



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

The Messenger

May, 2022



The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector

Carol King, Editor

Email: messiahchester@earthlink.net

Website: www.messiahchester.org

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

“The day of resurrection,” we sing in each Easter season. Easter day, and the 50-day Easter season it begins, is one in which to rejoice in victory over death, new life, and hope for the future too. Yes, God raised Jesus from the dead. He had been brutally killed—crucified, meaning tortured to death. God raised him to life to show the world that death did not have the last word and you can rejoice in this. Yet I am sure you are struggling with the reality of living in the world today. Daily you see mayhem, violence and murder in Ukraine. You see starving people in Afghanistan, in Yemen, in Ethiopia, as examples. Billions of dollars are being sent to support Ukraine, for a war that is continuing far longer than was expected, so we were to believe. I feel God must be in despair of the world God created as a beautiful planet home. Is God crying daily for God’s people? I do not know. But God knew the world was challenged when God entered it. God has seen how brutal humanity can be and how humans fight over everything including whose faith is the correct one, whose orthodoxy can be adopted. What has amazed me when I study church history is that, despite all that humans have done, there have been and still are billions of Christians in the world and it is the largest religious group today. To me, that is the mark of the Holy Spirit of God in the world. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, Christianity would have died at the hands of zealous, selfish, bigoted humans.

But Christianity is very much alive and certainly is alive at Messiah Chester. I invite you to think of the many ways we all show our love of God, our love for God, and our love for each other. The inreach team, led by Susan O., has done wonderful ministry supporting the Messiah family, with meals, rides, visits, and phone calls. Julie C. has inspired

many to be more involved with outreach; there were so many Easter bags for the children of families receiving food from the Chester food pantry she needed 2 journeys to take them to the pantry. If you have not been involved with either ministry, there are always opportunities for you in both our inreach and outreach ministries. You can find out more by contacting either of these amazing leaders. Our love for God has been shown as we followed Jesus through Holy Week. I hope you joined remotely if you were not here in person. The sanctuary was stripped of all its beauty as our journey took us into Good Friday. Now as we celebrate the risen Christ, it is a beautiful display of color and delight.

Yes, you are in this very challenged world but are called to make a positive difference in all the ways you can. You are called to pray for all in danger, in need, and are suffering in any way. And you are also called to share Christ’s message of love in practical ways if speaking our faith is difficult. Remember Jesus nearly always healed just one person at a time, and never healed a large crowd all at once. So, you should consider yourself called to help one person at a time. I am sure you can see that helping one person is possible; but helping a crowd would be overwhelming.

Today I invite you to celebrate the miracle of Easter and commit yourself to continuing to share that wonderful miracle of God’s redeeming love with everyone using all the gifts God has given you, today and every day.

I wish you a happy Easter, and happy sharing.

Blessings,
Margaret+

• **Thank you to....**

Holy week this year was in the middle of April. Many people helped in many ways to enable our worship to take place. While it is impossible to be sure to mention everyone, I thank those in these ministries:

- Laura B., our Music Director and the vocal and bell choirs
- The Altar Guild currently just Debbie B. and Linda O. for ministry in Holy Week.
- Bernadette R., Debbie B. Linda O. Sue C. and Ginny M. who with Margaret recreated the sanctuary on Holy Saturday morning.
- Debbie B. and Linda O., our Sunday school teachers for most of April, as well as our newest teacher, Elizabeth G. There were 16 children here on Easter morning. Julie C. for preparing Sunday School materials.
- Debbie B., Chris M., Dani P. and Linda O. who set up the hall for the Seder liturgy and dinner on Maundy Thursday.
- Everyone who brought items and filled the Easter eggs on Palm Sunday, making them ready for the Easter Sunday egg hunt.
- All who participated in reading the passion Gospels and especially Mark B., Charles dB., and Bernadette R. the narrators at the different services.
- All 13 from Messiah who came to the Long Valley Good Friday Cross walk for Peace and helped carry the cross, when it was our turn to do so.
- The group of volunteers who did such a wonderful job cleaning up the grounds ready for Easter celebrations.
- And Sue Underwood, our parish administrator, who provided us with bulletins for every service.

