



CHURCH of  
the MESSIAH

MESSIAHGWYNEDD.ORG

# The Rector's Message

Fourth Sunday of Easter

**SUNDAY, 21 April 2024**

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**A Message from the Interim Rector**



April 20, 2024

Dear friends

On Good Friday during Holy Week I had scheduled a service of the Stations of the Cross. The intention was to use a service booklet containing images of each station. As we walked around the interior of the church, worshipers were to imagine the image in place on the wall. Then someone mentioned that Messiah actually had its own Stations of the Cross, but that they had been removed some years ago, although the hooks on which each station hung were still in place.

Members of the church set about searching for them, and they were finally discovered in an unmarked box in the basement of the church. It was then a simple matter to rescue them from their dark home, dust them down, and restore them to their rightful places.

They are a beautiful set: the brass images have been laid on a wooden background, and convey what Christ endured for the sake of our salvation. It is a story within a story: Christ on the way to Calvary, within the story of the life of Christ as God's gift to humankind.

The return of the icons presented a small problem however, in that on one of the hooks was already hanging an icon of the Virgin Mary. This is a very special icon that it was created and gifted to the church by a former member. Where would be a suitable place for this icon?

For those unfamiliar with icons, "Icon" is the name given to religious images seen mostly in Eastern Orthodox Christian churches. The Greek word *eikon* simply means "image". Since the fourth century AD, icons were created as images of saints and of our Lord Jesus Christ. In prayer and worship, icons are aids to devotion. In the same way that Bible reading encourages our minds and hearts to ascend to God, so too the icon performs this same function using visual representations of the saints who have "gone over" and are now experiencing life in the kingdom of heaven.

The icon in our church is one of the Virgin Mary and child. In the Orthodox Church, Mary's title is *Theotokos*, or "God Bearer". We honor her as the Mother of God. She is, in fact, the first Christian. Not surprisingly, she also is the patron saint of mothers. In her life she faced many dangers and challenges, but through her own resilience and obedience to God, along with the support of her husband Joseph, she was able to protect and provide a home for our Lord in his early years. In fact, Mary knew Jesus longer than anyone else, and perhaps understood him better than anyone.

The "writer" of our icon - icons, being works of liturgy, are not painted, but "written" - is Lina Minicucci. She worshipped at Messiah for many years, but moved away and now lives closer to Philadelphia. She has a website, <https://linaminicucciart.com/> on which there is this entry from May 21st. 2010:

"On Mother's day my Icon *Glykofilousa I* (Sweet kissing Mother) was permanently hung at the Church of the Messiah in Gwynedd Pennsylvania. It was indeed an incredible honor for me and an extremely spiritual moment in

my life.”

In the church, you will find the icon of Mary and Jesus in the corner, propped against the columbarium. There are candles on either side, which can be lit as a prelude to prayer, and dedicated to the person for whom you wish to pray. I like to think Mary enjoys her new home, and she has provided a special light in a corner of the church which was muted before.

Let us be thankful for Lina Minicucci’s generous and prayerful gift. The icon is an example of the “beauty of holiness”. May it offer you a prayerful and peaceful window into the love of God.

With blessings,

Father David

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

**8:00 am Holy Eucharist**  
**9:30 am Sung Eucharist**

To view the service virtually, visit the website:

<https://www.messiahgwynedd.org/>

Sunday Bulletin can be found  
[here](#)

Visit our Website

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## OFFICE HOURS:

*Monday through Friday 9:30-2:30*

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## FOLLOW US!!



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## IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Please contact The Rev. David Beresford: 302-468-9062

## Church Calendar



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# Announcements

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### Thank you

To all those who helped with the cemetery cleanup on Saturday morning!

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### Funeral

For the late Brooke Hallman, at Church of the Messiah on Wednesday, April 24 at 11:00 am.



### Word into Life

Father David has selected sermons delivered during the past six months for further discussion every Wednesday evening during Eastertide. The next sermon to be reviewed and discussed is titled "Jesus' Authority". Copies are available at the back of church, or can be accessed [here](#). Each session will conclude with Compline. Wednesday, April 24, 2024, Guild Room, 7:00 pm.

