

# *The Grapevine*

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church



November 2022

### A Note from Nancy – November 2022

It is November and, besides Thanksgiving, we have an election day, as if you didn't already know. I will be glad when all the ads on TV will no longer be people running for office telling me why I should not vote for his or her opponent and not telling me what they themselves will do if elected. I will miss all the mail I have been getting but will not miss all the political flyers and pamphlets. And, it will be nice to have our roadsides cleared of campaign signs.

As you prepare to vote, please consider the Baptismal Covenant on p. 304 of the BCP. Do you live up to those promises and will the people that you are voting into public office live up to those promises? For me, I will be pondering the very last question in this regard: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" Please vote.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day. Please come and support our veterans at the Veteran's Day parade at 4:00 PM on Main Street. There will also be a short program at the gazebo following the parade celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U. S. Marines. I am chaplain for the Conemaugh Valley Veteran's Association which is the organization that sponsors the parade so I will be there.

There will be service at 10:00 am Thanksgiving Day here at the church and by zoom. Let us thank God for all that we have received.

Peace, In Christ,  
Mother Nancy

#### St. Mark's Episcopal Church

335 Locust Street  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
814-535-6797  
Email: [stmarks@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stmarks@atlanticbbn.net)  
Web site  
[www.stmarksjohnstown.com](http://www.stmarksjohnstown.com)

#### Our Staff:

**Priest:** Rev. Nancy Threadgill  
**Verger:** Cindy Leap  
**Organist:** Dolly Lopresti  
**Treasurer:** Pam Hysong  
**Secretary:** Joanne McKinley  
**Sexton:** Nikki Forsythe

#### The Vestry:

Senior Warden: Lyssa Nickle-Madden  
Junior Warden: Michael Teore  
Secretary: Colleen Curry  
Treasurer: Pam Hysong

#### 2023

Collen Curry  
Louise Mead  
Erin Pavic  
Michael Teore

#### 2024

Nicole Hastings  
Catty Anne McCloskey  
Lyssa Nickle-Madden

#### 2025

Cindy Leap  
Susan Kelly-Martin

*Please remember  
St. Mark's Church in your will.*

Sharing Christ's love unconditionally  
through transformational worship and service.

## The 157th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Pittsburgh

*Seeking Abundance, Seeing Abundance  
and being...*

### **Thankful for Our Abundance**



We live in tumultuous times. Even as the people of God, it is easy to surrender to anxiety and fear, uncertainty and scarcity. And yet... God reminds us that we are given and called to more. Not just sufficiency – but **ABUNDANCE**.

This year, **ALL Episcopalians** in the diocese are invited to a glorious celebration of abundance at Diocesan Convention!

**Saturday, November 19**  
**Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**  
**616 North Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206**  
**12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.**

All are invited to share in a day of blessed abundance.

- **Gather** – connect and re-connect with members every church in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- **Learn** – about new tools and materials developed by the Episcopal church to deepen spirituality and discipleship, and about the many ministries flourishing here in our diocese.
- **Engage** – in participatory prayer installations demonstrating creative ways to share in prayer, contemplation and public witness.
- **Sing** – raise voices together in an exultant hymn sing.
- **Celebrate** – a glorious Eucharist featuring Bishop Solak as preacher.
- **Eat** – gather around a joyful table!

A tentative agenda for Saturday is [available here](#).

### **Registration for all deputies and guests is now open.**

The regular fee of \$60 starts on Sunday, November 5, until the  
**registration deadline of Sunday, November 13.**

The fee includes all materials and food, including the Saturday dinner.

If you cannot afford the fee, please send an email to [convention@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:convention@episcopalpgh.org)  
to request an adjustment.

Additional registration details are available at

<https://www.episcopalpgh.org/the-157th-annual-convention-of-the-diocese-of-pittsburgh/>

## Looking Forward to Advent

Advent this year starts right after Thanksgiving, on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. As we move from the fall into Advent in preparation for the coming of the Christ child, many of us will begin to think about a special Advent practice. Here are some resources you might want to consider. These are all free, but require either having an email address or access to the Internet to download materials.

