

THE MESSENGER

June 2020

A Publication of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah



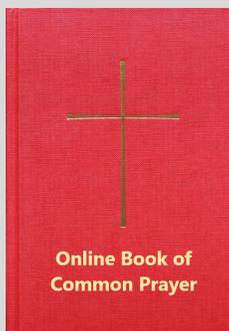
**BACK TO
CHURCH!
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MISSED!**

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407-665-3218

Church of the Messiah
Website

You Tube



Sunday Services:

Sunday Services:

8:00 am.....Traditional Communion 9:30

am.....Family Communion

(Livestreamed)

Drive Thru Communion

Sundays 11-Noon

& Mondays Noon-1 & 5-6

9:30 am..... Sunday School

11 am.....Contemporary Communion

4:00 pm. French Service

(Livestreamed)

7:00 pm.....Casual Communion

Wednesday Service:

10:00 amCasual Communion

11:00 am Bible Study

Head of Church: Jesus Christ

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Greg Brewer

Rector: The Rev. Tom Rutherford 321-945-3958
TomRutherford@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

Associate Priests:

The Rev. Soner Alexandre 407-452-2952

SonerAlexandre@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

The Rev. Dr. Richard Gonzalez 239-777-0369

email: richardgonzalez@churchofthemessiah.com

Deacons: The Rev. Julie Altenbach 407-462-8001

JulieAltenbach@ChurchOfTheMessiah The

Rev. Sam Katulic 321-230-4756

DeaconSam@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

The Rev. Tim Wetherington 407-342-4484

Deacontim@outlook.com

Treasurer: Rodger Watson 407-814-0303

Staff: Jeremy Adams, Facilities & Music Minister

Julie Altenbach, Office Minister

Barbara Ellerbe, Preschool Director
407-654-8415

Linda Ellison, Music Minister

Angela Lopez, Children's Minister

Jane Cartelli, Finance Minister

241 North Main Street
Winter Garden, Florida 34787

*From the
Rector*



“Exceedingly abundantly
MORE than we asked or
imagined!”

Has it REALLY been only 3 months since COVID-19 invaded our lives, turning almost everything upside down?

In that time God has kept his promise to do “exceedingly abundantly MORE than we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20) in and for our Parish Family.

Here’s the timeline of how that’s unfolded:

Late February: COVID becomes a “thing.” The government and bishop start talking about “social distancing” and “staying at home.” People in our community get nervous and start hoarding toilet paper and wearing masks. Some Messiah folks do, too.

In my morning prayer time, I ask God, “How do you want me to respond to this? And how do you want me to serve the Messiah family?”

I felt the Holy Spirit well up inside me and speak to my heart: “**Do NOT be afraid! I’ve got this!**”

Then and there I decided to lead boldly and trust God to get us through this.

He HAS!!!

Mid-March: In respect for and to honor our folks who choose to self-isolate and/or are in the demographics most vulnerable to the virus, we buy video gear to begin livestreaming events.

March 22: We launch livestreaming at one Sunday worship service at 11am – because the Parish Hall already has the internet capability for livestreaming, and the Church does not – while still doing all 5 Sunday services live. Attendance that day is about half of what it usually is.

Vestry meeting that afternoon has 2/3 of our members present in person and the others attending online.

That week: Deacon and Office Minister Julie Altenbach starts updating our website and social media daily.

We subscribe to Constant Contact, an email software that enables us to send bulk emails to the whole congregation or smaller sub-groups within it, and I start sending “**Parish Family Updates**” as needed to announce new developments.

March 23: To serve the folks who choose to stay home on Sundays, we begin offering Drive Thru Communion Monday-Friday from Noon-1pm and 5-6pm and get a steady stream of folks coming by – both from the parish family and the neighborhood.

March 24: Bishop Brewer instructs every church in the diocese to suspend public worship, close parish offices, and cancel all on-campus activities. He allows us to prerecord or livestream worship services, as long as we have no more than 10 producing it. We put together a Production Team of folks from the Choir and Worship Band willing to play and sing.

Per the Bishop's instructions, we cancel on-campus groups and officially close the Office, and many parish groups start meeting by ZOOM online video conferencing service.

March 29: We go to one online Sunday worship at 9:30, since that's the one with the highest attendance. We offer Drive Thru Communion following the service from 11am-1pm. People come from only 11am-Noon, so we shrink that opportunity after that first Sunday.

April 5-10, Holy Week: We offer online Palm Sunday, Way of the Cross, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

April 12: Easter online worship is glorious with flowers and silver and brass accoutrements. Drive Thru Communion is from 11am-Noon. 130 people come by, and we offer Easter lilies to everyone who comes by that week.

Father Soner Alexandre launches livestreaming the French service at 4pm.

April 26: The Church building gets wired internet service, which enables us to livestream from that space. Assistant Music Minister Jeremy Adams and I research and order the gear necessary to make that work, so we can move online Sunday services from the Parish Hall to the Church.

Late April: Julie Altenbach and Children's Minister Angela Lopez set up a food bank in the Narthex hallway with a plethora of food. Many Messians come "shopping."

Our Volunteer Office Angels call each parish family to check in and offer prayer.

I write postcards to every family in the parish: once in Lent, again in Holy Week/Easter Week, again after that, and am now on my 4th round this month.

Staff keep in touch with their constituencies by phone, text, email, mail, and ZOOM.

Finance Minister Jane Cartelli applies for the Payroll Protection Program, and we receive \$122,900. That will pay our Staff and Preschool teachers, utilities, and mortgage interest for May and June, freeing up regular Operating funds for other projects. A Team from the Vestry are praying and listening for the Spirit's direction for that windfall.

