



St John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster PA

The Messenger - APRIL

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS:

- 4.2 - Palm Sunday
- 4.6 - Maundy Thursday
- 4.7 - Good Friday
- 4.9 - Easter Sunday

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Pg. 1 - Rector's Letter
- Pg. 2 - Holy Week Schedule
- Pg. 3 - Everyone's Way of the Cross
- Pg. 4 - Youth Lock-In; Garden of Repose
- Pg. 5 - Spring Clean-Up
- Pg. 6 - BookKeeper Welcome
- Pg. 7 - Treasurer's Report
- Pg. 8 - Global Partnership Challenge
- Pg. 9 - Soles4Souls
- Pg. 10 - All Saints' Brookland
- Pg. 11 - Refugee Ministry
- Pg. 12 - Food Pantry
- Pg. 13 - Gratitude Dinner
- Pg. 14 - Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Pg. 15 - Church Calendar

EASTER BRUNCH

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ENJOY A LIGHT, BUT FESTIVE, EASTER BRUNCH BETWEEN SERVICES. TIMING SHOULD BE 9:30 UNTIL 10:45, OR AS LONG AS THE FOOD LASTS. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PARISH HALL. THE MENU INCLUDES FRESH FRUIT, SMALL PASTRY ITEMS, JUICE AND COFFEE, SERVED BUFFET STYLE. VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR BRINGING READY TO SERVE PLATTERS OR BOWLS OF FRESH FRUIT AND HOMEMADE COFFEE CAKE OR MUFFINS, AS WELL AS TO ASSIST IN THE KITCHEN AND DINING AREA. PLEASE SEE OR CONTACT SUE MARTIN TO HELP.

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. John's,

If I were to ask you what the most important day of the church year was, my guess is, many of you would say Easter and you would be partially right. At the end of this month our forty day journey through Lent will culminate in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We will celebrate Easter Sunday with much rejoicing. However, Easter was never meant to stand alone. At the very epicenter of our Liturgical Calendar is what is known as the Triduum; three days of liturgy which include Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and, of course, Easter.

It has become a common practice for church goers to pick and choose what services to attend during Holy Week. Some attend Maundy Thursday, others Good Friday, and some skip everything except for the festive Easter service. However, the triduum is one continuous liturgy spread over numerous days. To miss one piece is to miss the point of it all. To put it another way, skipping holy week is like the shortstop for the barnstormers showing up to the championship game without ever attending the practices.

Our worship during Holy Week is not simply a re-enactment of something that happened over 2000 years ago, but an actual participation in the events themselves through living faith. When we gather as a community of faith we are claiming that the life, death, and resurrection is a present reality.

This year our Holy Week will begin with festive celebrations on **PALM SUNDAY**. As we recall the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, we will celebrate the arrival of our king with a procession around our church grounds, the waving of palms, and shouts of hosanna. **MAUNDY THURSDAY** will include the humble act of foot washing, communing with Christ and one another through the Holy Eucharist, and the poignant act of stripping the altar in preparation for Good Friday. Our **GOOD FRIDAY** liturgy will bear witness to the reality of our Lord's death and will echo the sentiments made by Richard Rohr who wrote, "Crucified Jesus, you are not a stranger to my soul, you are not foreign to our history. You have revealed, resolved, and forgiven it all on the cross. I join the whole world today in thanking you. This is indeed a good Friday." In addition to our Good Friday liturgy, we will also provide an opportunity to explore the **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**. Finally, our Triduum will conclude with the greatest celebration of the church year. **EASTER SUNDAY**, after experiencing the fullness of Christ's life and death throughout the week, will be filled with a peace that passes all understanding, joy that can't be contained, and the proclamation that Christ has indeed been raised.

I pray that you will join me in this journey through the triduum. If there was ever a time that the church placed weighty expectations on us, it would be now and for good reason. Easter means so much more when you know what Christ went through to get there.

I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+

Holy Week

at St. John's

Palm Sunday

8:00 AM - Liturgy of the Palms with Holy Eucharist (spoken)

10:15 AM - Festive Palm Procession with Holy Eucharist and Choir

Holy Wednesday

12:00 PM - Healing Prayers with Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM - Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar

8:30 PM till Midnight - Maundy Thursday Vigil

Good Friday

12:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM - The Passion, Prayers, and Holy Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament

Easter Day

6:30 AM - Easter Sunrise Service at the Betty Finney AIDS Memorial Garden

8:30 AM - Festive Eucharist with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Handbells

9:30 AM - Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch

11:00 AM - Holy Baptism with Festive Choral Eucharist and Brass



Everyone's Way of the Cross

Noon on Good Friday

Please join Deacon Stacey on April 7th for a devotional service commemorating the last journey of Christ from Pilate's house to his entombment. We will be engaging with the illuminated stations, created by our amazing J2A, in our sanctuary. We will gather in the atrium at 11:30. All that is needed is your heart. Booklets and comfort crosses will be available.

