



50 State Route 24 West,  
Chester, NJ 07930  
Phone: 908-879-7208

# The Messenger

February, 2022



The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector

Carol King, Editor

Email: [messiahchester@earthlink.net](mailto:messiahchester@earthlink.net)

Website: [www.messiahchester.org](http://www.messiahchester.org)

## Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (spoken )  
indoors in sanctuary  
and via Zoom
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (w/ music)  
indoors in sanctuary & live-  
streamed on Facebook

## Mid-Week Worship Schedule

- Mon 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Tue 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Wed 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Wed 9:00 pm Compline via Zoom
- Thu 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Fri 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*

\* fcc services are by free conference call

## Messiah Vestry:

Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector  
John P. Treasurer

Elected Wardens: serving until (year)

(2022)	(2023)
Merica G	Dani P

Elected Members: serving until (year)

(2022)	(2023)	(2024)
Jackie M	Susan O	Debbie B
	Craig R	Julie C
	Dave S	Kathy K

The Epistle reading for January 16 is about gifts of the Spirit. The Apostle Paul tells the people of Corinth (1 Corinthians 12) how to use their gifts for the common good and to use them together. It seems a great message for us, here at Messiah at this time. Since I will be retiring, you will all need to use your gifts to work together as you discern a new clergy person and spiritual leader and I need to use my gifts to graciously move aside as we spend these next five months together. I feel sure God will be with you throughout this discernment time and a new leader will be called who will match your needs and challenge you in good ways to go forward, sharing Christ's Gospel of love.

I do not know what lies ahead for me as I am sure there will be ministry opportunities where Mike and I will live, somewhere in South Jersey.

Let me share with you: Fifteen years ago, you were looking for a full-time rector; someone who would bring opportunities for active outreach, programs, be a worship leader, be the President of the Senior Resource Center – I have listed some of your wishes. Your willingness to be involved in outreach has been heart-warming. From 2008 onwards (until Covid arrived), each summer a group of us went on a week-long mission trip, living within a community and collaborating with the leaders who had invited us. Also, from 2008 we started regular monthly service at Homeless Solutions, taking the food and cooking and serving it to all who were there. We were able to continue even through Covid, mostly with just two of us being there to do it. Each Christmas we brought gifts for the needy (most years to kids at Transitional Housing) backpacks in the summer for needy kids and baskets/gift bags at Easter for needy families supported by the Chester food pantry. Every Sunday (it used to be monthly) you are encouraged to bring items for the two local

food pantries, and you do. All these ministries listed above are a sample.... programs (you wished to have and I introduced) have included adult education – Sunday forums, Bible studies, Inquirer's classes, EFM groups, lunch time discussion group, summer discussion groups, all taking place weekly (pre-Covid). They happen because you attend them. Sunday school continued of course (with remote packages during Covid). From 2010, we offered week-long vacation Bible camp, involving many adult leaders, because you cared about our kids. We even developed an outside evening program during Covid. In worship, we have offered 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services every week, because you attend. Covid invited creativity including the opportunity to worship outside which was possible with the skills John P., Dani P., and Laura B. brought to us. The fledging SRC is now a large thriving community offering many programs, and very good opportunities and support for seniors.

Only you all can decide on where your priorities lie and how you wish to go forward, but I hope you will all work together, bring your God-given gifts into use for Messiah and share Christ's Gospel of love together. You have wonderful leaders, but they need your support, the support of every member of Messiah. You all pledged well for this year. You are a thriving community.

I encourage you to keep praying, keep praising, and keep loving one another. I invite you to have as your mantra the closing words from the next (13<sup>th</sup>) chapter from Paul's letter to the Corinthians: *And now faith hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.*

God bless you,  
Margaret+

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

## Book 'n Movie Night

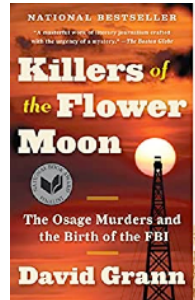
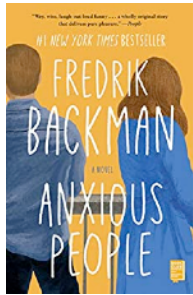
Tuesdays, January 31<sup>st</sup> & March 1<sup>st</sup>

On January 31<sup>st</sup> we gather at 6:30 pm to discuss the book *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> we will gather at 6:30 pm to discuss the book of the month, which will be *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Green.

The monthly movie begins at 7:30 pm. It is free, as are the coffee and snacks! You are welcome to join us (lower parish hall.) If you did not read the book you are still very welcome to come, just for the movie.

