



St John's Episcopal
Church, Lancaster PA
**The Messenger -
FEBRUARY**

WHAT'S INSIDE:

PG. 2 - RECTOR'S MESSAGE

PG. 3 - ASH WEDNESDAY

PG. 4 - PANCAKE SUPPER

PG. 5 - EVENSONG SERVICE

PG. 6 - SOUPER BOWL

PG. 7 - TRANS LOVING CO.

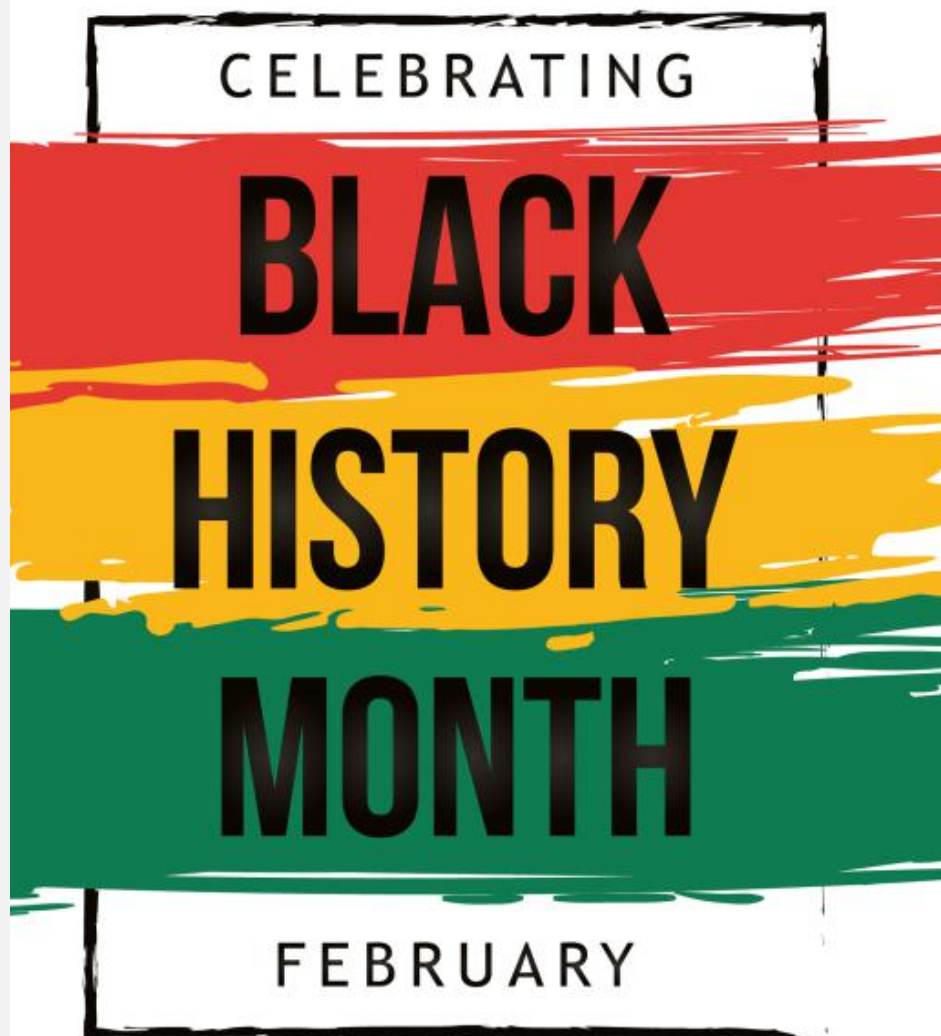
PG. 8 - TREASURER'S REPORT

PG. 9 - GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

PG. 10 - GENDER SEMINAR

PG. 10 - CHURCH LIST

PG. 11 - CHURCH CALENDAR



**Easter is early this year!
Don't forget to mark your calendars for
upcoming Lenten Events!**

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Amanda+

**Wednesdays from
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
starting February 21**

February 21:
“Father, forgive them”

February 28:
“Today you will be
with me in Paradise”

March 6:
“Behold your son...
Behold your mother”

March 13:
“My God, My God,
Why have you
forsaken me?”

