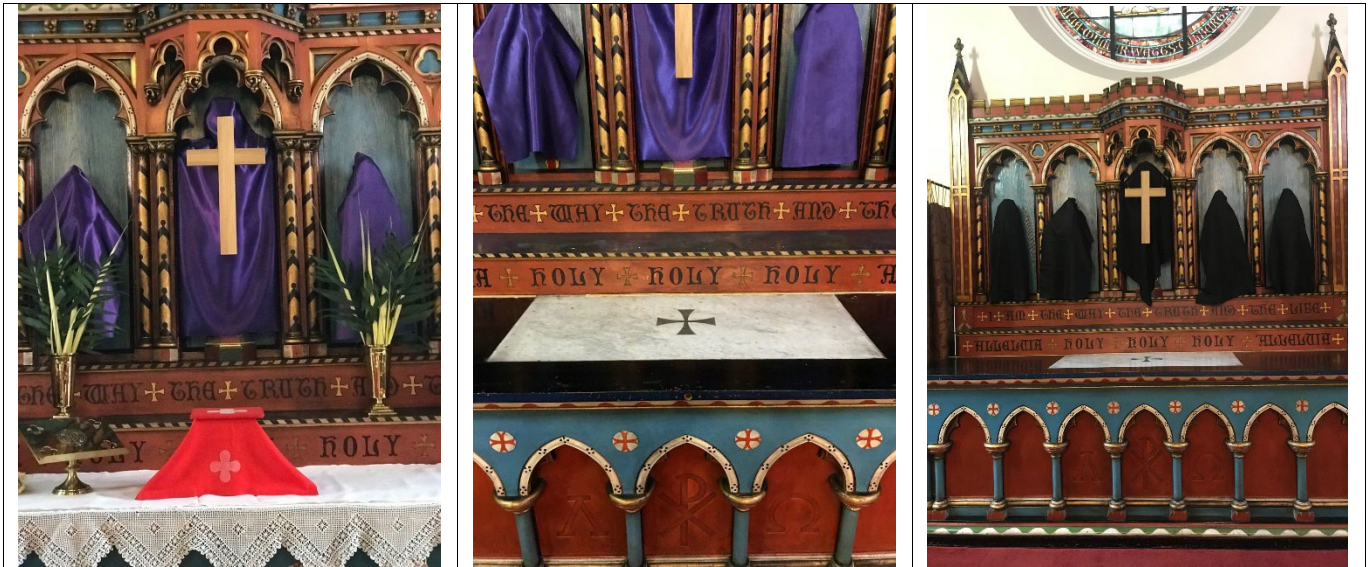


St. Mark's Messenger

April 2022

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS

At our Easter Vigil this month, our lessons trace the arc of our journey as God's children: where we came from and where we're going. Think of these as time-lapse photos. We have been doing our Holy Week services in almost the same form since 1549. Then and now, we affirm this timeless truth: the crucifixion was not the end; it began something that transformed the world, Christ's defeat of the powers of darkness and the triumph over sin and death. When we buried Dodie Houser and Judy Kline in March, we affirmed the profound truth that death does not have the final word.



Our Lenten journey will take us from ashes to glory, and we should not skip a single step on this road.

Let's face it: "no cross, no crown" – in other words, we can't know the true joy of Easter without witnessing the agony of the cross, which we experience most fully during the Three Great Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday).

Death does not have the final word for Jesus or for us.

The season has changed from winter to spring. We are moving from death to life.

At Easter we will proclaim in one voice throughout the world: The Lord is risen – the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia!

Father John✠

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (APRIL 10-17)



Holy Week at St. Mark's

Maundy Thursday at 7PM
Good Friday Friday at 7PM
Holy Saturday (The Great Vigil) at 7PM
Easter 10AM

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



welcomes you

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
21 South Main Street • Lewistown, PA

Following the Palm Sunday celebration on April 10, we will celebrate the liturgy of Maundy Thursday at 7PM, Good Friday at 7PM, and the Easter Vigil at 7PM on Saturday, April 16.

What makes these Three Great Days unique? The liturgies occur only once each year. The three services develop over three days and make one extended Eucharist. What starts on Thursday is not complete until Saturday night.

On Maundy Thursday, April 14, we will strip the altar and empty the tabernacle of reserved bread and wine. It will be empty until Easter, and there will be no covering on the altar. We depart from the service in silence – I do not dismiss you.

On Good Friday I will wear a black stole, and we do not celebrate the Eucharist but instead receive from the elements consecrated the day before. We have a very long reading of the Passion gospel, and we will have multiple readers. “Passion” means suffering.

At the Great Vigil on April 16, we will light our new Paschal Candle, which will burn until Pentecost. It is lit only for baptisms and funerals throughout the year. We will have lengthy readings from the Old and New Testament so that we have context for the death and resurrection of Our Lord. We will return the “missing” elements from our Lenten liturgies – the Gloria, for instance, and the “alleluias.”

