

# St. Mark's Messenger

## April 2024

### FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS



**ALLELUIA! CHRIST HAS RISEN.** When we lit the Paschal candle next to our baptismal font, we recalled our Lord's triumph over death. Just as we are baptized with Christ into his death, we rise with Christ. As I processed into the church at the Great Vigil, I chanted: "the light of Christ," and you responded: "Thanks be to God." Let us carry the light in our hearts throughout the fifty days of Eastertide. We celebrate Pentecost on May 19.

I am grateful to everyone who made our Holy Week special: our ushers, the readers of the lessons, the altar guild, and our musicians (three different accompanists). Our Palm Sunday attendance was the highest that we've seen in many years, so we got off to a very good start. Another highlight was the joyful celebration after the Great Vigil. Father John✠

## WHO WANTS TO BE MORE COMFORTABLE IN CHURCH?

While our services usually last only about an hour, you may still notice that the wooden pews are uncomfortable. Several parishioners have commented that “it sure would be good to have pew cushions,” and so this seems like a wonderful project for our bicentenary.

The cost would be about \$10,000. Are you willing to make a **one-time pledge** to this project? It would be a very good memorial gift (we have many plaques already in the church) or a gift in thanksgiving. **If you want to make a pledge, please let Father John know the amount. We will proceed with the project when we have sufficient pledges.**



## PROPERTY AND SAFETY UPDATE

The Parish House has never looked better! We contracted with a professional floor company to strip and wax the floor, restoring it to what it would have looked like when it was new. We also removed the eight, very heavy ceiling lights made by the father of Helen Lewis at Standard Steel many decades ago. Two were in danger of falling. We will have one of them restored as part of our historical legacy.

We have also improved the entrance to the church for people in wheelchairs. Many thanks to Jim Cherry for finding a good way to do it.

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We are determining costs for other improvements, including for new gutters, new steps and air conditioning for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and a new oven for the kitchen.

Because it's been more than a year since we have done an "emergency exit" from the church, the Safety Committee would like to do another trial run sometime in April or early May. We'll let everyone know in advance that this is just a "warning," like what we get on our televisions to test the emergency broadcasting system.

### **UPDATE ON "FIRST SUNDAY"**

Who could have imagined that our Parish House could hold 143 people? That was the attendance at Forest Fisher's wonderful presentation about the native peoples who lived in our "neighborhood" for 10,000 years before Europeans arrived.

The vestry believes that we should formally acknowledge our debt to them with a memorial plaque similar to ones that many other Episcopal churches now have (<https://buildfaith.org/how-to-write-a-land-acknowledgement-for-your-parish/>). If you missed the presentation, the *Sentinel* had a really good summary: <https://www.lewistownsentinel.com/news/local-news/2024/03/fisher-shares-ales-of-native-americans-who-lived-in-region/>.

Why did so many people come? The topic is certainly interesting and important. But I also think that many of us invited our friends and neighbors. Look for another great "First Sunday" in May.

### **MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD AND BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER**

December	513
January	574
February	543

We are very grateful for a \$4,000 contribution from the Elks. We distributed small hams for Easter. Participation in Breaking Bread Together has returned to pre-COVID levels. Almost 40 guests and a dozen members of St. Mark's enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken 'n' waffles.

### **PRAYER LIST**

We pray for our sick and shut-ins, especially Ralph Bitner, Sharon Copenhaver, Mary Daily, Shirley Mancino, Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Doris McKee, Carole Mease, Lynn Stricker,

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Patty Wagner, and Evelyn Wilson.

We pray also for the victims of warfare and violence in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and Haiti.

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

3-Elizabeth Harwood and Christina Dixon, 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 *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.***

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