May 3: Our first Sunday back in the Church building, and all the new technology works!

May 14: Bishop Brewer gives permission to resume in-person worship – with conditions – on Pentecost, May 31. Those conditions include "no Prayer Books, Hymnals, or Bibles to be available," so we order the gear to upgrade the projector in the Church and install monitors where those serving at the altar can see what's on the screen.

May 17: Seminarian Laura Cook reads the 1st Lesson in a video recorded from where she is in Canada. We have more people scheduled to participate by prerecorded audio and/or video in the coming weeks.

May 24: Music Minister Linda Ellison provides a prerecorded patriotic prelude for Memorial Day.

May 31 – Pentecost Sunday: Grand Re-Opening as we resume 5 Sunday services and most other groups and events, as their individual leaders choose to restart, and parishioners choose to attend.

June 1 and following: Continue livestreaming the 9:30 and 4pm worship services, continue Drive Thru Communion on Sundays and Mondays, continue keeping up with and serving our parishioners who choose to stay in self-quarantine.

SO FAR:

- No Messiah folks have tested positive for the disease, though several think they already had it, and one tested positive for having had it.
- Parish giving is the same as it was this time last year, and expenses are lower, so we're healthily in the black financially.
- We've distributed 1,400 servings of individual communion and are ordering more.
- Each of our online services attracts 300-1,000 views every week – not just here or in the United States, but also in Barbados, Brazil, Canada, China, England, France, Guyana, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Japan, Pakistan, Spain, Vietnam, and Wales! We don't want to miss reaching that many people in that many places, so we will continue livestreaming when the pandemic passes – for them and for our parishioners who choose to self-isolate for weeks or months to come.
- Drive Thru Communion has been a sweet time visiting, praying, and sharing the sacrament in a way that's not possible on Sundays.
- We've updated and upgraded our technology in ways we never would have without the pandemic. Those enables us to livestream online and from the church to the Parish Hall for events when the church overflows, as well as be able to use the projector in the church, without having to turn off all the lights.

God has, indeed, done exceedingly abundantly above everything we've asked and imagined through this tough time, and we thank Jesus!

Thank YOU, also, for praying. Your prayers have made the difference.

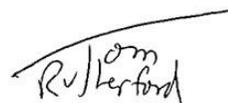
Thank you for being flexible with all the changes.

Thank you for embracing ways to give beyond dropping coins in the plate.

And thank YOU for keeping your sense of humor through it all.

This mess is not over yet, but God has gotten us this far, and there's no reason to suspect he won't carry us the rest of the way through.

I love you all and hope to see each of you soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Herbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the name.

Who Ya Gonna Call

| LOVING GOD INREACH | LEADER | PHONE | EMAIL |
|---|--|--|--|
| Acolytes | Murph Borno | 407.413.4220 | youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Altar Guild | Trudie Carr Karen Stewart Jennifer Roper | 321.287.6478 407.625.7615 407.760.2393 | Trudie21@cfl.rr.com Kstewart1208@yahoo.com Jennifer.roper@yahoo.com |
| Building Maintenance | Chris Brown | 407.864.1708 | CG_Brown@Live.com |
| Children's Ministry | Angela Lopez | 321.287.9089 | Angelalopez@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Lay Weeders/Landscapers | John Peacock | 407.758.2728 | jpeacox@cfl.rr.com |
| Music/Choirs/Band | Linda Ellison | 407.417.4229 | Lakesongmusic@gmail.com |
| Prayer Chain | Elise Bradford | 407.876.2557 | eliserb535@gmail.com |
| Prayer Intercessors | Wally Stewart | 407.468.2545 | Stewart3rd@aol.com |
| Central Scheduling Ushers/Greeters/Lectors/LEMS/LEVS | Mike & Bobby Warren | 352.241.8703 | customerservants@cfl.rr.com |
| LOVING GOD OUTREACH | LEADER | PHONE | EMAIL |
| Christian Service Center | Doreen Stachowski | 407.717.5888 | Stach45T@aol.com |
| Communications/Publicity | Joe Eiden | 919.523.1869 | eidenj@gmail.com |
| Habitat for Humanity | Bob Tate | 407.247.0219 | tater7134@gmail.com |
| Church Outreach | Doreen Stachowski | 407.717.5888 | Stach45T@aol.com |
| Pre-School | Barbara Ellerbe | 407.654.8415 | barbaraellerbe@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Refugee Team | Murph Borno | 407.413.4220 | youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com |
| LOVING EACH OTHER | LEADER | PHONE | EMAIL |
| Casserole Patrol | Deacon Julie Altenbach | 407.462.8001 | juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Coffee Hour | Kelley McRae | 407.877.0463 | kemcrae@hotmail.com |
| Fun & Fellowship | Wendy King | 407.928.8132 | wbking@cfl.rr.com |
| Grief Groups | Jill Brown | 407.656.5776 | Jlbrown656@embarqmail.com |
| Hurricane Disaster Response Team | Murph Borno | 407.413.4220 | youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Kitchen Krewe | Patty Tate | 321.331.1435 | pattyjotate@yahoo.com |
| Lay eucharistic Visitors | Deacon Julie Altenbach | 407.462.8001 | juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Church Library | Regina Seguin | 407.865.3865 | libray@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Men's Supper | Wally Stewart | 407.468.2545 | Stewart3rd@aol.com |
| Messiah's Way | Brian Seguin | 407.865.1472 | seguinbox@gmail.com |
| Name Tags | Julie Altenbach | 407.656-3218 | juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Newsletters/Bulletins | Deacon Julie Altenbach | 407.462.8001 | juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Nursery/Childcare | Angela Lopez | 321.287.9089 | Angelalopez@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Office Angels | Deacon Julie Altenbach | 407.462.8001 | juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com |
| Parish Nurse | Barbara Knappman | 630.470.1405 | barbnap@msn.com |
| Pastoral Care | Joyce Taylor | 407.222.1290 | shadesfan@aol.com |
| Transportation Aid | Joyce Taylor | 407.222.1290 | shadesfan@aol.com |
| Wednesday Evening Bible Study | Joe Wolfe | 407.656.4226 | Wolfejns@aol.com |
| Women's Dining Club | Janice Hull | 407.413.4220 | Jhull1049@gmail.com |
| Youth | Murph Borno | 407.413.4220 | youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com |

