

THE MESSENGER

October,/November 2019



From the Rector

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Our Vision:

Church of the Messiah seeks to be an inviting, welcoming and compassionate Christian community, nurturing spiritual growth through the Word, our actions, and gifts; thereby inspiring and uniting people to be examples of Christ's love.

TASTE AND SEE

**Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. - Psalm 34:8**

What are your plans for Thanksgiving? If the dinner is to be held at your house, you may already be planning the menu and making shopping lists. Or if you will be celebrating the holiday at someone else's table, you may have been asked to contribute a dish to add to the meal. And if you are lucky enough to not be tasked with cooking or baking but merely enjoying, you may just be anticipating sitting down to a bountiful meal of traditional favorites. Whatever the case, you are probably preparing your taste buds for a treat!

I remember when our children were small, encouraging them to at least taste everything on their plates with the promise: "Try it; you'll like it!" (As long as it wasn't brussels sprouts we were talking about! I just couldn't lie!)

"Try it; you'll like it!" That's what the psalmist is urging us to do. He is inviting us to experience what he has discovered: the bountiful goodness of God's salvation. He is celebrating the fact that God has rescued him from his fears and troubles.

Psalm 34 is a song of gratitude we can all sing when God brings us out of a "close call" situation. But this exuberance and joy is only a foretaste of the future redemption God will bring to all who trust in him, to all whom God will redeem through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God promises great blessings to his people. God will deliver, guard, supply, listen, and redeem all who trust in his power to save. God also gives us the ability to believe and trust in him. And in response we should seek to honor him in all things, speak truthfully, seek peace and justice, respect the dignity of all God's children, and humbly serve our God.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good." This psalm is an invitation to take God at his word, to trust in the Lord and experience his goodness firsthand, to know God personally, realizing that he loves us more than we can imagine.

The invitation is ours to receive, but it is also ours to extend. What opportunities has God given us to share his invitation with others? Who would God ask us to include in his rescue and deliverance? Who would God ask us to invite to his holy banquet?

**Jesus, bread of life, living water,
thank you for the hearty taste of salvation and new life;
in your blessed name we offer our prayers of
thanksgiving and praise. Amen.**

A Stewardship Message To Our Messiah Family

Over the past two years, we have progressed from “Imagining Our Future” in 2018, to discovering and planning “Next Steps” during 2019. Progress has been made, but there’s more to do in 2020. As we continue making headway on fulfilling our reimagined future, we hope we may count on your support to help reach our financial goals thus enabling the *wish* to become a reality.

Once again, we must ask the questions: What will I offer of myself in time, talent and treasure? How will we keep *our* commission as Christians? What is *our* witness to the world? How will we build our community to respond to people’s need to draw closer to God, to educate and build strong Christian foundations for future generations, to help us all become kinder, more joyful, Christ-like people?

As conscientious stewards, the challenge before us is to secure our future through dedication to our mission, the purposeful use of our property, and our commitment to one another as a Christ-loving family. Our plans for the coming year include, an adult mission to Guatemala, another Rise Against Hunger Pack-A-Thon, multiple outreach, youth, learning and Christian fellowship opportunities, as well as the continued maintenance, improvement and innovative use of our campus.

Every day we witness how our ministries make a difference in our church and extended community. To paraphrase Philippians 3, *now we must press on* through active support of the 2020 stewardship campaign. Our goal for 2020 is \$490,000 in pledges. While each of our circumstances may differ, our individual pledges express our intention and commitment to the church mission. Some members tithe, giving ten percent of their income, some members give proportionally, committing a certain percentage

to our ministries, while others give as they are able. Please take a look at the proportional giving chart provided with your pledge card to find where you are, then reflect on how it feels to know exactly what percentage of your income you give to your church.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your giving to Messiah and respond no later than November 3rd. **Please note that to receive offering envelopes we must receive a pledge card response.**

Every pledge commitment for the 2020 Calendar Year is essential to continuing successful ministries at Messiah. We thank you for considering your contribution and furthering our collective vision as a force for Christ’s life-giving love in our immediate and broader community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your involvement, please feel free to contact the Stewardship Committee or a Vestry member.

