
in loving memory of
Carole Costa,
by Peg Nicholson.*

***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, Helen, Dicky, Bobby, Lydia, David, Ralph and Warfield.

NEWS FROM THE WARDENS *There are several important announcements in today's column.*

The vestry has decided that our Christmas offering this year will be split as follows: 25% to Assist-Ukraine; 25% to Belonging to Each Other (a local organization working to assist the homeless); and 50% to the parish to cover operating expenses. While we all wish we were in a position to donate 100% of the offering, the vestry is responsible for prudent fiscal management. If we manage to show a profit this year, we will amend the split accordingly. Through eleven months, however, we are still projecting a deficit in operating income. Please note Christmas offering in the memo line of your check.

A reminder that we will celebrate and thank Storm for her bridge ministry with a pot luck brunch after the 10am service on December 18th.

We awarded the contract to renovate the rectory to Valle Group of Falmouth. Given long lead times on many required materials and their construction schedule, it will be a while before they can start. More on this project early in the new year.

The vestry will hold its last meeting of the year on Monday, December 12th, at 5pm in the PCC.

Dear Parishioners,

When my husband was in the search process and interviewing to be the Rector at Vineyard Haven, one of those on the Search Committee asked, “What will you do in the months of January through March?” At the time it seemed like a weird question to me. Of course, these are the coldest months, those most dreary, with less sunlight, when people get most depressed, but we had always loved coming to the island in the off season. I remember thinking, “Our kid will still have to go to school January through March, and you can get Netflix anywhere.” In communities that are Summer destinations for so many, we know that there are seasonal rhythms that may be quite different from other communities. Over the last few months I have been attuning to the Woods Hole ‘Fall into Winter’ rhythm, and the changes therein. I’m sure those of you who have retired to the Woods Hole or Falmouth region after vacationing here for many years know that challenges and changes occasioned by such a shift that has us turning more to inside pursuits than outdoor. In the last few weeks, the shift in weather has been significant from the somewhat barmy day of the Fall cleanup, to the bleak week of chilly temperatures and sundown before 5pm.

For those of us in the Woods Hole end of the Cape, one of the signs is the restaurants that close at the end of Summer, and then those that close at the end of Fall. Yet, the other day, when I was in the WHOI information center and gift shop, they proudly said, “We’re open all year around.” One of the things that I try to do, is to ‘buy local,’ even if more expensive, to support those businesses for whom winter retail is as much a service to the community, as any economic profit. Consequently, some of the Christmas gifts I am sending to New Zealand this year are books about Woods Hole, or novels based on the area, from this and other local stores.

As we know, one of the blessings of the Winter season is that as the leaves fall, views and spaces are revealed that are hidden during Summer and Fall seasons. From the Rectory the other day, I could see the twinkling lights from the ferry in a newly revealed gap between houses on Church Street. Likewise, when I head back to the Vineyard at night, the lights on the belltower, now show the Church as a sentinel, as it would have been year-round in earlier generations.

I don’t think it is a cheap analogy to say that our spiritual lives are like this. It is easy to value times when things seem full and abundant and easy. Then there’s the other times: the painful times, the lonely times, the times when we think, “God, what are you doing with me?” or the more simple, “Where the hell are you?” It’s times like these that reveal things that we are not always aware of, and need to pay attention to. It is times like these that tell us what we value, and what may be missing. It’s times like this when we may see God or ourselves in new way.

There is a line in a TV series I use in teaching, where an Episcopal priest responds to Jesus who has just said, “Life is hard; that’s why there’s such a great reward at the end.” The priest says, “I know that supposed to comfort me, but it doesn’t. Aren’t you supposed to comfort me?” “Where did you read that?” Jesus says, “In some Episcopalian self-help book?” They laugh.

This highlights that, as Christians, we are not called to a comfortable life. I think **we are called to a Trinitarian life**. This is a life that creates life-affirming space and cares for the earth, that bears the pain of life and seeks to transform suffering, and a life that discovers or create that which is life-giving and healing.

In this Winter season, as our bodies are not necessarily getting the sunlight, the connection with nature, and the activities of other seasons, we need to be intentional in creating that which is lifegiving. If you are someone who is suffering grief over losses from the year, if this is your first Christmas alone, if you suffer from depression or anxiety, or some other form of suffering, you will need to be more intentional. One of my academic colleagues, Anne-Marie Ellithorpe, recently published a new book, *Towards Friendship-Shaped Communities: A Practical Theology of Friendship*. I have noticed on the Vineyard, a number of people who have retired into the community telling me, even after years there, how hard they find it to make friends there. Some have wondered whether it is a ‘New England thing’ or whether it is a ‘Vineyard thing.’

I have experienced our community at the Church of the Messiah as very friendly. How deep these friendships are, I do not yet know. Perhaps these coming Winter months are the perfect time to reach out to others in the community, to nurture continuing friendships, and foster new ones. Perhaps these may be fostered in the already existing 'Neighbor to Neighbor' groups, through afternoon teas, pot luck dinner parties, "I'll meet you at Pie-in-the-Sky" for coffee dates, or a walk on a rare beautiful milder day. Perhaps it may simply be a phone call, "I was thinking of you, and called to see how your week has been," or "I realize I see you on Sundays and know so little about you."