**Book 'n Movie Night
Tuesday, May 3rd**

On May 3rd we will gather at 6:30 pm in the lower parish hall to discuss the book of the month, which is *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.

May Anniversaries

- 8 - Christine B & Don M
- 28 - Judy & Hardee K
- 31 - Roxanne & Dave R



May Birthdays

- 1 - Ted H
- 4 Nana T
- 10 - Mark B
- 24 - JimW
- 25 - Vicky W
- 27 - Ralph C



Bishop's Visit

Our Bishop, The Rt Rev. Carlye Hughes will visit Messiah for our 10 am service on Sunday May 1.

She will be the celebrant and preacher. Our Bell choir will play an anthem and our vocal choir will lead the singing.

The Bishop will speak to the children after we all have exchanged the Peace and heard the announcements. The children will be in Sunday school as usual before that time.

Following the service there will be an opportunity for you to go to the parish hall for some light refreshments (Covid -safe) and around 11:30 the Bishop will lead a parish conversation, lasting until 12:30.

We hope you will be prepared to stay until 12:30 so that you can hear what she tells us as well as what we tell her.

Following this time with us all she will meet with the vestry in the lower hall from 12:30 – 1:30.

Our leaders, vestry members, are providing the coffee hour refreshments as well as being here to talk to the Bishop on May 1. Please thank them.



Thrift Shop Schedule

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

50% off sales: May. 5th & 7th
\$1 dollar sales: May. 12th & 14th



“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.

Native Plant Species

We will be creating a pollinator garden 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.

You can help! 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.

Mt. Olive Twp—Turkey Brook Barn—April 30, 10a m-Noon

Mendham Twp—Muni/Library parking lot—April 30, 2-4 pm

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

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



Neighbors in Need

“Neighbors in Need” in May 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

Education for Ministry, EFM

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

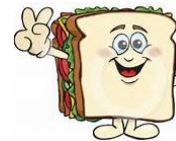
We have two groups meeting on Wednesdays, one from 2:30-4:30 p.m. with participants mostly attending by Zoom. The other from 7-9 p.m. meets by Zoom call. The Zoom number is available from Margaret.



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.



Horticulturally, the month of May is opening night, Homecoming, and Graduation Day all rolled into one.

—Tam Mossman

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!

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 service dates in May are Sunday, May 1st and Sunday May 29th. In June we serve on Friday, the 10th.

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.

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>

Coffee Hour

A Sign-Up Genius has been created for coffee hour. Each Sunday we are in need of 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.



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.



Draw us Together and Make Us One

Draw us together and make us one--
Tapestries woven of vibrant strands,
Robed in a patchwork of rainbow hues,
Colors refracting the prism's bands.

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

Sisters and brothers in common cause,
Draw us together and make us one--
Fired by the Spirit with varied gifts,
Warmed by the light of a single sun.
[Refrain]

Fill us with breath of your living Word,
Form us in service to tend the earth.
Draw us together and make us one,
Joined in affirming all creatures' worth.
[Refrain]

Ministries honed for a changing world,
Steadfast in work till your will is done,
Till all creation abounds in love,
[Refrain]

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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.

Flower Ministry

Would you like to honor a living person or memorialize your beloved deceased? Donating flowers for the altar is an excellent way to do so.



If you attend church in person, you can sign up on the flower chart in the narthex, 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.

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

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.

The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking.

A. A. Milne

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)

Just for Fun Rhyme Time

Each clue leads to a 2-word rhyming answer. The numbers indicate the number of letters in each word. For example, "large swine [3,3]" would be BIG PIG. Answers will appear in the June issue of The Messenger.