Please contact the church office if you need further assistance at:

407-656-3218 or office@churchofthemessiah.com

Vestry Minutes * May 24, 2020 @ 2:30 p.m.

2020 Vestry

Ron Bouton, *Properties*
Email: eronbo47@gmail.com

Chris Brown, *Junior Warden, Properties* Email:
CG_Brown@Live.com

Joe Eiden, *Communications/ Publicity, Missions & Evangelism*
Email: eidenj12@gmail.com

Wendy King, *Fun & Fellowship*
Email: wbking@cfl.rr.com

John Peacock, *Properties*
Email: jpeacox@cfl.rr.com

Mary Kay Predmore, *Senior Warden*
Email: marykayp413@aol.com

Brian Seguin, *Connections*
Email: seguinbox@gmail.com

Doreen Stachowski, *Missions & Evangelism*
Email: stach45t@aol.com

Wally Stewart, *Properties, Pastoral Care*
Email: stewart3rd@aol.com

Patty Tate, *Business & Development, Properties, Outreach*
Email: pattyjotate@yahoo.com

Bob Tate, *Treasurer*
Email: treasurer@churchofthemessiah.com

Joyce Taylor, *Clerk, Pastoral Care*
Email: shadesfan@aol.com

Dawn Wirbel, *Children & Youth, In reach, Outreach, Worship*
Email: d.wirbel@yahoo.com

Vestry Door Duty for May 2020

Opener at 7:30am: Joyce Taylor

Closer after 1:00pm: Joe Eiden

Vestry Meeting Host: Mary Kay

Predmore

2020 Financial Report

(as of March 2020)

Operating Income.....\$238,095.54

Operating Expenses.....\$204,010.24

NET.....\$34,085.30

ALL Building Fund Income....\$42,818.82

ALL Building Fund Expense...\$56,158.02

NET.....(\$13,339.20)

Staff and Vestry have mailboxes in the offices if you need leave a note or give them something.

The Office is open
Monday-Friday

9-5

Present (in person or by ZOOM video conferencing): Rector Tom Rutherford, Senior Warden Mary Kay Predmore, Junior Warden Chris Brown, and Clerk Joyce Taylor; Ron Bouton, Joe Eiden, Wendy King, John Peacock, Brian Seguin, Doreen Stachowski, Wally Stewart, Patty Tate, and Dawn Wirbel; Treasurer Bob Tate, and Finance Minister Jane Cartelli.

Absent:

I. **FORMATION**: Dawn Wirbel led Noonday Prayer. Based on Acts 2:14, 36-41, Tom Rutherford talked about how churches tend to operate and communicate and how the congregational expectations of their clergy and leaders differ, based upon their size.

II. **INFORMATION**:

A. **Vestry Ministry Team Reports**: None received.

B. **Staff Reports**:

1. **Children of the Messiah Preschool**: Director Barbara Ellerbe reports:

- a) The financial report was emailed separately.
- b) We had a Drive Thru Graduation for our oldest students on Friday May 22.
- c) We're offering an abbreviated summer day-camp, but have not heard back from enough parents to know if we have a critical mass to hold it.
- d) The Payroll Protection Program money ensured none of our teachers missed a paycheck! Thank you, Finance Minister Jane Cartelli, for helping that happen.

2. **Finance Minister** Jane Cartelli reports (from her Satellite Office...A.K.A. Her Home!):

- a) The bills are paid, money is still in the bank and COTM maintains a healthy balance. Parishioners continue to be faithful with their tithes and other donations.
- b) The electronic giving platforms are really taking off! Deacon Julie Altenbach and I spent some time this week making sure our electronic giving is PCI compliant and this means our monthly fees for the service will remain low.
- c) Deacon Julie and I are working with Carrier, our air conditioning maintenance vendor, to better define their obligations to us as their customer and also rein in their charges going forward. It is a duty of the Financial Minister to keep costs down by limiting the expenses tied to vendors. Toward that mission, I am attempting to get COTM out of a long-term lease with Pitney Bowes for postage meter equipment that is well above our needs.
- d) The Payroll Protection Plan Loan was received on May 4th. We have a 56-day window to use the money within the guidelines, and if we do, the loan will be forgiven. Any funds we use for other expenses will have to be repaid at an interest rate of 1%. Those stipulations are: at least 75% must go to pay employees. The rest may be used for utilities and mortgage interest. Jane has done an initial calculation and here's an estimate of how that works out:
 - (1) We received \$122,900. 76% of that is \$93,404, which must be used for payroll.
 - (2) Our payroll expenses (salaries, hourly wages, benefits, and pension) for those 56 days are about \$97,159 – putting us well over 75%
 - (3) That leaves \$25,741 for utilities and mortgage interest.
 - (a) Estimated utilities are \$7,100
 - (b) Mortgage interest is \$14,015, for a total of \$21,115
 - (4) That would have us being gifted \$118,274 and returning \$4,626 to Regions Bank.
- (e) The Pre School made partial payments to their teachers on March 30, April 15, and April 30th in faith that the PPP would cover those amounts when received. It was not until AFTER the loan was processed and the money received that the SBA finalized their rules on the approved period of use. The money can be used only within a 56-day period that starts on the day the money is received. Since our parish income has continued at before-COVID levels, we could have paid our Staff and all other expenses without the PPP. If we did not have a Pre School, we would not have applied for the PPP loan, and we applied specifically for the benefit of the preschool teachers, and also, as allowed by the Cares Act, to cover our utilities and mortgage interest during that 56-day period. God – through the PPP – gave us much more than we hoped for!