I am so grateful for this friendly, caring, spiritual community, and I am sure you are too. May this Winter, as you are turning inward, may you also turn outward, asking for what you need, or reaching out to others in need. As I write these, what now sound like presumptive words, I am hopeful that they are not needed. Yet, if we take Ellithorpe's invitation to think of friendship not just as a social benefit, but a theological vocation, we can see it as invitation to blessing. Friendships are great ways to build a faith community. I have heard from so many of you, that "I came because [name] came here and she said she loved it, and I might too." May you continue to be a blessing to each other, and to those who are new. In the midst of this season, may God reveal Godself in renewed ways for you.

Peace,

Storm+

Bridge Priest

BLUE CHRISTMAS -Wednesday, December 14th

Have you experienced grief and loss over the year?
Finding Christmas hard to face?
Please join us for an Ecumenical service of reflection and remembrance.
Hosted by St. Barnabas, Falmouth.
Reflection by the Rev. Dr. Storm Swain.
December 14, 7:00 PM.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you wish to remember or honor a loved one this Christmas season with flowers and/or plants given in their name for our Christmas Church decorations, please write out the name(s) of your loved one and forward the information to the church office messiahfisher@comcast.net by **December 18th**. Please send checks payable to the Church of the Messiah, with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line, to the office at 16 Church St. Woods Hole, MA 02543.

Also, Christmas Flower Donation Envelopes are on the entrance table inside the church and may be placed in the collection plates.

Thank you,
The Altar Guild of The Church of the Messiah



WELCOME WEDNESDAYS in Advent

In these cold weeks of Advent, you are welcome to come and join the Bridge Priest, for coffee or hot cider on **Wednesdays, 10:30am – noon, in the PCC.**

Topics of conversation will evolve depending on who turns up. Science and Faith? Grief and Loss? Imagining the future?

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday, December 24th

4:30 PM - Family Service

8:00 PM - Festival Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)

Sunday, December 25th

10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

SERVICES IN THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, January 1st, 2023

10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

Note the change:

*Beginning on Sunday, January 8th, 2023
the service times will be*

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist (In-person)

10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist (In person & Virtual)

OUTREACH COMMITTEE HOSTING RON CLARK AT COFFEE HOUR, Dec. 11, 11:30 AM



Sailing to Woods Hole

Please join us for coffee hour on Sunday, December 11th at 11:30 AM, as Ron Clark reflects on his journey from a boy in post-Civil War Maryland, to a young man inspired to build his own boat and sail solo to Woods Hole, where he now heads the Seafarers Project in boatbuilding for students at Falmouth High School.

Holiday Programs 2022

COMMUNITY DONATION DAYS



Turkey DROP OFF Day: Sunday, Nov. 20, 11 am-2 pm

- We are accepting FROZEN TURKEYS ONLY
- 10-18 lbs. turkeys are needed



Thanksgiving Distribution for Client Families: November 21 & 22

November/December Donation Days: 10 am-12 noon

We are gratefully accepting:

- NEW children's winter coats (ages 0-10)
- NEW weatherproof gloves & hats (ages 0-10)
- Monetary donations
- Cranberry sauce
- Chicken broth
- Turkey gravy
- Quick Bread mixes
- Apple juice (64 oz.)



Children's Holiday Program Distribution for Client Families: December 12, 13 & 14

Your financial support and donations make a difference in our community.
For questions about donations, please call 508-548-2794

Thank You!

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The newly assigned Search Committee Consultant, Rev. David Rider, has begun his work with the Committee. The Committee has begun to update and inform Rev. Rider of the prior functions and actions of the Committee. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 13th at 5:00 PM.

The Search Committee will continue going forward with analysis of the parish wide survey and building the Parish Profile used by interested applicants.

The Search Committee welcomes the addition of Rev. Rider and his talents and experience to further develop the information and processes in seeking our new rector.

The Search committee members contact information is listed below:

- Rev. David Rider 917-288-0187 david.rider1207@gmail.com - Consultant
- 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 djaycc58@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.

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](#)

December 2022 - January 2023

December 2022							January 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Dec 11</p> <p>8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person)</p> <p>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>5:00pm Vestry mtg. (WH Room)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>11:00am WHWC</p> <p>5:00pm Search Comm. Mtg.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>6:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person)</p> <p>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)</p> <p>11:30am Pot-Luck</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>6:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve (United States)</p> <p>4:30pm Family Service</p> <p>8:00pm Festival Eucharist</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day (United States)</p> <p>10:00am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>11:00am WHWC BOD Mtg.</p> <p>5:00pm Search Comm.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>6:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>New Year's Eve (United States)</p>
<p>Jan 1, 23</p> <p>New Year's Day (United States)</p> <p>8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person)</p> <p>10:00am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>6:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am Memorial Service</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person)</p> <p>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>5:00pm Vestry mtg. (WH Room)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>11:00am WHWC</p> <p>5:00pm Search Comm. Mtg.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>6:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Memorial Service</p>

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 & Financial Recorder</i>
Bruce Bagley	<i>Church Sexton</i>
Doug Amon	<i>Cemetery Sexton</i>

Rev. Dr. Storm Swain

Cell: 646-236-2002, E-mail: sswain@uls.edu

Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 10 AM – 2 PM

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

E-mail: messiahfisher@comcast.net

Website: www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org