



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. Please feel free to call us anytime at 757-436-2545 or visit our website, 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:

12.29.2024

Celebrations

Happy Birthday

- December 30: Bob Brennan
- December 31: Therian Hall
- January 1: Gary Taylor
- January 3: Paul Palma

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:

Susan Bohannon, Debi Balch, Chris Woodland, Kathy Hopkins, Sandra Brown, Josh Corona, Tom Waldman, Aaron Woodward (son of Ellen Belfi), our healthcare workers, all our members of the military, and Sanctuary of Hope, our companion church

OUR OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES:

Aaron and Winnie Coleman-Horvat, Croatia
The Rev. Bisoke Balikenga, Democratic Republic of Congo
David & Betsy, Turkey
His Love in Action School for the Deaf in Honduras
Miriam Brinckley, YWAM-Harpenden, England
CMJ-Israel (Church's Ministry Among Jewish People)

WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH:

College of Bishops Meeting (January 13-17, 2025)

AND THE DIOCESE OF THE MID-ATLANTIC:

Redeemer Anglican Church · Richmond, VA
Restoration Anglican Church · Arlington, 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. 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 29, 2024

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Web: 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: The Rev. Dr. Ken Shomo

DEACONS: The Rev. Tom Sweeney, The Rev. Vivian Hayes

WEEKLY SERVICE INFORMATION

Sunday Service with Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

In-Person or Livestream at www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/Livestream
Children's Church · Fellowship Hall (After Worship until Communion)

Today's Teachers: Pastor Ken Shomo

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

Online prayer meetings are on hiatus until January 13.

The First Sunday of Christmas · December 29, 2024

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: Isaiah 9:1-7 **Page 515**

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:11-3:1 **Page 889**

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

Gospel: John 1:1-18 **Page 788**

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

Sermon: **Why Was the Incarnation Necessary?** Pastor Marty O'Rourke

Reader: Jim Bohannan

Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Bohannan, Ron Jenson, Chris Woodland

Prayer Team: David Martin, Susie Martin

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today 10:00 am Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)

Wednesday NEW YEAR'S DAY — OFFICE CLOSED



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!

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

EPIPHANY PRAYER MEETING: Join us in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm next Monday, January 6, to pray that God will use us in the coming year to bring the Good News of His love to our community and the world. There will be no online prayer meeting that day.



ONLINE PRAYER MEETINGS ARE ON HOLD UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS. There will be no online prayer meetings on December 30 or January 6. Join us next on Zoom on January 13.



CAST TEAM MEETINGS JANUARY 5: Team Leaders are requested to attend a leadership planning session beginning at noon after church in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday, January 5. These leaders will meet and coordinate with their respective team's volunteers in the weeks ahead. For those interested in learning more about the Chesapeake Area Shelter Team (CAST), an introductory discussion with Q & A will precede the team leader meeting, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & VESTRY ELECTIONS will be held February 2. Up to three new Vestry members may be elected this year, so please prayerfully consider individuals (including yourself) who you feel may be called to this leadership role. Please see the enclosed insert for guidelines for Vestry nominees. The list of eligible voters is posted outside the office; please contact the church office with any questions or changes.



NEXT PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT FEBRUARY 5. Due to the New Year's holiday, the January Praise & Worship night will not take place. Please plan to join us at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 5!

JANUARY MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING: The monthly meeting dates of the Men's Ministry are changing; stay tuned for details on 2025 dates.

YEAR-END IS APPROACHING along with the deadline to make tax-deductible contributions for 2024. Please remember that gifts must be dropped off or post-marked on or before December 31. Thank you!

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: _____

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