

The Messenger



April 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear St. John's Family,

One of my favorite prayers comes from our Evening Prayer Service: Rite II. It reads, *"Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen."*

Regardless of the time of day, this has been the prayer on my heart ever since this pandemic began. Tend the sick. Give rest to the weary. Soothe the suffering. Shield the joyous. There is so much that can be applied to each of these heartfelt and holy phrases. As we navigate this tumultuous season of our lives, I commend this prayer to each of you. I pray you will find comfort in these words and be reminded of those who are traveling with you through these uncharted waters.

I want to take some time to share with you a little bit about what is happening at St. John's during this pandemic. Our buildings are officially closed to the public; however, our staff is continuing to work remotely and by practicing the physical distancing recommendations made by the CDC. Our sexton, Rich, is continuing his ministry by taking care of our campus by ensuring things are maintained and sanitized. Gina, our financial secretary, continues to pay bills and keep the books. Maria, our nursery attendant, has taken on the role of working with the food pantry. Equilla, our parish administrator, is creating bulletins, newsletters, and juggling all the communication aspects of the parish. Paul, Matt, and I are continuing to create opportunities for worship, checking in with folks, and discerning the next steps as we weather this storm. The staff at St. John's is available should you need anything. I hope you will reach out.

In addition to the staff, many of our ministries are continuing. Your vestry met this past week via zoom. They are praying for you and continuing the work of the parish. There are bible studies continuing via email, Sunday school ideas being shared amongst our youngest members, music being created via video, and plans are being made for celebrations when we can gather again. In addition, our food pantry volunteers have set into place safety procedures as they continue to feed the hungry. St. John's continues to reach out to our neighbors, albeit in modified forms, but reaching out, nonetheless.

I certainly had hoped that this pandemic would be over sooner rather than later, but the reality is we are going to be separated physically for some time. As many of you have assumed, we will not be gathering in person for Holy Week and Easter, however WE WILL WORSHIP! We are committed now more than ever to offer opportunities to gather online for worship and will be sending you additional resources to use in your homes.

April Highlights:

- Pg 2 Vestry Praying
- Pg 3 Vestry Highlights
- Pg 4 Ways to Give
Soles4Souls
- Pg 5 Holy Week
- Pg 6 GPC Goals
Coffee Hour
Voyagers
- Pg 7 Race Against Racism
- Pg 8 Children's Ministry
Adult Forum
Opportunity
- Pg 9 A Litany
- Pg 10 Ways to Help
- Pg 11 Jubilee Ministries

Weekly

Sundays:

10:00AM Morning Prayer

Daily Check-ins on
Facebook and YouTube

April Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Way, April | 1 |
| Faust, John | 2 |
| Sauder, Maria | 3 |
| Scheetz, Aliya | 5 |
| Henry, Kevin | 7 |
| Wendler, Owen | 9 |
| Gross, Bill | 12 |
| Stank, Michael | 12 |
| Cuthbert, Angela | 13 |
| Dohren, James | 13 |
| Henry, Janice | 14 |
| Miller, Glenn | 14 |
| Barton, Ronald | 15 |
| Frantz, Michael | 15 |
| Waskowicz, Eric | 16 |
| Grove, Sandra | 17 |
| Becker, Hilary | 18 |
| Weaver-Gelzer, C. | 18 |
| Dodge, Susan | 20 |
| Leitzke, Heidi | 22 |
| Linton, Ronald | 22 |
| Brown, Sophia | 23 |
| Mann, Gwynneth | 23 |
| Williams, Rob | 23 |
| Hogg, Robert | 25 |
| Tahsler, Leslie | 26 |
| Humphrey, Ty | 27 |
| Thompson, Claire | 27 |
| Lee, Dr. Margaret | 29 |

April Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Way, April | 1 |
| Faust, John | 2 |
| Sauder, Maria | 3 |
| Scheetz, Aliya | 5 |
| Henry, Kevin | 7 |
| Wendler, Owen | 9 |

Continued prayers for our Homebound:

Margaret Crothers, Michael Frantz, Ellen Keller, Fritz Lawrence, Don Lovett, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Joan Rahe, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney

Military: Brian Hobbins, Laurel Hobbins, Alex Kelly, Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater, Joshua Watkins, Cameron Watts

Please stay connected by following us online:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLancasterPA/> (you do not need a Facebook account to watch live videos)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxG1Ib6PwHvxn1CLpr1ONuw>

Please know we are new at this and are working out the kinks as we go! This is a holy experiment and one we hope you find helpful and encouraging. Remember, to give yourself some grace as we figure this out together!