Flowers return to the altar – Easter lilies. We will not have a confession of sin either since we have done that work in the two previous services. This is also a time for incense (we will use it sparingly) and lighting of candles throughout the congregation. The service begins in semi-darkness and concludes in light.

All services will also be streamed on Zoom and then posted to Facebook Live.

For Episcopalians, these are holy days of obligation – please worship at the church if you are able.

SOMETHING OLD AND SOMETHING NEW: CHANGES TO COMMUNION AT EASTER



You may have noticed that we have moved the new altar closer to the choir pew. (Actually, the altar dates from 1823 but we have not used it for decades.) This move is a hint that we're making changes in how worship after the pandemic. Yes, we will continue to stream our services via Zoom, but for communion we will return to traditional ways, including the common chalice and receiving at the altar rail.

If you prefer intinction, I will intinct the wafer. (An informal poll indicates that some are not yet comfortable with the common chalice.) We will be careful to avoid crowding at the altar.

Masks are optional, and we will resume fellowship in our parish house. Following the funeral for Judy Kline on March 22, we were delighted to provide a light meal for family and friends. We coordinated the use of space with Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and we can use this as a model for future events.

TWO MUSICAL REASONS TO LOVE ST. MARK'S

Do you need a reminder? These videos were produced by John Xanthopolous and are available to the whole world via the Web: <https://tinyurl.com/ynxhrw24> . They are only two minutes long but illustrate in two minutes the beauty of worship.

In this video, Kaley's hymn is "Amazing Grace": <https://tinyurl.com/yc44cxcs>

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER AND MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD

In March we served 44 people a tasty take-out meal from Michelle's. We were glad to see familiar faces and to meet some new people, but it was very clear to me that many of our regulars come for the fellowship, not just for the food.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard served 213 families (a year ago we served 56 families). This includes





375 individuals; we helped 4 new families and 11 new individuals.

HOW CAN WE HELP THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE?

Seventy-five years after the end of World War II, we again see war in Europe. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is nothing new for Putin, but the destruction and suffering are widespread and highly destabilizing politically and economically. Ten million people are displaced from their homes (about 25% of the population); several million have fled to nearby countries, creating a refugee crisis for Poland and other nations.

How can we help? First of all, pray for peace and justice.

GOD OF PEACE AND JUSTICE, WE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE TODAY.

WE PRAY FOR PEACE AND THE LAYING DOWN OF WEAPONS.

WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO FEAR FOR TOMORROW, THAT YOUR SPIRIT OF COMFORT
WOULD DRAW NEAR TO THEM.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WITH POWER OVER WAR OR PEACE, FOR WISDOM, DISCERNMENT
AND COMPASSION TO GUIDE THEIR DECISIONS.

ABOVE ALL, WE PRAY FOR ALL YOUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN, AT RISK AND IN FEAR, THAT
YOU WOULD HOLD AND PROTECT THEM.

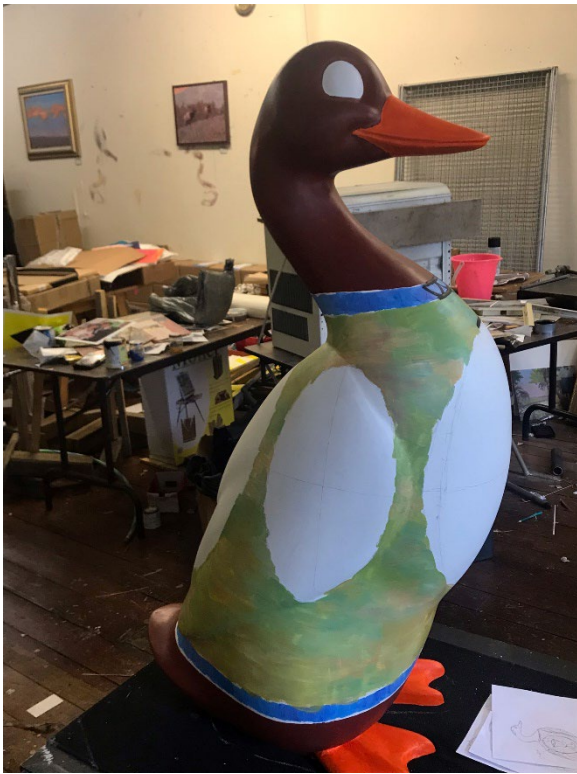
WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS, THE PRINCE OF PEACE. AMEN.

Second, give generously to charities that provide direct assistance to the injured and to refugees. I especially recommend these two:

Doctors without Borders (<https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/>)

Episcopal Relief and Development (<https://support.episcopalrelief.org/>).

If you want to donate via St. Mark's, just write a check and put "Ukraine" on the subject line.



UPDATE ON THE GOOSE FOR ST. MARK'S

Our artist, Karl Leitzel, is making great progress on our goose, and it should “land” in front of the church this month. Its symbols will tell our story, and a great story it is.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHURCH

Even though we have just resumed worship in the church, our expenses continued even when we were online. Just like you, we paid for insurance, utilities, and routine repairs. Soon we need to mow the cemetery lawn – the cost will be about \$10,000 each year. We pay our sexton and

housekeeper to keep our three buildings in good order. Especially at Easter, it is important to remember the church’s needs. Please MAIL or BRING your checks to the church.