1. cookware taken from the oven [3,3]
2. number one police officer [3,3]
3. jelly made from shelled seafood [4,3]
4. dinner for an ocean-loving mammal [4,4]
5. clothing made from a banana peel [5,4]
6. smarter money-grubber [5,5]
7. strange facial hair [5,5]
8. steady surface for eating meals [7,6]
9. smaller period in basketball or football [7,7]

Perfect Together

Dear Margaret,

Our former governor, Tom Kean, used to have a slogan: "New Jersey and You - Perfect Together." We just want to go on record to say that we think this equally applies to Messiah and you. We are everlastingly grateful that we were both privileged to be involved in the search process that brought you to us in 2007 - Judy as senior warden on the Vestry, and Hardee on the Search Committee.

We are even more grateful that you have, in our opinion, turned out to be in fact the perfect priest for the job. Your pastoral care and friendliness are legendary. Your sermons are always interesting. Your administrative work is always done rapidly and effectively. Your leadership during the pandemic has shown just the right balance between firmness and explanations of rules as to encourage compliance with a minimum of complaints.

And let us not forget Mike, whose affable personality and deep knowledge of many subjects makes for a wonderful person to talk to.

We, like probably every other parishioner, will miss you both terribly as you step into this new chapter of your life. But we know you will enjoy new freedoms to be with your family and with God. And so we ask, may the Lord bless you and keep you; and may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; and may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

And your former parishioners will long remember that Messiah and Margaret were Perfect Together.

Hardee and Judy K.

In-Reach Cards

On the shelf in the church hall is a box marked "In-Reach Cards". Please feel free to use these to spread some cheer to our church family. There are bags marked 'Get Well', "Birthda", "Thinking of You" and "Blank". Anyone is welcome to use them.

Love one another. As I have loved you.

John 13:34

RAMP Will Participate in Diversity Day

Once again RAMP will have a table at Diversity Day on Sunday, July 10th on the Green in Morristown. It's a fun and informational event for all who care about diversity in our community.

Refugee Assistance

RAMP
Morris Partners

*A Bridge to Assist People to
Cross From One Life to Another*



**DIVERSITY COALITION
OF MORRIS COUNTY**

Connecting People to Celebrate Diversity

**JOIN
US!**

DIVERSITY DAY
Sunday, July 10, 2022

One Community, Together Again!
CULTURE. FOOD. ENTERTAINMENT.

Learn more at www.diversitymc.org

ON THE MORRISTOWN GREEN

Sponsored by the Diversity Coalition of Morris County

**11:00 AM INTERFAITH SERVICE
NOON TO 4:00 PM FESTIVAL**



ABOUT THE EVENT

The Diversity Coalition of Morris County Diversity Day brings the community together to experience many cultures and faith!

- Featuring an Interfaith Service followed by music, food, and entertainment!
- Visit with various religious, ethnic, and cultural groups that make up our community!

WHAT IS THE DIVERSITY COALITION OF MORRIS COUNTY?

We are a non-political coalition of faith-based community organizations and individuals who live, work, and serve in the greater Morris County area. We share the common belief that all people should be treated with dignity, respect, and understanding.

As the Wind Song

As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
As the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown,
bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire.
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the soul's most deep desire,
as the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
As the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world;
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Shirley Erena Murray

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Words from the Wardens

Debbie and I have been in contact with the diocese about the Bishop's visit May first and celebrating Margaret. We have been going through the transition information as well as finding people to lead Sunday services after she leaves. We are getting organized; and we have a list of what Margaret has been doing weekly, monthly, and yearly. Thankfully, we have many wonderful parishioners who are helping with the plans for the celebrations. If you would like to help or donate, please let us know! We hope that everyone has saved the dates and times that she selected (**June 11th, Saturday 5:00-8:00 PM** is her party. She will celebrate Holy Eucharist with us for the last time on **Sunday, June 19th at 2:00 PM**). We sincerely hope that you can attend both or at least one of these celebrations with us.

