



CHURCH of
the MESSIAH

MESSIAHGWYNEDD.ORG

The Weekly Rector's Message

The First Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, 27 November 2022

Birthdays, Verse of the Week, A Message from the Rector, Announcements, Reaching out to the Community, Sunday Worship, Creative Angels Recipe, Resources for Spiritual Growth

Be sure to check out our new "Volunteer Spotlight" article! Every couple of weeks we will be putting the spotlight on a new volunteer at Messiah!

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.*

- Harry Parke
 - Ginny Oldt
 - Diane Stinson
 - The Rev. MaryJo Melberger
-

STAY CONNECTED

VISIT THE WEBSITE: *Here you can find a video of the Sunday service as well as the bulletin and the sermon.*

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

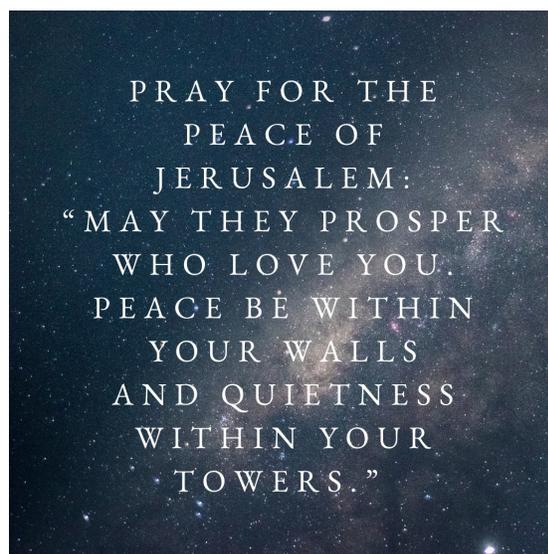
VIEW THE CALENDAR

[CLICK HERE FOR CALENDAR](#)

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday 9:30-2:30

IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY AFTER



PRAY FOR THE
PEACE OF
JERUSALEM:
"MAY THEY PROSPER
WHO LOVE YOU.
PEACE BE WITHIN
YOUR WALLS
AND QUIETNESS
WITHIN YOUR
TOWERS."

From the Rector:

Happy New Year!!! Or more appropriately: "Happy New Church Year!!" for today is the first Sunday in Advent, the opening of another Advent season, the beginning of another cycle of the annual church calendar.

Our Christian church calendar follows a yearly cycle that repeats the history of Jesus' presence among us here on earth. Following the church cycle, which begins tomorrow with the First Sunday

HOURS

Should you have an urgent need to contact the Rector outside of Church Office hours, please use his cell phone: 215-692-2667.

SUNDAY HAPPENINGS

8:00am: Holy Eucharist

9:30am: Holy Eucharist with music, church school and nursery care

FOLLOW US!!



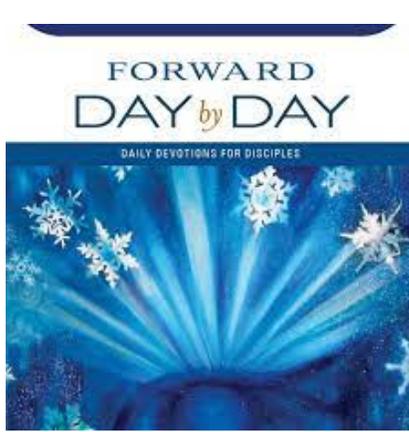
RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



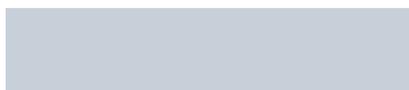
MY WAY OF LOVE
POWERED BY RENEWALWORKS

In Advent, we follow the story of God in our midst; we retell the salvation story of “Emmanuel,” the story of “God among us.” Advent, the opening season of the Christian year, represents the long period of time before Christ’s coming, when expectation and preparation was the rule. With Christmas comes Jesus’ birth, the fulfillment of that anticipated and long-awaited hope. The days of Epiphany repeat the events of Christ showing forth to the world that God has indeed come among us. In Lent, we begin the inevitable walk toward the Crucifixion and Good Friday. Easter brings the Resurrection, the greatest day of the Christian year – and the event we celebrate each Sunday. With Ascension Sunday, Christ the Son, returns to the Father, no longer among us in person; but Pentecost celebrates God’s presence among us in the gift of the Spirit. Through the long days of summer and the weeks of autumn, we look to that time when God’s purposes for creation will be fulfilled, when history as we know it will be completed, when Christ will come again to rule over God’s Kingdom. Then, with Advent, the cycle starts all over again.

