

Our worship has been wonderfully enhanced by two soloists, Sadie Wenzel and Josh Evert. One of the things I miss most about “COVID” times is the absence of church music.

While I’m your parish priest, I have a ministry to the wider community. I have been asked to serve a three-year term on the advisory committee for the homelesselters as well as to join the advisory board for the Lumina Center, which serves children at risk. I’ve accepted both invitations. As you may know, I also serve on the advisory committee for the Juniata-Mifflin County Area Agency on Aging.

Gov. Wolf ordered a halt to all evictions and foreclosures until August 31, but at that time, the poorest of the poor in our community will literally out on the street. You may have heard the phrase, “couch surfing.” What will this mean for seniors? For families with kids in school? For the sick?

Our treatment of the poor will define what kind of Christians we are. I know pretty clearly what Jesus said about the poor. They will know we are Christians by our love, and so will we.

Father John



Josh Evert

THREE WAYS TO WORSHIP: IN PERSON, BY THE WEB, OR BY PHONE

We have returned to regular worship on Wednesdays and Sundays at 10AM! You can connect easily by the Internet or a toll-free call. All services are recorded, so if you can watch it at any time of day. Please leave a comment so that we know that you participated.



You do NOT need to have an account on Facebook or Zoom to participate; a telephone will suffice. I will email you the Sunday service materials, including the readings.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalchurchlewisownpa/live>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82334928109>
Meeting ID: 823 3492 8109

By phone: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 823 3492 8109

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD

In July Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard served slightly fewer people than in June. We have implemented new safety procedures to help protect both our volunteers and our client by distributing the food outside our building.



We have also distributed fresh produce from people’s gardens along with non-perishable items.



Mother Hubbard's Cupboard—
Covid 19 Style!!

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

On July 28 we served a tasty take-out meal of pizza from Pizza Hut to about 40 people. We distributed the meal in front of the church, and all of us wore masks and gloves. We were glad to see familiar faces and to meet some new people. We want to thank Lisa Harden for making these arrangements. (Lisa is the sister of Tracey McKee and Michelle Lasher.)



Thanks so much for the loyal volunteers who help each month.



SOLOISTS ON AUGUST 2

We will again welcome Sadie and Taylor Wentzel to our service. Both are Penn State juniors majoring in music. They grew up in Williamsport and are looking forward to their classes in the fall. They will present three of our favorite hymns: "Morning has Broken," "Let Us Break Bread Together," and "Great is Thy Faithfulness."



Taylor and Sadie Wentzel

HOME VISITATIONS AND PASTORAL NEEDS

Father John will do the pastoral visits to minimize the health risks to other members of the parish. He will follow the same safeguards as we are using for communion at St.

Mark's. If you would like him to visit you, please contact him

(jtharwood@comcast.net or 814-571-0687). He will follow appropriate safety guidelines when he is with you.



COMMITTEE REPORTS (CEMETERY AND COLUMBARIUM, PASTORAL CARE, PROPERTY, AND SAFETY)

The Vestry has approved bids for two small roofing projects as well as a bid for replacing the steps and railing on our Water Street entrance. While the new steps are being constructed, we will have to enter through the door to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

We have visited all of our shut-ins in person except for Judy Kline, who is a resident at Ohesson. Tracey McKee and Father John visited her one day and talked with her by phone while looking through her window. It was very good to see her.



PARISH PICNIC IN THE PARISH HOUSE

Rain or shine, we will be comfortable! St. Mark's will provide a simple lunch and a soft drink; we will not be able to share a dish or a buffet lunch as we have done in the past, so you do not need to bring anything. As in our worship service, we cannot have more than 25 people in the parish house, so we'll want you to sign up.

We know that you'll have a good time! Please let Father John or Joyce Hart know if you will be attending so that we can order the right number of lunches. THE DATE IS AUGUST 30.



MAKING OUR SERVICES SAFER

Safety Committee has recommended several steps to make our services safer from possible intruders. As you recall, we added security cameras several months ago, and we look the outside doors after the service starts.

We have now added deadbolt locks to the doors of our sacristy, and we will soon announce a plan for evacuating the church quickly if we needed to do so. If we were a public school, we would practice such evacuations several times a year.

We hope, of course, that we never have an emergency, but we are wise to have procedures for dealing with one – just in case.



St. Mark's Prayer List

Prayer List: Patty Attivo, Jacqueline Benevento, Ralph Bitner, Dennis Bossinger, Bob Briar, Lisa Briar, Tyler Burris, Dottie Casner, Peggy Collins, Lew Copenhaver, Heather Creighton, Amanda Ergler, Shirley Ferguson, Richard Flood, Marcia Folk, Dick Gibboney, Beth Harris, Thomas Hart, Cassidy Hendricks, Josh Hohol, Dolores Houser, Angela Kaler, Bruce Kinsey, Judy Kline, James Krepps, Martie Marquez, Pam Lawson, Hugh McKee, Marsha Lynch-Mock, Austin James Moore, David Moore, Virginia Nace, Gabriel Newman, Amy Reeder, Makenzie Shearer, Vicky Shoemaker, Joseph Smith, Gwen Swisher, Steven Sunday and Family, Laura Tate, Henry Walk, Jackie Walk, William Wilson, Stella Wright and Ashley.

