



Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (spoken)
indoors & via Zoom
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (w/music)
indoors & 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)

(2023)	(2024)
Dani P	Debbie B

Elected Members: serving until (year)

(2023)	(2024)	(2025)
Susan O	Julie C	Keith H
Craig R	Kathy K	Pat K
Dave S	Bernadette R	Holly P

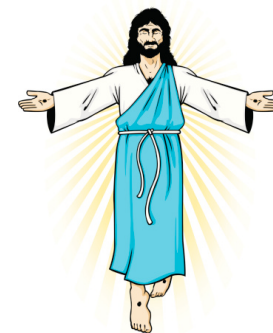
I have just read Jane Goodall and Doug Abrams' book: *The Book of Hope: A survival Guide for Trying Times*. It covers humanity and some of the rest of the animal kingdom. It refers particularly to chimpanzee, as no doubt you know. Jane describes four specific reasons for Hope: The Amazing Human Intellect, The Resilience of Nature, The Power of Young People and The Indomitable Human Spirit. How do you rate her four reasons? What reasons for hope would you name, if different from hers? It was definitely an inspiring book to read. The theme "resilience" came up many times. Writing mid-March, I am aware of the resilience of the people of the Ukraine, shown on our screens each day. I am praying each day for an end to the war and a good peace settlement.

I am sure Jesus had hope in his ministry, although I am not sure what reasons he would list apart from the love of God. Jesus certainly showed resilience when attacked verbally by the religious authorities. He had come to earth to proclaim God's love, to proclaim, "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand." He invited people to follow him and to develop a relationship with him and with God. He had to deal with the inability of his disciples to understand him and his earthly ministry. That is another demonstration of his resilience.

His final hours of human life were horrific: the physical torture of the crucifixion; the emotional and psychological torture of being completely alone, deserted by all who loved him and taunted by so many accusers. All this demanded great resilience from him. None of us have ever had to face those challenges. As we enter Holy week, beginning on Palm Sunday (April 10) I hope you will spend time focusing on Jesus. Focus on his ministry, his life. Above all, focus on his supreme love for humanity, including an amazing act of

forgiveness to all who were advocating for his crucifixion.

Can you think of times when you showed resilience in your life? If you are a parent, there were probably many times when there were issues involving your kid(s). Maybe you also needed hope. You needed hope that each situation could be amicably resolved. I suggest that such a challenge requires more than just hope. As I think of that 13th chapter in 1 Corinthians, the "love" chapter usually read at weddings, I am reminded that the last line reads: But now there abides these three, "faith, hope and love," and the greatest of them all is love. These words, I hope, remind you that God will help you on your life's journey, help you be resilient against all the challenges of this life. You need faith in God, the faith that God will always be with you as God was with Jesus. You need hope for your life during your time on earth. You also need to remember that God loves you deeply and unconditionally, which in turn inspires you to extend your love to God and your neighbors, just as Jesus commanded you to do.



Holy Week culminates in Easter, the celebration of Our Lord's resurrection. I pray that you will walk with resilience through Holy Week with Jesus, worshipping here as often as you can, and then celebrate his resurrection on Easter.

May God bless you at this holiest time of the year.

Blessings,
Margaret+



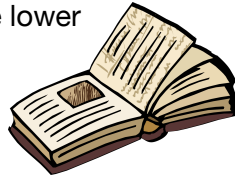
Thrift Shop Schedule

Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
50% off sales: Apr. 7th 9th
\$1 dollar sales: Apr. 14th & 16th

Book 'n Movie Night

Tuesdays, April 5th and May 3rd

On April 5th we gather at 6:30 pm in the lower parish hall to discuss the book of the month, which is *Chesapeake Requiem*: by Earl Swift. On May 3rd we will discuss *What We Owe Each Other* by Minouche Shafik.



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

The monthly movie begins at 7:30 pm. It is free, as are coffee and snacks! If you did not read the book, you are still welcome to come for the movie.

Neighbors in Need

“Neighbors in Need” in April is **North Porch**.

always needed items include:

- ▶ formula & soy formula
- ▶ Diapers, sizes 4, 5, 6 and Pull-ups
- ▶ Baby wipes
- ▶ baby food fruit & veggies

No need to spend \$\$\$\$\$ —
Those less expensive store brands are fine.