This cyclical view of history and time was brought home for me in an unexpected way this past week. I began to fill out a new appointment calendar. Hardly a momentous occasion; an annual event I have repeated many times. I opened this new calendar, thinking: “Here we go again! Another year. Where does time go?” I opened those crisp, new pages and was struck at the sight of all that open white space – struck with the realization that a whole year lay before me – waiting . . . just waiting. I couldn’t help but compare this new calendar with my old one laying beside it on my desk: the cover worn thin along the along the binding and the lettering faded from where I had carried it throughout the year; the dog-eared pages filled with notations in every color of ink, some neatly written, some hastily written and barely legible. Two books – very similar in so many ways: the same



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH



black cover; the pages printed with the same months and the same number of days. Two books – exactly alike – except that one held memories, the other held promise; one held the comfort of things known, the other held the excitement of things hoped for.

It strikes me that this simple, rather mundane, act of beginning a new appointment calendar is a metaphor for all Christians at this time of year. With this Sunday's lessons we open a new calendar; begin a new, yet familiar cycle of the church year. We enter Advent and the cycle begins again. For Christians, the Advent season is like holding those two calendars: one filled with history and known events of the past, the other filled with the hopes and expectation – and sometimes the anxiety – that comes when we look into the openness of the future.

A note from Hannah Albrecht about our upcoming music:

Throughout Advent, the music will highlight female composers for organ, piano and choir. The Philadelphia chapter of the American Guild of Organists is on a mission this season to promote female organists and composers, so you might notice more included in performances all around the region! As you might guess, published music by women leans more contemporary (you will hear Minneapolis-based choral composer Edie Hill, hymn-writing Irish couple Kristyn and Keith Getty, and organists Emma Lou Diemer, Martha Sobaje, and Barbara Harbach), but also included in our Advent program is the only surviving composition by Gracia Baptista, a Spanish nun living in the 16th century.

Announcements

JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING CLASS!!!

The class will be **Thursday evening, December 15, 7:00 pm**, at Hague Christmas Trees, located at 755 Forty Foot Road in Hatfield. The parking lot is well lit, and restrooms are available. We will be making a 24" wreath with fresh cut greens. It's a 2-hour class from 7-9pm, in a heated barn with all of the supplies included **except for pruning shears and garden gloves. The cost is just \$22.** The class is limited to a minimum of 10 people and a maximum of 15, so sign up quickly. Participants must be at least 14 years old and each attendee will be taught how to make a beautiful evergreen wreath just in time for Christmas. Go to their web site for pictures of the wreaths we will be instructed how to make. The burlap bow will cost a few dollars more, but included is a red or burgundy bow. **Sign-up sheet located in the narthex; payment required at time of signing up** – make checks payable to "Church of the Messiah". See you in class!



Christmas
Bag Decorating
November 13th (after the 9:30 service)

Christmas
Bag Filling
December 4th (after the 9:30 service)

Please join us on these two dates as we
*** decorate and fill gift bags ***
that will go to Whosoever Gospel Mission,
Silverstream Nursing Home, and Gwynedd
Square Nursing Home!

Save the Date!!

The bags are already decorated, and they just need to be filled!! Join us for this annual outreach event!!

The Gift Tag Tree is Up!!

Make sure you stop in the Narthex to pick up your gift tag! The gifts will be going to Laurel House and Family Promise (the new name of Interfaith

Ambler).

**Please return all gifts to the
narthex, unwrapped, by December
4th.**



SPECIAL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT Church of the Messiah

4th SUNDAY IN Advent

Sunday, 18 December

8:00am Advent Festival of Lessons & Canticles

9:30am Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols

Readings, canticles and carols trace the grace of God from Creation to the Visitation and Annunciation, leaving us at the threshold of the Nativity.

followed by

Church School program

Join the Church School in the Parish Hall for the annual Christmas program; followed by a chili luncheon prepared by the Fellowship Team and Christmas cookies baked by the Church School families.

Christmas Eve

5:00pm Family Christmas Celebration

The telling of the Nativity story and building of the Christmas creche. Shortened service format, designed with children in mind.

7:00pm Traditional Christmas Eucharist with Bell & Chancel Choir

Festive celebration of the Great Feast of the Nativity featuring music from Messiah's choirs.

Christmas Day

10:00am Holy Eucharist

Enter into the quiet, meditative beauty of Christmas morning.

2nd Sunday in Christmas

Sunday, 1 January

** Please Note: ONE SERVICE!*

9:30am Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist

A series of lessons and carols recount the joy of Christmas, leading into the holy meal of the Eucharist. Special prayers for the new year, followed by special refreshments in the narthex.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, 8 January

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30 am Holy Eucharist

The Nativity story closes with the visit of the Three Wise Men, and we begin the Season of Epiphany and Carnivale with New Orleans King Cake after both services.



Pledge Card Reminder

Several weeks ago, we sent out 215 pledge cards, but we have only received 85 in return.

If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as you can. Every pledge is important!!