You can also join the conversation by Zoom. Contact Margaret for the Zoom meeting number and password.



## Flower Ministry

Would you like to honor a living person or memorialize your beloved deceased? Altar flower donations are an excellent way to do so! Even though most of you are not worshipping in person, the flowers are always on display and are given to you or taken to someone who is sick or has a specific need.

If you attend church in person, you can sign up on the flower chart, then send your check to the office. You can also send your request in via USPS mail, or by emailing it to the office. You can make a request for the type or color of flowers you would like to have displayed. The suggested donation is \$25.



## Thrift Shop Schedule

Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

50% off sales: Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>  
\$1 dollar sales: Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

## Where do our Donations Go?

Jim & Mary Ellen T. bring donated food items to the Chester and Long Valley food pantries.

Margaret brings baby food, formula and diapers to North Porch.

## Sunday School

We offer Sunday school, usually two Sundays a month. We are in regular contact with our families to check on the dates they are able to attend.



## Neighbors in Need

“Neighbors in Need” in February is Long Valley Food Pantry. All shelf-stable donations are appreciated. Always-needed items include:

- oil, vinegar, salad dressing, mayo,
- powdered & shelf-stable milk
- canned chicken, soups, veggies
- body wash, shampoo & conditioner
- paper towels/tissues/napkins
- feminine hygiene products
- cereal, rice, pasta, flour, sugar, cake mix

## February Birthdays

Feb	11	Diane C
Feb	15	Tabitha I.
Feb	17	Virginia M
Feb	27	Peggy A
Feb	28	Isaiah dB



## February Anniversary

Feb 16 Dani & John P



## Annual Meeting Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Our annual meeting will be held here, in the sanctuary, at 11:30 on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to go to the parish hall following the 10 a.m. service for coffee and a snack, and then return to the sanctuary. The annual meeting will start as soon as all have returned.

At this meeting we will elect a new warden, and three vestry members each for a three-year term. We will also elect three Diocesan Convention delegates. The position of treasurer is not covered by the election but we will be appointing a treasurer. We hope our treasurer, John P., will continue to serve; he is also a vestry member. Please talk to the wardens - Merica and Dani - or to Margaret if you wish to be on the vestry or are interested in learning more about this ministry. Please note the vestry meets by Zoom; not in-person, the second Tuesday of each month.

We will celebrate the ministries of those who are retiring from the vestry: Merica G. has served 4 years (2 consecutive terms) as a warden. She has served conscientiously and lovingly. We greatly appreciate all her hard work. As warden she has always been available to me for discussion, advice, and support. This is what a rector needs. Together with our other warden Dani P., the support, advice and friendship from them both has been just wonderful. Jackie M. is retiring after serving 3 years as a vestry member. She has been the liaison for worship and music and has led the worship committee conscientiously and lovingly, especially during nearly 2 years of Covid restrictions. She has an excellent grasp of our liturgy and thus led the liturgy committee really well.

We will also celebrate the ministry of Mike O. who has been a Diocesan Convention delegate for many years. He will be retiring this year. The next Diocesan Convention is in May. Please let Margaret know if you wish to be one of our three delegates. Linda O. who served last year (and went with Mike and Margaret as an in-person delegate) is standing again for election. Hans S. is also willing to stand again.

We will be welcoming a new warden and three people to serve on the vestry for a three year term and one to complete an unexpired two year term (vacated by Debbie B.).

Our new warden will be Debbie B. who is currently serving on the vestry. Debbie is already one of our leaders; she has served on the vestry for the past four years already. She was also on the vestry back in 2007 when I came to Messiah. Debbie, with the support of Debbie B. has been the chair for our buildings and will continue in

that role, again with the support of Chris M. Our vestry is very pleased to welcome Debbie as the new warden, serving with Dani.

Holly P. is a member of both the bell choir (currently active and playing monthly) as well as the vocal choir (currently waiting for Covid restrictions to lift when conditions improve).

Keith H. is a regular worshiper at 8 a.m. and helped on Messiah work days last summer/fall.

Pat K. is a member of the bell choir (currently active and playing monthly) and is active in outreach ministries.

Bernadette R. is taking the unexpired 2 year term vacated by Debbie, who will be warden.