March 20:
“I thirst”

March 27:
“It is finished”

Dear St. John's,

In just a few short weeks, we will embark on our annual Lenten journey. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, (this year falling on Valentine's Day!), Lent is a season for intentional reflection and repentance. For forty days, we are invited to remember our mortality, to wrestle with the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf, and to journey with Jesus through his passion and crucifixion. Lent is critical for anyone who desires to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

The forty days of Lent are taken from Jesus' forty days spent in the wilderness following his baptism. It was in the desert that Jesus wrestled with the tempter. It was there that Christ leaned into his relationship with his Father and gave us an example of what turning towards God can look like. Jesus trusted in God during those forty days— through scripture, prayer, and fasting. As a community, we turn towards God each year through our own spiritual practices. We repent, we pray, we fast by giving up something or even by taking on something, we give of ourselves, our resources, our hearts. And we study.

This year, we have an incredible opportunity to engage Christ's passion through our Lenten program on Wednesday evenings. Each Wednesday, we will gather in the parish hall at 5:30 PM for a simple soup supper and discussion on Jesus's final words from the cross. Methodist Minister and author, Adam Hamilton, will guide our understanding of these life changing words through short videos and his book, "Final Words from the cross".

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and explore with others the forgiveness, grace, and love Jesus extends through his passion and death.

See you on the Lenten journey,
Amanda+

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 14
12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Pancake Supper!

Tuesday, February 13 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM



Meals include pancakes, sausage,
fruit, butter & syrup.

Free will donations are requested to support
our J2A Youth going on pilgrimage this summer!

Take-out orders are also accepted. You can place your
orders in advance by emailing the church office at
office@stjohns-lancaster.org.

ST. JOHN'S CHANCEL CHOIR PRESENTS

A
Celebration
of

Black History Month

JOIN US AS WE REMEMBER THE PAST AND
CELEBRATE THE PRESENT THROUGH SONG

An Evensong Service
Sunday, February 4th at 4:00 PM



Souper Bowl of Caring – Messenger February 2024

Do you like soup on a cold winter day? Would you like to help our neighbors?

Most of us are aware that a football game is being played on February 11. Years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring started at a church in South Carolina with a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This prayer has inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. Our youth have adopted this program to support our St. John's Food Pantry ministry, which serves the needs of our Lancaster neighbors.

On "Souper Bowl" Sunday, our youth will host a luncheon of homemade soups, beginning around 11:30 in the Parish Hall, to raise funds for our Food Pantry. We'll have specially marked envelopes in the pews, and you may use them to place donations of any amount in the offering plate or in the big soup pot in Parish Hall.

Thank you for the many ways that you contribute to this ministry that is very much appreciated by our neighbors!

We'll have an table in the Parish Hall during the event, to share info about the many ways people can participate in the special ministry, but in the meantime, if you would like to help with this effort by helping to give out food on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, please contact any of us. (We do this in groups of 4 or 5, so experts are close at hand. And if a volunteer speaks a bit of Spanish, that's a bonus!)

Some stats from 2023:

In the last half of 2023, we helped to feed people in 331 different households (a 30% increase over 2022), 914 people of all ages: 304 children, 480 adults, and 130 seniors. Many of them came only once or twice in that period, while a few, including some "working poor," came nearly every week. Overall, they averaged one visit every other month. We spent about \$25,500 in 2023 to purchase nutritious food, in addition to the items generously donated by our parishioners and some local churches or other organizations that don't run food pantry ministries of their own but want to help our neighbors. *(Because of increased food costs, we made the difficult decision to stop buying toiletries and rely solely on donated items.)* With money donated for our food pantry, we're able to stretch those dollars by comparing prices and ordering in bulk from some local stores, as well as from the Central PA Food Bank (from which we get selected items at drastically reduced prices).

Thank you!

Submitted by Marion Wear and Debbie Carter, coordinators.

Trans Loving Community

TLC Tips:

The St. John's Trans Loving Community Ministry offers practical ways to support the LGBTQIA+ community

Definition of the Month:

*Cisgender or Cis:

describes someone whose internal sense of gender matches the sex they were identified with at birth. It is preferable to the outdated terms “non-transgender” or “biological” woman/man.

The Latin root “-cis” means “on this side” as opposed to “trans-” which means across or beyond.

Q. How can I be a better ally, someone who wants to support and welcome Trans folks?

1. Offer Your Own Pronouns

When introducing yourself such as at meetings or gatherings, state your own pronouns, even if you are a *cisgender person. This helps to make stating one's pronouns part of everyday conversation and can make trans and non-binary people feel welcome, not different. Example: “I'm Sheila, I'm from St John's Episcopal, and I use she/her pronouns.”