If you are behind on our pledge, please try to catch up.



PRAYER LIST

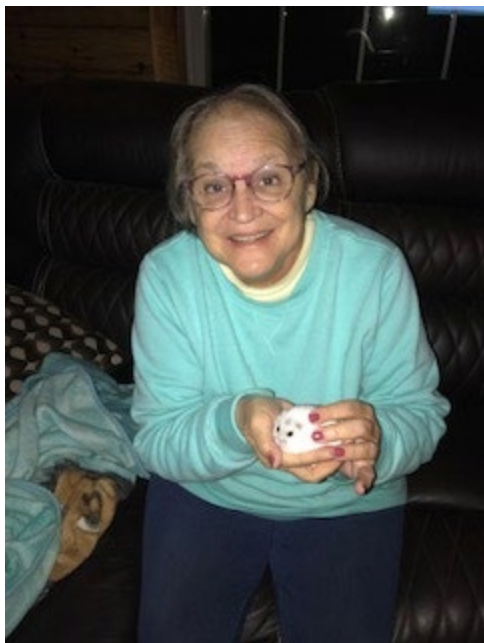
Shirley Brown, Ralph Bitner, Bob Briar, Lew Copenhaver, Kathryn Grossman, Richard Flood, Joyce Hart, Ann Harwood-Nuss, Steve Myers, Bob Pinkerton, Willa Silverman, Patty Wagner, Henry Walk, Jackie Walk, Evelyn Wilson, Bill Wilson

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

6—Robin Wilson, 7—John Stewart, 7—
Kaylee Blewett, 11—Kelly Crawford
14—Max Wilson, 19—Elizabeth Cvejkus,
22—Patricia Wilt, 26—Zanica Kaler

O GOD, OUR TIMES ARE IN YOUR HAND: LOOK WITH FAVOR, WE PRAY, ON YOUR SERVANT *N.* AS (S)*HE* BEGINS ANOTHER YEAR. GRANT THAT (S)*HE* MAY GROW IN WISDOM AND GRACE, AND STRENGTHEN OUR TRUST IN YOUR GOODNESS ; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. *AMEN.*

NEWS FROM JOYCE HART



Just a note to thank you all for your cards and especially the prayers offered on my behalf during the past year. I know without a doubt your prayers have gotten me through 2021 and thus far in 2022.

I am still at my daughter Lydia's which has turned out to be a good thing. It was a little rough at first (which now I realize). All of my children are so good to me and make sure I behave myself. :-)

Lydia and Leah make sure I eat well—both are good cooks and eat healthy meals. The girls also are quite loyal in taking me to my doctors appointments in Hershey and Camp Hill. There have been several times when I had to go to the Emergency Room and they were willing to “rise

to the occasion”.

My son Tim, who lives in St. Petersburg, FL, calls me every night to make sure I'm doing well. The grandchildren (and grand animals - two very large Shiloh Shepherds) are so cute and are quite entertaining. I'm thankful I have had this time to be with them. Even in the short time I have been here, I've been able to see them grow and change.

I had gone through radiation and chemo (pill form) with minimal side effects last fall. Currently I am on a chemo regiment, 5 days on, 23 days off, again with few side effects. I will be on this “routine” until October.



I'm currently doing quite well. I have good days and bad days. My bad days usually are "bad" because of headaches and fatigue. I am so thankful that's all it is; there are so many people who have it far worse.

Please continue to pray for me. I need all the prayers I can get! I love you and hopefully will see you again soon!!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN LEWISTOWN

Habit for Humanity is building a house for eight people in Burnham. The residents will be a woman, her son, and 6 grandchildren from her daughter who was murdered a short time ago.

The project still needs \$75,000 to complete the construction and finishing for the house. Additionally, we need skilled trades workers and other resources.

The family needs new or gently used washer/dryer, living room furniture, possibly kitchen appliances, dishes, glasses, silverware, cook and serving dishes for a family of 8. The kids need beds as well.

Jim Zuber is leading this project, and Jeff Bell is coordinating work. Jim can be contacted at jim@downtownlewistown.com. Cell: 717-348-4673. Office: 717-248-9606. Jeff can be contacted about the work schedule at 717-348-5161.

If you would like to donate money through the church, please send a check with the subject line "House."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN ACOLYTE?

An acolyte helps make the liturgy work beautifully. There are many different roles: lighting the candles, processing with the cross, communing people with the chalice, ringing the sanctus bells, and assisting with incense. When you serve in this role at the altar, you experience the service in a new, rich way. Don't worry that "I don't know what to do." We will have a training program, and it will be fun to learn the "ins and outs" of worship. We need several people so that we have a regular rotation as we do for the readers and ushers.

Please let Father John know if you are interested.