Here are the vestry members proposed for 2022 (those to be elected are in bold type):

Wardens: Dani P. (class of 2023) helping with technology, leading Messiah

**Debbie B.** (class of 2024) buildings, leading Messiah

Treasurer: John P. appointed annually

Vestry:

Class of 2023

Dave S. - Social justice liaison

Susan O. - Inreach to our members

Craig R. - all our outside property

Class of 2024

Julie C. - Outreach

Kathy K. - Fundraising

**Bernadette R.** - Worship (liturgy, music)

Class of 2025

**Holly P.** - Youth & Children

**Keith H.** Communications

**Pat K.** - Social events (including coffee hour)

## Congregational Meeting



*Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.*



## St Elsie's Thrift Shop Needs Your Help!

These jobs can be done any time at your convenience:

- Load a few boxes into your car for Salvation Army and drop them off in Hackettstown, or Restore in the Randolph area. There are two tables along the far back wall of the basement by the exit to the back-parking lot. There is a sign on the wall indicating "Salvation Army". Anything on that table goes to Salvation Army. We fill that table weekly.
- Bring up the garbage that is next to the exit door by the same table. There is a sign that says "garbage". Bring upstairs to the dumpster in the back parking lot.
- When you enter the drop off room of the thrift shop, there are two shelves on the right-hand side. These are the dropped off donations. Sometimes they are also on the floor. Separate the household items from the clothes. The clothes can be taken to the back table by all the hangers and sorted by tops and bottoms. Keep off-season clothing separate.

If you require further instructions, or would like me to show you around personally, please email me at [dianecardillo9@gmail.com](mailto:dianecardillo9@gmail.com).

Also, we need people to work the front desk or the back room on Thursdays or Saturdays. Please let me know if you can spare 2 hours to help out. Training will be provided.

*Diane C.*



## Coffee Hour

A Sign-Up Genius has been created for coffee hour. Each Sunday we are in need volunteers to handle two functions - set up of coffee and hot water and providing individually wrapped food items. Please note that bananas and oranges are considered individually wrapped if you want to consider bringing fresh fruit.

If you set up around 9:30 you can then attend the 10 o'clock service. Alternatively, if you attend the 8:00 service you are welcome to set up for others attending later.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baea928a0fac70-church>

With a gently nudge, please remember to adhere to all Covid social distancing and masking requirements in place when setting up, attending, and cleaning up for coffee hour.



## "Plus One" Campaign

This is a very simple way to remember families in need. When you go to the supermarket, just add one item to your cart. Your single item, added to everyone else's single item, will make a huge difference.



*Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*

—Francis of Assisi

## Inquirer's & Confirmation Classes



There could be a Confirmation class for students 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older. Students who attend can be confirmed this year if they so choose. Parents of students in this age group are encouraged to speak with Margaret for details about the class. There could be teenagers from District churches joining our group. An adult Inquirer's class is offered either on a Sunday after worship or during the week. Please talk to Margaret if you are interested in attending. A class usually lasts for 5 sessions.

The class is for those unfamiliar with the teachings of the Church in general

and/or the Episcopal Church in particular. During the class, we allow time for discussion of any questions you may have. A booklet is provided with reading assignments.

After completing the class, you may choose to be confirmed by the Bishop at a local church or at the diocesan cathedral. If you were **Confirmed** in another tradition, you can be **Received** by the Bishop at this service.

If you feel you would like to renew your confirmation vows, you can choose to do that at the service. The Bishop will lay hands upon you and pray for you, similar to the way she welcomes and prays for confirmands.

## Your Story



If you are new to Messiah, we would love to read your story in the next or subsequent editions of *The Messenger*. If you have been a member for a long time, we would love to read what has kept you here. Please contact Susan O. or Carol K.

## Education for Ministry, EFM

(for all of us, nothing to do with ordination)

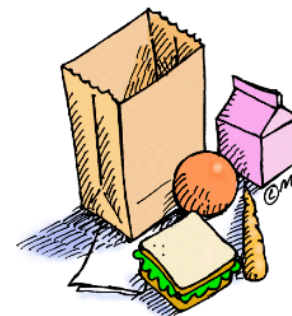


We have two groups meeting on Wednesdays, one from 2:30-4:30 p.m. with participants mostly attending by Zoom. The other from 7-9 p.m. meets by Zoom call. The Zoom number is available from Margaret.

## Wednesday Lunch Group

This lunch group continues to meet on Wednesdays from noon - 1 pm in the lower level. Participants can bring a bag lunch if they wish.

We are reading articles from "The Christian Century" which Margaret provides. Please ask her for copies.

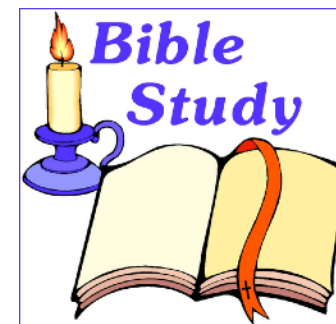


## Bible Study

We have two adult Bible study groups; one meets in-person on Monday afternoons 2- 3:30. Currently we are studying John's Gospel.