A Spiritual Invitation

As we enter the story of The Stations of The Cross, we are asked who do we want to be? Like Pilate? Like, Mary? Maybe John? Jesus asks us to help him carry the weight of the Cross. We will be reminded how we suffer with Jesus and Jesus suffers with us. And in turn, we are to look upon others with mercy and tenderness, especially those who are in need of Love. By walking in His footsteps, we demonstrate our willingness to take concrete action in the name of the One who is Love itself.

A Brief History

The custom of walking the Stations of the Cross came into usage in the Fifteenth Century as an outgrowth of the Christian Crusades to the Middle East. Pilgrims to the Holy Lands of the Middle East developed a custom of visiting the places sanctified by Christ's earthly life, particularly the path he took on Good Friday from his trial at Pilate's house to Golgotha, where he was crucified, and then on to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Upon their return to their homes in Western Europe, the pilgrims continued their commemoration of Christ's Good Friday journey by processing within the confines of their own parish churches. Done with great devotion, the service is typified by a procession that stops, or makes its station, at places within the church that are usually marked by a simple wooden cross or a pictorial representation of the event being commemorated at each particular station.

The Return of the Youth Group Lock-In

In 2020 when all church programming came to a screeching halt, the adults were not the only people whose Christian Education Programs were interrupted. Now, in true trinitarian fashion, we resurrect our middle/senior high overnight retreat on the third year. Anyone grades 5-12 is welcome to join us in the parish hall on April 6th, Maundy Thursday at 4:30pm where we will meet, eat, worship, and partake in all sorts of overnight shenanigans at the church.

This program is the culmination of our youth Lenten program, but it is not necessary to have been to those sessions to attend this event. For more information or to ask questions, please email John Knouse at johnknouse@hotmail.com

The logo for 'Lock-in' is displayed on a bright yellow square background. The word 'Lock' is in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, with a black padlock icon integrated into the letter 'o'. Below it, the word '-in' is written in a smaller, black sans-serif font.

The Garden of Repose

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, his disciples couldn't stay awake for even an hour with him. Out of this moment of Scripture, the custom developed of keeping a "Holy Hour" of prayer in a garden-like setting with the consecrated elements, the Body and Blood of Christ, between our Maundy Thursday service and our Good Friday service.

These hours are a quiet time to reflect on Jesus' path, feel his lonely struggle to accept the will of God, the danger he faced, and the terrifying events that would unfold. They also offer an opportunity to share our own concerns, struggles and joys with God. The half hour long time slots provide an opportunity to watch and wait with Christ. There are two slots available for each time. You can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849ABAE29A3F94-thegarden>

Spring Clean-Up



Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped to make our campus beautiful!



During the spring cleanup, Troop 349, led by Greyson Way, cleared the columbarium and is currently planning on replanting the prayer garden for his Eagle Scout project.

TREASURER'S REPORT

CHARLES WEAR

St. John's Episcopal Church						
Church Operating Income Statement						
February 2023 vs 2022						
Cash Basis in \$000's						
	2022			2023		
	Actual Feb	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr	Actual Feb	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr
Income						
Pledge Income	\$38.6	\$97.8	\$384.6	\$29.4	\$106.8	\$415.0
Other Contributions	\$3.4	\$9.7	\$35.5	\$3.3	\$10.1	\$50.5
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$63.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$63.6
Other Income	\$3.1	\$5.0	\$23.6	\$4.6	\$6.2	\$20.7
Jubilee	\$0.9	\$1.3	\$16.9	\$1.6	\$2.9	\$23.9
Total Income	\$46.1	\$113.8	\$523.5	\$38.9	\$126.1	\$573.7
Expenses						
Clergy	\$16.3	\$29.1	\$205.6	15.4	\$33.9	\$247.0
Lay Staff	\$5.9	\$11.5	\$90.8	5.8	\$15.0	\$116.5
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$0.7	\$3.0	\$25.3	\$3.3	\$6.3	\$27.6
Utilities	\$4.6	\$8.3	\$29.5	\$4.4	\$11.0	\$39.2
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$1.7	\$3.7	\$38.4	\$1.6	\$3.1	\$33.6
Other Property	\$2.3	\$4.5	\$29.6	\$0.2	\$2.5	\$28.9
Worship/Ed/Community	\$0.5	\$2.0	\$14.1	\$0.4	\$1.3	\$17.2
Outreach	\$5.1	\$10.4	\$65.8	5.3	\$11.1	\$64.6
Jubilee	\$0.2	\$0.4	\$24.4	\$1.0	\$2.1	\$34.2
Total Expenses	\$37.2	\$73.0	\$523.5	\$37.3	\$86.3	\$608.7
Net Total	\$8.8	\$40.8	\$0.0	\$1.6	\$39.7	(\$35.0)