I feel the need to address one final thing in this rather lengthy letter.

Wherever you are in the midst of this turmoil is ok. If you are afraid or anxious, you aren't alone. So are many others. If you are frustrated, heartbroken, or just annoyed you, too, are in good company. It's ok to grieve and mourn what was or what you had hoped to be. It's ok to feel lost. It's ok to laugh to keep your sanity. All I ask is that you share your experience with others. Please don't shut the world out in a time when we need each other most. Remember, "Tend the sick. Give rest to the weary. Soothe the suffering. Shield the joyous."

I remain faithfully yours,

Amanda+

OUR VESTRY IS PRAYING FOR YOU!



Your Vestry is praying for you St. John's! When we can't meet in person we meet via zoom. Hang in there and let us know if you need anything during this tumultuous time.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY

Opening Business—The January meeting minutes were accepted and approved. The Financials for January were accepted and approved.

Newcomers – *John Gouveia and Nicole Pham*

Bruce Waskowicz and John Gouveia met to work together with greeters and ushers. “How can we incorporate newcomers outside of something like a newcomer’s brunch”?

Ministry of Presence – *(Ministry to the Vulnerable) Heather Trenary and Annie Lattanzio-Hale*

We need to look at the demographics of Lancaster. Who makes up this city, and what are their needs?

Pastoral Care – *Sue Heilman and Molly Moyer*

Communication is key to our pastoral care ministry. LEV’s continue to meet with those who are homebound.

Small Groups – *Joe Way and Debbie Carter*

Small Groups includes everything from coffee hour, men’s group, women’s group, small group ministry, etc. What groups are missing and how can we support these groups?

Property – *Webb Cook*

Each property committee member will have a single responsibility. Richard Kuhn, our new Sexton, is already busy making repairs and taking inventory around the campus.

Finance – *Tim Huber and John Gouveia*

LaPorte Asset Management has declined to continue with advising us. The Finance Committee has met to discuss next steps for finding another management firm.

Worship – *Molly Moyer*

According to the Worship committee minutes, we have 17 ushers at the 10:15 service and 5 at the 8:00 service. John would still like to recruit one or two more for the 8:00 service.

Goals

1-year goals:

- Create new small groups: provide opportunities for parishioners to form relationships
 - Balance the budget without using additional withdrawals of our investments
 - Raise up, integrate, and support the new staffing structure to include a quarter-time priest
- A complete staff is in place and includes the following new positions: Equilla Curry—Parish Administrator, Richard Kuhn—Sexton, The Rev. Matt MacDougall—Associate Rector*
- Establish a relationship in a new local community

3-year goals:

- Increase our facility usage by 50%
- Complete Phase II of the Capital Campaign
- Move our rental properties toward marketable rates or use them for ministry
- Expand our Music Ministry at St. John’s – *Paul and Amanda have developed a development team.*

A PRAYER FOR OUR VESTRY

Lord, bless our vestry with your presence as they meet together: where they have difficult decisions to make and discussions to share in, may they conduct them with grace, humility and courtesy; where there is disagreement and difference may they agree to be united in the service of your Son; where there is agreement, may it be confirmed by you and discerned in the lives of faith they lead. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ways To GIVE

As **COVID-19** has altered our daily routines and literally separates us, may we be reminded that you and I can still lift each other up and comfort each other, whatever the distance. That's what people like us do!

Through your support, you're providing:

The gift of giving: Your giving continues to be crucial to the vitality of the parish. It is 3 ways to give-You can set up an electronic payment with your bank, go to the church website and click the GIVE button, or mail your gift to the church.

The gift of listening: together, the staff at St. John's are working to make sure we can respond to rising basic needs as this crisis hits at jobs, schools and our communities.

The gift of responding: we've made adjustments to our service around the parish to keep our community strong and healthy and we will continue to do this as we learn more about the pandemic in the United States. Please stay tuned to your inbox as we share more ways that your support is helping. But for now, please focus on your own health and safety and take care of those you hold dear.

The gift of faith: these are dark times, but you've always inspired hope through your compassion. Today, let us hope for better. Let us be faithful and kind to one another. Let us pray and/or meditate.