The other meets by FCC on Thursday mornings from 11 - 12. Currently we are studying 1 Samuel.

You are welcome to join either group and to use whatever version of the Bible you prefer.



*Beware the religion that turns you against another one.  
It's unlikely that it's really religion at all.*

Joan D. Chittister

## Homeless Solutions Meal Preparation Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and On-Going

The SignUp Genius is available through May.

Upcoming dates needed include the following:

Friday Feb 11 (one slot left and one on call)

Saturday, March 19 (all slots)

Friday April 8 (all slots)

Saturday May 21 (all slots)

You can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baea928a0fac70-messiah>

All volunteers must go through screening and receive an assigned Covid number. Tamala Reynolds is the volunteer coordinator for HSI. You can contact her directly and let her know you are a Messiah volunteer and she will email you a number. [tamalareynolds@hsinj.org](mailto:tamalareynolds@hsinj.org)

Margeret and Julie alternate leads for each Messiah team for now as we are aware of the changes in protocol.

In addition to volunteering, anyone can help by donating funds to cover the cost of the meals we provide. The cost is currently more with the requirement of individually wrapped snacks.

Please remember HSI in your prayers as they are anticipating the construction of a new serving kitchen and cafeteria which is taking longer than anticipated. Please remember their clients, especially the women who have been relocated elsewhere due to COVID space limitations.

Thank you for your gifts of time and support.

~Julie C., Vestry Outreach



*It is the life of the crystal, the architect of the flake, the fire of the frost, the soul of the sunbeam. This crisp winter air is full of it.*

John Burroughs

## Habitat for Humanity Volunteering Opportunities

A number of members have expressed interest and we look forward to forming work partner teams in the near future. There is a new project site on Bennett Ave in Randolph, which has not yet posted work sessions.

If you are interested in serving, you must complete their on-line registration and watch their training videos and review their COVID protocols. There is also a waiver to complete.

<https://www.morrishabitat.org/volunteer/individuals>

Once you have completed your registration and safety protocols, contact Julie via email [juliekayecrawford@gamil.com](mailto:juliekayecrawford@gamil.com) to coordinate dates. Please note that if you take time to review their volunteer needs, there are also opportunities to serve at their warehouse and at their their administration site or Restore; and also to help plan for events.

## Take Five—Give Yourself a Big Hug Jin Shin Jyutsu Self Help

Doing this simple hold not only reminds you that loving and taking care of yourself should be your first priority, but also:

Placing your hands under your armpits brings energy and stimulates the lymph nodes residing there, consequently helping your immune system.

It also helps your respiratory and vascular systems. By moving your thumbs up toward your collar bone you can also help with allergies.

Drop your shoulders and BREATHE in and out imagining the breath and energy moving down the front of the body and up the back.



Debbie B., Vestry member





## Voting Rights Should Not Be Taken for Granted

The right to vote is fundamental to a healthy democracy, but that right has not always been granted to everyone. Women were only guaranteed the right to vote with the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution in 1920. That was during my mother's lifetime. I grew up in the segregated South in the 1940s-60s. African-Americans during that time faced devious, evil obstructions that made voting dangerous, difficult or impossible. Thanks to the Civil Rights movement, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting.

The Episcopal Church's policy, according to the Office of Government Relations, is as follows:

“As we turn to the New Year, we will also plan to reinvigorate our advocacy on voting rights, to increase our voter engagement efforts for another midterm election year and to reflect on the privilege it is to live in a democracy, imperfect as it is. This can be a frightening time to live in our democracy, and indeed in many places around the world where it can seem that authoritarianism is growing. But we can take action. Historically, voting rights, and in particular updates to the Voting Rights Act, have enjoyed widespread and partisan support...We can continue to underscore the importance of voting and the need for federal legislation to counteract recent bills in many statehouses that have sought to restrict or limit the right to vote. At the most recent meeting, Executive Council reaffirmed the Church's commitment to voting rights for all those eligible.”

You can help by contacting your representatives in Washington to urge passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would prevent voting practices that are likely to be discriminatory before they cause harm:



**Sen. Cory Booker**  
booker.senate.gov  
717 Hart Senate Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202 224-3224

**Sen. Robert Menendez**  
menendez.senate.gov  
528 Hart Senate Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202 224-4744

**Rep. Mikie Sherrill**  
sherrill.house.gov  
1414 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202 225-5034

**Rep. Tom Malinowski**  
malinowski.house.gov  
1318 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202 225-5361

**Rep. Josh Gottheimer**  
gottheimer.house.gov  
203 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202 225-4465

Also, postcards are available in the church lobby for your use.

