



CHURCH of
the MESSIAH

MESSIAHGWYNEDD.ORG

The Rector's Message

Sixth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY, 05 May 2024

A Message from the Interim Rector



May 4, 2024

Dear friends,

Two years ago my wife and I led a pilgrimage to England, visiting churches and cathedrals in the counties of Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. We spent several days in Norwich, the county town of Norfolk. Along with its magnificent cathedral, Norwich is famous for a 14th century Christian anchoress called Julian.

Julian lived in a cell attached to St Julian's church. The church has been substantially rebuilt since medieval times. In World War II the church was badly damaged during a bombing raid and the new church is built on the site where it is believed Julian had her cell.

Julian lived in interesting times. In the 1340s bubonic plague is believed to have killed half the population. Julian was also alive during the Peasants' Revolt in 1381. She was well known at the time for her spiritual wisdom, and people would visit her for advice and direction. Her writings about her relationship with God, entitled Revelations of Divine Love, were only published in the 19th century, but have since had a lasting influence on Christian thought and practice.

One of the most well known of Julian's revelations concerns her meditation on a hazelnut. Here's an extract from the relevant passage (with the Old English updated for modern ears):

"And in this he showed me something small, no bigger than a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed to me, and it was as round as a ball. I looked at it with the eye of my understanding and thought: What can this be? I was amazed that it could last, for I thought that because of its littleness it would suddenly have fallen into nothing. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and always will, because God loves it; and thus everything has been through the love of God. In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, the third is that God preserves it. But what did I see in it? It is that God is the Creator and the protector and the lover. For until I am substantially united to him, I can never have perfect rest or true happiness, until, that is, I am so attached to him that there can be no created thing between my God and me."

Julian had a holy desire to understand the nature of reality. She prayed ardently, and many of her revelations came after she had been, in effect, "pestering" God. She was not to be discouraged, and God rewarded her persistence by sharing many of the secrets of the world.

I know of no anchoress or anchorite existing in the church today - in Julian's day there were around 200 across the British Isles. There are some hermits left, in remote locations, but none that is purely confined to living in a single cell attached to a church. For many people today, such practices seem strange and unthinkable. But at the time it was one of the ways of responding to the call of God to serve.

Our pilgrims visited St. Julian's church, which is not much bigger than a small chapel, and prayed together in silence. At the end of our short stay, the Rector invited us to take a hazelnut from a basket on the table of the cell. The hazelnut is a surprisingly effective aide to prayer; the practice of holding a hazelnut in your palm, and focusing on it, helps to still the mind.

Julian discovered that God's love was greater and deeper than she had imagined. When you turn to God in prayer, turn in love - our prayer is simply a response to God's love. Let it shape your own understanding of reality, for love is at the center of the universe.

With prayers and blessings

Father David

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday 9:30-2:30

FOLLOW US!!



IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

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

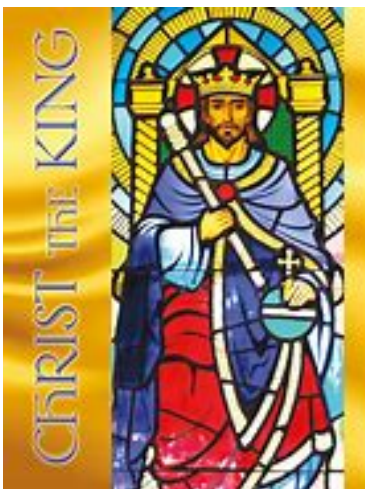
Church Calendar



Announcements

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!

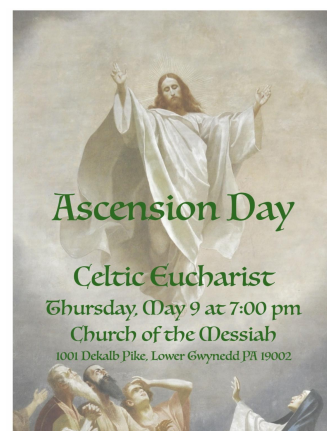


Word into Life

Father David has selected sermons delivered during the past six months for further discussion during Eastertide. The next sermon to be reviewed and discussed is titled "Christ the King", centered around Christ as judge at the end of time. Copies are available at the back of church, or can be accessed [here](#). Each session will conclude with Compline. Wednesday, May 8, 2024, Guild Room, 7:00 pm.

Celtic Eucharist

Feast of the Ascension, Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 pm. Music performed by Hannah Albrecht and Mindy Cutcher.



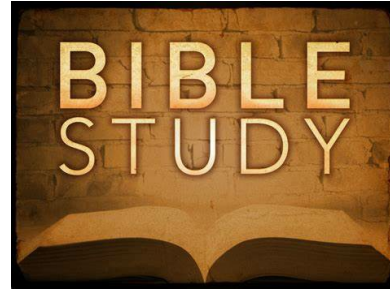


Mother's Day

There will be a special Sung Eucharist on Sunday, May 12 at 9:30 am, with readings by the children of Messiah.

Bible Study

Sunday, May 19 at 11:00 am, following the 9:30 am Eucharist, there will be the first in a new Bible Study series. We will be reading St. Paul's letter to the Philippians.



Messiah Meals - Update! Please read!

The Outreach Committee has experienced a scheduling conflict. Please note that Messiah Meals food prep in the church kitchen was supposed to take place on 4/30. It has been cancelled. Instead, "church cooks" will meet on Tuesday, June 11th at 5:00 PM. We recognize this is quite a delay. But, the need for prepared meals for the hungry doesn't stop. So....kits prepared at home are still welcome. Please deliver them to the church freezer anytime up until 5/11. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we actually fill the freezer so much that we need to make two runs to Caring for Friends? Additional "at home kits" will be available in the Narthex.



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.

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.



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.*

- Cindy Palen
- Samantha Jabs
- Cynthia Curtis
- Emmy Subers
- George Kriebel
- Pete Beaumont



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

Last Sunday the children heard the story in Mark 2:1-12, about the friends who lowered their friend who was paralyzed through the roof so Jesus would heal him. They will see that friends can help others follow Jesus.



This week the children will prepare for the participation in the service on Mother's Day, May 12th.

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.

What's Going On Around Messiah

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](#)



Belfry Bargains News

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.

Sunday Worship

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)
- **WEBSITE** – at the close of the service, a video will be posted to the parish website (messiahgwynedd.org) for viewing at a time convenient for you

Reaching Out to the Community

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.



Creative Angels

It's that time of year when we can be outside and enjoy the glorious sunshine and warmer evenings. Many are enjoying their happy hours in the yard or on decks. Part of most of these times is wonderful

appetizers or snacks. This Buffalo Chicken Dip is so easy to put together, takes very little time and is sooooo good!

Enjoy!
Barbara

Buffalo Chicken Dip

1 pkg 8 oz Philadelphia cream cheese, softened
1 pkg 6 oz oven roasted chicken breast cuts
1/2 cup buffalo wing sauce
1/4 cup blue cheese crumbles

Spread cream cheese onto bottom of a microwaveable 9" pie plate. Mix chicken and sauce; spoon over cream cheese. Sprinkle with blue cheese. Microwave on high for 2 minutes or until heated through. Serve warm with celery sticks and crackers.



The Parish Prayer

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.



Church of the Messiah | 1001 Dekalb Pike, Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002-1941

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