Don’t forget to be with us on Sunday, November 3rd when we will recap the results of this drive.

Faithfully,
Paul

Stewardship Committee

Paul Vollmar, Chair
Brenda Weir
Marcalino Senteio
Tina Madison

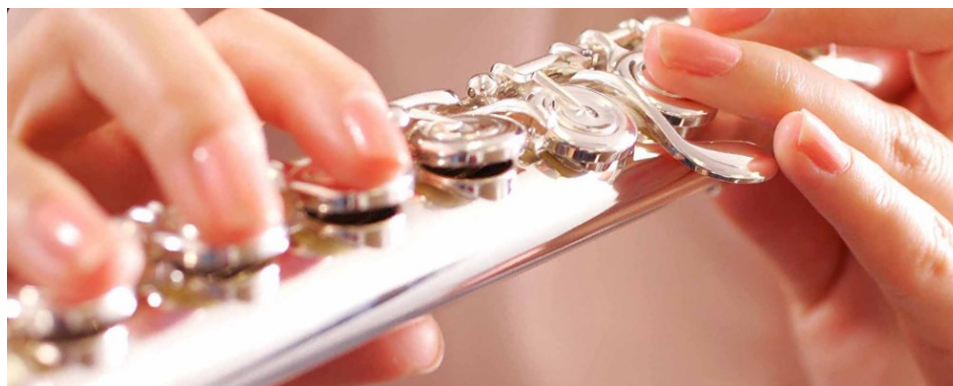




*Greetings from
the Music Ministry!*

Over a month into our rehearsals, we are enjoying our collaboration and looking forward to sharing the music that we have to offer.

The choir will feature a few special pieces throughout the fall, including a celebratory piece by Handel and



a moving contemporary arrangement of Be Thou My Vision. Some old favorites will be sung, as well as a few new pieces and hymns from current composers. The bell choir is looking forward to its first Sunday service of the fall. On October 27, the bells will offer joyful music that celebrates autumn. We'll also have special music on November 17, with the contemporary song "Arise, My Love" sung by Sam Frenkel and Dale Murphy and featuring Sara Sablosky on flute, with piano accompaniment.



I hope you can join us for a special occasion on Saturday, November 23 at 7:30 pm, when Rick Rosen's all-male a cappella group Cordus Mundi performs a concert at Messiah. Titled "Music of the World," this performance will include music from South Africa, Scandinavia, Italy, and more throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas. The date will also mark the release of Cordus' brand new cd, available for purchase at the concert! Tickets are available at the Church of the Messiah office, at the door, and at cordusmundi.com.

Hannah Albrecht,
Music Director / Organist



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Rector's appeal for donations to buy canned goods and other non-perishable foods for **Thanksgiving Meal Bags** to be distributed to those in our community who are in need. Through your generosity, we were able to pack 30 bags! So, 30 households will now have a festive holiday meal! Each bag contains the makings for traditional favorites, including stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables and fruit, brownie and biscuit mixes, coffee and drink mix, as well as a \$25.00 gift card to purchase a turkey or ham. And thank you to everyone who packed the bags at the Fall Fest.

The bags will be delivered to Keystone Opportunity Center in Souderton who will distribute the groceries to families in need throughout our local community.

And the response to the appeal for funds to provide the **materials for the Guatemala Mission Trip** has been tremendous! As of this date, we have collected over \$5,400.00, enough funding to build stoves and install water filtration systems in 27 homes that lack these basic needs. Rather than cook over open flames, indoor stoves will allow families to cook their meals in safer conditions and without the inhalation of the smoke that leads to chronic lung ailments. In addition, the environment is saved since the more efficient indoor stove only uses 10% of the wood needed to keep an open fire burning. And the gift of clean water for drinking, cooking, and bathing will reduce the exposure to debilitating and dangerous water-borne diseases. How many lives will be impacted and improved through your generous gifts! The eighteen Messiah missionaries who will travel to Guatemala in January to accomplish this work will certainly be kept busy!



