

The Messenger



A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Dear St. John's,

Over the course of the past four months, I've discovered the hidden power of our buildings. How they are maintained, what symbols they contain, and who inhabits them say a lot about our community and the God we worship. It's been a long time since many of you have entered our space, but I hope you've driven by, walked the labyrinth, or simply sat amidst the beautiful gardens recently. If you have you may have noticed the care that's gone into maintaining this space. You may have seen the new food pantry banners that reiterate our desire to feed the hungry with "no questions asked."



Over the Easter season, a banner proclaiming "Christ is Risen" hung from the window reminding folks we are a community of faith that believes in the power of the resurrection and the new life Christ offers. Throughout the year, that window hosts banners announcing events, various ministry opportunities, proclamations of our faith, and invitations to those who pass by.

Throughout the month of June, known as pride month, the pride flag was placed in our window to let our neighbors know that St. John's is a safe place for our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. The pride flag is a symbol of welcome and a simple way of showing our love, care, and support for those who have been alienated and discriminated against for far too long.

Over the course of the year, we hope to proclaim more messages of welcome and love all over our campus. If you have ideas for such messages please let us know! In this time of fear, confusion, and division the world is desperate for love. Let's show our neighborhood what love looks like at St. John's.

I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+

We will, with God's help.



GREETINGS FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE:

Taking an Interest in Interest

Perhaps you thought the Honoring Our Past...Securing Our Future initiative was complete. We wish that were true. In fact, our committee was planning a thoughtful awakening of capital campaign goals during the Lenten season in April—an effort to wrap up something that was begun two years ago. And then Covid-19 crashed our plans as it did so many others.

Here's an update on where we stand today:

- We owe \$254,000 on our capital loan that is due to be paid in full in October of 2021.
- We have \$13,000 in the capital campaign account.
- We are currently paying interest on this loan of approximately \$1,200 per month.
- We expect pledge payments of \$150,000 by December of 2021.
- **We need to raise in excess of \$100,000 to meet our responsibility.**

Can you help?

- Early payments on your capital campaign pledge will decrease the amount of interest we pay each month.
- Your new or additional pledge will help us meet the 2021 deadline.
- Your gifts of any amount will help lower interest costs and reduce the loan balance.

We are all experiencing the same Corona Virus storm but we are not all in the same boat as we weather its effects. One thoughtful parishioner shared that he had received a stimulus check from the Federal Government. Because he didn't really need it, he chose to contribute it to a worthy cause. Perhaps this is something you might consider.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact a committee member, Financial Secretary [Gina Keiser](#), or Pastor [Amanda Knouse](#). Your support is critical to St. John's and will be gratefully received. If you are among those who are suffering financially during this pandemic, know that you are in our prayers as we weather this storm together.

Capital Campaign Committee: Rosemary Coverly, Kent Strickler, Debbie Carter, Webb Cook, Marion Wear, Charles Wear

STAY CONNECTED:

There are multiple ways to stay connected as we navigate re-entry. For those of you desiring to stay home please join us for worship on our YouTube page Sundays at 10:15AM. In addition, check our Facebook page often for information, prayers, ministry opportunities, etc.

For those desiring to worship in person, please check the Website for the sign-up sheet. Each Monday we will post the sign-up sheet for the following week. Please make sure to read the Re-entry Letter and the Re-Entry Plan Brochure thoroughly before returning.

Know our prayers continue as you discern how to stay connected.

GROCERY COUPONS FOR SALE AGAIN:

It is time to restart our support of all our Jubilee Ministries by purchasing grocery cards!

St. John's receives 5% of each card's value and the purchaser receives 100% of the value of each card. So for every \$100 card purchase, \$5 goes to Jubilee. We will start by participants mailing checks made out to St John's with grocery coupons written in the memo line. Please mail check to church office: 321 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster PA 17603.

Please note on a separate paper or in the memo section which grocery store(s) cards you would like to purchase. We offer \$100 cards from WEIS, STAUFFERS, JOHN HERRS and GIANT. Giant alone offers a \$20 card option. Please clarify if you want the \$20 card or the \$100 card for Giant.

Our goal is to get the grocery card to you within the week. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sue Heilman. Thank you all for your amazing support of St John's and the Food Pantry during this challenging time.