Easter Basket Outreach

Thank you to all who generously provided Easter baskets for children.

St. Elsie’s Thrift Shop Urgently Needs Your Help! Please Can You Staff the Desk on Thursday?



Our thrift shop is an important source of income for the parish, an excellent place for, boutique-like shopping for many in the community who could not shop at pricey stores, and a source of give-away clothing to those in need.



Please, if possible, answer this call for help staffing the front desk on Thursday.

For more information, “job-training” or a “personal tour”:

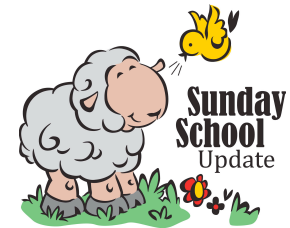
dianecardillo9@gmail.com.

Thank you, Diane, and all who already serve!!

Carol K, Editor

Sunday School

We now offer Sunday School every Sunday! It is held in the lower parish hall. Each family is seated at a separate table. Parents may choose to remain with their children, or to attend worship in the sanctuary; however, there needs to be at least one parent staying to assist the teacher.



Julie prepares Sunday School lessons & provides a hybrid format. The on-line format is sent weekly to 9 families

Thank you, Debbie B, Linda O, & Julie C for leading this ministry.

April Anniversary

Apr 27 Sue & Tim C



April Birthdays

- Apr 14 Karen B
- Apr 15 Dottie W
- Apr 18 Laura B
- Apr 27 Peter M
- Apr 28 Isaac dB



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday: April 10

Holy Eucharist at 8 am in person & via Zoom
Holy Eucharist at 10 am, in person & live-streamed via Facebook
Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. The liturgy begins in expectation and celebration as we re-enact Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem by reading the Gospel of his triumphant entry and as we bless and bear palms. Next we move into the lessons appointed for the Eucharist. We participate in the reading of the Passion narrative, the sermon for this day, the beginning of Holy week.

Monday in Holy Week: April 11

Morning Prayer at 8 am by free conference call

Tuesday in Holy Week: April 12

Morning Prayer at 8 am by free conference call

Wednesday in Holy Week : April 13

Morning Prayer at 8 am by free conference call
Tenebrae at 7:30 pm in person & via Zoom
This special service of psalms and readings features the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle, a symbol of our Lord, remains. This candle is hidden, representing the apparent victory of the forces of evil. At the very end a loud noise is made symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection. The hidden candle is restored and by its light all depart in silence.



Maundy Thursday: April 14

Morning Prayer at 8 am by free conference call
Seder meal at 6:00 pm in person & via Zoom
Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 pm

The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word "Mandere" which means "to command." Two commandments are given: first, "love one another as I have loved you." Jesus washed the disciples' feet as the symbol of his love, and thus in the liturgy we repeat this action.

The second commandment is "Do this in remembrance of me." The Lord's Supper was instituted during the annual Passover Seder. We will share a Seder meal together before the liturgy. Tonight after we have shared the Lord's Supper, the last one Jesus ate with his disciples before crucifixion, we will remove the remaining consecrated bread and wine to a "Chapel of Repose" (lower hall) where they will remain. Then we will strip the altar area to create the sense of loss felt by Jesus' followers as he was taken away. Those wishing to "watch with me" are invited to go to the lower hall.

Good Friday: April 15

Long Valley Community Cross Walk at 12 noon, beginning at Bartley Road Presbyterian Church & ending at Zion Lutheran Church. Everyone is welcome

Participatory children's "Stations of the Cross" at 2:30 pm (at Messiah)

Good Friday solemn liturgy at 7:30:pm in person & live-streamed via Facebook

Good Friday is the name given this day in the English tradition, the day the passion and death of our Lord is commemorated. The cross is revered during the evening liturgy of prayers and music, and we offer the reserved sacrament.



Holy Saturday: April 16

Recreate sanctuary space at 9 am

The Great Vigil of Easter at 6 pm, including baptism of two little girls, in person & live-streamed via Facebook

A celebratory social gathering in the parish hall will follow the service.