February income is down versus last year, but is running higher YTD. This is primarily due to the large number of annual pledges prepaid fully in January. February expenses are about the same year over year and below budget, but are higher on a YTD basis. After satisfying several income transfer obligations, the February overall net should be about break even.

A couple of large February bills will push into next month (staff medical and property insurance), so March expenses are expected to be heavy. We also have a PPL liability building due to their internal issues with reading meters and billing manually, which hopefully will get resolved next month or following.

Lastly, as a result of a February Vestry resolution, approximately \$42k of unspecified memorial funds were transferred to our general, non-restricted investment account.

Respectfully submitted,
C Wear, Treasurer



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE



I AM, WE ARE, ONE WORLD - HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." -Thomas Aquinas

In these difficult times, kindness is needed more than ever and the smallest action could be so meaningful to those names we know and those we don't.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR APRIL 2ND

Palm Sunday

"Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Mark 10:9

Read it again and then act.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR APRIL 9TH

Easter

"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life." John 3:16

Know that we are ALL loved - Here, There, Everywhere - NO exceptions!

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR APRIL 16TH

April 22nd Earth Day

"The Earth does not belong to us; we belong to the Earth." -Chief Seattle

Add a new way to save our gift of the Earth knowing that even the smallest act can make a huge difference.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR APRIL 23RD

"Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light." -Helen Keller

Walks that took place during Lent don't have to stop. Invite a friend to walk and discover those in our presence and the earth we have been blessed with and experience an incredible time for prayers for those - Here, There, Everywhere

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR APRIL 30TH

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." -St. Augustine

God in His creative nature, creates us each differently to give us opportunity to learn, to love, to grow in versatility and share our gifts in our world.


Appreciate and give thanks for diversity.

SOLES4SOULS

"COMMUNITY HELPING COMMUNITY"

DONATIONS DUE
BY PALM SUNDAY

A box for donations can be found in the Parish Hall and downstairs in the Sunday School rooms.



Our community of St. John's has dedicated over 10 years of gathering shoes, along with community friends of James Street Mennonite, St. Thomas, St. Edwards, and the community of various schools; coming together to give new and gently used shoes for the world community. We have also been supported over these years by the Phoenix Transport System, who does pick up and transfer with a caring heart and no charges.



Northern Tier Mission Trip 2 July 16-22, 2023



At last October's Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, All Saints Episcopal Church in Brookland, PA (Potter County) was closed as a parish. Nearby is the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, the international stargazing destination of Cherry Springs and many parks, lakes and the beauty of God's Creation. It was a sad day when the parish closed, but as with many endings also comes the promise of hope and resurrection. All Saints, Brookland with its 20+ acres of property, beautiful church and retreat house, is in the process of becoming All Saints, Brookland Retreat Center and recently received a Shaped-by-Faith grant from the Diocese to purchase new furniture and do other fixups to the "Retreat House". This summer, ASB Retreat Center will be hosting numerous groups and activities. July 16-22, 2023 – Northern Tier Mission Trip, in conjunction with several Lancaster County Episcopal congregations, works with Potter County Habitat for Humanity. An Information session about the July Mission Trip will be held on Sunday, April 23 after the 10:15 service in the Becker House. Contact Don Durand for more information at jampdurand@gmail.com



All Saints Brookland Retreat Center



3714 Fox Hill Rd, Brookland, PA 16948¹¹

Refugee Ministry

Report

by Rich
Garon

It's almost six months since we met our neighbors, the Abdi family, at the Lancaster Airport. Since then, we find the following as pertains to Dad (Bati), Mom (Halima) and their three children, Abdisa, Sutan, and Abdalla: (1) the family has a clean, safe, comfortable home at the church-owned property at 209 N. Concord; (2) the family has access to good medical and dental care; (3) Dad has a job that for now is able to support the family; (4) all children are in school; (5) a good part of the financial/administrative base – social security cards, other IDs, bank accounts – has been established. Church World Service (CWS), our partner in welcoming the family, is recognized for its commitment to helping refugees. Its matching grant program whereby credit is established for hours worked by Welcome Team members, has been very generous in its financial support for the Abdi family.