3. Children Ministry Report: Children's Minister Angela Lopez reports:

1) I have been hosting small get togethers for a limited number of kids, to give them and their parents a few hours apart. And also to reintroduce some normalcy in their lives. I have had between 3 and 9 kids a few days a week hang out and do different activities. We have gone fishing, learned to throw boomerangs, learned to cook Mu Shu Pork and chicken fried rice. Each day we have an art lesson and work with a different medium. We've used oil pastels, chalk pastels, watercolor pencils, play dough, shaving cream, color bleed tissue paper and washi tape.

We try to have a themed lunch as well--fish and chips on fishing day, chicken nuggets on bird day, tuna casserole on sensory day. I have several more days like this planned in June and July leading up to our scaled back one room vbs.

2) I have adapted a VBS program from 2015 (not one that we used) to fit a scaled back, 25 person event. I have sent out several registration forms and will be taking kids on a first come first served basis. In order to keep all safety measures in place I have decided to use only 2 areas of the church and limit the sharing of all supplies. We are still going to have a SONTastic time as we learn about God's plan for us!

3) In order to welcome all the children back in our programs I have set up some new policies for the KIDMIN areas and volunteers. I will be wearing a mask when in common areas of the church, I will be sanitizing the SHINE room prior to Sunday services as well as in between each service. We will not be opening the nursery, there are changing stations in both restrooms and babies are always welcome in service. There will be no sharing of crayons/supplies, each child will get a box with their name on it and I will disinfect them after collecting them at the end of service. we will all use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the SHINE room. I am reducing the number of children per table to 1 and we will be doing no contact prayers for a while. I will not be providing snacks on Sunday mornings and will ask that all candy treats earned be taken back to the parents before being opened. Volunteers have been asked to refrain from serving if they are not feeling well, if they work in a high risk job and if they are not comfortable just yet. I will not be finding people to take their place, I will fill in myself until everyone is ready to resume their Sunday rotations. We will also not be initiating hugs or high fives. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out.

4) If your child has been completing the Sermon Notes pages or other church at home activities (sent through Remind) please drop them off on the SHINE table or in the church office. I have been sending out prizes for the ones returned.

4. Office Minister: Julie Altenbach reports

a) This month I continued to help parishioners and especially Vestry members learn to navigate our technology and online services. I have begun to create lists for each of the ministries in our Constant Contact mass email distribution program. This will provide an easier way to email the ministers and make sure we are contacting everyone. It is the easiest way to be sure our addresses are up to date as well as keep up with communication for all our folks. I am updating our Social Media sites to make sure people know about live streaming worship and Drive Thru Communion.

b) I continue to maintain the food pantry, both with restocking as our people bring in donations, and with making sure the folks who need it have access. Our Casserole Patrol Ministry is keeping the freezer stocked, and that is in option for our people utilizing the Food Pantry.

c) I assisted Finance Minister Jane Cartelli with making sure our online giving platforms are in compliance with the people who oversee them for security. Jane and I are also negotiating a new contract with Carrier for our AC maintenance and repairs.

d) I am continuing to reach out to our people to make sure they are able to watch our Sunday Worship on Facebook or YouTube. Each Sunday, I am online and by the parish telephone to help with technical issues for those watching.

- e) I worked with Wendy King to prepare publicity for her and Mike's Financial Peace University. I will continue to help with registration.
- f) As we move into more phases of opening, we are getting more calls about renting our facilities, so I am taking that information for Jeremy.
- g) Office Angels are touching in with all the Sunday Servants (Lectors, LEM's, & LEV's) to see if and when they are ready to resume their ministries.
- h) Office Angels are touching in with the leaders of all our on-campus groups to see if and when they want to resume their activities.
- i) I have been so grateful to continue to work through these unusual times and feel blessed God brought me to be the Office Minister when he did. I love working at Church of the Messiah and love you all.

