

St. Mark's Messenger



FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS

Because Memorial Day and Pentecost fall on the same weekend, we are invited to look toward both the past and the future. Both holidays involve remembering and honoring gifts: the gift of freedom and sacrifice for Memorial Day, and the gift of the Spirit and grace for Pentecost. Both holidays also invite us to reflect on how we can live out these gifts in our own lives: how we can serve our country and our fellow human beings with courage and compassion, and how we can spread the gospel and the love of God with joy and power.

Memorial Day and Pentecost remind us that we are not alone in our journey of faith and life. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and who inspire us to follow their example. We are also empowered by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us and guides us into all truth. We are called to be grateful for these gifts and to share them with others by how we live, not just by words we speak.

When the Holy Spirit fell upon the 120 followers of Jesus, they had an intense religious experience, but they didn't have clear marching orders. They had to invent the church; they didn't inherit it. This means that they had to discern how to worship, how to serve their community, and how to pay their bills. And yes, they had to figure out how to keep churches connected: this is why the Episcopal Church today has parishes, dioceses, and provinces as well as deacons, priests, and bishops.

The disciples were sent out from Jerusalem (their comfort zone) to Judea and then to Samaria (their non-comfort zone). What is the Holy Spirit nudging us to reimagine about our parish after Pentecost 2023? How can we move out of our comfort zones to share the Good News?

On a personal note, I begin my seventh year at St. Mark's on Pentecost, 2023.

Father John ✠

SCOUT SUNDAY



We will celebrate Cub Scout Sunday on June 4. The Scouts and their families will join us for worship and a coffee hour after the service. Do you know what the pack is named #1823?

MEN'S BREAKFAST

We will meet on Saturday, June 3, at the OIP in Burnham (8AM).

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD AND BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

In May we served 711 people, an extraordinarily high number. This includes 19 new families and 48 new people. By comparison, in June 2022, we served 374 people. You should also know that people are now living in tents behind Lowe's, and MHC has received requests for blankets. Please be generous in your support of our ministry to the needy in this community.

Breaking Bread Together continues to serve about 40 people with a delicious, home-cooked meal on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

As you think about our Outreach Ministry at St. Mark's, just envision a group of 750 people. That's how many folks we helped in May.

WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month; and we pray especially for Ralph Bitner, Bob Briar, Mary Daily, Carole Mease, Steve Myers, Willa Silverman, Lynn Stricker, Deb Vaughn, Patty Wagner, Evelyn Wilson, and Bill Wilson.

We give thanks for the birthdays and anniversaries celebrated in June:

10: Joe Sikorsky; 20: 52nd anniversary of Charles and Dawn Phillips
22: John-Michael Aitkin; 30: Susan Beers

VESTRY WORK

When you enter the parish house from South Main Street, please notice the new "janitor's closet." We now have a proper area for storing equipment and supplies used to keep our properties in good order. Jim Cherry did all of this work during the past month with help from Blair Hannon and Fred McKinley.

We have finalized the plans for our accessible bathroom in the parish house and will identify a contractor who can complete the job quickly. While we have three bathrooms upstairs, some folks have trouble with steps, so those bathrooms are not an option for everyone.

We are also planning improvements for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard so the volunteers can make better use of the space available.

We have also planted a handful of trees in the cemetery.

Finally, we are replacing the touch-screen lock on the Water Street entrance with a model that is more "user friendly." Remember that we lock our doors to improve the safety for all who use our buildings.

MEMORIAL DAY AT OUR CEMETERY

Dating from the 1840s, our cemetery is the final resting place for nearly 7,000 people, many of them veterans. Thanks to our Cub Scout troop and volunteers from St. Mark's, we marked the graves of our veterans. Some of our Civil War veterans have a funeral stone in

our cemetery but are buried where they died. In 1865 James Stackpole was buried in Tennessee at the age of 23; his wife lived until 1915, and she is buried in our cemetery.

MUSIC IN JUNE AND JULY

Joanne Yang will be able to visit her family in Taiwan this summer for the first time in several years. She was hoping to visit last winter but COVID interrupted her plans. We are grateful that Susan Baumgardner will play the piano for our services during Joanne's absence.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
21 S Main Street
Lewistown, PA 17044