The Great Vigil is the first service of Easter Day. The service consists of four parts: a service of light (we begin in darkness with the entry of the Pascal candle,) a service of 3 lessons which tell our salvation history (we will ask people to enact them as they are being read) We renew our baptismal vows and the Holy Eucharist – the first Communion of Easter. We celebrate and proclaim "Christ is risen!"

Easter Day: April 17

Holy Eucharist at 8 am indoors & via Zoom

Bell choir practice at 9 am

Festival Eucharist at 10 am with both choirs, outside (weather permitting) and live-streamed via Facebook



Special Sunday School program at the 10 am service

Easter egg hunt at 11 am,
with appearance by Easter
Bunny

Join us for Festival coffee hours after all services. Easter Day brings the joy of the risen Christ. Come join us and share as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.



What Does the Church Believe on Public Policy Issues? Make Your Voice Heard.

The Office of Government Affairs of The Episcopal Church represents us on critical public policy issues, advocating for positions taken by our bishops. It is easy to learn what those positions are on the website of our church: www.episcopalchurch.org.

Click on Ministries, then on Office of Government Affairs.

There you will find a list of Action Alerts that spell out the church's position on such matters as the Cuban embargo, the Arctic Refuge Protection Act, gun reform, immigration reform, voting reform and police reform. It is easy to add your voice on these issues on the website. You can find a letter on each issue, add your own thoughts, and immediately email it to your representatives in Washington. You can also sign up to receive email alerts from the Office of Government Affairs.

Dave S, Vestry member (Social Justice)

Help Ukraine

It is hard to turn on the television these days with the horrible scenes in Ukraine. At the same time, it is heartwarming to see how their European neighbors are stepping up to help the refugees. This is very personal for me and Jan. Our first daughter-in-law is Polish. She is collecting and sending money to her sister in Poland who is taking in refugees. Our current daughter-in-law is Ukrainian and her mother and father were considering leaving. Our wonderful cleaning lady is Polish, and her parents in Poland live just an hour from the Ukrainian border. A small world, indeed.

Here are some respected ways you can help:

Episcopal Relief and Development : support.episcopalrelief.org

International Rescue Committee: help.rescue.org

Global Citizen: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/ways-to-help-ukraine-conflict/>

Dave S, Vestry member (Social Justice)



No Prancing Stallion Carries Him

No prancing stallion carries him
for whom all ages wait.
He rides into the city at
a humble donkey's gait.
A captive people name him king,
a glory they have lost;
not knowing, as they honor him,
his life may be the cost.

The temple stands atop the mount:
Jerusalem's proud face.
But Jesus strikes at those who cheat
within God's holy place,
the money-changing profiteers
defrauding the devout.
The Gentle One becomes irate,
turns tables, casts them out.

The anger poisoning our hearts,
we pray to let it go.
When righteous anger comes from you,
then Lord, help us to know.
May we walk humbly with our God,
do justice, seek the light,
speak truth to power, unafraid
to stand for what is right.

*text: Carol Goodwin King, 2014
Tune: to be composed (I hope!)*

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.

—Margaret Mead

How Can We Keep From Singing?

Look for the Messiah Vocal Choir to return to leading musical ministry this month! We will rehearse before the 10 am service (beginning at 9 am).

Bell choir continues to rehearse after the 10 am service.

During our 9 am rehearsals, we will resume building healthful vocal techniques, particularly while singing in masks. We will focus on leading hymn-singing for our congregation, with confidence and with beautiful harmonies!

We invite all who are interested in singing with us to participate!



Laura Craig, Music Director

Where do our Donations Go?