Yet, with successes have come some disappointments. While our welcome team held several sessions with CWS regarding what to expect and what types of assistance our team could provide, there was confusion during our preparation regarding who was doing what. These concerns were raised with CWS and they apologized for any lack of communication. While communication improved, we found that help in various areas we thought we were to provide had already been taken care of by CWS. We were pleased that CWS welcomed our suggestion that they “create and share a progress sheet with Welcome Teams which tracks what is being done by CWS and what is being done by the Welcome Team.” Our hope is that such a system clearly outlining respective assignments will help future Welcome Teams.

Also hindering greater involvement by Welcome Team Members and neighbors is the fact that Bati works a night shift a considerable distance away and he leaves late afternoon and returns often after 4 am. We continue to look for employment closer and with more reasonable hours. The family is very appreciative of all the support it receives from St. John's. Our plan is to schedule a Welcome Team meeting in the near future to develop, in light of what we've experienced, additional ways to promote the family's transition to the Lancaster area.



St. John's Food Pantry

Your St. John's Food Pantry is working hard to meet the needs of our neighbors and community.

- Are you available from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays to greet and help visitors? We need more distributors for both days and find that 3-4 people are needed each time we open for business.
- Can you help pick up food donations from other churches, grocery stores, and the Central PA Foodbank?
- Would you like to help us purchase and procure the supplies we need, help stock the carts before each distribution and other behind-the-scenes activities?

If you would like more information about working with the food pantry or can help us, please contact Debbie Carter dpcarterpa@verizon.net or Marion Wear at wearall@comcast.net!



GRATITUDE DINNER

JUNE 10, 2023

6:00 PM

Honoring our
Music Ministries

Hosted by Stewardship Committee

Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Emma Bramble | 19 - Rose Wenger |
| 1 - April Way | 20 - Sue Dodge |
| 2 - John Faust | 22 - Heidi Leitzke |
| 3 - Maria Sauder | 22 - Ronald Linton |
| 7 - Kevin Henry | 23 - Sophie Brown |
| 9 - Owen Wendler | 23 - Drigan Lee |
| 11 - Thuan Pham | 23 - Gwynneth Mann |
| 12 - Michael Stank | 23 - Rob Williams |
| 13 - Angela Cuthbert | 26 - Leslie Tahsler |
| 14 - Janice Henry | 27 - Ty Humphrey |
| 14 - Glenn Miller | 27 - Vivian Lord |
| 15 - Ron Barton | 27 - Dan Siewert |
| 16 - Eric Waskowicz | 27 - Claire Thompson |
| 17 - Sandra Grove | 29 - Maggie Lee |
| 18 - Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer | |

Anniversaries

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 12 - John & Barbara Graeter |
| 19 - Joe & April Way |
| 22 - Bob & Mary Ellen Kilp |
| 24 - Bob & Maggie Springer |
| 30 - Mike & Phyllis Gbur |

Church CALENDAR

Saturday, April 1st

April Fool's Day

Sunday, April 2nd

Palm Sunday

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:30AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Monday, April 3rd

5:00PM Executive Committee
6:00PM Ministries Council
6:00PM Daughters of the King

Tuesday, April 4th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday, April 5th

12:00PM Healing Service
3:30PM Eagle's Nest
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 6th

Mundy Thursday - 7:00PM Service
9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
8:30PM Vigil in Mary's Chapel

Friday, April 7th

Good Friday - 7:00PM Service
9:00AM Soles4Souls Send Off
12:00PM Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 9th

Easter Sunday

6:30AM Sunrise Service
8:30AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:30AM Brunch & Egg Hunt
11:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Monday, April 10th

6:00PM Caring Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, April 11th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry
4:00PM Finance Committee

Wednesday, April 12th

12:00PM Healing Service
3:30PM Eagle's Nest
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 13th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, April 14th

Rector's Day Off

Saturday, April 15th

9:00AM Community Breakfast
at First Reformed Church

Sunday, April 16th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:30AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
12:00PM Vestry Meeting

Monday, April 17th

6:00PM Daughters of the King

Tuesday, April 18th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday, April 19th

12:00PM Healing Service
3:30PM Eagle's Nest
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 20th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
6:30PM Men's Gathering
7:00PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, April 21st

Rector's Day Off

Sunday, April 23rd

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:30AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Monday, April 24th

6:00PM Stewardship Committee

Tuesday, April 25th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday, April 26th

12:00PM Healing Service
3:30PM Eagle's Nest
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 27th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, April 28th

Rector's Day Off

Sunday, April 30th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:30AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II