Our Youth are collecting new and gently-used winter apparel (coats, hats, scarves, gloves) for the homeless and needy. Your donations can be placed in the Narthex. Look for our poster and donation bin. Our children and youth will be putting the donations into care packages, which will then be distributed by the YOMs in Philadelphia. If you would like to help with donations by donating financially, or creating and distributing care packages, please contact Dave Reichley: dareichley@gmail.com.

Cordus Mundi Travels the World & Premieres a New CD



Bucks County-based male a cappella group Cordus Mundi begins the 2019-2020 concert season on November 23 & 24 with a program entitled "Music of the World". Concerts will take place on November 23 @ 7:30 p.m. at Church of the Messiah in Lower Gwynedd, and on November 24 @ 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown.

As one might expect, Cordus' "Music of the World" program is a quick trip around the world of music, and includes songs and compositions from Scandinavia, Europe, the Americas, Asia, and more. Music comes from a typically wide range of composers, eras, and styles, including works from Greig, Lauridsen, Casals, Puccini, Alfvén, Naverud, Arnesen, Betinis, Quartel, and Clarke, as well as traditional songs from several cultures.

The November concerts mark the formal re-

lease of Cordus Mundi's second CD, "Unforgettable", containing some of the best music made during the 2018-2019 Cordus concert season. CDs will be available for sale at the concerts for \$15.

Tickets for Cordus Mundi's "Music of the World" concerts are \$20 with children 12 & under admitted at no charge. Links to discounted advance tickets and special CD introductory deals can be found online @ www.cordusmundi.com. Church of the Messiah is located at 1001 Dekalb Pike, Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002, and St. Paul's Lutheran is located at 301 N. Main St., Doylestown, PA 18901.

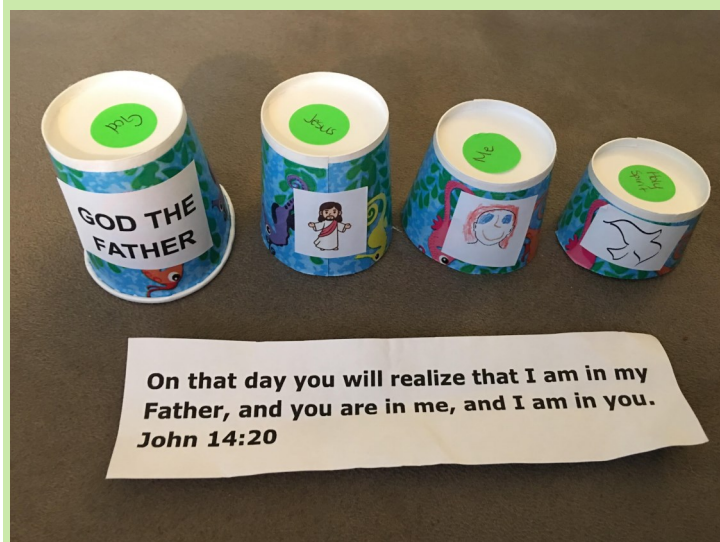
Tickets may be purchased in advance, at the door, and through the Church of the Messiah office

Rick Rosen, Director

Church School



We've had a busy fall in Church School getting into the word of God! Two things we always review are our two parts of the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Many of the children are now quick to answer that the New Testament begins when Jesus is born! One thing that is often difficult to grasp for kids is the way we are connected to God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. As one of our lessons to start off the church school season, we made ourselves a set of cups that will help us remember Jesus's words: "I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you." John 14:20 The cups go together in just the right way to show us that Jesus is our pathway to God, while the Holy Spirit stays snug within us holding it all together.