The gift of prayers: We have also put together a book of prayers, entitled, **A Space for Grace**, for your use at home.

SOLES4SOULS

Ministry doesn't stop during a pandemic. While you're home, help us help others by gathering any shoes you are no longer wearing for our shoe drive. We are continuing to collect and store all the shoes that have been received. Please do not send shoe boxes; simply tie the laces together and rubber band the pairs together or we will do that as we pack them. Shoes will be gladly accepted once the doors of the church are reopened.



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH HOLY WEEK

All services can be found on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. These our unprecedented times and certainly not how we expected to enter into Holy Week, however we will worship. We will gather in heart and mind and we will walk together through the week that still has the power to change the world.

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 5

10:00 AM - Liturgy of the Palms and the Passion

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 9

7:00 PM - An Agape Feast

Join us at your own dinner table for prayers, a blessing, and the gift of community

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 10

On the hour beginning at 9:00 AM - The Seven
Last Words of Christ
7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 11

We wait...

EASTER DAY - APRIL 12

10:00 AM - Holy Eucharist with Music

321 W. CHESTNUT STREET
LANCASTER, PA 17603
WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

I AM, WE ARE...ONE WORLD: HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE



New Year, Changing World, New Visions, New Realities: What can each of us do to make it more caring? "The tighter you squeeze, the less you have." Thomas Merton

APRIL 5TH: PALM SUNDAY

At a time when we are usually together waving palms in celebration of Jesus entry into Jerusalem, let us wave blessings and caring to All - Here, There, Everywhere, regardless of any differences in faith, ethnicity, color, beliefs. He loves us ALL and let us follow that example.

APRIL 12TH: EASTER

As we celebrate this sacred season, the "egg" is a prominent symbol regardless of faith. The shell of confinement cracks and something emerges. As Jesus emerges with love and caring for ALL regardless of the hardships he suffered, let us ALL also emerge from this time of confinement with love and caring for ALL - Here, There, Everywhere.

APRIL 19TH:

"If you can't do what you do, do what you can." Jon Bon Jovi. We are now in a time like never before, when while we would want to reach out to others in person, that's not safe. Consider email, real mail with even the smallest welcoming and concern expressed. It could be more important than you ever imagined to get the smallest "Hello", "thinking of you" any message at all to our family - Here, There, Everywhere.

APRIL 26TH: NATIONAL PRETZEL DAY

History has it that pretzels were developed in 610 AD by an Italian monk as a reward to children who learned their prayers. The dough folded to resemble arms crossing the chest, pretiola (little rewards). If you don't have any pretzels to eat, think about folding your arms across your chest for a moment and then holding our community in your caring - Here, There, Everywhere.

COFFEE TEAMS, DON'T LOSE YOUR STEAM!

When we are back together we will simply pick up where we left off! Coffee Team 8 will be on deck and I will be in communication with you. To that end, Teams 1, 2, 6, 8,10 and 11 do not have a permanent coordinator. Truly, it is a simple task to send out a group email and an occasional call to a team and then simply coordinate who is working and what people volunteer to bring. I will always provide instructions and food item ideas and I am always able to provide back-up help if any team needs so there is no worry that the coordinator will end up "doing it all." Thanks for your willingness to participate in any way you are able!

- Gretchen Walden



THE VOYAGERS



The Voyagers were hoping to meet on April 25th as scheduled, however due to the recent recommendations of the CDC and orders from the governor, we will not be meeting in person in April. We hope to gather again in May. When we are able to meet again we are excited to welcome back Father A. William Archer ("Father Bill" to many of us). More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please be well and keep in touch.

VIRTUAL RACE

YWCA Lancaster announced that the longest consecutive-running Race Against Racism in the United States will transition to a Virtual Race this year due to recommendation guidelines from CDC health and government officials and to prioritize the health and safety of everyone involved.

VIRTUAL RACE—

Beginning at 12:00am Wednesday, March 25th to 11:59pm at Saturday, April 25, 2020



Calling all runners, walkers, joggers, trotters, and strollers! St. John's has put together a team to take part in the YWCA's annual Race Against Racism 5K run/walk. The cost is \$30 for participants over the age of 14 or \$12 for participants 14 and under. Young runners under the age of 12 can participate in the Kids' Fun Run dash for \$5. Anyone who is interested in participating can sign up online through the YWCA's website, ywcalancaster.org.