Our plot at the Chester Community Garden and collection box goes to various locations:

- ❖ Chester Food Pantry
 - ❖ Mendham Food Pantry
 - ❖ Homeless Solution meals
 - ❖ Roxbury Social Services
 - ❖ Trinity Food Pantry in W. Orange
- Jim & Mary Ellen T bring donated food items to:

- ❖ Chester food pantry
 - ❖ Long Valley food pantry
- Margaret brings to North Porch:

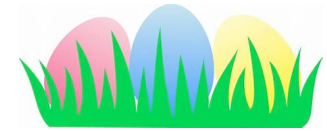
- ❖ baby food
- ❖ formula
- ❖ baby wipes
- ❖ diapers
- ❖ pull-ups

Easter Egg Hunt

This year we will offer another Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. The Easter bunny will be here and we hope lots of kids too. We need to make sure we have lots of eggs, filled with suitable small candy and/or little eggs and other items

If you can help by bringing some items to fill the eggs please let us know

We will be filling the eggs next Sunday in coffee hour so the items will need to be here by Sunday, April 10.



Worship Committee

As we at Messiah are getting closer to living in a non-pandemic community, the Worship Committee has been working towards the day that no Covid 19 restrictions will be necessary.

In order to continue as we have in the non-Covid past, some needed changes are upon us. The first must be more participants joining in the service. Many of our ministries are in need of additional members.

Please consider serving as:

- ▶ Usher
- ▶ Acolyte/Torch Bearer
- ▶ Lector

We also need additional Altar Guild members.

Please let me know if you would be interested in any of these ministries.

Bernadette R, Vestry Member (Worship Committee)

“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.



Flower Ministry

Even though we do not display flowers on the altar during Lent, you will be offered the opportunity to contribute to a glorious display of blooms for Easter Sunday, April 17th



You can sign up for future dates when you wish to honor a living person or memorialize your beloved deceased. 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.

Words from the Wardens

Messiah Miracles

Margaret is a "Miracle". We have had some before and we'll have more.

We aren't going to lie, we know there will be a lot of work to do, but we also know that we are a Beloved Community of people with many gifts. Some of you have gifts you don't even know you have yet! Messiah is a place where all can grow in love. We know this. Look at all the good we do for the community and for our members! Consider these: the Thrift Shop, MOMs, the Senior Resource Center, putting the FUN in FUNdraising with Bingo and the wheelbarrow, the Mystery Play, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Sunday School, our work for social justice, Sacred Ground studies, bible study groups, Vacation Bible Camp, Julie and Frank's garden projects and all they feed, Homeless Solutions, North Porch, book groups, etc. —and **you** are keeping them going, even during a pandemic!

We support each other. And we can thrive and **spread the word** through our actions. We have so much to be grateful for. Margaret has given us 15 years of her time, love, care and sharing of God's

story which has brought us together as a family **full of extraordinary people** who take great care of each other. We are united in love and our concern for all others.

Be assured that we are preparing for the future and that we will celebrate our dear Margaret. We can make Margaret proud of this community that she helped build, by strengthening our commitment to our church, participating in the process and moving forward.

We trust that everyone will help in this transition with their prayers and positive, constructive assistance as needed. We want everyone involved! This is another chapter in the story of The Church of the Messiah. Ask Carol and Frank Homer, - it started with an idea and folks meeting in people's homes and look how much it's grown! Tell your stories, tell our story! Because of all of you, because of Margaret and because we share a common story, our church will go on.

Do not worry
Matthew 6.25

Dani P & Debbie , Your Wardens

Bishop's Visit on May 1st

The Bishop will be visiting and serving the Eucharist on May 1 for our 10 am service. She will meet with the congregation after the service. We are expecting some members from St. Dunstan's to join us for her visit.



Celebration for Margaret

Save the Date: The Celebration for Margaret will be on Saturday, June 11th between 5-8 pm. Her last service will be on June 19th.

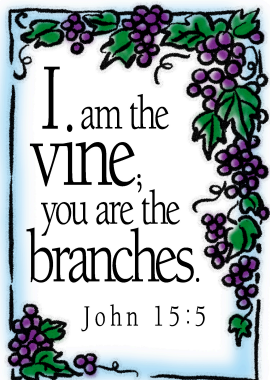
More specifics will follow.

Current Status on Coverage for Services and Bible Study

We would like to let you all know that as of March 29 we have arranged to have 2 Sundays each month covered by supply priests (Katherine Rollo and Sister Eleanor Francis) through September, and will continue to try for other Sundays.

Bernadette has confirmed that she will lead Morning Prayer for any Sundays we do not have coverage by a priest; and Sister Victoria Michelle will continue to give the sermon on the 4th Sunday.

