



**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:

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

12.24.2023

**CELEBRATIONS**

**Happy Birthday**

- December 24: Wendy O'Rourke
- December 30: Bob Brennan

**Happy Anniversary**

- December 29: Aaron & Winnie Horvat

*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:**

John Dooley, Gabe S barglia (father of Rose Marie Bohs), Doris Gomez & Family, Ken Nickel, Mary Lafferty, Tim & Seiko Maurer, 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:**  
**Anglican Province of Congo**

**AND THE DIOCESE OF THE MID-ATLANTIC:**  
**Church of the Redeemer** · Camden, NC  
**Church of the Resurrection** · Lutherville, MD

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 Fourth Sunday in Advent • December 24, 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: Doris Gomez, Pastor Ken Shomo

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

Via Zoom · Meeting ID 928 2372 1136

### Fourth Sunday in Advent · December 24, 2023

**PRAYER:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-17 **Page 227**

**Second Reading:** Romans 16:25-27 **Page 847**

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

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38 **Page 761**

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

**Sermon:** **Unveiling the Mystery:  
From David's Throne  
to Mary's Womb** Pastor Nile Gomez

**Reader:** Jim Bohannon

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jim Bohannon, Chris Woodland

**Prayer Team:** Susan Nizankiewicz, Jo Ann Woodland

### THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today	10:00 am	Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)
	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
Monday		CHRISTMAS DAY — OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY — OFFICE CLOSED
Wednesday		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY — OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday	10:00 am	Men's Ministry Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**WELCOME, VISITORS!** We'd love to get to know you! Please fill in the attached "Welcome Visitors" form and drop it in the offering box, or submit a Digital Connection Card at [www.churchofthemessiah.org/contact](http://www.churchofthemessiah.org/contact). Check us out online at [ChurchoftheMessiah.org](http://ChurchoftheMessiah.org) and [Facebook.com/ChurchoftheMessiahChesapeake](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheMessiahChesapeake). Contact us at 757-436-2545 or [messiah@churchofthemessiah.org](mailto:messiah@churchofthemessiah.org) with questions.

**PLEASE COME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** tonight at 7:00 pm. This service features traditional music and candle-lighting, plus a special song from Messiah's children. Friends and family are all invited to this beautiful celebration of our Savior's birth.



**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, you may take it home after tonight's Candlelight Service.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:** The church office is closed through December 27, as well as Monday, January 1. The clergy and staff of Messiah wish everyone a blessed Christmas and New Year!



**CAST BEGINS NEXT WEEK!** Messiah's homeless outreach will begin on January 3. Volunteers and donations of goods and funds are still needed: Sign ups are in the foyer, and please see the insert for needed items (or you can make a check payable to Messiah with "CAST" in the memo line). Team leaders, please continue to complete your daily schedules. Questions may be directed to Nakita Albritton at 804-252-1865.

**THERE WILL BE NO ONLINE PRAYER MEETING** on December 25, January 1, or January 8 (due to CAST). Meetings will resume on Monday, January 15.

**MEN'S MINISTRY ON SATURDAY.** Join the men of Messiah in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am this Saturday, December 30, for a time of fellowship, teaching, and prayer. There will be no meeting in January; we will meet next on February 3.

**YEAR-END IS APPROACHING** along with the deadline to make tax-deductible contributions for 2017. Please remember that gifts must be dropped off or postmarked on or before December 31. Thank you!

**OUR SYMPATHIES ARE WITH DORIS GOMEZ** on the passing of her uncle, Emil Pernitsch, on December 10 in Austria. Doris describes "Onkel Emil" as a kind-hearted and generous man who will be missed. Please pray for Doris and her mother, Inge Ropin. Cards may be sent to 1302 Myrtle Ave., Chesapeake, VA 23325.

## 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