YARD GIVE

**Donations
accepted
beginning
July 8**

**Wednesdays
3:00-5:00
Sundays
8:00-11:00
Courtyard**

**Volunteers
wanted!**

**Sorters,
greeters,
clerks,
packers, truck
deliverers.**

**call or email
Pam Loose**

**AUGUST 7 AND 8
7:00-1:00**

ADULT FORMATION FOR JULY

CHURCHNEXT

EXPLORE HUNDREDS OF COURSES FROM THE COMFORTS OF YOUR HOME. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- WALK IN LOVE WITH SCOTT GUNN AND MELODY SHOBE
- FROM PALACE TO PUBLIC SQUARE: THE WAY OF LOVE WITH MICHAEL CURRY
- MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF PEACE: A GUIDE TO CIVIL DISCOURSE
- SLAY YOUR GOLIATH WITH JOHN OHMER
- MR. ROGER'S SIMPLE FAITH WITH WESTINA MATTHEWS

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY AND EXPLORE WHAT SPEAKS TO YOUR SOUL THIS SUMMER. WE WILL RESUME REGULAR CLASSES ON ZOOM IN AUGUST.



<https://www.churchnext.tv/>

THE FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY IS THRIVING:

Our Food Pantry ministry is meeting increased needs of neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time.

- Over the past three years, we have given boxes of food to an average of just over 8 households per week. Since the beginning of April of this year, we have averaged 26 boxes per week! This, of course, means that we are giving out a lot more food than in the past.
- We are using a new streamlined, socially-distanced distribution process: Maria, our Nursery and Security specialist, is now handling all of our food distribution, outside in the courtyard, on Tuesdays and Thursdays (2:30 – 3:30). Three teams purchase food (to fill in gaps in donations) and fill boxes in preparation for distribution.

- Some additional boxes of food are delivered by clergy, staff, or volunteers to families in need.
- We were delighted to be able to share some fresh lettuce from the garden of Dave and Sue Martins! If your garden is overflowing, please wash and bag your offerings in portions for families and deliver it to the church (communicating with Maria or the church office so we know to look for it).
- A new “Free Little Food Pantry” – see photo – was placed in our All-Purpose Room, with an invitation to participants in our AA, NA, and VA groups: “Take what you need – Give what you can – Above all be blessed”



Thank you for your continual support of this important ministry! We will make good use of your monetary donations (please write “Food Pantry” in the memo of your check) or donations of food or toiletries – brought to church or to the back porch of Becker House.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

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

“The deepest level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless. It is beyond words, and it is beyond speech, and it is beyond concept. Not that we discover a new unity. We discover an older unity.

My dear Brothers and Sisters, we are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we are.”
~ Thomas Merton

July 5th

“We could ALL take a lesson from crayons: Some are sharp, some are beautiful, some have weird names, all are different colors; but they all have to learn to live in the same box.” Ask yourself how and then act on coming together.

July 12th

“No Color, No Religion, No Nationality should come between us, we are ALL children of God.” ~ Mother Teresa
Make a commitment to do a kind gesture every day this week ahead for or to someone.

July 19th

“My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who love is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.” ~ 1 John 1:1-8

July 26th

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” ~ Coretta Scott King
Even the smallest act of compassion counts to those in our midst.

JULY BIRTHDAYS!



Barbara Russell	1	David Gbur	14
Campbell Way	2	Rev. Amanda Knouse	14
Aidan Freeman	3	Margaret Brown	15
Reverend Bill Archer	5	Jennifer Gustafson	16
Lorraine Nolan	5	Yen Le	18
Kathy Kyper	6	Sandra Jackson	19
Debbie Smith	7	Andrew Welaish	22
Toni Ehrhart	8	Mia Welaish	22
Susan Tobie	9	Hal Williams	23
Susan Blevins	9	James Glazier	24
Selena Hasircoglu	9	Nelson Lawrence	26
Ellen Keller	10	Jean Brown	28
Frances Gouveia	12	Foster Clark	29
Douglas Brown	12	Nicolas DiPace	31
Irene Myers	14		

July Anniversaries

Karen Largent	2
Bruce & Leslie Morgan	4
Martha Lamb	7
Nicola & Karen DiPace	15
James & Susan Dohren	15
Dr. Peter & Linda Novosel	15
Andrew & Anne Carroll	25
Donald & Ann Lovett	25

Continued prayers for our Homebound: Margaret Crothers, 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

