

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
December 18, 2022

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



Light in the darkness

There is a light in us that only darkness itself can illuminate. It is the glowing calm that comes over us when we finally surrender to the ultimate truth of creation: that there is a God and we are not it... Then the clarity of it all is startling. Life is not about us; we are about the project of finding Life. At that moment, spiritual vision illuminates all the rest of life. And it is that light that shines in the darkness.

- Sister Joan Chittister, on the website of the Center for Action and Contemplation (www.cac.org), December 4, 2019.

*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.

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

DUE TO ILLNESS THERE WILL BE NO LETTER FROM THE BRIDGE PRIEST THIS WEEK

NEWS FROM THE WARDENS

Thank you to all of you who have donated to the church this year and those who have fulfilled their 2022 pledge. Our gratitude runs very deep in this particularly difficult first year of transition. If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge, please do so if at all possible.

And equal thanks to those of you who have submitted pledges for 2023. We will have to make a decision soon after the new year on whether we can afford a full time Rector. Where we stand on 2023 pledges will play a large role in this decision.

As previously announced, our Christmas offering will be split between Belonging to Each Other (25%), Assist-Ukraine (25%) and the church (50%).



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

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)



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?

NEW COURSE ON SUNDAYS – Beginning January 8th, 8:45-9:40 AM

Starting Sunday, January 8, the Rev David Rider explores the spiritual DNA that binds our vision of divine accountability, cosmology, human anthropology, social justice, and postmortem survival as witnessed in the Old and New Testaments. A weekly one-page set of notes will tee up the theme, avoid lecture, and stimulate conversation.

More information and a list of topics was sent separately by e-mail on Monday and a link is in this week’s e-mail ‘Virtual Worship & Good News’.

Copies can be found on the table in the back of the church and in the office, Mon.-Thur. 10AM – 2 PM.

JANUARY PARISH INTERIM CONVERSATIONS

Building on two December parish conversations, the Rev David Rider will host two additional meetings in January to jump-start 2023. Our meeting times are:

- Thursday, January 5, from 7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82685190772>
- Sunday, January 8, from 11:30-1:00 in our Parish and Community Center

These meetings seek to build community as we share perspectives and listen respectfully to each other. More specifically as an interim exercise, they help us articulate our parish's strengths, challenges and the specific skills we need from our next rector to thrive in the coming years. To what extent do we want to hold down the fort, and to what extent do we re-imagine God's hand at work at the Church of the Messiah? Future rector candidates definitely will want to know our common answer to this question, so let's begin to formulate it now.

Our December meetings began this conversation with insights into liturgy/preaching, models of pastoral care, community outreach, and our relation to the scientific community surrounding us. But more people and perspective deepen our wisdom while clarifying our priorities.

For January, we'll focus the first 45 minutes on big-picture parish culture dynamics and the second half on particular program priorities like adult formation, outreach, and pastoral care.

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	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
							29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Dec 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 (In-person)</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day (United States)</p> <p>10:00am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed</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>10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed</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>7:00pm Parish Conversation (Zoom)</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>8:45am Sunday Course</p> <p>10:00am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>11:30am Parish</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>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person)</p> <p>8:45am Sunday Course (PCC)</p> <p>10:00am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Martin Luther King Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p> <p>6:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</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

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

E-mail: messiahfisher@comcast.net

Website: www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org