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### Prayer Shawl Anniversary

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is celebrating its 15th anniversary this week with the blessing of its 1207th shawl. Our small, dedicated group's



membership has fluctuated over the years as we've mourned the passing of several members, but a core of 8 women continue our ministry, knitting all the shawls which have been given with prayers of comfort, support, healing and love. They've been given to those who are ill, those who grieve, and those who celebrate - baptisms, graduations, and weddings. If you or a loved one would like to receive a shawl, please contact Nancy Alpert-Sisson (215-285-0331) or Edie Amey (215-512-8015), or the church office.



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## **Celtic Eucharist Feast of the Ascension Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

In our hurried and noisy world, Celtic Eucharist offers gracious space and an hour to enjoy the holiness of God, gently touched by candlelight, music and prayer.

The Celtic tradition holds that we find God in Christ in our hearts, in each other, and in all creation. Through moments of reflection and calm, quiet words, and the sacrament of Holy Communion, we bring this tradition to Gwynedd and North Wales.

To celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, there will be a special Celtic Eucharist with candlelight and harp music at Church of the Messiah on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm. We are delighted to welcome renowned local harpist Mindy Cutcher who will play during the service.



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## **Messiah Meals**

Messiah Meals prepares nutritious meals for Caring for Friends. The goal of this organization is to provide food and friendship to seniors, adults and kids in the 5 county Philadelphia area. In 2021, they distributed 12 million pounds of food each month which equated to 3 thousand servings of foods per week! We will be cooking in the kitchen on April 30th at



5:00PM. If you prefer to be a home chef, kits of 10 meals each (with instructions) are available in the Narthex. This is a great project to do with kids or grandkids to teach the value of community service. Please place meals in the church freezer by 4/30.

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## Annual Meeting

Church of the Messiah holds its annual meeting in the church hall after the 9:30 am Sung Eucharist on Sunday, May 5 at 11:00 am. Bagels and Donuts and Coffee will be provided!

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## Outreach Request

Family Promise is based in Ambler. Their mission is to address homelessness and hunger. Last year, they provided a safe place to sleep and healthy food to 2,384 people. And..... 100% of families who completed their program found permanent homes! They are in need of products for Spring cleaning. They have requested dishwasher detergent tablets, laundry detergent tablets, glass cleaner, multipurpose cleaner, tall kitchen garbage bags, dish soap and hand soaps with pump dispensers. If you could grab some of these items during your next shopping trip, it would be greatly appreciated. A collection box is in the Narthex.

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**ECCP CHURCH COMMUNITY OF PA.  
APRIL 26TH SPEAKER, LUNCHEON  
NATE HOFFER, CEO, GOOD SAMARITAN  
SERVICES**



Nate Hoffer, the leader of Good Samaritan Services for many years, will speak with members and friends of the Episcopal Church Community of Pennsylvania (ECCP) at St. Thomas Whitemarsh, 7020 Camp Hill Road, Fort Washington on Friday, April 26th at 11 a. m.

He will discuss how Good Sam responds with

compassion to the challenges of poverty-related needs in its two-county service area by serving those experiencing street homelessness, those who are at risk of losing their own housing, and all levels of housing insecurity in between.

At a bring your own lunch following the formal discussion, you will be able to discuss with Nate the compassionate case management which members of Good Sam's team provide to each participant as he or she progresses toward stability . . . and after he or she achieves stability. (ECCP will supply refreshments at lunch.)

If you would like additional information, please E-Mail Mike Riley at [mriley415@gmail.com](mailto:mriley415@gmail.com).

ECCP, a more than 125-year old charitable organization, shares awareness of matters of religious and civic concern through periodic in-person and online programs, and provides financial assistance to seminarians from the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

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### **Altar Flower Spaces Available**

There are lots of openings for Altar Flowers for Winter. Please contact the office if you would like to honor a loved one with altar flowers. The suggested donation is \$75.

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### **The Prayer Book**

A book with a white cover and cross can be found at the back of the church. In the book please write the names of those who are sick in body, mind or spirit or in any kind of need. Their names will be included the following week in the prayers of the people.

Those whose names are entered will be prayed for on Sundays and by members of our prayer chain. Along with their names, please also write the current date. After four weeks - or before if requested - their name will be removed from the prayer list. To continue to include them on the prayer list, after four weeks their name must be entered again in the book.

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### **BIRTHDAYS IN THE WEEK AHEAD**

O God, our times are in your hands:  
Look with favor, we pray, on these your



servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- Tina Madison
- Joanne Fitzgerald
- Craig Watson



### Photos for Social Media

We frequently take photographs in and around the church that may appear on our social media account, website and print materials. If you do not wish to be in photos, please contact the church office, and we will be sure to respect your wishes!