C. Timeline of our COVID-19 Response (Continued from last month):

1. We have continued everything we reported last month to stay in touch with our parish family and to meet needs for food, prayer, and personal contact.
2. **May 3 (Sunday): Our first Sunday back in the Church building**, and all the new technology worked!
3. **May 4 (Monday): We receive \$122,900 from the Payroll Protection Program** to pay for utilities and mortgage interest and to pay our Staff, including Preschool Teachers. THANK YOU, JANE CARTELLI, for working our application through the byzantine bureaucracy.
4. **Drive Thru Communion continues**, and through May 22, we have distributed 1,400 servings. We'll order another 1,000 soon and continue using the individual servings until Bishop Brewer gives permission to resume the common cup. Even then, we'll offer the individual servings at Drive Thru Communion, in the Lay Eucharistic Visitor kits, and for those who choose not to drink from the common cup.
5. **May 14: Bishop Brewer gives permission to resume in-person worship – with conditions – on Pentecost, May 31.** Those conditions include “no Prayer Books, Hymnals, or Bibles to be available,” so we order the gear to upgrade the projector in the Church and install monitors where those serving at the altar can see what's on the screen.
6. **May 17 (Sunday): Seminarian Laura Cook reads the 1st Lesson** in a video recorded from where she is in Canada. We have more people scheduled to participate by prerecorded audio and/or video in the coming weeks.
7. **May 24 (Sunday) Linda Ellison provides a prerecorded patriotic prelude for Memorial Day.**
8. **May 31 – Pentecost Sunday: Grand Re-Opening** as we resume 5 Sunday services and most of our other groups and events, as their individual leaders choose to restart and parishioners choose to attend. Some of the Groups and events restarting are:
 - a) **Pentecost Picnic May 31 at 5:30.** Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups, napkins, and utensils.
 - b) **Sunday Suppers** as bring-your-own picnics.
 - c) **Children's Church, SHINE Kids' Club, ACTIVATE youth group**
 - d) **Wednesday Morning Communion and Bible Study**
 - e) **Financial Peace University on Sundays at 4:30pm starting June 14**
9. **Groups and events NOT restarting for a while:**
 - a) **No nursery care for any events**
 - b) **No events serving food:** Coffee Hour, Men's Supper, snacks for anything
10. **June 1 and following: Continue livestreaming the 9:30 and 4pm worship services**, continue Drive Thru Communion on Sundays and Mondays, continue keeping up with and serving our parishioners who choose to stay in self-quarantine.

C. Bradford Fisher's Parish Discernment Committee (PDC) is still on hold, but he had a ZOOM interview with the Commission on Ministry May 18.

III. DISCUSSION (to help make a decision next month): We have a \$118,000 gift from the Payroll Protection Program. Even though we're giving \$20,000 to the preschool for their back payroll, that still frees up \$97,000 from our regular funds. HOW MIGHT GOD WANT US TO INVEST THOSE FUNDS? Rector Tom recommended forming a Team to pray, think, research, poll our parishioners, and lead us in a discussion next month on how to utilize those funds, with a goal of making a decision by the end of summer. Joe Eiden, Wendy King, Brian Seguin, Soreen Stachowski, and Dawn Wirbel volunteered to join Tom on that Team. They will negotiate when to meet soon.

IV. DECISIONS (usually based on the Discussion last month):

- A. **The Good Friday and Easter Offerings** totaled \$2,765. Vestry decides what to do with those. Rector Tom recommends applying it toward the \$4,635.31 we've spent on new technology to get our worship online. Vestry APPROVED.
- B. **Subsidizing the Preschool from the Operating Fund** for \$20,426.11 to cover their payroll from the time they closed to May 4, when we received the PPP funds that paid their teachers through mid-June. Vestry APPROVED.
- C. **Parish Hall Kitchen Floor:** Last month we decided to go with epoxy over concrete, if we could see a sample of Creative Concrete's work. Ron Bouton, Wendy King, Tom Rutherford, and Patty Tate went to Lake Louisa State Park to see his work in a bathroom from 2 years ago. It still looked new, even in the shower area, that Tom turned on the water and found the floor not slippery when wet. Wendy signed a contract with Creative Concrete for the job, and they think they can get to us in a month.
- D. Vestry agreed on a color for the floor, with Wally Stewart not liking it, but willing to live with it.
- E. Patty Tate urged us to paint the kitchen while we have everything out of there and the floor open to splatters. Vestry agreed on a color, and Patty will get the paint.
 - 1. Mary Kay Predmore volunteered the ACTIVATE Youth Group to paint.
 - 2. A team of beefy parishioners will empty out the kitchen on Monday, June 1.
 - 3. Patty Tate will research getting a commercial dishwasher to replace the sanitizer we've never used, and report back next month.

V. MEETING MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:

- A. **Minutes from the April meeting:** APPROVED.
- B. **April Financial Report from Treasurer Bob Tate:** APPROVED
 - 1. **Operating Account:** Giving in April was \$7,619.93 MORE than expenses! That INCREASES our SURPLUS year-to-date to \$34,085.30. THANK YOU, JESUS!
 - 2. **Building Fund** net income in April was \$7,908.87 LESS than our \$11,996.01 monthly mortgage and other expenses, INCREASING the DEFICIT year-to-date to \$13,339.20. Since COVID-19 started, all our renters cancelled their events, so there was no rental income in March or April, and there are only 2 events in May. We have inquiries for later this year, and some of the events that cancelled want to reschedule. Please pray.

PRE-SCHOOL DRIVE THRU GRADUATION

Due to Covid-19 the preschool year did not end as planned. However, our amazing Pre-K teacher Stacey Duppenhaller and I were able to plan a drive through graduation ceremony to say goodbye to our Pre-K students moving on to Kindergarten. We will miss them dearly. A piece of our hearts will always be with them.

Every year before graduation, we ask the Pre-K graduates what they want to be when they grow up. The following is what our 2020 Graduates aspire to become.

Lincoln Roebke – Policeman

Laura Cabral – Policewoman

Scarlett Moore – Artist

Olivia Hill – a dolphin trainer

Kannah Chung – a nurse

Alexis Edmondson – a mommy

Eli Ulmer – a construction worker

Hawk Hawthorne – a tennis player

We at the preschool hope and pray to be open soon. We would love to be able to serve the children of our community once again.