- AdventWord is a global, online Advent calendar. Join an international community in prayer to explore the mystery and wonder of Advent! In its eighth year, Christians around the world are joined together as each day of Advent invites a focus on a particular word drawn from the lectionary. (<https://adventword.org/en/home/>)
- Journeying the Way of Love is an Advent Curriculum from the Episcopal Church, explores the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke which offers pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world. Although designed for small groups it could be adapted for home study with family. (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love/>)
- Check out this awesome Advent Calendar which offers daily suggestions for engaging in the seven practices that encompass the Way of Love: turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest. Use it as a standalone resource—keep it at your desk or on your fridge and refer to it every day! (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/10/Advent-2021-Calendar.pdf>)
- Forward Movement offers several Advent meditation guides. It might be a too late to order the hard copy version, however, most are available in Kindle and Apple Books format. Check here for the Advent and Christmas offerings:  
[https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/CategoryCenter/FMCHR/Advent\\_Christmas.aspx](https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/CategoryCenter/FMCHR/Advent_Christmas.aspx)

## Prayers for Election Day

As polls begin to close on Nov. 8 for the U.S. midterm elections, all are invited to join an Election Day Prayers gathering online hosted by The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations.

Tune in from 8 p.m. to midnight EST via [The Episcopal Public Policy Network Facebook page](#) or [The Episcopal Church Facebook page](#). Viewers do not need a Facebook profile to participate.

At the top of each hour, special guests from around the church will offer 10-15 minutes of reflection and prayer. Participants are encouraged to engage in prayerful conversation in the comments. The gathering will also feature simple video feeds from parishes throughout the U.S.

Scheduled guests include Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris; the Rev. Charles Graves IV, missionary for Houston Canterbury; the Rev. Donna Gleaves, an Episcopal Public Policy Network ambassador; and Willis H.A. Moore, an Episcopal Election Activator.

From the The Office of Public Affairs of the Episcopal Church



### *Holiday Food for Families*

During the Month of November, Pastoral Care will provide families who request assistance with the food items necessary for a holiday meal. If you know a family who might benefit, please share that information with Mother Nancy or Amy Whitlow. Beginning November 1, we will accept donations of turkeys and turkey breasts, hams and also non-perishables in order to assemble boxes for at least 10 families. Any non-perishable items are much appreciated and may be placed on the food pantry shelves at any time.

#### Items needed for Thanksgiving Dinner

Turkey	Turkey Breast or whole Turkey
Ham	Potatoes (white or sweet)
Stuffing	Gravy
Cranberry Sauce	(vegetables not needed)
Desserts	

Thanksgiving is November 24th so we ask that you bring in your items no later than Sunday, November 19th.



## Christmas Stocking Stuffer Project 2022

For many years we have joined with parishioners from more than 20 local churches to provide stuffed Christmas stockings to the patients of Torrance State Hospital. These patients are persons who require long-term in-hospital care for behavioral health disorders (mental illness). For many patients, this is the only gift they receive and is the highlight of their holiday season. The staff and patients greatly appreciate your efforts in making their Christmas a happy and memorable moment.

This year we have been asked to provide stuffed stockings for 12 men. Please select items from the list below for your donations. A box for your donations is located in the Parish Hall.

***Please make your donations on or before Sunday, November 20, 2022.***

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Candy bars (individually wrapped)<br>big or snack size | Sudoku books  |
| Small bags of chips, cheese curls or Doritos           | Playing cards   |
| M & M's—small bags                                     | Card games, such as Uno, Skip-bo, Phase 10 or even card games for children              |
| Individual snack cakes                                 | Coloring books (adult and child)  |
| Packs of crackers or cookies                           | Crayons   |
| Individual sugar-free drink powder packs               | Paperback books ( <i>No romances</i> )  |
| Chap Stick   | (Note: books do <i>not</i> have to be new)  |
| Body wash  | Blank Greeting Cards  |
| Deodorant ( <i>No spray cans</i> )                     | Ankle or crew socks—any color ( <i>NO High TUBE socks due to strangulation issues</i> ) |
| Lotion ( <i>No pumps</i> )                             | Non-refrigerated pudding cups, apple sauce or fruit cups                                |
| Shampoo  | Individually wrapped peppermint puffs   |
| Cross Word Puzzle books                                |   |
| Word Search books                                      |   |