WHAT IS A VIRTUAL RACE?

Run or walk a distance of 5K or 3.1 miles on a treadmill, trail, track or road anytime between 12:00 a.m. March 25 through 11:59 p.m. April 25. You get to run your own race at your own pace from any location you choose while earning a commemorative t-shirt and reusable water bottle! Kids 12 and under can participate in a 100 yard dash virtually. Earn a bandanna and ribbon!

22 Years Running!

ywca
race
against
RACISM
April 25, 2020

GET SOCIAL AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER!

Let's encourage each other and post our photo and video experiences on the Race Against Racism Facebook and Instagram pages (@RARLancaster) utilizing the hashtags #RARLancaster #VirtualRace

Be sure to join the "St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster" group when you register! Also, please e-mail Matt MacDougall at matt@stjohns-lancaster.org so we know who has registered.

RESOURCES FOR OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS

Faith at Home

A lectionary-based devotional resource for families of all shapes and sizes – in this season, they are offering free, daily resources for families and individuals. Each day there will be three to four watch, listen, do and pray resources.

Tucked In: Bedtime Stories with Episcopalians and Others

Each Wednesday evening, and occasional Mondays, join this group on Facebook to hear Bible and other stories and short bedtime prayers.

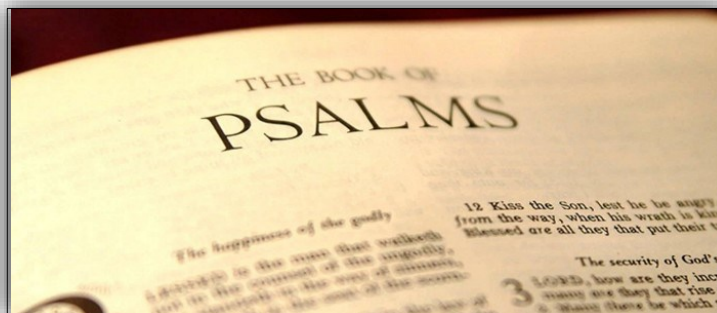
Illustrated Ministry

Illustrated Ministry creates faith-based resources for the church and for home. Presently, individuals can sign up to receive weekly resource packets to bring families and children together in faith formation. Each week will include a set of resources for people of all ages, following the Lectionary.

We Wonder Podcast

From the creators of the podcast: “We want to invite children into a life of wonder, engagement, and curiosity about the Bible. Children’s spiritual lives are real and vibrant: they are known and loved by God as they are right now, not just as grownups in training! That’s why, on this podcast, we allow children the space to enter God’s good words together and talk with God about what we find.”

FORMATION FROM HOME



In an effort to continue providing a range of ministries in these unprecedented times, Fr. Matt will be leading an online formation opportunity that explores the relevance of the Psalms to our times. Join him live on our St. John’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLancasterPA>) from noon to 12:30, beginning on Thursday April 2, 2020 and running every Thursday through April 23, 2020. Each live session will then be posted to our YouTube channel for anyone who can’t join in real time. All necessary materials will be made available ahead of time, as well as at the time of the live stream.—The Rev. Matt MacDougall, Associate Rector

A Litany for COVID-19 adapted from the original written by the Rev. Michael Kurth

Most merciful God, we come to you in this time of uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19. As the sorrows of our heart and mind increase, we beseech you to save us from all trouble and fear.

For all who have died, receive them into the arms of your mercy, grant them eternal peace, and surround those who mourn with your healing grace.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those directly infected with the virus: help them recover in good health and restore them in body, mind and spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those at high risk of infection, especially the elderly, those with underlying illnesses, the marginalized, and the poor: keep them healthy and free from all sickness.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in quarantine, the shut-in, and the infirmed: help them find peace, keep them in good health, and renew their mind and spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all hospitals, doctors, nurses, and staff: protect them as they minister to the sick, relieve all stress, and provide the resources and space to meet the needs of all the infirmed.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For first responders: guard them from all harm and grant them strength and courage as they respond to all calls for help.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For service industry workers and those forced to work as their community shuts down: keep them healthy, bestow the resources to best care for themselves and their families.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those experiencing financial loss and uncertainty of resources: have mercy on them, alleviate any fear, and provide for them daily bread and wage.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of this nation and the world: help them make sound and safe decisions to best secure the future of our planet.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all schools, students, teachers, administrators and school staff: as schools close, feed those who will go hungry without guaranteed meals and shelter all students have no place to live.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all scientists and those working to find a cure: inspire them towards your truth and help them discover and disseminate a vaccine and cure.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all places of worship: embolden them to be beacons of hope and love and help us to gather however and wherever we can – be it in person or online – to give you praise.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Stir up in us a spirit of compassion for the time ahead and inspire us to share the Good News of your love and hope. *Amen.*

WAYS TO HELP DURING THE COVID - 19 OUTBREAK

Actions you can take today!

