

The Messenger

ADVENT, CHRISTMASTIDE - 2024

The Church of the Messiah

114 North Third Street at Madison

Pulaski, Tennessee 38478

The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop

The mission of the Church of the Messiah is to be a growing witness of our Faith in Jesus Christ in the midst of the community through worship and sacrament in the Episcopal tradition.

Our leadership:

- ✘ The Rev. Justin L. Taliaferro, Priest-in-Charge
- ✘ Pat Woolard, Organist/Choirmaster
- ✘ Secretary to the Parish, Marqueda Forrester
- ✘ Treasurer, Kristi Watson
- ✘ Senior Warden, Andy Hoover ('25)
- ✘ Junior Warden, Dan Lavacot ('24)
- ✘ Clerk of the Vestry, Cynthia Low ('25)
- ✘ Vestry members: Mary Dubberley ('24), David Bell ('25), Kathleen Lamb ('26), Daniel Roberts ('26)

A message from the Rev. Justin Taliaferro

Greetings, Church of the Messiah family!

At the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, we meet the Wise Men from the East, who see a strange star rise in the night sky. And by following this star, they find a newborn baby and his mother. The Wise Men recognize that this baby is a king, and they present him with gifts worthy of royalty.

This encounter with God happens because they had seen the star. And the Wise Men had seen the star because they had been watching the sky. I think that this is a fitting image for us, as we enter the season of Advent. This is a season that invites us to watch, to pay attention to what's happening, both around us and in us.

It can be easy to get caught up with the many demands of our schedules at this time of year. And it can be easy to be distracted by all of the sights and sounds of the season. In the middle of this, Advent invites us to slow down just a little from our normal pace and routines. This may not come naturally to us. We may find that it is difficult to slow down. It can be hard to find the space to just watch and wait.

Sometimes it can help to start small. Maybe we could try to carve out a little time each day. Even if it's just a brief pause from the noise and hurry, and from the hectic schedules. And then, for just a moment, sit in stillness. This can be a good time to pray, or to just breathe. And watch. Watch for ways that God shows up. Listen for God's still, small voice. Watch for God to enter into our circumstances.

Life can be hard. Advent reminds us that we are not left alone. God is with us. Help is coming. Light is coming, into whatever darkness we may encounter. Let us watch together. And let us rest in the promise and hope of Christ's coming.

Peace,

Fr. Justin Taliaferro

MESSIAH MINISTRIES

- *Morning Prayer, Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m.*
- *Sunday, Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.*
- *Wednesday, 7 p.m., Holy Eucharist.*
- *Vestry Meeting, Second Monday of the month, 4:30 p.m.*
- *Potluck Luncheon is the second Sunday of each month.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Stewardship Drive:

Messiah's Stewardship letters and pledge cards have been mailed out to the parish. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2025. They may be given to John Davis, placed in the offering plate, or mailed to Stewardship, The Church of the Messiah, 114 North Third Street, Pulaski, TN 38478. We ask that they be returned as soon as possible.



Diocesan Annual Convention:

The 193rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee will be held at Church of the Good Shepherd, Brentwood, January 24–25, 2025. Delegates from the Church of the Messiah are Robert Gobble and Marquenda Forrester; alternates are Clay Yost and Allen Dubberley.



Potluck Luncheon:

The second Sunday of each month Messiah has a Parish Potluck Luncheon following the service. The luncheon this month is Sunday, December 8, 2024. Bring your favorite dish to share and participate in the fellowship with one another.



Vestry Meeting:

Vestry meeting in the Parish Hall, Monday, December 9, 2024, 4:30 p.m.



**DECEMBER 24, 2024 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
CAROLING 10:30 PM
HOLY EUCHARIST 11:00 PM.**

Ministries at Messiah

Chalice Bearer/Reader: Contact Father Taliaferro for information

Those who read the lessons during the service and also serve the wine during communion. We are always in need of new members to be a part of the service.

Acolytes: Contact Father Taliaferro for information

Everyone thinks it is for the youth but adults are always welcome to be a part of this ministry. They serve as crucifers, first servers, torch bearers, thurifers, flag bearers, and light candles.

Altar Guild: Contact Catherine Dunnivant, Chairman for information

Altar Guild is one of the main parts of the service. The members prepare the altar and church for the service which includes setting up the altar and communion. They are the ones that decorate the church for Easter and Christmas services. They also prepare the church for all special events which include weddings and funerals. New members are always welcome.

Choir: Contact Pat Woolard, Organist/Choir Master for information

Pat welcomes those that are familiar with music and enjoy singing in a choir. If you are interested in this ministry please speak with Pat Woolard.

Vestry: Contact Father Taliaferro for information

The Church of the Messiah has seven (7) members of the church that are leaders that help to make decisions which would be in the best interest of the church. Members are elected by the parishioners at Messiah's Annual Meeting in January and serve a three year term. To be a vestry member you need to be a member in good standing at the parish and have to meet with the Priest. It is a very rewarding ministry and it helps you to learn and know more of how the church operates.

RECURRING MONTHLY: RURAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION is prepared monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month, at the First United Methodist Annex, 216 North Second Street. The distribution is the following Saturday, at the AG Park, 2030 Elkton Highway, and volunteers are always welcomed.

Serving our Worship ----- The Church of the Messiah:

NOTE: WE WOULD PREFER TO FIND SUBSTITUTES. PLEASE DO NOT MANAGE YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT.

December 1 Advent I: Chalice Bearer/Reader: John Hughes; Acolytes: Catherine Dunnivant & Gus Hosay; Altar Guild: Tabitha & Dan Lavacot.

December 8 Advent II: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Cathy Roberts; Acolytes: Bella & Colton Muth; Altar Guild: Marqueda Forrester.

December 15 Advent III: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Cynthia Low; Acolytes: William Taliaferro & Calum Lavacot; Altar Guild: Samantha & Donny Muth.

December 22 Advent IV: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Mary Dubberley; Acolytes: Graham Hoover & Calum Lavacot; Altar Guild: Corrie Taliaferro & Catherine Dunnivant.

<p>December 24: Christmas Eve: Chalice Bearer/Reader: TBA; Acolytes: All acolytes available; Altar Guild: All members available.</p>

December 29: Chalice Bearer/Reader: John Hughes; Acolytes: TBA; Altar Guild: Connie Baker.



January 5: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Mary Dubberley; Acolytes: Calum Lavacot & Graham Hoover; Altar Guild: Tabitha & Dan Lavacot.

January 12: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Cynthia Low; Acolytes: Gus Hosay & Catherine Dunnivant; Altar Guild: Marqueda Forrester.

January 19: Chalice Bearer/Reader: John Hughes; Acolytes: Bella & Colton Muth; Altar Guild: Samantha & Donny Muth.

January 26: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Cathy Roberts; Acolytes: William Taliaferro & Graham Hoover; Altar Guild: Catherine Dunnivant & Corrie Taliaferro.



February 7: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Mary Dubberley; Acolytes: Gus Hosay & Catherine Dunnivant; Altar Guild: Connie Baker.

February 9: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Andy Hoover; Acolytes: William Taliaferro & Graham Hoover; Altar Guild: Tabitha & Dan Lavacot.

February 16: Chalice Bearer/Reader: John Hughes; Acolytes: Gus Hosay & Catherine Dunnivant; Altar Guild: Marqueda Forrester.

February 23: Chalice Bearer/Reader: Cynthia Low; Acolytes: Bella & Colton Muth ; Altar Guild: Samantha & Donny Muth.