

# St. John News

Winter/Spring 2020

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*The following is an article that Pastor Joey shared with St. Mark's in Baltimore. With his permission, I share it with you.*

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Bev*

January 30, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

*"Come on!"* says Jesus, urging a pair of his earliest disciples to walk with him as they journey on the path of God's kingdom. "Walking" in Judaism was understood as how one conducted one's day by day life - one walked the pathway toward righteousness and peace - one followed God's way.

Those who follow Jesus - do not always possess certainty - we walk by faith, placing our confidence in him who is our light. Our assurance is that if we walk with Jesus, we will experience God's presence moving alongside us as we go forward step-by-step. We find ourselves in line with the psalmist's voicing: *"even though I walk through the valley and shadow of death, I fear no evil; for You (O, God) are with me."* (Psalm 23:4)

One of the students in my Tuesday evening class brought a hymn to sing at the classes beginning. He shared how much this hymn transformed his life and the community he served. The people in his church ask for this hymn almost every week. For a moment, I wondered, what could this hymn possible be? - Then, he revealed, it is a spiritual.

*"I want Jesus to walk with me,  
I want Jesus to walk with me,  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*In my trials...Lord, walk with me, etc."*

We listened to a young woman's voice mesmerize us as she voiced the deep longings of a community wearied with anguish and pain at life's injustices. Then we joined in singing, and in the midst of our singing, we were transported, we became aware that simply by voicing our desire to have Jesus walk with us, Jesus became present. There is wonder, joy, and amazement when we are able to catch glimpses of God in Christ Jesus "walking" alongside us.

The gospel of Micah, the prophet, reminds us as a new voice enters into the dialogue we'll hear in this coming Sunday's First Reading:

*"With what shall I come before the Lord?" -Micah 6:6 -- 1st voice*

*"He (God, the Lord) has told you, o mortal, what is good;  
and, what does the Lord require of you; but, to do justice.  
love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." -Micah 6:8 - 3<sup>rd</sup> voice*

The whole of our life is meant to be oriented towards God and God's way of living. This is hope for us - and brings us joy. Don't let the flummoxing patterns of the unjust, discourage you in seeking truth, loving kindness, and walking God's way.

Blessings!

*Pastor Joseph*

The Rev, Dr. Joseph A. Donnella II  
pastor, St. Mark's



Office Hours: Church office hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-3:30pm

Pastor Bev's Hours:

Office hours are Tuesday-Thursday (by appointment) for an appointment please call the church office at 642-5822. For pastor emergencies only (hospitalizations, deaths, etc.) Pastor Bev can be reached at 338-1215.



### MUSIC NEWS:

With One Voice Choir and Hand Bell Ensemble rehearsals are in full swing. Both groups are open to teens and

adults. Music reading skills are helpful, but not necessary. On the job training available! Come sing/ring a new song to the Lord with us.

With One Voice rehearses Weds. 6:45-7:30 and sing for worship once or twice a month.

Hand Bells rehearse Weds. 7:30-8:15 and ring for worship every 4-6 weeks depending on participant's schedules.

Children's musical activities are included in our Sunday School time each Sunday. There will be opportunities for children to share the songs they've learned with the congregation as schedules allow.

For more info on the music ministries at

St John, please contact: Carol Garman (cargarman59@gmail.com or

717-476-0923)



Kids' Club meets Thursdays from 3:45-5PM. Activities include games, snack, devotions, crafts and musical experiences. Students K-4th grade are welcome and transportation is available from the school. For more info contact Carol Garman 717-476-0923

### Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes continue to meet 10:30-11:30 for Preschoolers through adults. Preschool through 6th grade classes include crafts, Bible stories, games and music activities. Confirmation class meets during this time as well. Also, there is always room for one more in the adult discussion group which meets in the social hall. Come check out a class!

*Thank  
you*

~To our faithful musicians who share their musical talents for worship services.

~To those who provide refreshments after our Sunday morning worship services.

~For the kitchen crew and their hard work in serving our annual Advent Breakfast

~To those who decorated the sanctuary for Christmas and those who took the decorations down.

~To everyone who made or bought cookies for the cookie walk.

~For our young people who participated in the Christmas program.

~To those who donated or helped to fill goody bags for our college students.

~To everyone who purchased gifts for our "Adopt a Child for Christmas" and Advent Mitten tree.

~To everyone who brings in aluminum soda cans to raise funds for Kids Club supplies.

~To Kids' Club adult helpers for giving their time & energy to deal with some very lively children.



Thank you, to everyone that purchased soup on Super Bowl Sunday. Over \$350 was donated to the Fairfield Food Pantry!



**Those for Whom We Pray:**

Brad Sanders, Trevor, Pete, Ryan McCartney, Charlie Green, John Westley, Ron Hedges, Dave Gladhill, Essie Gilmore, Pastor John Fehringer, Jim Cool, Judy Kemper, Vicky Fraley, Eric Kuhn, Pastor Sharron Blezard, Jess Lee, Hope Foreman, Shirley Phillips, Bill Brush, Audrey Moritz, Jim Thomas, Mark Thomas, Brenda Walter, Mary Lou Hammett, Rita Yeingst, Ken & Mary Fluke, Charles (Sam) Scott, Fred & Nina Herring, Savannah Bollinger, Garnetta Shope, Leonard Sites, Faye Baker, Doris Sease, Benny & Ruth Akers & Bill Newman. Our military troops, especially Megan Kump, Dawson Sanders, Brad Poulson, Brett Boston, Warren Moore, Tyler Brandenburg, Phillip Chilcote, Tyler Miller, Jim Callahan & Nick Wheeler.



*Women of the Church*

*WELCA is now "Women of St. John" and we want you to join our group! We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 9 am and occasionally catch up for lunch afterward. We are also looking for the following donations: A working sewing machine, white thread, and donations for the after church coffee hour. Please contact: Martha Fitz or Sue Hull if you have any questions.*

Thanks to everyone who took time to get their pictures taken for the upcoming directory. After finishing up a few more family pictures, the next step will be to find a printing company. Once that is done, we should have our new book published. We don't know yet what the cost will be for printing. Thank you to Karen Moriarty who has been entering the pictures and updating information into a database as we get new photos. This will make printing very easy. Stay tuned for details!



**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

**February 23: Mardi Gras breakfast after service**

**February 26: Ash Wednesday service will be in the church at 7pm. Every Wednesday during Lent the service will be at 7pm in the chapel.**

**Holy Week:**

**April 5: Palm Sunday**

**April 9: Maundy Thursday**

**April 10: Good Friday**

**April 12: Easter Sunday, Easter breakfast will be served after the service.**

**May 21: Elders Dinner**