Pray for Lloyd A. Gessaman and Max Wilson who are serving our Country.

God of everlasting love, who provides all things, we pray for all people: make your way known to them, your saving power among all nations. We commend to your fatherly goodness all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or circumstances.; relieve them according to their needs, giving them patience in their sufferings, and deliverance from their afflictions. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

DO YOU WANT TO ADOPT A WINDOW AS A MEMORIAL GIFT?

Last summer Jim Cherry discovered a part of our heritage wrapped in newspapers in our basement. These windows were part of the "new" St. Mark's in the 1880s and had been removed when memorial windows were installed between the 1890s and the 1990s. They were not a pretty sight: lots of glass was missing and the lead came had degenerated. We sent them to Epiphany Studios to see what could be done. On Sunday or Wednesday mornings, look at our "new" windows from the 1880s. See how the sunlight streams through them: that's the magic of stained glass. They tell a story through beautiful color and design, and each symbol is part of our Christian heritage. This is the language of faith.

The vestry invites you to adopt one of the restored windows as a memorial gift or to honor someone important in your life. Kathryn and I adopted two windows in memory of our parents, and Diane Carter adopted one in memory of her parents as well. So we have six left.

We will display the restored windows so that all can enjoy them and have another piece of our original history in this place. By the way, do you know the meaning of these symbols? Why do we have "IHS" surrounded by the star of David? What's the story with Aladdin's lamp? All of these will be perfect in St. Mark's Chapel (also known as the Parish House).

The cost is only \$580. Please see Father John if you're interested.



A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS

By [The Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent](#) (Diocese of Central New York)

Holy God, source of wisdom and grace, you know the prayers of my heart, yet it helps me to write them anyway. It's the beginning of the school year, God, and my heart is full of prayers. Keep them safe from COVID.



For the students who are beginning a new school year, give them curious minds, critical thinking skills, the ability to tell right from wrong and the courage to act with integrity. Help them to learn deep truths about this world and about people so that they may be good citizens for the good of the whole. Keep them safe from COVID.

For the students who struggle with learning, give them patience, confidence, and grace. Help them to know the many ways that you've gifted them, even if reading, math, or memorizing don't come easy. For the students for whom learning does come easily, help them with the gift of humility. May they all know enough challenges to keep them sharp, strong, and grateful and enough successes to keep them engaged, confident, and proud of themselves. Keep them safe from COVID.

For the students who are lonely, hurt, unsafe, unwell, anxious or depressed. Breathe your peace and health into them; may they be supported by people who understand them and love them. Keep them safe from COVID.

For the teachers.

For the brave souls who wake each morning at the crack of dawn to educate other people's children and love them like their own. It's a tough job, God, please keep them from growing weary and cynical. Wrap them in your love, your peace, your wisdom, and your goodness. Help them to see the many ways that their gifts inspire learning, creativity, and compassion. And, please make sure they get enough good coffee, chocolate, and support from parents and administrators to keep 'em going. Keep them safe from COVID.

For those who support learning.

For the bus drivers, crossing guards, school safety officers, administrators and aids. Bless those who keep our children safe. For cafeteria workers, nurses, and helpers. Bless those who help our children stay healthy. For librarians, music and art teachers, counselors, therapists, chaplains, volunteers and administrators. Bless those who tend to our children's hearts and souls. Keep them safe from COVID.



This is a new school year. May we all meet this time of year with renewed commitment to our individual callings. May we all continue to grow in wisdom, knowledge, curiosity, humility, confidence, and compassion even when we are not in school. Help us to look toward the outskirts, toward the margins for people in need of compassion and generosity. May we never stop including those who sit on the edge of the playground. May we never stop sharing our pencils and sandwiches with those in need. May we never cease to see your Spirit and goodness in each person we meet.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our great teacher, prophet and Savior. **Amen.**



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 The Right Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop, Diocese of Central PA
 Father John T. Harwood, Priest-in-Charge
St. Mark's Vestry
 Blair Hannon, Senior Warden - Hal Jenkinson, Junior Warden
 Deb Vaughn, Clerk
 Dan Dillon, Lillian Myers,
 Jane Smith, and Robin Wilson
 Deb Vaughn—Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries
 Joseph Sikorsky—Treasurer



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

21 S Main Street
 Lewistown, PA 17044

The Mission of St. Mark's

We gather to celebrate as the family of God, that we may be fed spiritually through the Sacraments and teachings of the Holy Scriptures, in order that we serve others in the love of Christ.

