

St. Mark's Messenger

September 2025

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS



Wanli Wang's concert on August 3 gave us a great introduction to our new piano, and the new curtain in the Parish House really makes Breaking Bread Together and our post-concert receptions a nicer place for us and our visitors. We had perfect weather for our parish picnic hosted by Hal and Sandy Jenkinson.

September will bring many highlights, some old (Goose Day is Sept. 26-29) and some new (another great concert at the church on Sept. 7). Both Penn State and MCSD have returned to classes, the days are getting shorter and cooler, and the foods at the Farmers' Markets have changed from what was available in the spring to the glories of fall. I made my first batch of

gazpacho from my own heirloom tomatoes in late August.

The work of our ministries continues. Because of rising inflation (how much has your electric bill gone up?) and changes in support programs, we expect that many residents of Mifflin County will be stressed to make ends meet. How can we be good neighbors? Who needs a helping hand?

In early August the vestry met with the Rev. Grant Ambrose (St. Andrew's-York) to talk about our current ministries and ideas for new ones. He affirmed and encouraged us to continue to seek and serve Christ in our neighbors. He also encouraged us to take a close look at current and future "big ticket" maintenance or repair issues.

Father John+

COLLECT FOR LABOR DAY (SEPTEMBER 1)

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen* – *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 261

PROPERTY UPDATE

One of the suggestions from our Mutual Ministry Review was to consider a “capital campaign” to address expensive maintenance or repairs that we know we’ll need to face some day. How healthy are our furnaces, for example? When will we need a new roof on any of our three buildings? How can we help control the cost of our utilities? These are big, important questions, and in the months ahead we will determine how best to address them.

COMING ATTRACTION: *An Afternoon of Color, Contrast, and Conversation through Music*



On Sunday, September 7, 2025, the dynamic **JANO Duo**—flutist **Naomi Seidman** and cellist **Jonathan Dexter**—will bring their singular artistry to the stage in a program that promises both intimacy and brilliance.

More than just a recital, this event highlights the surprising palette of colors available to two instruments that, at first glance, might seem like opposites: the flute’s song-like voice and the cello’s deep resonance.

Formed in 2012 by Seidman and Dexter, who are not only long-

time collaborators but also husband and wife, the JANO Duo has performed across the United States and internationally, most recently in Bangkok, Thailand.

Since their inception, they have shared a mission of expanding the repertoire for flute and cello, commissioning new works and championing contemporary composers—all while balancing teaching, performing, and family life in Central Pennsylvania.

This upcoming concert showcases that commitment to fresh musical storytelling. The program weaves together works by living composers with pieces that highlight both the lyricism and the dramatic depth of the duo's instrumentation:

Naomi Seidman, professor of flute at Penn State University, is internationally acclaimed for her warmth of sound and versatility across repertoire, from baroque delicacy to contemporary bravura. A dedicated teacher and performer, she has enriched audiences and students alike with performances across the U.S. and abroad.

Jonathan Dexter, cellist, is equally at home in the concert hall and the recording studio. His career has brought him into collaboration with Grammy-winning artists in genres as varied as classical, pop, and film. From recording with SONY Masterworks to appearing on the *Jimmy Fallon Show*, his versatility is matched by his seriousness as a classical performer. His most recent chamber music work includes collaborations with ensembles such as the Lorelei Ensemble, whose recording *Antigone* garnered high praise from *Gramophone Magazine*.

Together, Seidman and Dexter embody the spirit of chamber music: two voices, equal yet distinct, engaged in ongoing conversation. Their artistic journey is also personal—the JANO Duo is a family as much as an ensemble, and wherever they perform, that warmth and connection shine through.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD, OUTREACH, AND BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

In July we helped about 485 people. We gave bonus food bags for 53 families, which included 116 children. We continue to meet lots of new families. We received from FirstQuality a generous gift of paper products for personal hygiene.

BBT continues to serve a diverse population –young and old alike. We are always glad to see familiar faces and to welcome newcomers. Our meal in August was a delicious meal of REAL ham sandwiches, salads, and desserts.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for Myra Bannon, Judy Clare, Larry Lasher, Shirley Mancino, Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Doris McKee, Deacon Carole Mease, Susan Morse, Paula Saylor, Lynn Stricker, Patty Wagner, Bob Welham, and Evelyn Wilson.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1—Judy Clare, 4—Michele Harden Lasher, 6—Michelle Bitner, 15—Wade Colyer & Diann Pinkerton, 17—Evelyn Wilsom, 18—Theodore Wilson, 28—Anniversary of Judy and Charlie Clare

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GOOSE DAY – September 29, 2025