Together with the vestry, we are constantly monitoring the Covid 19 situation and are discussing and adapting as quickly as possible in order to keep the most vulnerable of us safe. Please read the weekly emails that Sue sends out for the most up to date information AND all the great offerings our church family is creating!:

- ▶ The Juneteenth Commemoration is being planned for June 17th at the Chester gazebo by the Social Justice team.
- ▶ Gracious people are offering us lovely treats for coffee hour (*want to take a turn? Talk to Pat K.!*)
- ▶ *Bible study and SRC classes- loads of inexpensive and interesting classes for all- CHECK THEM OUT!*

We have been blessed with Susan O and her team who completed the 2020 audit and that Debbie got a reasonable bid to replace the troublesome thrift shop door. Also, check out our website WWW.messiahchester.org ! Keith has updated it and we will be adding more information and features. You can click on the blue box: "Messiah This Week", to get the list of happenings –even on your phone and you can even make donations through the site! We are truly grateful to have so much going on and so many great people here to keep things going. Thank you all.

Dani P., Warden

Coverage Status Services & 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.

In Memoriam

Kevin Cox, beloved brother in Christ.

*When April steps aside for May,
like diamonds all the rain-drops glisten;
fresh violets open every day;
to some new bird each hour we listen.*

—Lucy Larcom



Celebration for Margaret

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

Margaret's Final Eucharist

Margaret's final Holy Eucharist with us will be **June 19th at 2:00 PM** (one service that day) . The service will be followed by a reception in the parish hall..

"My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast. And my mouth praises you with joyful lips"

Psalm 63:5

Make a Joyful Noise

The Messiah Vocal Choir returned to leading musical ministry in April. We rehearse before the 10 am service (beginning at 9 am). During our rehearsals, we build healthful vocal techniques, particularly while singing in masks. We 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!

Bell choir continues to rehearse after the 10 am service.

Laura Basset, Music Director



Cross Roads Camp Cleanup Saturday, May 21st

Join us for “Opening Day at Cross Roads,” a fun work-day event. Volunteer for a few projects as we get camp ready for the summer season. There will be projects for all skill levels. If you have special skills or tools (chain saws, leaf blowers, etc.) please bring them with you! Lunch will be included.

What To Bring:

- ▶ A willing spirit and enthusiasm!
- ▶ Comfortable closed-toe shoes and clothes that can get dirty or painted
- ▶ A refillable water bottle
- ▶ Sunscreen and a hat
- ▶ A face mask
- ▶ Work gloves (recommended)
- ▶ Rakes, pitch forks, spades, gardening tools, paint supplies, and other tools

[See Opening Day at Cross Roads](#)

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.

Worship Committee

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 past, some needed changes are upon us. We need 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)*

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart
To the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
In receiving and in giving.

God replace my stony heart
With a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
To your grace I now surrender.

[Refrain]

Write your love upon my heart
As my goal, my law, my story.
In each thought, word and deed.

[Refrain]

May I weep with those who weep,
Share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
May we welcome one another.

[Refrain]

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Tune: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME
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Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Psalm 98:4

*It may be possible to gild pure gold, but
who can make his mother more beautiful?*

Mahatma Gandhi



Mothers' Day

Mothers attending church on Sunday, May 8th will receive flowers. For those not present in person, Margaret will bring flowers during the week that follows.

Good News Gardens: Pray, Plant, Proclaim

In addition to the on-site Community Garden maintained by Frank H., we have a plot and donation bin at the Chester Community Garden and have assisted with The Garden of Hope at the Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham. We 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. More on the Good News Gardens can be viewed here: [Good News Garden](#)

Julie C, Vestry member (Outreach)

Answers to the "shifting sand" puzzle from the April issue of *The Messenger*.

- 1 perfect pitch talent for tone recognition
- 2 pitch pipe device used to start a *cappella* signing
- 3 pipe dream Quixotic vision
- 4 dream team highly-skilled group of athletes
- 5 team spirit collective desire to win
- 6 spirit gum adhesive used to attach a fake beard
- 7 gum Arabic substance obtained from acacia trees
- 8 Arabic numeral one of eight that appear in this puzzle