Thank you!!

DID YOU KNOW...

that **ALL** of the proceeds from Belfry Bargains are donated to causes and agencies outside the parish? Every dollar raised through the sale of the 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.



Brought in \$8000
in sales in the month of
October.

The funds were distributed to the following organizations:

Family Promise, Ambler
Community Cupboard, Ambler
Manna on Main Street, Lansdale
Salvation Army, Norristown
Laurel House, Norristown
Grace Bean Soup Kitchen, Norristown
Holiday gift bags for Silver Stream and Gwynedd Square
Whosoever Gospel Mission
Mitzvah Circle
Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank
HIAS
Food for the Poor
Smile Train



You are invited to an Advent Quiet Morning Retreat at All Hallows Episcopal Church

Church of the Messiah Cemetery is an Official Location for the 2022 National Wreaths Across America Celebration

We will be joining with the Gwynedd Chapter NSDAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and more than 3,000 participating locations across the country to Remember, Honor and Teach at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 17, 2022



The national nonprofit organization Wreaths Across America has named Church of the Messiah Cemetery as an official location for the annual memorial ceremony and wreath-laying event. This is the second year that our cemetery will be participating in the national event. We will be joined by more than 3,000 other locations across the nation in the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach.

Wreaths Across America started in 1992 as a simple gesture of thanks that has grown into a national movement of dedicated volunteers and communities coming together to not only remember the nation's fallen and honor their service, but to teach the next generation about the sacrifices made for us to live freely. The mission of the organization, headquartered in Columbia Falls, ME, is to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to include the graves of service members buried across the country.

The goal for the Church of the Messiah Cemetery is to raise enough funds to place ninety-four wreaths at the headstones of all the local heroes laid to rest in the churchyard, to ensure that the individuals who served to protect the freedoms of our country are not forgotten by members of the church or the local community.

Sponsorship is simple: A donation of \$20.00 provides two wreaths to decorate the graves of two veterans buried here at Church of the Messiah. Checks should be made payable to "Rector's Discretionary Fund", noted for "Wreaths".

Then plan to join us on Saturday, December 17th, for a short memorial service and participate in laying the wreaths on the veterans' graves.

Pictures from

Oberammergau

Pictures from the trip can be found on the home page of the website. Or you can click this link: [europe trip | mymessiahgwynedd](#)



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

Their mission: We strive to create, support, and offer opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in performing arts activities as an avenue for self-expression, social interaction and community connection.

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

[Show and Ticket Info | HarmonyTheaterInc](#)

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 Tiffany Reichley in the church office, and we will be sure to respect your wishes!



Volunteer Spotlight



This Week the Volunteer Spotlight is on Diana Mulroy!

Diana started at Messiah in 1982. She was confirmed here, married here and her son Walt was baptized here. Currently Diana is the chair of the Outreach committee, the chair of Belfry Bargains and in charge of Messiah Meals. In the past she has been a chalice bearer, a church school teacher, and she worked with the Rite 13/J2A group. She has also volunteered to help with coffee hour and VBS.

Diana loves teaching yoga and traveling in her RV, but most of all she loves spending time with her husband and son.

When she's not at Messiah, she is volunteering at Germantown Academy.

Thank you, Diana, for coordinating so many wonderful Outreach activities and Messiah Meal nights for Messiah, and for all of the amazing work you do at Belfry. You have helped to make Messiah a special place, and we are so grateful for your service!

Every couple of weeks we will pick a new volunteer's name out of a hat to be featured! There are so many wonderful volunteers here at Messiah!!

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.



Church School News



Church School is back in session! Children ages 3-12 are invited to join! We will be meeting upstairs in the Parish Hall at 9:30am on Sundays. The Nursery will be available for children 2 and under.



Our annual Christmas pageant will take place on Sunday, December 18th. The pageant will take place after the 9:30 service, and all parishioners are

invited to stay and enjoy a light luncheon provided by fellowship.

Creative Angels

This time of year brings much hustle and bustle! Meals that don't require a lot of time to prepare help us to have time for other activities. Crock Pot Chicken and Dumplings is a true comfort food delight that is prepared in very little time!

Enjoy!
Barbara

Crock Pot Chicken and Dumplings

4 - 6 chicken breasts, skinless, boneless
1 can Pillsbury grands flaky layers biscuits
1 family sized cream of mushroom soup
1 family sized cream of chicken soup

Layer the chicken breasts in the bottom of the crockpot and cover them with the two cans of soup. Cook the mixture on low for 6 - 8 hours Several minutes before serving, cut biscuits into 4 pieces each and drop them in the crockpot. Cook for 30 - 45 minutes on high. Then mix the dumplings with the sauce and serve.

4 - 6 servings



Church of the Messiah
www.messiahgwynedd.org



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