At this time we are looking for leaders for Bible Study.



*Growing as Wisdom and grace entwine,
We are the branches of Christ the Vine.*

Mary Louise Bringle

Covid Changes for Us

The vestry has agreed to implement these changes for us for our worship:

Singing:

- The **choir** is invited to return and will be seated in their regular seats, positioned 3 feet apart
- We will **move the riser** a little, to angle it more towards the altar and further from the congregation.
- The **congregation** will be invited to sing all the hymns and service music.

Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion):

- You will be able to receive the consecrated wine in addition to the consecrated bread.
- Following the **Bishop's instructions**, Margaret will offer the consecrated wine in this manner:

- She will sanitize her hands very well, and when she has consecrated the bread and wine. She will intinct the bread for you and place it in your pal
- At present the bread Margaret consecrates will be the Communion wafers
- If you do not wish to have it dipped in the wine, you can receive the bread alone just as you have been doing during this Covid time.
- At present, only wine is to be consecrated; those of you who were used to receiving consecrated juice should decline to have the bread dipped in wine.

Margaret is thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity for some of you to now receive Holy Eucharist in both kinds. If you wish to discuss the changes, please speak with her.

Margaret+

10 am congregation please note:

ALL are required to wear masks during our worship!

Only the preacher and readers are permitted to remove them, and only for those ministries.



For the 8 am congregation:

Nobody sings at this service, so we will continue to allow mask removal if everyone wishes it and there are no visitors. Each worshiper should **bring a mask** to wear for times when a visitor arrives for worship.

Meet Your Local Artisans Show and Sale

Saturday May 7, 2022 1-5pm

Church of the Messiah

50 Route 24 Chester, NJ

(1 ½ miles west of the intersection of Route 206 and Main Street/Route 24 Chester)

Meet local Artisans and learn about their crafts in our intimate setting.

Free Admission Open to the Public Handicapped Accessible
CoWay HEPA Ventilation System in Use

For more information please call: 201-230-8765 or email:
kmkremins@aol.com

Raffle that includes some of the Artisans' products as well as gift cards to local eateries.

Among the talents will be a woodworker, jeweler, soap maker, gift basket maker, weaver, lotion and potion maker, chocolatier, quilter, cloth bag, card and candle makers... and more!

Gifts that any mother would appreciate for Mother's Day!



Artisan Show and Sale

Saturday, May 7th

1-5 pm

This old favorite is back!

There are many ways you can be a part of this FUNraiser:

1. Plan to **join us** any time between 1:00-5:00 on May 7th, alone or with a friend or two. You will see some familiar artists and crafters as well as many new ones for your shopping pleasure. You will definitely find things for those on your list—and don't forget to include yourself!
2. The **raffle prize** is a "Dine 'n Dazzle" package valued at \$420 (consisting of a sterling silver jewelry set, 6 gift cards to area restaurants, and a \$100 Visa gift card). Tickets (\$5 or 5/\$20) can be purchased at the show but will also be sold at coffee hour. If you worship from home and want to be in the raffle or make a donation, call Mary Ellen at 973-214-1224 and she will help you with that.
3. Please **spread the word** now to "save the date" and again closer to May 7 as an event reminder. We all know that word of mouth or a personal invitation are so important.

You can help by:

- ◆ sending the flyer to all your contacts via email or text
- ◆ posting the flyer to your social media and to any neighborhood groups you're in
- ◆ printing out a few copies and posting at work or at places of business that allow this.
- ◆ giving a few copies to friends who may also be able to post. A good idea is to always keep a few flyers on your person to have them handy! Every little bit will help spread the word!

.If you have any questions, feel free to ask Karen B, Kathy K, Debbie B or Mary Ellen T. Thanks so much!