Preschool Director,

Barbara Ellerbe





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Keeping our kids safe, healthy, entertained and enriched matters, especially in a pandemic. I hope we have created some fun memories for them during this time. Thanks for sharing your kids with me. I love them all.



FUN WITH MS. ANGELA AND FRIENDS



Thank you, Ms. Rose, for cooking our lunch and making our snacks! The kids love lunch time and I love it when they have full bellies! We have had wonderful chats with the kids and they have grown to really enjoy your company.

Ms. Cheri, these kids love you and not just because you will play any crazy made up game with them, or do yoga in 95-degree weather. They enjoy talking and laughing with you while doing art projects and I appreciate how you have grown to know something special and unique about each one of them.

We have been so blessed to have you both with us for Kids day out! I could not have done it with out you both and your love and support!



VBS

2020

Discover God's Plan 4 U = Jesus! at SonSpark Labs!

Join the fun at

Gospel Light's
**SonSpark
Labs**

Discovering
God's Plan 4 U = Jesus!

Please join us as we experiment with fun
and excitement at SonSpark Labs!

Dates and times of event

Join us Monday through Friday, July 27-31,
from 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., for Bible stories,
activities, games, crafts and snacks galore!

Name and address of event location

Church of the Messiah
241 N. Main Street

Open to the first 24 kids only Completed kindergarten through 6th grade

Name and phone number for information

Text or email Ms. Angela for info. 321-287-9089
angela.lopez@churchofthemessiah.com

If you want to discover God's awesome plan, join us at SonSpark Labs!



youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com



(407) 413-4220 or via remind
once you receive a link.

May was very active considering all of the potential barriers from SARS-CoV-2. We were able to get into a normal battle rhythm with phone calls, and zoom meetings, to check on each other and stay connected. God always provides. We will continue to stay connected via zoom for those who are not ready to come back in person when Activate resumes on 7 June. If there are any other teens not currently active in youth group who would like to join in let me know.

We are excited to announce the HS graduation of Kara Altenbach, Joshua Lopez and Bailey Wise! I am so very proud of them. Unfortunately that means they are aging out of the program. I am going to miss them very much. Please congratulate them when you see them around the campus.

We are still tentatively a go for the mission trip in July, and will make a final call the first week of June. Several of us participated in a service opportunity for the Apopka Pregnancy center on 16 May doing yard work and helping with their yard sale. They are moving to a new location more centrally located in downtown Apopka. The youth and I are praying that GOD will provide you with the courage, strength and peace to make it through the current SARS-CoV-2 situation, because he will if you let him! We have the most awesome kid's, make sure you tell them that you love them as often as you can! Please reach out if you are in need of anything (prayer, logistics support, conversation, etc.), we are here to love and serve you.

Please feel free to contact me anytime!

Grace and Peace

Murph Borno





Lessons Available ONLINE

We teach most musical instruments and voice in addition to visual art and acting lessons. Lesson pricing is economical, and we offer a scholarship program to help anyone in need. We strive to uphold our mission statement:

Advancing local arts through quality education for all.

All you need is a smart phone, tablet, or computer with a doc camera to start. Contact Garinè Adams at garineadams@churchofthemessiah.com for more information and scheduling.

Most popular instruments:

- Piano
- Ukulele
- Voice
- Guitar
- Drum set
- Violin
- Cello
- Flute
- Trumpet

Instruments we teach that might surprise you:

- Banjo
- Accordion
- Marimba
- Hand percussion
- Tuba
- Upright bass



*Please Join in Saying Goodbye to our
Deacon Students
Nancy Dushensky &
Rusty Hazelrigg!
You leave The Church of the Messiah
with our love and prayers!*



Notes from our Deacon Students

As a small child and all the way through adulthood, nothing brought me as much joy and excitement as discovering an old fashioned carousel. Gilded in gold with beautifully and uniquely carved animals to choose from to become my friends.

The Church of the Messiah has been that magical ride for me, taking me on that journey of wonderment and joy. Each one of you here, beautifully and uniquely carved by God and chosen by God to be my friend and mentor.

My learning came not out of a book, but out of love. Learning, that I will hold in my heart and take with me as I continue my journey into the Diaconate. I thank you all for being such a huge and joyful part of my life.

God knew exactly where He wanted me placed for my fieldwork and I couldn't have been more blessed. This is an amazing church filled with love and understanding, patience and hope. A true 'church family' that I, will remember each of you, with a sparkle in my eye and a smile in my heart forever. Thank you for being on this wild ride along side me.

Peace, Love & Grace
Nancy Dushensky



Messiah Family,

I wish to thank each of you for all of the support you have given to me while being one of your Deacon Students. From the first day I walked into the church and was met by the greeters I knew this was going to be an enjoyable experience. Your acceptance, patience, and grace enhanced my learning experience. I have to tell you most Deacon Students don't receive the amount of training that Fr. Tom and this church provides. Not only through the 5 services each week but the number of activities, the mission work, Bible studies, Sunday dinners, monthly men's dinners, etc. not only provided diaconate training but equipped me with ideas to take with me. One of my most treasured memories I take with me is my time as Prayer Intercessor. I had the privilege to pray alongside some of the most sprit-filled people I've known. With that, I had the opportunity to pray for many things that this congregation asked for and needed. I felt honored and blessed for the opportunity. Finally, I want to thank the Fr. Tom and all the clergy and staff here at Messiah. Their guidance, patience, understanding, and leadership has prepared me for my next step as a Deacon (if God wills). We all have heard the old saying when you have a daughter get married; 'I'm not losing a daughter but I am gaining a son'. In a similar view, when my time is completed here at Messiah; 'I am not losing a church but gaining another church family.' We will be seeing you again!