2. Add Your Own Pronouns to your E-mail or Zoom name

Again this applies even—and especially— if you are cis. If you use an email signature, add your pronouns in parentheses next to your name or title. Alternately, change the name that pops up in your email name to include your pronouns. Example:” John Waters, MD (he/him/his)” or “John (he/him)”

3. Add Your Own Pronouns on your Nametag

Cis or trans, at church, or any other gathering, write in your pronouns. Or, add a pin to your nametag or lanyard that expresses your pronouns such as one that simply says “They/Them.”

TREASURER'S REPORT

CHARLES WEAR

	2022			2023		
	Actual Dec	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr	Actual Dec	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr
Income						
Pledge Income	\$31.9	\$381.5	\$384.6	\$31.9	\$405.2	\$415.0
Other Contributions	\$7.0	\$61.2	\$35.5	\$17.0	\$71.0	\$50.5
Investment Draws	\$10.9	\$63.0	\$63.0	\$0.0	\$63.6	\$63.6
Other less Transfers	(\$10.5)	\$17.1	\$23.6	(\$37.0)	\$27.0	\$20.7
Jubilee	(\$31.1)	\$0.5	\$16.9	(\$22.5)	\$8.4	\$23.9
Total Income	\$8.2	\$523.3	\$523.5	(\$10.6)	\$575.2	\$573.7
Expenses						
Clergy	\$15.9	\$211.2	\$205.6	22.9	\$241.3	\$247.0
Lay Staff	\$11.7	\$93.8	\$90.8	10.2	\$99.6	\$116.5
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$2.0	\$24.3	\$25.3	\$3.2	\$32.6	\$27.6
Utilities	\$1.8	\$38.0	\$29.5	\$3.7	\$49.6	\$39.2
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$5.2	\$29.0	\$38.4	\$4.6	\$38.8	\$33.6
Other Property	\$2.9	\$28.1	\$29.6	\$2.7	\$30.1	\$28.9
Worship/Ed/Community	\$1.9	\$16.2	\$14.1	(\$11.4)	\$20.1	\$17.2
Outreach	\$0.0	\$66.2	\$65.8	9.7	\$64.8	\$64.6
Jubilee	(\$17.4)	\$2.3	\$24.4	(\$21.3)	\$8.6	\$34.2
Total Expenses	\$23.9	\$509.3	\$523.5	\$24.4	\$585.4	\$608.7
Net Total	(\$15.7)	\$14.1	\$0.0	(\$35.0)	(\$10.2)	(\$35.0)

The December financial report includes numerous accounting adjustments and transactions to close the fiscal year. Notably from this reconciliation process, \$12.6k was transferred from our operating account to our restricted investment account as reserved savings for future expenses. These monies were mostly J2A fundraiser income (\$8.5k) and net food pantry gifts (\$3.7k).

Net operating deficit for the year was \$10.2k, very favorable to the budgeted deficit of \$35.0k, but unfavorable to previous year's surplus of \$14.1k. Most favorable for 2023 were lower bookkeeping costs and higher non-pledged contributions and memorial gifts. Higher utilities and ground maintenance expenses were unfavorable.

209 Concord financials were basically breakeven for the year. The \$8.0k Shaped by Faith grant was offset by higher than budgeted maintenance and water/sewer expenses.

Net deposits to our investment accounts totaled \$21.9k for the year. Interest and dividends less fees, plus unrealized gains due to a rebounding equity market, added an additional \$200k (13%) to the ending total balance.



GLOBAL

PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE



New Year, New Goals, New Friends with Resolutions and Action for Increase of Peace

FEBRUARY 4TH

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ask yourself, "What can I do to bring more peace in our world?" Then act, as the smallest act could make a huge difference.

FEBRUARY 11TH

Ash Wednesday Feb 14th & Valentine's Day

A time to resolve to share caring and love for all, in any way, as we were taught to do by example from above.

FEBRUARY 18TH

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

- Saint Augustine

We are ALL God's children and ALL deserve kindness - Here, There, Everywhere.

FEBRUARY 25TH

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist." - Gandhi

As we proceed through Lent, think and act on any negatives in our actions lightening our load and giving heartfelt caring into the world. It is SO needed by ALL.



The Spiritual Center
AT ST. THOMAS



GENDER - Why is Everyone Talking About It?

In recent years, new terms have been used to refer to the variety of experiences we have as humans in relation to how people experience their bodies and sexuality. What do these terms mean and what is it that people are experiencing?