Just for Fun

Give a try to this “shifting sand” puzzle. The goal is to fill in the blanks, with the correct word at the end of each phrase shifting to become the first word of the next phrase. (See the example at right)

Answers will appear in the May issue of *The Messenger*.

shifting sand
sand bank
bank robber
robber baron
Baron von Bismarck

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | <u>perfect</u> _____ | _____ | talent for tone recognition |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | device used to start <i>a cappella</i> signing |
| 3 | _____ | _____ | Quixotic vision |
| 4 | _____ | _____ | highly-skilled group of athletes |
| 5 | _____ | _____ | collective desire to win |
| 6 | _____ | _____ | adhesive used to attach a fake beard |
| 7 | _____ | _____ | substance obtained from acacia trees |
| 8 | _____ | <u>numeral</u> _____ | one of eight that appear in this puzzle |

The Return of the Native

As some of you know, I am very interested in birds & plants. As a former Master Gardener, I'm happiest outside communing with nature. Over the past two years I've come to understand the importance of using *native plants* in landscaping, instead of plants that did not evolve with our local wildlife. Birds, pollinators such as native bees, wasps, butterflies, moths & other insects depend on the plants which provide berries, seeds, flowers producing nectar or pollen, and even the leaves.

Why grow native plants instead of the hybrids, cultivars and exotics from other countries? As Wildones.org illustrates:

- ▶ *Natives are sustainable, adapted to thrive in your region's soils and weather conditions.*
- ▶ *Landscaping with native plants restores a healthy, natural environment and creates wildlife habitat.*
- ▶ *Many natives are deep-rooted, slowing down stormwater and improving water quality as well as reducing erosion, carbon and excess nutrients.*
- ▶ *Natives need no fertilizer or extra watering once established.*
- ▶ *They act as natural pest controls and reduce the need for pesticides; many are deer-resistant.*
- ▶ *Native plants are the foundation of life and provide quality food for wildlife like caterpillars, as well as shelter for birds and other wildlife.*
- ▶ *They also invite butterflies and other pollinators with pollen and nectar rewards.*

After surveying the landscaping installed in 1990 when we enlarged our building, I find the plantings are mostly deemed *invasive plants* now! This also includes plants brought in by wildlife. Among most offending plants on the property are the Japanese barberry, Tree of Heaven, Multiflora rose, butterfly bush, mugwort, Japanese stiltgrass, and garlic mustard.

I am offering to begin replacing many of these plants with those that are native to New Jersey. I also intend to create a pollinator garden, or sanctuary, if you will, in our stream-side garden beds adding plants that provide berries, seeds, pollen and nectar for wildlife to enjoy. I will be ordering small plants, "plugs", and bare-rooted shrubs and trees to begin this process. I will be utilizing sales and giveaways from the NJ State Forestry, our local Townships, and several Native plant nurseries that propagate and grow locally-sourced native plants.

I will need your help too! The first request is for volunteers to pick-up the seedlings or bare root small plants that will be distributed on a "first-come- first served" basis, this month and in early May at the following sites. Different plants are dispensed at different sites. I will provide a "wish list" of plants desired. *** I can not stress enough that these are popular events and volunteers need to arrive early as they "sell out fast"!

Plants can be delivered either to Messiah or to Sue Underwood, 5 W Maple Ave, Long Valley, NJ 862-284-8330 or 908-876-9185.

NJ Fish & Wildlife—Pequest Fish Hatchery—April 10, 10am–2pm
Roxbury Recreation—(Horseshoe Lake)—Apr—April 22-28
Washington Twp Rock Spring park Gazebo April 23 ,10am
Califon Boro—Califon Park—April 23, 8am-Noon
Mendham Twp—Muni/Library parking lot—April 30,2-4 pm
Mt. Olive Twp—Turkey Brook Barn—April 30,10am-Noon
Chester—Chester Library parking lot—May 1, 9am-Noon

Additionally, the garden beds will need to be weeded of the invasives before the small plants can be planted. In the future, the removal of the shrubs and other woody plants will require cutting out, drying out and disposal so their berries or seeds cannot reproduce on the property. The goal is to do this before seeds/berries are set to minimize this problem.

So if you would like to help in any of these ways please contact me!

Sue Underwood suewholovesbirds@gmail.com

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

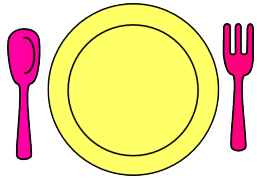
— James 1:17

Homeless Solutions Meal Preparation & Sponsorship

We now have an on-line SignUp Genius link for this ministry. You should have received the link via your email.