*Dave S., Vestry member (Social Justice)*

## Senior Resource Center (SRC)



The SRC continues to offer great programs for seniors, all in-person as well as some of them having a Zoom option. Almost all the classes take place in the sanctuary because our air system has special filters. You can find out more by visiting the SRC web site: [www.srcnj.org](http://www.srcnj.org). If you have questions about the SRC please talk to Margaret.

## Joyful Sounds

With the positive feedback of our Caroling to Seniors this holiday season, we are considering offering more sing-alongs to the Chester Area Senior Housing and Little Brook in the future if interest to serve is there. We found that Sundays after church worked well. The sing-alongs could be offered near Holy Days or perhaps quarterly, but we can let the group decide—open to all suggestions. We can also consider reaching out to other congregations locally.







## When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace

When hands reach out and fingers trace  
the beauty of a loved one's face;  
we thank you, God, that love relies  
on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.

When fingers spell and signs express  
our prayer and praise and thankfulness;  
we thank you, God, that hands can sing.  
You bless the silent songs we bring.

When broken bodies will not mend,  
we thank you, God, for Christ our Friend.  
In him our healing can begin.  
He welcomes all the wounded in.

And when the ways we learn and grow  
are not the ways that others know,  
we thank you, God, that we have learned  
your love's a gift, and never earned.

Your Spirit gives us different ways  
to serve you well and offer praise.  
When all are joined as one, we'll be  
your able, strong, community.

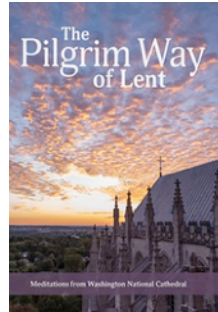
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

© 1986

printed under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) A-723404

*Your success and happiness lie in you.  
Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you  
shall form an invincible host against difficulties.*

Helen Keller



## Looking Ahead to March Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

We will have groups meeting weekly (an afternoon and an evening group, if desired) reading and discussing the book *The Pilgrim Way of Lent: Meditations from Washington National Cathedral*

Please let Margaret know if you would like her to get you a copy (\$5). A Kindle version is also available from Amazon.

## Inreach

What exactly is inreach? Besides a word that comes up underlined with spell-check, you might think it's a concept - where one spends time in personal reflection, reaching inward for the meaning of life perhaps or a greater understanding on one's self. Or, having heard the term mentioned from time to time at Messiah, you immediately think it's a committee of people who do that personal reflection together, maybe at the same time. Actually, if you thought along those lines and then decided that maybe inreach is the opposite of outreach, you'd be correct.

The truth is, inreach at Messiah is all of the above. Similar to our outreach ministry which reaches out into the community to serve others, our inreach ministry strives to reach within the congregation to serve our members. Inherent in serving fellow members is reflecting on the needs of the congregation, often with an awareness of our own needs as a starting point.

The goal of the inreach ministry is to offer spiritual support and fellowship to members as well as practical assistance when needs are identified or assistance is requested. The committee has helped members in a variety of ways, including providing rides to medical appointments, preparation and delivery of meals, grocery shopping, running errands, etc. We are always interested in suggestions for new ways we can support members as well as volunteers who would like to participate in this ministry. If this ministry is of interest to you, please do let us know by completing our inreach survey or by contacting Susan O., Jackie M. or Hans S. If you or a family member are in need of assistance, please do let us know. We are here to offer a helping hand.

Our next meeting is February 27<sup>th</sup> following coffee hour.

**Susan O., Vestry member (Inreach)**





### FUNraising with Kathy! Putting the FUN in Fundraising

- Fall Flower Bulb Sale was a success! PROFIT \$272.60
- BINGO night was a success! PROFIT \$467.00
- Candle Sale was a success! PROFIT \$197.25 (almost double 2019)

#### Ongoing Activities:

- Thrift Store continues to be a SUCCESS
- Shop Rite Card Sales continue to be a SUCCESS
- Used Book Drop continues to be a SUCCESS
- Printer Ink Cartridge continues to be a SUCCESS
- The \$250 Wheelbarrow continues to grow and will be revealed at the ANNUAL MEETING on Feb13.....so drop your change off by Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Most important to note: we are having FUN FUN FUN! We had a FUNraising meeting on Monday, January 24 and will provide updates on our next endeavors soon.

*Kathy K., Vestry member (Fundraising)*



*Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.*

Victor Hug