



WELCOME, VISITORS!

We are delighted you came today! Looking for a church home? We warmly invite you to be part of our church family! To help us get to know you better, or if you have questions, please fill in this form, tear it off, and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher or pastor. You can also submit a Digital Connection Card at www.churchofthemessiah.org/contact. Please feel free to call us anytime at 757-436-2545 or visit our website, ChurchoftheMessiah.org. God bless you!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to be contacted?

- Yes No By phone By email

Please check all that apply:

- I would like a pastor to contact me.
- First-time visitor Returning visitor
- I would like to know more about Church of the Messiah
- I would like to know more about the Christian faith.
- I have decided to renew my commitment to Christ.
- I would like prayer (see reverse).

My response to today's message:

12.27.2020



Happy Birthday

- December 31: Therian Hall
- January 1: Gary Taylor
- January 2: Almira Lovett

Happy Anniversary

- December 27: Elizabeth & Melvin McGinnis
- December 29: Winnie & Aaron Horvat

Please Pray

Please join us in praying for these requests throughout the week (Prayer requests will appear for one month unless requested otherwise.)

Healing for our nation and an end to racism | Protection from Covid-19
Church property decision

Our healthcare workers: Dr. Erin Dooley, Nadine Frazier, Dr. Christian Markham, Ben Stern, Kaylee Stern, Mary Stern, Dr. Kelly Stern, Jessica Taylor, Dr. Anthony Wanyoro

The Stern Family, Robert Walter, Jim Bohannan, Ray Ross, Joanne Falk, Rickee Dozier, John Dooley, Priscilla Oster, Viola McKinlay, all of our members of the military, Sanctuary of Hope, our companion church

OUR OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES:

Aaron and Winnie Coleman-Horvat, Croatia
David & Betsy, Turkey

Carmen Linder, His Love in Action School for the Deaf in Honduras
Robert Walter, Leadersource, serving East Asia, South Asia, Middle East

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Please pray for the following churches this week:

Church of the Ascension, Kearneysville, WV
Church of the Epiphany, Chantilly, VA



If you would like our prayer ministry to pray for your special need, please submit a confidential Prayer Request online at www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/contact. Please indicate if you would like your prayer request included in the bulletin, sent only to the prayer team, or both.



Our mission is to make tangible the life-transforming power of God's love so that all may come to know Christ.



First Sunday of Christmas • December 27, 2020

816 Kempsville Road • Chesapeake, VA 23320

Phone: 757-436-2545 **Email:** [Messiah@ChurchoftheMessiah.org](mailto: Messiah@ChurchoftheMessiah.org)

Web: ChurchoftheMessiah.org **Facebook:** [ChurchoftheMessiahChesapeake](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheMessiahChesapeake)

RECTOR: The Rev. Dr. Martin K. O'Rourke

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: The Rev. Nile Gomez

DEACON: The Rev. Tom Sweeney

WEEKLY SERVICE INFORMATION

Sunday Service with Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

In-Person or Livestream at www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/Livestream
Children's Church · Fellowship Hall (After Worship until Communion)

Monday Prayer Meeting · Online at 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom · Meeting ID 928 2372 1136

First Sunday of Christmas · December 27, 2020

PRAYER: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading: Proverbs 3:1-8 **Page 474**

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:25-29 **Page 896**

(Response after each lesson: *Thanks be to God.*)

Gospel: John 15:5-15 **Page 804**

(Responses: *Glory to You, Lord Christ. ... Praise to You, Lord Christ.*)

Sermon: **New Year's Resolution** Rev. David Martin
From a Wise Man

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YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME WORSHIP IN-PERSON! No reservations are required, just come and worship! Safety protocols are in place, such as social distancing, wearing masks, and no personal contact.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ChurchoftheMessiahChesapeake](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheMessiahChesapeake). Those not on Facebook can view current and past services online at [ChurchoftheMessiah.org/livestream](http://www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/livestream).

TITHES & CONTRIBUTIONS can be brought on Sunday or mailed to at 816 Kempsville Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23320. Secure gifts can be made online at www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/donations.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

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|---------|------------|---|
| Today | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Livestream) |
| Monday | all day | Office Closed for Christmas holiday |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Parish Prayer Meeting (online via Zoom) |
| Tuesday | all day | Office Closed for Christmas holiday |
| | 7:00 p.m. | (Tentative) Joyful Noise Club (online via Zoom) |
| Friday | | New Year's Day—Office Closed |



A NOTE OF GRATITUDE: The clergy and staff of Messiah wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the generous financial gifts, as well as all the cards, goodies, sloths, prayers, and other expressions of encouragement and love from the congregation. May God richly bless you throughout the coming year!

THANK YOU to all who helped make this Advent and Christmas season so special! This includes our Worship and Multimedia Teams, Altar Guild, Children's Ministry, Outreach Ministry, Women's Ministry, and of course our dedicated clergy and staff. God bless you all!

POINSETTIAS: If you purchased a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas, please take it home today.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday of this week for the Christmas holiday, as well as Friday, January 1, for the New Year's holiday. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

YEAR-END IS APPROACHING along with the deadline to make tax-deductible contributions for 2020. Please remember that gifts must be dropped off or post-marked on or before December 31. Thank you!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & VESTRY ELECTIONS will be held Sunday, February 7. We need two new Vestry members this year, so please prayerfully consider individuals (including yourself) who you feel may be called to this leadership role. Please see the enclosed insert for guidelines for Vestry nominees.

ONLINE DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE! We have launched the parish directory in a secure online format. Please check your email for a message from the church with instructions on how to access the directory. If you have not received this email, please check with us to ensure we have your correct email address.

PARISH-WIDE PRAYER MEETINGS continue Mondays at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/92823721136> or enter meeting ID 928 2372 1136 into the app.

CONNECT WITH US! If you would like information about us or the Christian faith, fill out the attached visitor form and place it in the collection plate. You can also fill out a Digital Connection Card at www.churchofthemessiah.org/contact. We'd love the opportunity to get to know you!

FREE TALK ON DISCIPLESHIP: Church of the Messiah will be hosting a free event on Friday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Joel Woodruff, President of the C.S. Lewis Institute, will be speaking about discipleship and how to use his new book, *Discipleship with C.S. Lewis*, in conjunction with C.S. Lewis' book *Mere Christianity*. This event is free and you will receive a free copy of Joel's book AND a free copy of *Mere Christianity*. Please RSVP to Joe Kohm at jakohm@cox.net if you'd like to attend so the right number of books can be ordered.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We believe God answers prayer! If you would like our prayer ministry to pray for your special need, write your request below, tear off the tab, and place it in the offering plate. God bless you!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Prayer Needs: _____

Include in bulletin

Prayer team only

Prayer team and bulletin