That lesson was an important foundation for some of our other lessons so far from learning ways to pray to our very own Blessing of the Animals!

We are looking forward to some great opportunities coming up for children and families this fall and winter.

On December 7, we will be heading to Normandy Farms for a chance to make a Christmas craft with the residents of the assisted living facility. Children and parents are invited to meet at Normandy Farms at 2:00. We will be sitting with a group of residents and helping them to

make their crafts while talking and getting to know them. We took this same trip last year and the residents really loved it and couldn't stop talking about it after we left! It's a great way to start the Christmas season!

We also ask that you save the date on Sunday, December 22 for our annual Christmas pageant following the 9:30 service! We will be preparing during the month of December, and then we get to celebrate the birth of Jesus together with the Parish and all the children!

Here's something fun you can try on home! In church school we made a prayer hand that helps us remember how to pray if we need a little help. You can use the one your child made in church school or make one of your own. Once children remember what each finger stands for, they will be able to use their own hand each day to remember their prayers!



Handprint Prayer Hand

Here is the prayer we used to bless our stuffed animals for the Feast of St. Francis. We learned how much St Francis loved animals and God's creation, and how it is important for us to care for animals and the earth as well! This prayer is adapted from the Prayer of St. Francis to be a little more kid friendly. If you are looking for a prayer to say at home, this is another great choice!

The Peace Prayer

Lord, help me to bring your peace to the world;
 Where there is hatred, let me show love;
 Where there are people hurting; let me help them;
 Where there is wrong, let me tell the truth;
 Where there are people not believing, let me have faith in you;
 Where there is no hope, let me bring hope;
 Where there is darkness, let me show light;
 And where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
 O ,God
 Help me to want to
 Make people feel better;
 Understand your ways;
 And love all of your creatures on Earth.
 For when we do the things you want us to do,
 We will be able to live with you forever.
 Amen.

(Adapted from the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

We have had a really great fall season with the children of Messiah, and we look forward to building on their faith as the year progresses!

If you would like to volunteer or help with any events, please contact Tiffany Reichley at tmreichley@gmail.com





ITALIAN
KITCHEN

Church of the Messiah
Dine & Donate
Tuesday, October 29th

Angelo's Italian Kitchen
4pm - 10pm
1144 Horsham Road
Ambler, PA 19002
(215) 654-1300

When you present this flyer to your
server, 10% of your food and
non-alcoholic beverage purchases will be
donated to Messiah (tax and alcohol not
included)
Dine-in or Take-out

Reservations are strongly encouraged

Thanksgiving Worship



**Tuesday evening,
11/26/2019
7 pm**

Holiday Turkeys and Hams

Throughout the upcoming holiday season, many grocery stores will offer free turkeys or hams to frequent shoppers, and some companies will make these available to employees.