## Church School News



This Sunday the children learned the story of Jesus calling Matthew (the tax collector) to be one of his disciples. They learned that Jesus' love can change anyone.

Next week they will hear the story from John 4:1-42, of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. They will learn that Jesus helps people be friends.

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Put Mother's Day on your calendars!! This will be the annual children's service, where the kids will participate in a variety of ways at the 9:30 service. Let Ciara know if you will be there! [cprezuhy@gmail.com](mailto:cprezuhy@gmail.com) More info to follow!!

## Search Committee

### Update

As we progress with the interview process, we ask the Messiah Community to lift up our church, the members of





the committee, and the candidates, so that we are open to God's lead.

Pray for our search committee:  
Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place.

Guide the Search Committee as they continue to be faithful in seeking your will.

Bless them with mutual trust, respect, and foresight as they lead us in the next phase of the Church of Messiah's legacy.

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## What's Going On Around Messiah

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**Harmony Theater is a creative performance environment for people with disabilities.**

They have several shows throughout the year at Messiah. For more information or to purchase tickets, click here:

[Show and Ticket Info | HarmonyTheaterInc](#)



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## Parishioner Spotlight

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## Belfry Bargains News

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**Where do the proceeds from Belfry go?**

***ALL of the proceeds from Belfry Bargains are donated to causes and agencies outside the parish. Every dollar raised through the sale of clothing and other goods donated to Belfry are given to support and benefit those in need within our local community, as well as across the country and the world.***

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# Sunday Worship

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## MULTIPLE WAYS TO JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology and the hard work of several parishioners, we are able to offer a variety of ways to participate in Sunday services:

- **IN-PERSON** – 8:00 and 9:30
  - **LIVE-STREAMED** - the 9:30 service will be broadcast on YouTube – follow the link posted on the church website ([messiahgwynedd.org](http://messiahgwynedd.org))
  - **WEBSITE** – at the close of the service, a video will be posted to the parish website ([messiahgwynedd.org](http://messiahgwynedd.org)) for viewing at a time convenient for you
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## Reaching Out to the Community

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### SUPPORT MANNA ON MAIN STREET

#### *We Continue to Collect & Deliver Non-Perishable Items*

As you do your weekly shopping, please pick up some non-perishable food items, toiletries and cleaning supplies. These donations can be left on the back pew of the church or left outside the Rector's office door. These will then be delivered to Manna to stock their shelves for distribution to meet clients' needs.

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## Creative Angels

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I have been searching for new and different side dishes. One I found and tried it just recently seemed to be a success. I attempt to get as many vegetables in my family and guests as I can. This vegetable bake provides a tasty way to do so.



Enjoy!  
Barbara

#### Easy Vegetable Bake

- 1 medium broccoli, cut into florets
- 1 medium cauliflower, cut into florets
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced

1/2 red pepper, sliced  
3 eggs slightly beaten  
5 Tablespoons olive oil  
1 1/3 cup milk  
3/4 cup flour  
1/2 cup parmesan cheese  
1 teaspoon paprika and 1 teaspoon garlic powder  
salt and pepper, to taste  
1/3 cup parsley  
1 cup shredded mozzarella

Cook vegetables to fork tender. Saute onion in olive oil. Put vegetables and red pepper in 9 X 13 baking dish. Season with salt and pepper. Mix eggs, olive oil, milk and whisk to combine. Mix in flour, parmesan, spices and parsley. Pour this mixture over the vegetables and top with shredded cheese. Bake 40 - 45 minutes until golden on top. Cool 10 minutes before serving.

8 servings

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## The Parish Prayer

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Please join with me as we pray for Messiah in this time of transition:

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: look graciously upon us, the people of Church of the Messiah, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we move through this time of transition.

Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing.

Guide the Warden, officers and members of the Vestry, and leaders of our faith community as they labor to be faithful in seeking your will.

We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be strengthened in our mission to be Jesus Christ's heart, hands, and feet to our neighbors no matter where they are on their journey of faith.

Bless us with mutual trust and respect, courage, and foresight as you shepherd our community through this next course of our journey.

Grace us with continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection.

All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory that awaits us in your name.

Amen.

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**Church of the Messiah**  
www.messiahgwynedd.org

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