***In order to protect the residents, please do not donate glass or breakable items, aerosol cans, alcohol-based products, sharp objects, or notebooks with wire bindings. No batteries. No items with staples. Due to choking and swallowing issues, no nuts, hard candy or gum.***

Thank you for your generosity.  
Louise Mead

## SATURDAY'S KITCHEN Christmas Wish List

Once again, Saturday's Kitchen is asking us to help provide items for their families in need. They have asked for the following:

- 70 Bottles of Shampoo
- Used or New Gift Bags (12x18)
- Cookies (Not needed until December)

As always "Thank you" for helping those less fortunate.



## CONGRATULATIONS

To our Organist, Dolly Lopresti  
On her retirement from Ameriserv.  
We wish you all the best!



### **2022 Weekly Altar Flowers & Monthly Altar Candles**

Donation price is \$30 a Sunday for flowers and \$8 a month for candles.

Please contact Joanne in the Parish Office with your requests.

#### **We have openings for the following dates:**

11/6 (1), 11/13 (1) 11/20 (2), 11/27 (1)  
12/4 (2), 12/11 (1)



## **SNOW REMOVAL & HEATING BILLS**



During the Winter Months, the extra collection for the First Sunday of the month is set aside for Snow Removal and Heating Bills. Please be generous.

## **BUILDING CAMPAIGN**

The extra collection for the second Sunday of the month is for our Building Campaign.

Monies will go towards the various projects within the Church.

### ***Vestry Meeting***

**Sunday, November 13th  
After  
the 10:00 am Service**

### ***Rwandan Orphan***

All families of the church are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the third Sunday of each month (Nov. 20) for Josiane, our Rwandan orphan. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for her.

### ***Pastoral Care***

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of each month (Nov. 27) for our Pastoral Care. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.



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## **ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL**

Many Thanks for the generous contributions from Joann Adams, Moriconi Funeral Home, an Anonymous Donor (from Moroconi Funeral Home), The Amslo-Club (Judy & Rosie), Valerie Kasper, Chris & Delbert Hess, Annett Kristofco, Barry & Karen Orner, James & Donna Hollis, Carol & Lou Schaffer, Linda Cordes, Molly, Maggi & Miller Lazzari, Joann Lacko, Marlin Boratko, Tim Cicotello, Joan Cesare, June Holland, Judy Zupal, Theresa Kosaber, Patricia Taylor, Mina Zlato, Marion Gaydos, Tom Birk, Jr. and Sharon & John Flick. We appreciate your continued support!

During the month of October, we were able to help feed 152 Dogs, 15 Puppies 459 Cats and 134 Kittens. Over 1/3 of the cat population are outdoor cats and kittens.

The Cambria County Humane Society is no longer able to donate certain "brand foods" that they could not use such as biscuits, canned food, dry food brands, and treats.

We gave out the following:

Dogs Dry Food: Adult 707, Puppy 89 lbs	Cats: Dry food 908 adult 295 kitten
Cans 0	Can food 60 small 176 large

Total amount of food given out from January through October:

Dry Food	Dog	9,724 lbs	Cat	10,722 lbs
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Our Pet Food Pantry will be open on Nov. 9th & 10th and Dec. 7th & 8th

Our Director, Cynthia Greig will be away in England over the Holidays and will return in January. Many thanks to our volunteers for their continued support.

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*Cynthia Greig and Joanne McKinley*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>November</b>						
10:00 am Holy Eucharist ALSO ON ZOOM		1 ALL SAINTS DAY  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA MEETING	2 ALL SOULS DAY	3	4	5
6  10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom	7	8  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA MEETING	9  PET FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM	10  PET FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM	11  VETERANS DAY	12
13  10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom  Vestry Meeting	14	15  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA MEETING	16	17	18	19
20  10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt I Church & Zoom	21	22  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA MEETING	23	24  10:00 AM Thanksgiving Service Church & Zoom 	25 	26
27  10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom	28	29  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA MEETING	30	11/24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 11/27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT		