



## Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8 am** spoken service with Holy Eucharist
- 9 am** participatory service for children 6 yrs. & under, and family members  
1st Sundays
- 10 am** service of Holy Eucharist with music and Sunday school. Nursery care is available.

## Mid Week Worship Schedule \*\*

<b>Mon</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer
<b>Tues</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer
<b>Tues</b>	<b>9:45 am</b>	Pray and Play
<b>Weds</b>	<b>7:00 am</b>	Holy Eucharist
<b>Weds</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer

\*\* Other services such as a midday Eucharist or Contemplative Prayer will be offered upon request to the rector

## Messiah Vestry:

The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector  
Merica G (2022) Warden  
Diane C (2021) Warden  
Michelle O, Treasurer  
Debbie B (2021)  
Caroline H (2022)  
Gareth H (2022)  
Hardee K (2021)  
Jackie M (2022)  
Linda O (2021)  
Susan O (2023)  
Craig R (2023)  
Dave S (2023)

The Covid-19 crisis is still the dominant factor in life. Every day you can read the number of cases and the number of those who have died in this country and in the world. NJ is the second hardest hit state and when you look at its size compared to the rest of the country you see how badly NJ residents have been affected. My daily prayers include prayers for all who are sick, all health care workers, whatever their role, all who cannot be with their loved ones because the hospitals are closed and all in grief because they have lost a loved one.

You may have read that the President is saying places of worship are to be opened. However, we are under the guidance of our Bishop who is telling the clergy to be cautious and I remain committed to the safety of you all. Once she says that we can consider opening our building we are to spend 14 days planning how we will do that. This past Sunday I locked the door after the 3 of us had entered for the 10 am service. The Bishop allows for up to 3 people to be present to office a service. We follow this ruling. Laura presents the music, Dani deals with the technology and I offer the spoken parts of the service. At the 8 am service, which is by free conference call, I invite the participants to participate, obviously one at a time, by speaking the printed sections. I offer the same at the daily 8 am Morning Prayer and 5 pm Evening Prayer services. You can participate, or not, as you prefer, if you call in for any of these services. If you wish to plan any of these services, please let me know.

In mid-May we had a zoom call to discuss two questions. First, "What do you miss from the church as well as other areas of your life" and second, "What have you learned during this time (that you can take with you) as you go forward? On Monday June 1 at 7 pm we will again have a Messiah zoom call to discuss two more

questions. "Who do we need to be in order to be a fluid and flexible church in the next 18-24 months as the pandemic continues?" Then, "What do you need to feel safe when we gather again?" I hope you will participate. If your computer or laptop does not allow you to zoom, you can also join by phone.

As you are very aware, you are not here at worship. I am not consecrating the bread and the wine that you are used to receiving every time you are here. That is different for everyone. But you are still able to worship God, still able to be in relationship with God, to pray to God and to grow in your faith. Jesus' disciples were with him but did not receive Holy Communion until he instituted it at the Last Supper, his last evening with them. But they knew him from his teaching, his words of healing and compassion. He taught them how to pray, the words to use. You can use the same words; he taught them the "Lord's Prayer." You can pray to him to help you through this crisis. If you live alone, you can ask him to be with you in the solitude. If you would like a prayer partner do let me know; we can pray together even though physically apart.



Yes, this time is difficult, and you are experiencing something you have never experienced before. Living through a pandemic is new to everyone. But the good news to remember is that there are many people who love you and care for you. There are many people who want to help you if you need any help. Most importantly, God is here beside you to help you, hold you in loving arms, support you in the darkest hours and bring you through the deep valley to the other side.

May you know God's blessing today and every day.

*Margaret+*

*"If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies."*

author unknown

				
Mon.	Jun	1	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (spoken) by free conference call
Mon.	Jun	1	2:00 pm	Bible Study by free conference call - please contact Margaret (not church office)
Mon.	Jun	1	4:00 pm	Tea with Margaret - please let Margaret know if you are "attending"
Mon.	Jun	1	7:00 pm	Parish conversation via <a href="https://zoom.us">zoom.com</a>
Tues.	Jun	2	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (spoken) by free conference call
Tues.	Jun	2	2:00 pm	Prayer Group by free conference call - please contact Margaret (not church office)
Tues.	Jun	2	4:00 pm	Book (no Movie) Afternoon at <a href="https://zoom.us">zoom.com</a>
Weds.	Jun	3	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (spoken) by free conference call - please contact Margaret (not church office)
Weds.	Jun	3	2:30 - 4:30 pm	EfM by free conference call - please contact Margaret (not church office)
Thurs.	Jun	4	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (spoken) by free conference call - please contact Margaret (not church office)
Thurs.	Jun	4	11:00 am - noon	Bible Study by free conference call - please contact Margaret (not church office)
Thurs.	Jun	4	7:00 pm	Liturgy meeting via <a href="https://zoom.us">zoom.com</a>
Sun.	Jun	7	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (spoken) by free conference call - please contact Margaret (not church office)
Sun.	Jun	7	10:00 am	Morning Prayer with music: - Live stream at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/messiahchester/">www.facebook.com/messiahchester/</a>
Sun.	Jun	7	11:00 am	Coffee Hour at <a href="https://zoom.us">zoom.com</a>
Fri.	Jun	12	4 pm - 7 pm	Homeless Solutions
Tues.	Jun	16	7 pm	Vestry Meeting at <a href="https://zoom.us">zoom.com</a>
Fri.	Jun	19		deadline for July/August <i>Messenger</i>

No attempt has been made to predict "repeat" dates. We wait in hope of some reopening of our buildings; but will observe carefully the recommendations of the CDC, Gov. Phil Murphy, and the Rt. Rev. Carlyle J. Hughes

**Please keep watching your weekly e-mails.**

*The building is closed.  
The church is open!*

**June Birthdays**

- 5 Sue C
- 9 Dale R
- 9 Matthew O
- 11 June B



**June Anniversary**

- 16 Laura and Peter McA



# June

## COVID-19 Diocesan Cancellations

The diocese has cancelled the following events usually held in June:  
Honoring our Seniors  
Honoring our Women

## Tuesday Lunch Group

The meetings of this group have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Coffee Hour and Sunday School

Thanks to Caroline for keeping us connected Sundays after the 10 Am service through a zoom "meeting." What a wonderful technology ministry.



Debbie, Margaret and Linda have been working together to keep our children connected to church. Debbie has sent lessons via e-mail. Also we have both sent mail to keep the children involved. This is a very important ministry. Thanks to all our teachers and their dedication.

*Linda O, Vestry Member*

## Book (no movie) Afternoon by Zoom (formerly known as Book 'n Movie Night )

Tuesday June 2 at 4 pm @ Zoom.com enter 914 564 078 to "join" the meeting.

Currently we are reading *What the Wind Knows* by Amy Harmon

Next month's book is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

## Neighbors in Need

"Neighbors in Need" in June is **Chester Valley Food Pantry**. Please bring donations to Messiah and we will ensure they are taken to the food pantry. It is better to let Margaret know when you are coming so she can receive them from you.

## Senior Resource Center (SRC)

The SRC continues to offer great programs for seniors, currently by video. Please visit our web site [www.srcnj.org](http://www.srcnj.org)

There are links to yoga and tai chi exercise videos are you to use at home. If you have questions about the SRC please talk to Margaret or call the Executive Director, Martha Toledo at 908-879-2202.

## Vacation Bible Camp July 27 - 31

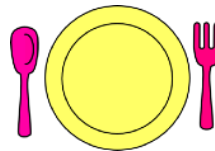
Currently we are unsure if the camp can go ahead. More details will be available next month, but if you wish to help staff the camp by helping shepherd the kids to the activities or help with the snacks or help lead the games, please speak with Margaret.

## Mission Trip 2020

We hope to do some ministries, maybe single day outreach. When we know what is possible, we will publicize it.

## Homeless Solutions

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.) Anyone aged 9 years or older is welcome to help. The sign-up sheet is on the board in the parish hall. We will be serving next on Friday, June 12 and on Saturday, July 18. if you would like to know more about what is involved, talk to Margaret or any of the people who have already been there.



We intend this ministry to be a way to serve "hands-on" instead of just sending money; **but** serving about 70 people costs roughly \$100 each time. Your financial support is also welcome. If you can sponsor a meal or part of a meal, please mark "Homeless Solutions" on your check.

## Bible Study

There are two **daytime** Bible study groups. The one currently studying in turn, the Epistles of James, Peter, John and Jude meets on Mondays from 2 – 3:30 by free conference call. The other, which is currently studying St. Mark's Gospel meets on Thursdays, 11 am - 12 noon, also by free conference call. The number is 605 313 5088 and at the prompt 108620#



If you would like to have specific readings for a particular week, please talk to Margaret. You are welcome to join either or both of these groups. You can use whatever version of the Bible you prefer.

### Men of Messiah

Although the MOM's are not holding regular Saturday morning meetings, they provided a special drive-up treat in the parking lot to honor Mothers Day. Thanks you, men!

### Fundraising

#### Thrift Shop:

St. Elsie's continues to be closed and we are not accepting donations. However, for the past few weeks I have been offering private shopping by appointment only. This was announced on our Facebook page, through email to our client list and recently advertised on PATCH. I am averaging 3 appointments per week right now. We are waiting for the Diocese to announce that church buildings may be opened again. Once the announcement comes through, we will be on a two-week grace period before we can allow the shop to open. I will be meeting with our staff to work out safety protocols.



#### Bathroom news:

Our contractor has filed for the required permits and will start the construction in June.

*Diane C, Warden*



### Stewardship Continues Pastoral Role

Our Stewardship Committee, along with other Vestry members, is continuing to focus on keeping in touch with our members during this lockdown period. We are contacting each member by telephone or email at least quarterly. We want to know how each is doing: health-wise, emotionally, and spiritually. We want to identify any problems that others might be able to help with, or any new tasks a person may be able to perform to help others.

Additionally, when appropriate, we will remind everyone to keep up their pledge payments to the extent they are able. We will encourage additional offerings when possible to the Rector's Discretionary Fund or Homeless Solutions or other special causes. The church's expenses, of course, continue. We have to pay our beloved staff (Margaret, Laura, Sue, and Kathy). Less exciting but equally necessary are the costs for insurance, maintenance, landscaping, cleaning, etc. These expenses continue while our major sources of income – St. Elsie's Closet Thrift Shop and the Senior Resource Center – have had to shut down.

Pray that God will continue to show us how we should be helping.

*Hardee K. Vestry Member*

### The Mourning Dove

There was a little bird,

Whose song was seldom heard.

One day God said, "My little bird, why have not I heard your tune?"

"My bad," said bird, "my tune is sad, not like the other doves. I do not coo so sweetly, my feathers are not white. My song is sad and haunting, my colors brown and gray. I do not sing a song of joy, but one of life so daunting."

So little bird did sing for God, with all her will and might. Her throaty call cut through the dawn, escaping from the cold of night.

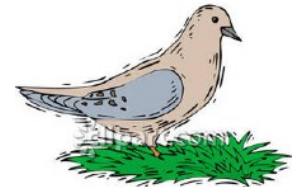
She sang until sun's rays dried dew, bringing warmth and day anew.

The last drop to dry, hung from God's lash, for bird's song had touched Him deeply .

"Bird sing your song each day," God said, "To wake the world and sooth lost hearts."

"Your song is haunting, yes my dove, it is a thing of beauty. When others sing of love's sweet joys, your song gives hope, when joy departs. Sing on my dove, and we will weep. For in your notes, our hope will keep."

*By Caroline H*



hope

### Some Ways to Help Neighbors During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Diversity Coalition of Morris County:**

[www.diversitydaymc.org](http://www.diversitydaymc.org)

Go to top of the page and click on Neighbors in Need

**Morristown Medical Center:**

[www.atlantichealth.org/locations/hospitals/morristown-medical-center.html](http://www.atlantichealth.org/locations/hospitals/morristown-medical-center.html)

In the orange bar at top of the page click on waysyoucanhelp#caringtogether

**RAMP:**

[www.rampinfo.org](http://www.rampinfo.org) Click on donate at top of first page

*Dave S, Vestry Member*

### Inquirer's & Confirmation Classes

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. If we cannot meet in person in the fall there will be a zoom class set up.

After completing the class, you may choose to be confirmed by the Bishop. 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.



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

The current EfM groups are completing their programs for the year. This program, thought by many to be the best one for people NOT seeking ordination, is offered as a new evening class starting in September. The first year of study focuses on the Old Testament. It runs a program year (September – June.) It is a college level class with a great textbook. You provide your own Bible. Please speak with Margaret if you are interested in this class. There is a class fee for the course.

### “Plus One” Campaign

#### A Simple Way to Remember Families in Need

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.

Please bring donations to Messiah and we will ensure they are taken to the food pantry. It is better to let Margaret know when you are coming so she can receive them from you.



### Flower ministry

Would you like to honor a living person or memorialize your beloved dead? Altar flower donations are an excellent way to do so! You can send your request by mail or email to the office and we will make sure it is noted. You will be able to see the altar flowers at the Sunday live-stream service.

You can make a request for the type or color of flowers you would like to have displayed. The suggested donation is \$25.

## To Find Help in Hymns at a Time Like This

Many people find powerful spiritual sustenance through poetry . The words we sing in hymns are one of our richest sources of sacred poetry.

### The Church of Christ in Every Age

The church of Christ in every age,  
Beset by change but Spirit-led,  
Must claim and test its heritage  
And keep on rising from the dead..

Across the world, across the street,  
The victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat,  
And never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise,  
A caring church that longs to be  
A partner in Christ's sacrifice  
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed  
Can cure the fever in our blood  
And teach us how to share our bread  
And feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve  
In full obedience to our Lord,  
To care for all without reserve,  
And spread Christ's liberating word.

*Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000 ©1969 Hope Publishing*

### Too Often, God, Your Name is Used

Too often, God, your name is used  
To sanction hate and fear.  
So love and justice are refused  
To people you hold dear.  
O never let us use your name  
To harm or hurt or kill,  
Or consecrate a vicious aim  
As your almighty will.

But move through us in deeds that spell  
Your name as Love and Light,  
For faithful actions far excel  
Beliefs that we recite.  
Let naming you through how we live  
Become our public creed,  
The clearest witness we can give  
Is meeting human need.

*Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945, © 2002 Oxford Univ. Press*

And keep us ready to receive  
the good that others do  
That helps expand what we believe  
And why we trust in you.  
For where deep love and justice meet  
We see anew your face.,  
And for a moment glimpse complete  
The world transformed by grace.

Thus synagogue and mosque and church  
Look out beyond their walls,  
To honor all who ask and search  
For where your Spirit calls.  
Their questions and their wondering  
Help us more fully claim  
Our mission as an offering  
that glorifies your name.

Listen to the May, 2016 YouTube by, the choir of  
the First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyPEohF6gg8>  
It Is well with My Soul

### It Is Well With My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

*Refrain:* It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

*Refrain:* It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Horation Spafford, 1873*

Spafford was not a poet, but a lawyer. He wrote this poem in a time of profound loss. Knowing the story behind the hymn adds a whole new level of meaning: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It\\_Is\\_Well\\_with\\_My\\_Soul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Is_Well_with_My_Soul)

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*Refrain:* It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain:* It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Sing to the Lord a new song;  
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord,  
bless His name;  
Proclaim good tidings  
of His salvation  
from day to day.*

*Psalm 96: 1-2*