If you have the opportunity to receive these or other meal items that you will not be using, please remember our local food cupboards and homeless shelters. Just leave them in the church freezer and let us know.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 19 PENTECOST Proper 24 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and fellowship 9:30 AM Puerto Rico Trip Sharing by YOM's 11:00 AM Children's Festival-facepainting, cupcake making, Thanksgiving bag stuffing 5:00 PM RECTOR'S NIGHT OUT	21  7:00 PM Vestry meeting-Guild room	22 7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings	23 9:30 AM OA 11:00 AM Book Club 7:30 PM ACOA	24 6:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM Music - 7 to 9 pm	25 AA Halloween party	26 9:00 AM Harmony Theater 7:00 PM Messiah TRIVIA NIGHT -Kids invited, babysitting provided- food provided
27 20 PENTECOST Proper 25 Share the Warmth Kickoff  8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and fellowship 2:00 PM Holy Eucharist at Meadowood	28 	29 4-10 PM Dine and Donate - Angelo's Kitchen, Ambler,  7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings	30 9:30 AM OA 11:00 AM Book Club 7:30 PM ACOA meeting-upstairs YOM classroom	31 Halloween 6:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM Music - 7 to 9 pm	1 NOVEMBER Diocesan Convention-evening	2 Diocesan Convention-ALL DAY 9:00 AM Harmony Theater
3 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - Proper 26 Pledge card return date Pledge Card 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and fellowship	4 5:00 PM Messiah Meals 7:00 PM Fellowship Ministry Meeting-Guild Room	5 ELECTION DAY  7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings	6 9:30 AM OA 11:00 AM Book Club-Meeting- 7:30 PM ACOA meeting	7 6:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM Music - 7 to 9 pm	8 	9 9:00 AM Harmony Theater
10 22 PENTECOST - Proper 27 YOM (Youth of Messiah) Service Day 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and fellowship 6:00 PM YOM (Youth of the Messiah)	11 6:00 PM Montgomery County AA Zone Meeting-Parish Hall Newsletter Deadline- Advent/Christmas (12- 1/1/6)	12 11:15 AM Holy Eucharist at Brittany Pointe 7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings	13 9:30 AM OA 11:00 AM Book Club 7:30 PM ACOA meeting-upstairs YOM classroom	14 6:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal 6:00 PM Harmony Rehearsal 7:00 PM Music - 7 to 9 pm	15 	16 9:00 AM Harmony Theater
17 23 PENTECOST Proper 28 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and fellowship	18  7:00 PM Vestry meeting-Guild room	19 7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings	20 9:30 AM OA 6:00 PM Harmony Rehearsal 7:30 PM ACOA meeting-upstairs YOM classroom	21 6:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Music - 7 to 9 pm	22 6:00 PM Harmony Performance	23 1:00 PM Harmony Performance 7:30 PM Cordus Mundi concert -in the church
24 LAST PENTECOST - Christ the King Sunday Proper 29 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and fellowship Church School to Normandy Farms 2:00 PM Holy Eucharist at Meadowood 6:00 PM YOM (Youth of the Messiah)	25 	26 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve worship  7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings	27 Office closed 9:30 AM OA 7:30 PM ACOA	28 Office closed THANKSGIVING DAY 	29 Office closed	30

Nerdy News

Church of the Messiah has a 4.8 star rating on Google



Did you know that 24,972 people found Church of the Messiah on Google in September? Not only *that* but: 162 of those people asked for directions, 88 visited our website, and 15 people called us. Here are the top search queries used to find us:

Messiah

used by 335 people



episcopal church

used by 38 people

church of the messiah

used by 28 people

INTERNATIONAL: STOVES & WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS

In January, a mission team from Messiah will travel to Guatemala to build cooking stoves and install water filtration systems in poor homes without these necessities. A



generous member of the congregation, who asks to remain anonymous, has pledged to match the funds raised for purchasing materials, up to \$1600! This means that we have the potential to raise \$3200! Costing \$155 for a stove, and \$45 for a water system, this means that we may be able to supply 16 Guatemalan homes with these basic needs. **To contribute: make a donation to the "Rector's Discretionary Fund"; designate "Guatemala" in the notation line.**