Grace and Peace,
Rusty Hazelrigg

Quarantine Chronicles: Toronto Edition



This is as close to the USA I'm getting for now. It's the American Consulate Building that I typically pass when walking to the water.

Hello from the great white North!

As I write this Toronto has finally entered warm weather, Praise God! So much so that at the high temperature of 79 degrees a "heat warning" is issued on the weather apps. Honestly can't even make this stuff up!! Meanwhile this Floridian is enjoying every second of it. I've taken to walking down to Lake Ontario as a regular habit, now that the weather is agreeable!

I loved getting to read and join in the services last month- and am so excited to keep streaming in as services open up and everyone slowly gets to come back to Church of the Messiah! I miss you all so much and look forward to "seeing" you if only virtually for now.

I'm still at Wycliffe and have had the opportunity to move into an apartment in the building for the summer which is wonderful news! AND means I get a kitchen, which I am very excited about. I've picked up some odd jobs at Wycliffe and will be working in the residence for the summer.

Big Prayer Requests:

- For our Wycliffe Community especially this summer. As Ontario and the city of Toronto are still in lockdown community, friends, and isolation in the building is really rough for many.
- For deeper and fun community.
- Administration at Wycliffe as decisions are made for the upcoming school year.

I'd love to hear from you guys! I'm finally working on setting up an email newsletter this summer so if you want to email me or send me a prayer request for YOU I would LOVE that! Send prayer requests to: L.Cook003@gmail.com! (and if you previously gave me your email I have it and you're already signed up to get this in the works newsletter!)

Love you, miss you, and am praying for you all!

Laura Cook





On a Roll with Tim & Terri

Missionary Misadventures with Deacon Tim and Terri Wetherington

If you would like to follow Terri and Deacon Tim on Facebook, you are invited to check out "On A Roll With Tim & Terri"

As Terri and I restarted our trek west, I prayed about what I should focus on that could be an encouragement to both to Terri and me, and to our Messiah family. The Spirit led me to Psalm 121, a psalm for travelers that can help all of us on our journey, wherever we are going.

Psalm 121 is a poem, a song, written by David. In many Bibles it has the title "A Song of Ascents".

Perhaps a more accurate translation of the title from the original Hebrew is "a song for a journey to a higher place," and that's how the travelers, the pilgrims on their journey to Jerusalem would have felt. They were heading to somewhere different, somewhere special; they were journeying with a purpose.

The Jewish people always thought of going UP to Jerusalem, probably because the city was higher geographically. Walking the 17-miles from Jericho to Jerusalem the road rises by about 3,500 feet. As they went up to Jerusalem for the feasts and celebrations, they had special songs to sing, and Psalm 121 was one of those songs.

This is a traveler's psalm. No matter where your travels take you today!

Psalm 121

A Song of Ascents.

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains —
where does my help come from

2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip —
he who watches over you will not slumber;

4 indeed, he who watches over Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord watches over you —
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all harm —
he will watch over your life;

8 the Lord will watch over your coming and
going both now and forevermore.

It reminds us, as it reminded the ancient Hebrews that the best way to travel in life is to travel with the Lord. Travel with God, because he will help like no one else can. Of course, being a Christian does not mean God's going to just let us have our way about everything, and have a trouble-free journey in this world - it simply means Jesus is with us on our journey.

We are not alone, HE is always with us.

There is great truth and great comfort in the words of verses 7 and 8: The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

What a wonderful promise. What a wonderful truth!

How is your journey going? Maybe you could ask Jesus how it's going. I'm certain he wants to talk to you about it. When you invite Jesus into your conversation, he will never mislead you, and he will never leave you in a crisis. Being a Christian does not mean your journey is easy. It means you never go alone.

CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



Dear Messiah Family,

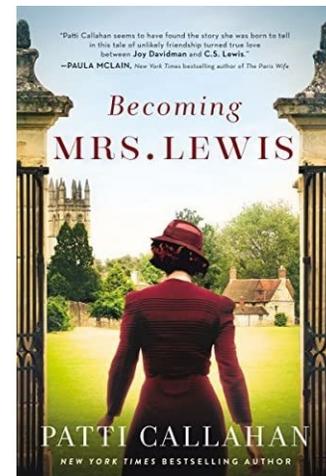
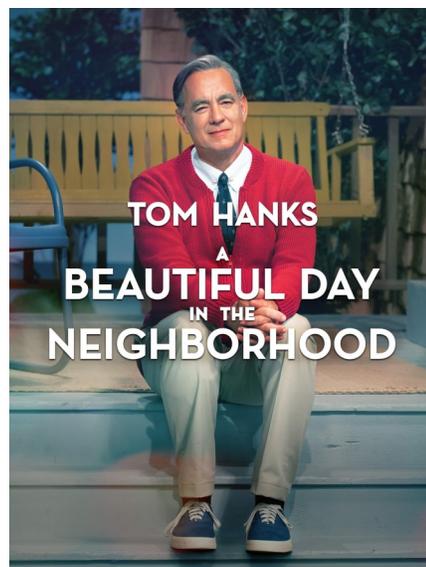
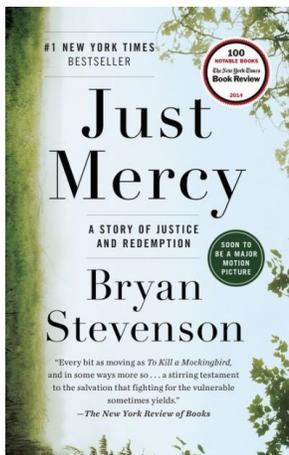
As our community begins the process of carefully reopening, you may once again be looking to your libraries for summer reading and learning. Our public libraries are now open again with limited capacity and home deliver services have resumed. The great news is Messiah's Library is here for you, too! We have lots of interesting and fun reads for all ages, including some new items that will hit our shelves this month. Here's a sampling:

- Adult Fiction– Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Callahan
- Biography– One Soul at a Time: The Story of Billy Graham by Grant Wacker
- DVD– A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood
- Nonfiction– Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- Children– The Berenstain Bear's Nature Rescu

As a friendly reminder, please return any materials you have checked out from Messiah's Library so that others may enjoy them. As always, please contact me with your questions or suggestions at library@churchofthemessiah.com.

Love,

Regina





By Helen Farnsworth

BY H616U E91U2W0LFFU

Again this month I must confess that I was still more into cellphone games than reading. (Please pray for this addiction to be dealt with!) Nonetheless, I can report on two books. The first one, **Choose Joy: 3-Minute Devotions for Women** and a children's book: **The Garden The Curtain And The Cross**, by Carl Laferton. I only read a few of the 3-minute devotions for women, because the print was light and hard for me to read; but those few speak well for what must be in the balance of the book for those with younger eyes. As for **The Garden The Curtain And The Cross**, it is a superb presentation of the Gospel for children. It begins with man's fall in the Garden of Eden, then proceeds to the crucifixion when the curtain of the Temple was torn in half, and ends with the Resurrection. I got it from Allistair Begg who produces "Truth For Life," a program that airs at 8:00 A.M. Monday through Friday on WTLN (990 on AM), and I think it is very clearly and engagingly written, a must for anyone with small children.

Hopefully I'll be more productive next month, but I hope you will investigate these books.

Join the Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry

No experience is
necessary to be a part
of this ministry group.
See times and contact
information below.



Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Monday in the Narthex 3-5

Contact Marsha Dymond at 407-491-4048

Ladies Dining Out for June 2nd is will be at 6:30



TEX-MEX RESTAURANT

580 East, FL-50, Clermont

Contact Janice Hull for more information

jhull1049@gmail.com



SUNDAY SERVANTS

We understand that some of you are going to continue to shelter at home. We honor and respect your decision and will not be including the schedule this month in the Messenger. When you are ready to return to the schedule please call the office at 407-656-3218 or send an email to Office@ChurchoftheMessiah.com. In the meantime, we will continue to call to check in with you and see how you are doing the weeks you are scheduled.

Thank you all for the way you are serving at home, or with us for in person worship.

Please check the website or call the office for cancellations and changes to the calendar

June

Due to the pandemic our Semi-annual Rummage Sales will now take place in March and October

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|-----|---|
| <p>Overeater's Anonymous meets every Thursday at 6:30pm in Library.</p> | 1 MSftA 4-8:30pm | 2 MSftA 10-11:30 am | 3MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6- Choir Practice 7:15- Praise Band | 4 MSftA Online Classes Only | 5 | 6 MSftA 12-1 pm |
| <p>7* Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 RAG SUNDAY *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 4pm French Service 4:00 Financial Peace 5:00 Diving Deeper 4:30 Shine & Activate 6:00 Dinner- Picnic Style 7:00 pm Rite 3</p> | 8 MSftA 4- 8:30pm Daughters of the King 6:00 Library 7 pm Bible Study (Library) | 9 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off NO MEN' SUPPER Ladies' Supper Club @ Ay Jalisco 6:30 | 10 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6- Choir Practice 7:15- Praise Band | 11 MSftA Online Classes Only | 12 | 13 MSftA 12-1 pm |
| <p>14 * Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 4pm French Service 4:00 Financial Peace 4:30 Shine & Activate 6:00 Dinner-Picnic Style 7:00 pm Rite 3</p> | 15 MSftA 4- 8:30pm 7 pm Bible Study (Library) | 16 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off | 17 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6- Choir Practice 7:15- Praise Band | 18 MSftA Online Classes Only | 19 | 20 MSftA 12-1 pm Alzheimer's Support Group 4:30 in the library |
| <p>21 * Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 4pm French Service 4:00 Financial Peace 4:30 Shine & Activate 6:00 Dinner-Picnic Style 7:00 pm Rite 3</p> | 22 MSftA 4- 8:30pm 7 pm Bible Study (Library) | 23 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off 6:30 Men's Group | 24 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6- Choir Practice 7:15- Praise Band | 25 MSftA Online Classes Only | 26 | 27 MSftA 12-1 pm |
| <p>28* Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 4pm French Service 4:00 Financial Peace 4:30 Shine & Activate 6:00 Dinner-Picnic Style 7:00 pm Rite 3</p> | 29 MSftA 4- 8:30pm 7 pm Bible Study (Library) | 30 MSftA 10-11:30 am 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off | <p style="text-align: center;">Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting every night at 8:00 p.m. Women Only: Tuesday 6:30pm Men Only: Thursday 6pm https://cflintergroup.org/meetings/three-legacies-group-8/</p> | | | |

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR
A VIDEO OF COTM FROM OUR ANNUAL
PICNIC TO PENTACOST**

www.ChurchoftheMessiah.com

**If you are viewing this online
click [here](#) for the video**



Clergy Meeting
and Drive Thru
Communion



Distance Band
Practice



Zoom Daughters of the King
singing and praying