This is an opportunity for hands-on ministry: cooking and serving the dinner at the Morris County Homeless shelter called "Homeless Solutions". We serve there at least once a month (12+ times each year). Our April service date is Friday, April 8th.

Julie is on call as a back-up server for Homeless Solution. If anyone is interested in the on-call opportunity please contact Julie.



You can also offer financial support for this program. The cost now varies due to COVID, but ranges from \$50-\$75 each time. If you can sponsor a meal or part of a meal, please mark "Homeless Solutions" on your check.

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.



Please remember to adhere to all Covid social distancing and masking requirements in place when setting up, attending, and cleaning up for coffee hour.

Shaping our Future

The Episcopal Pulse is a weekly survey where you can weigh in on a variety of topics aimed at charting the future path of our churches. This is the link to the latest survey:

<https://mailchi.mp/episcopalpulse/microsurvey-8995984?e=8b0363d320>

This link allows you to view past weekly surveys. The data will be presented at the General Convention 2022. Why not weigh in?

You can subscribe directly to this initiative, which Bishop Michael Curry launched in July, 2021:

<https://virtueonlineorg/episcopal-church-says-it-lookng-pulse-it-faces-future>

Julie C, Vestry member (Outreach)

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.

If you have questions about this please talk to Margaret.



Your Story, Your Thoughts, Your Interests

We would love to start running some feature articles in our newsletters. You do not have to be a Vestry member or in any other leadership position to contribute an article. It does not have to be about our parish activities. Any "musings" you think would interest our faith community, or a book review, a journey you found enlightening—what else can YOU think of contributing?

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.

Save the Date
Cross Roads Camp Cleanup
Saturday, May 21st

[See Opening Day at Cross Roads](#)

Inquirer's & Confirmation Classes

There could be a Confirmation class for students 8th 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.

Good News Gardens: Pray, Plant, Proclaim

Messiah members continue to serve beyond the wonderful on-site Community Garden which is maintained by Frank H. Through this ministry, we have a plot and donation bin at the Chester Community Garden and have assisted with The Garden of Hope at the convent in Mendham (Community of St. John Baptist). Messiah members may also serve at Cross Roads Camp in Califon.

Consider supporting the gardens by volunteering for a service day (or days) or by making either an ongoing or one-time donation.

We thank Dani P., Linda O., Margaret O., Frank H., Virginia M., Thierry M., and Julie C. for their support last year. More on the Good News Garden can be viewed here: [Good News Garden](#)

Julie C, Vestry member (Outreach)

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

There are two **daytime** Bible study groups. One meets in-person in the lower parish hall on **Mondays, 2 – 3:30 pm**; and is currently studying the Gospel of John. The other meets on **Thursdays, 11: 00 – 12:00 noon** by free conference call; and is currently studying the book 1 Samuel from the Old Testament. Contact Margaret for the conference call code.

If you would like to have specific readings for a particular week, please talk to Margaret. You are welcome to come to one or both of these groups. Bibles are provided, or you can bring your own. A study guide is available for each class, ask Margaret for one.



Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

– Martin Luther King Jr.

"My goodness, Roberta, they're just adorable ... And what precious Easter outfits!"



Sing a New Church

Surrounded by the God who made us
Rich in our diversity,
Gathered in the name of Jesus,
Richer still in unity.

Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ
And in splendid, varied ways
Sing a new church into being
One in faith and love and praise.

Radiant risen from the water,
Robed in holiness and light,
Male and female in God's image,
Male and female God's delight.

Refrain

Trust the goodness of creation,
Trust the Spirit strong within,
Dare to dream the vision promised
Spring from seed of what has been

Refrain

One in faith and love and praise.
Bring the hopes of ev'ry nation
Bring the art of ev'ry race.
Weave a song of peace and justice:
Let it sound through time and space.

Refrain

Draw together at one table
All the human family.
Shape a circle ever wider
And a people ever free.

Refrain

*Dolores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939, ©2007, Sister of St. Benedict
tune: NETTLETON, aka Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
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See, I am doing a new thing!

Isaiah 43:19