Pe^ople and Transitions

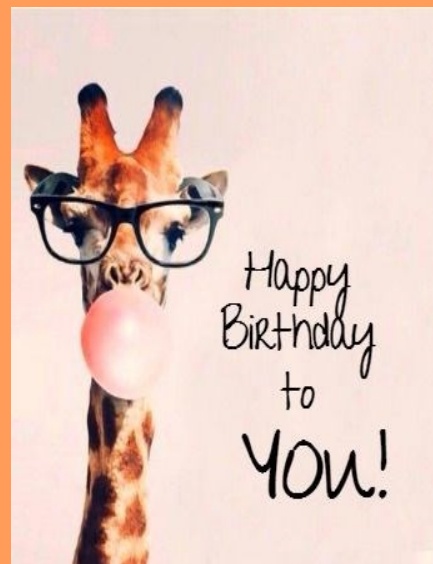
October and November Birthdays

10/1 Lauren Marsh
 10/1 Nicola Baker
 10/2 Dale Murphy
 10/2 Zachary Bruno
 10/3 John Myers
 10/4 Cora DiMauro
 10/6 Tyler Boldt
 10/7 Elliana Hales
 10/7 Parker Behm
 10/9 Vivian Gast
 10/9 Natalie Reynolds
 10/9 Delaney Budd
 10/11 Scott Bender
 10/11 Phillip Myers
 10/12 Fran Beaumont
 10/13 Clayton Ruff
 10/16 Pat Oldt
 10/17 Wendy Hautzinger
 10/17 Denny Mellish
 10/17 Ed Zelner
 10/17 Brayden Boldt
 10/18 Marissa Beaver
 10/18 Barb Krisan
 10/18 Kelly Schneider
 10/18 Barbara Kelly
 10/19 Eileen Wallace
 10/19 Lee Champlin
 10/20 Judy Snyder
 10/20 Kate Murphy
 10/21 Dave Kriebel, Jr.
 10/21 Alyssa Evangelisto
 10/21 Hunter Behm
 10/22 Pam Schunke
 10/23 Eric Wertz
 10/24 Cyndi Smith
 10/25 George Brackin
 10/25 Edward Patruno
 10/26 Cheryl Sargent
 10/26 Stan Rybicki

10/29 Jon Ferullo
 10/29 George Little
 10/29 Juliana Trigone
 10/31 Susan Baumann
 10/31 Mitch Smith

NOVEMBER

11/1 Michael Biehl
 11/01 Renée Ferullo
 11/01 Marilyn Bonner
 11/01 Ella Wilkinson
 11/02 Megan Wertz
 11/05 Gloria Jones
 11/07 Renée Marsh
 11/07 Tonia Uffner
 11/08 Mercer Sisson
 11/08 Sarah Nelson
 11/09 Zeke Boldt
 11/11 Muriel Selheimer
 11/14 Joseph Stinson
 11/15 Barbara Robinson
 11/15 Val Carr
 11/16 Charles Macek
 11/17 Chase Repine
 11/18 Nicole DiBonaventura
 11/19 Matt Higgins
 11/19 Tyler Evangelisto
 11/21 Abby Rusnak
 11/22 Danny Rusnak
 11/24 Mike Mulroy
 11/25 Barbara Groshens
 11/26 Dee Newman
 11/26 Dan Ryan
 11/26 Sam Fogel
 11/27 Cheryl Berry
 11/27 Matthew Gruszecki
 11/28 Calvin Biehl
 11/29 Harry Parke



Deaths: "Let light perpetual shine upon them"

Daryl Matthew Cross,
Tina Madison's brother

Evelyn Schmitt, former
parish ioner

Muriel Jordan

Baptism: "Marked as Christ's own forever."

Jack Everett Repine, Julie
Sabokbar's grandson

Clergy

The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, *Rector*

Staff

Sue Phillips,
Parish Administrator

Hannah Albrecht,
Music Director/ Organist

Dave Reichley,
*Director of Family Ministries:
Youth*

Mike Linn, *Sexton*

Sunday Worship: 8 and 9:30 a.m

Church School: 9:15 am

Tiffany Reichley,
*Director of Family Ministries:
Children*

Sarah Patram,
Financial Secretary



Church of the Messiah

215 699-9204 / Fax: 215 699-2031

Email: office@messiahgwynedd.org

Website: www.messiahgwynedd.org

Vestry

Dave Prezuhy, *Senior Warden*

Jean London, *Junior Warden*

Sam Frenkel, *Treasurer*

Marsha Althouse Cheryl Berry Rich Dunlap

Victoria Fogel Jennifer Marsh

Susan Miller Megan Myers

Barbara Stevenson

Michael Stinson Charles Sudlow

Paul Vollmar Brenda Weir

Church of the Messiah

1001 Dekalb Pike

Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002