While the terminology may seem new, the experiences the terms refer to have been part of the human experience from the beginning; it seems that western culture, for one, has been reluctant to discuss these human experiences openly.

On Wednesday evening, **Feb 7 at 7:00 p.m.** come to hear what Dr. Bonney McDowell, a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, has learned about this topic. This presentation is hosted by **The Spiritual Center at St. Thomas, 301 St. Thomas Road, Lancaster PA 17601.**

The questions she will address include:

What does the term "gender" mean today? How might gender identity be different from sex assigned at birth? What is gender-affirming care? What does non-binary mean? What's the relationship between gender and sexual orientation? Many questions to discuss!

About the Presenter:

Bonney McDowell, MD, is a retired Ob/Gyn physician, now living at Willow Valley Communities.

Please register for the Feb 7 evening by sending an email with your name and number attending to SCAST-1@outlook.com (can use QR Code) or by calling the Spiritual Center at 717-569-3241 ext. 304 to leave a message.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church • 301 St. Thomas Road, Lancaster, PA 17601
717-569-3241 • saintthomaschurch@comcast.net

Birthdays

1 - Garth Alexander
2 - Alice Ogwang
3 - Kylie Stone
3 - Sue Zuke
4 - Rosemary Coverly
7 - Ben Webber
8 - Dan Farmer
8 - Matt MacDougall
9 - Alexandru Latshaw
9 - Ron Wenger
10 - Teresa Sullivan
12 - Nancy Brenton
12 - Scott Qualls
12 - Callen Wendler
13 - Joe Way
14 - Greyson Way
14 - Isabella Wendler
16 - Joe Thompson
17 - Carolyn Maxey
18 - Susan Burlingame
18 - Tom Hobbins
19 - Mary Glazier
19 - Sean Cliff
21 - Emma Di Pace
22 - Andy Carroll
22 - Cindy Williams
23 - Natalie Clark
24 - Emily Gordon
24 - Kate Springer
24 - Chris Stonerook
25 - Caleb Knouse
26 - Anne Caroll

Anniversaries

18 - Paul & Liz West

20 - Kevin & Janice Henry

Church Prayer List

Pat Pankey, Jeannie Zeller, Kent Strickler,
Nancy Strasburg, Justin & Lisa, Ella,
Matt Patterson, Michael Yoder, Kevin,
Judy Modene, Angie Stamm, Andrew Gilpin,
Ann Marie, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold,
Rich Hartley, Justice Deleo & New Family,
Tina, Susan Yoshihara, Willa Vealey,
Maria Sauder, Paula Wolf, Charlie, John Gouveia,
Dave, Rich & Karen Garon, Eamon Nelson,
Jennifer, Mary Ellen Kilp

Friends at Home

Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa,
Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser,
Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane,
Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove,
Carole Humphrey, Darlene Bentley, Peggy Zuke

Serving in the Military

Amelia Dissinger, Alex Kelly, Brooks Morgan,
Brian Hobbins, Joshua Watkins,
Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater,
David Wolfe

Church CALENDAR

Thursday the 1st

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
10:00AM Worship Committee
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 2nd

Rector's Day Off

Sunday the 4th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
4:00PM Evensong Service

Monday the 5th

4:30PM Trans Loving Community
6:00PM Ministries Council

Tuesday the 6th

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

Wednesday the 7th

12:00PM Healing Service
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 8th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
1:00PM Clergy Council
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 9th

Rector's Day Off

Saturday the 10th

9:00AM Voyager's Meeting
2:00PM Movie Day for those needing
a place to warm up

Sunday the 11th

Super Bowl of Caring
8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Monday the 12th

6:00PM Caring Ministry

Tuesday the 13th

Pancake Supper
1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry
4:00PM Finance Committee
5:30PM Pancake Supper

Wednesday the 14th

Ash Wednesday -
- Services at 12PM & 7PM
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 15th

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

Friday the 16th

Rector's Day Off

Saturday the 17th

9:00AM Community Breakfast
at First Reformed Church

Sunday the 18th

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

Tuesday the 20th

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

Wednesday the 21st

12:00PM Healing Service
5:30PM Soup Supper & Lenten Program
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 22nd

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

Friday the 23rd

Rector's Day Off

Sunday the 25th

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

Monday the 26th

6:00PM Stewardship Committee

Tuesday the 27th

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

Wednesday the 28th

12:00PM Healing Service
5:30PM Soup Supper & Lenten Program
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 29th

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