IF YOU'RE HEALTHY, CONSIDER DONATING BLOOD

Due to the COVID -19 outbreak there is a shortage of blood in many locations. Blood banks are still open and are practicing social distancing. Call ahead to make an appointment. Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> to find info on where to give in your area.



Hey you. Yes, you.

You can make a difference during this tumultuous season.

DONATE MONEY TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK



Money, rather than canned goods, goes a longer way when it comes to feeding people. A donation of just \$25 can create 150 meals for people in need. You can donate to the Central PA Food Bank here: <https://www.centralpafoodbank.org/give-now/>.

Don't sell yourself short. The world needs you right now.

CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS

In this time of social distancing, a simple phone call goes a long way. Do people need help getting groceries? Help with childcare? Just someone to chat with? A prayer? Consider what you are capable of offering, even if it is just lending an ear. None of us are alone in this crisis.



Not to mention God has equipped you and empowered you to participate in the transformation of the world.



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

If you have the means to, order takeout from your favorite local restaurant, or order online to continue to support small business during this uncertain economic time.

Deut 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."



Like PA Council of Churches on FB for more updates.

JUBILEE MINISTRIES

Since 1988, St. John's has been designated by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church as a Center for Jubilee Ministry because of the "direct and dynamic link between our theology and our ethics," demonstrated in numerous outreach and neighborhood ministries. St. John's takes very seriously God's call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and care for the sick. (*Matthew 25:35*)

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST CANCELLED

(Contact: Sue Martin)

A breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, cereal, and pastries will be served to the downtown community at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 40 East Orange Street.

For those who volunteer regularly, please don't forget to let Dave or Sue Martin know if you can't help, so they can reach out to those listed as substitute helpers. Thanks!

MARTHA'S MINISTRY (Contact: Jeannie Zeller)

We're looking for knitters, crocheters, quilters, crafty folks.....

One of our goals as a Jubilee ministry is fellowship. We gather together every Tuesday, from 2-4 PM, in our Parish Hall to share ideas, friendship, and sometimes tasty treats. Please join us when you have the time.

We have plenty of yarn to share!



DURING THIS PAUSE, LET US REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM THE JUBILEE MINISTRIES

FULTON SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

(Contact: Dave or Sue Martin)

Please continue to donate Box Tops for Education, Turkey Hill Moo Caps, and spent printer cartridges. Collection containers are on the Eagle's Nest table under the photo gallery in the Parish Hall. Thank you for your donations.

FOOD PANTRY

(Contact: Debbie Carter)

Non-perishable food donations can be delivered to the church office or given to the ushers on Sunday. Monetary contributions are also welcomed for buying food to fill gaps in food donations. Please write "Food Pantry" in the Memo line on your check. Food boxes are organized for families and single people in need and are distributed from the courtyard entrance to our Parish Hall on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

GROCERY CARDS

(Contact: Sue Tobie)

Did you know that it's easier to use a grocery card at the store than to peel out cash or write a check...and the amount remaining on your card is recorded on your receipt? Whenever you purchase one of our cards, 5% of its value goes to our Jubilee ministries. It is truly a "WIN-WIN" situation! Grocery cards also make great gifts!

Remember that a \$100 card can be used as often as it takes to use it up. You don't have to spend it all at one time...**AND YOU ARE NOT LOSING ANYTHING. YOU ARE GETTING FULL VALUE FOR YOUR CARD. THE STORE SELLS CARDS TO US AT A 5% DISCOUNT.**

Total grocery card sales for February: **\$4,480** with **\$224** to Jubilee Ministries.

**GIANT
JOHN HERR'S
STAUFFER'S
WEIS**



St. John's Episcopal Church
321 W. Chestnut St.
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