



**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](http://www.churchofthemessiah.org/contact). Please feel free to call us anytime at 757-436-2545 or visit our website, [ChurchoftheMessiah.org](http://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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12.31.2023

**CELEBRATIONS**

**Happy Birthday**

- December 31: Therian Hall
- January 1: Gary Taylor
- January 3: Laurie Swain
- January 6: Andrew James

*Please Pray*

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

**OUR NATION AND WORLD:**

- An end to hostilities in Israel and peace and healing for all people.
- Protection and healing for our nation, and an end to racism and violence
- Guidance for our leaders in government
- Help for all affected by war and violence, disease, and natural disasters
- A movement of revival at home and abroad

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

The Family of John Dooley, Sandi Greeley (mother of Bob Greeley), Gabe Sbarglia (father of Rose Marie Bohs), Doris Gomez & Family, Ken Nickel, Mary Lafferty, Viola McKinlay, Ruth Thomas, Sandra Brown, Tom Waldman, Misty Taylor, Josh Corona, Aaron Woodward (son of Ellen Belfi), our healthcare workers, all of our members of the military, and Sanctuary of Hope, our companion church

**OUR OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES:**

- Aaron and Winnie Coleman-Horvat, Croatia**
- David & Betsy, Turkey**
- His Love in Action School for the Deaf in Honduras**
- Miriam Brinckley, Ireland**
- CMJ (Church's Ministry Among Jewish People)**

**WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH:**

**Diocese of Christ Our Hope**

**AND THE DIOCESE OF THE MID-ATLANTIC:**

- Church of the Resurrection** · Emporia, VA
- Communion of St. Patrick's-in-the-Mountains** · Fort Valley, VA

If you would like our prayer ministry to pray for a special need, please submit a confidential Prayer Request online at [www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/contact](http://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.*



**The First Sunday of Christmas • December 31, 2023**

**816 Kempsville Road • Chesapeake, VA 23320**

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

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

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

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** The Rev. Nile Gomez

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:** Pastor Ken Shomo

**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](http://www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/Livestream)  
Children's Church · Fellowship Hall (After Worship until Communion)  
Today's Teachers: Julie Hall, Jonathan Bekker

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

No Online Prayer Meetings 1/1 or 1/8. Meetings will resume 1/15.

### The First Sunday of Christmas · December 31, 2023

**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:** 2 Timothy 4:3-8 **Page 885**

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 **Page 853**

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

**Gospel:** Matthew 28:16-20 **Page 743**

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

**Sermon:** **A View From the Finish Line** Rev. David Martin

**Reader:** Vivian Hayes

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Vivian Hayes, Cherry Jenson

**Prayer Team:** David Martin, Susie Martin

### THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today	10:00 am	Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)
Monday		NEW YEAR'S DAY — OFFICE CLOSED
Wednesday		CAST BEGINS
Thursday		CAST CONTINUES
Friday		CAST CONTINUES
Saturday		EPIPHANY
		CAST CONTINUES

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**THANKS TO ALL** who have helped make this Advent and Christmas season so special! This includes our Worship and Multimedia Teams, Altar Guild, Children's Ministry, Joyful Noise volunteers, Outreach Ministry, Women's Ministry, and our dedicated clergy and staff. God bless you!

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

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1. The clergy and staff of Messiah wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

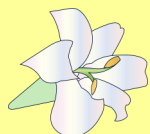


**CAST BEGINS WEDNESDAY!** There will be a last meeting today after service in the Fellowship Hall. Also, there is a need for volunteers to help serve food each night, and there are still empty slots for breakfast and dinner. If you can help in this way, please contact Debbie DeBose at 757-439-8046. Any donations can be placed in the blue bucket in the foyer, or you can make a check payable to Messiah with "CAST" in the memo line. Questions may be directed to Nakita Albritton at 804-252-1865.

**THERE WILL BE NO ONLINE PRAYER MEETING** tomorrow, January 1, or January 8 (due to CAST). Meetings will resume on Monday, January 15.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & VESTRY ELECTIONS** will be held Sunday, February 4. Up to two new Vestry members may be elected this year, so please begin to prayerfully consider individuals (including yourself) who you feel may be called to this leadership role.

**TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS.** Gifts received or post-marked after today will not be counted for 2023. Thank you!



**OUR SYMPATHIES ARE WITH THE FAMILY OF DR. JOHN DOOLEY**, who went to be with Jesus on December 23. Dr. Dooley and his wife, Cathy, have been beloved friends to Messiah for many years. A Celebration of Life service was held yesterday at Messiah. Cards may be sent to Cathy at 22501 John Tyler Memorial Highway, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Include in bulletin
- Prayer team only
- Prayer team and bulletin