

# St. Mark's Messenger

## July 2025

### FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS

With more than 65 people at our BBT picnic in May and 60+ at Molly Bourg's marvelous talk on the Amish in early June, we had lots of new faces at St. Mark's. this summer. Our June Breaking Bread Together featured a real feast: chicken piccata, home-made bread, and lots of air conditioning. Because of the hot weather, folks were especially appreciative of food and fellowship in our parish hall. Can you believe that we served 67 meals? Thanks to Chef Pete and the whole crew of workers.



I am very glad that MHC is able to offer a new program to support families with school-age kids. Lillian and I worked with a reporter at the *Sentinel* to help publicize our efforts and many people from the community who have not given to MHC before have sent checks.

We will celebrate the Fourth of July with special hymns and prayers of thanksgiving and dedication. You will especially love Kaley's offertory and Carolyn's keyboard artistry. July will be full of highlights, not only with the first confirmations at St. Mark's for at least a decade (July 12) but also a Frank Sinatra concert with a Big Band (July 13) of a dozen musicians. Just imagine this: we will add six new member to our parish family.

Who can you invite to share these fabulous experiences?

**Father John✝**

### CONFIRMATION SERVICE WITH BISHOP AUDREY (JULY 12): PLEASE RSVP



Confirmation is a joyful and meaningful milestone in the life of every Episcopalian. It is a time when individuals, often after a period of prayer and study, make a mature and public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the promises made at baptism. In the Episcopal Church, confirmation is not just a rite of passage

but a deepening of our relationship with God and our connection to the wider church community.

During the service, the bishop lays hands on each candidate, invoking the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide them. This ancient gesture reminds us that we are part of a living tradition, supported by the prayers and faith of generations before us. As we witness or participate in confirmation, we are invited to reflect on our own spiritual journeys and renew our own commitment to Christ's way of love.

On Saturday, July 12, at 11AM, Bishop Audrey Scanlan will preside at a service of confirmation for four people (**Ashlyn Kuhns, Lane Kuhns, Edith Swank, and Kaley Yeager**), reception of two people (**Rob and Carol Smith**), and renewal of vows for all of us. St. Mark's has not had a confirmation service for many years, so this is a very big deal for our parish as well as for the new members of our church. After the service we will have a catered lunch.

**So that we order the right amount of food, we need for you to RSVP to Father John before Tuesday, July 8.**

Remember that the Church grows one person at a time. This is a time for celebration!

### MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS THIS SUMMER

The biggest highlight is the arrival of a new piano. Our current piano was definitely showing signs of age. Its pedals were not reliable (last summer one of our guest pianists repaired it just before the service), and with the increasing role of music not only in our worship but in our community outreach, the Vestry agreed that we should purchase a better instrument.

Working with the Robert M. Sides company in Williamsport, we got an excellent deal on this Essex piano (Steinway makes this brand, so the quality will be great). Since this item was not in our budget, we are asking for a special contribution to our music

**“I WILL,  
WITH GOD’S  
HELP.”**

*The Baptismal Covenant*



program. The cost is around \$8,000; \$4,000 has already been pledged.

**Will you write “piano” on the subject line of your check this month?**

Mark your calendar for these coming attractions!



July 13 (Sunday at 2PM) : Frank Sinatra and the Big Band Sound (James Eldreth group from State College will appear at the Arts Festival on July 12)

August 3 (Sunday at 2PM): Piano Concert by Wanli Wang (classical and jazz)

September 7 (Sunday at 2PM): Cello and Flute Concert by Professors

Joanne Seidman and John Dexter (classical and popular)

October 5 (Sunday at 2PM): Concert by Conrad Fisher (country-western and religious). Ask Alexa, “play Conrad Fisher” to get a sample of his music.

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

| January | February | March     | April   | May      | June     |
|---------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| 440     | 391      | 484       | 510     | 503      |          |
| July    | August   | September | October | November | December |
|         |          |           |         |          |          |

We are grateful for the special contributions to our “summer program” for school kids. A typical family has 21 meals per week. During the school year, kids receive 10 meals. What happens to the family budget when they need to feed hungry teen-agers? That’s where our new program will provide assistance. Please help if you can.

### **PROPERTY UPDATES**

We eagerly await the arrival of our pew cushions this month. We are also looking forward to the installation of our new safety railing on the stairs leading from the stage into the parish

house. Another small project is installing a more attractive curtain on the stage. It should be installed in early July.

### **PRAYER LIST**

We pray for Myra Bannon, Judy Clare, Shirley Mancino, Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Dawn Lowe, Doris McKee, Carole Mease, Lynn Stricker, Patty Wagner, and Evelyn Wilson.

### **JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

3—Georgia Olson

8—Jeff Wilson

9—Phyllis Sikorsky

11—Lillian Myers and Cathy Beers

13—Anniversary of Tony & Sharon Hatfield-Nicholson

23—Fred McKinley

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**21 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

**LEWISTOWN, PA 17044**