



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

In many ways, this Lent has felt more uplifting than penitential. We returned to in-person worship on Ash Wednesday! We have enjoyed coffee hour together. We have explored what baptism and our Episcopal practice of faith mean to us. We have children in Sunday School. Church School on Wednesday mornings has continued on Zoom with a very stable contingent of participants. The choir and organ sound full and lovely. Vestry had a productive and meaningful retreat time together and have developed goals for the coming year and beyond, to assure that we continue to live out our values. The "Cocoon to Butterfly" Lenten series has provided folks with the opportunity to hear one another's stories and to grow in awareness of what transformation looks like in our lives. We are hosting the guests from Restoration House this week, thanks to the folks who continue to make this ministry a priority and all the volunteers who jump in to help. Tomato and pepper seedlings are growing in preparation for our third season of St. John's Good News Garden. Wow... no wonder we feel tired sometimes, eh?

Actually, it is very fitting that Lent has been so full of growth and movement for us. Lent really is a time for us to prepare ourselves to renew (or make) our baptismal covenant – and that is precisely what we have been doing – what all the 'activity' in the paragraph above speaks about.

The Triduum – "three days" – of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter - are days for us to fully express and celebrate the mystery of faith we proclaim each week: Christ died on Good Friday, Christ rose on Easter, and Christ comes again each time we celebrate Eucharist, each time we serve one another as symbolized in the washing of feet.

The schedule for Holy Week is elsewhere in the newsletter. My prayer is that you participate in these Holy Days as fully as possible. Is it an inconvenience to come to church three or four days in a row?! Surely. But it is the best preparation for renewing those baptismal vows – and the best celebration of who we are as the Body of Christ at St. John's.

We are the hands and feet and eyes and heart of Christ in the world. Celebrate that.

Blessings to you,

Sr. Diane+

Mark your Calendars...

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Maundy Thursday – 7 PM - Holy Eucharist with foot washing;
stripping of the altar.

Good Friday – Noon – Good Friday service (Book of Common
Prayer)

Good Friday- 7 pm – Stations of the Cross – ZOOM link is below:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2546144396?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2546144396?pwd=Z3lITkZuZjd0Q0JTRi9ZMWQvNVhNZz09)

[pwd=Z3lITkZuZjd0Q0JTRi9ZMWQvNVhNZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2546144396?pwd=Z3lITkZuZjd0Q0JTRi9ZMWQvNVhNZz09)

Easter Vigil – 8 PM – Great Vigil of Easter – Lighting of the New Fire –
with Baptisms

Easter Day – 10 AM – Holy Eucharist with Baptism

April 1 – 7 PM Chamichian Hall at CMU – Senior Composition Major Recital for
former choral scholar Jack O'Brien

April 3 – First Sunday of the Month – All loose change and donations go to
People Helping People fund.

April 3 – Guest homilist – Mary Simpson – Diocesan Resource and Data
Coordinator for Dismantling Racism

After coffee hour, Mary will lead us in “Exploring Systemic Racism:

What we know, what we don't know, and what we want to know.

April 3 – 5 PM – CHORAL EVENSONG

April 6 – Panel – “Faith and LGBTQ+” – EHS building and WebEx. Sponsored by
Office of LGBTQ+ Services. (Rev. Sr. Diane will be a panel member.)

April 14 – Maundy Thursday (see Holy Week Schedule)

April 15 – Good Friday (see Holy Week Schedule)

April 16 – Easter Vigil (see Holy Week Schedule)

April 17 – Easter Sunday (see Holy Week Schedule)

April 19 – Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

April 24 – Homilist Renee Babcock for Holy Eucharist

April 28 – “Fresh Start” – Diocesan program for clergy – at St. John's

April 29 – Administrative Assistant Kaitlin's last day at St. John's



Flower Donations



It is that time of year again! We are asking for contributions for flowers to decorate the church and enhance our worship. These contributions may be made as a memorial or as a thanks offering and will be included in the Easter Vigil and Easter Day Bulletin. This form must be placed in the Sunday offering plate or in the church office by Monday April 11th in order to be recognized in the Bulletin!

I wish to contribute Easter Flowers in honor of, in memory of, in Thanksgiving of: (mark one)

In honor of In Memory of

In Thanksgiving of

From

Now You Know...

Why do we light a fire at the Easter Vigil and then light the Paschal Candle? Just what IS the Paschal Candle, and why do we all light candles that night?

The Paschal Candle is a large candle that symbolizes the risen Christ. It is often decorated with a cross, symbols of the resurrection, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, and the year. The term “Paschal” concerns Easter or Passover. At the Easter Vigil, the Paschal candle is lit from the **new fire**. It is carried by the deacon (or the celebrant, if there is no deacon), who pauses three times and sings or says, “The light of Christ,” and the people respond, “Thanks be to God.” After it is carried to the chancel, its flame may be used to light candles held by members of the congregation. This symbolizes the **spreading of the light of Christ into the congregation and the world**. The Exsultet is sung or said after the Paschal candle is placed in its stand. It is customary for the Paschal candle to burn at all services from Easter through Pentecost (BCP, pp. 285-287).

After the Easter season, the Paschal candle is typically placed near the font. It should burn at baptisms, representing the new life in Christ that we share in baptism. The newly baptized person may be given a small baptismal candle that is lit from the Paschal candle. It may also be carried in procession at burials and placed near the coffin as a symbol of resurrection life.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL?

The Children of St. John's have completed a five-week study of the events of Holy Week and Jesus' experiences leading to Easter Morning. They discussed the joyous atmosphere of Easter Morning contrasted with the solemn and quiet atmosphere of the Season of Lent.

Their first creative project was to make a beautiful banner saying "Alleluia" or picturing a lovely spring flower. After the glue and glitter dried, the banners were placed in a dark box. The box was taped closed and hidden away from sight.

Now, on Easter they will tear open the dark box, take out the beautiful artwork, and carry their banners into the St.

John's Sanctuary where they will be hung for the enjoyment of all. The Joyous Alleluias and beautiful colors can be seen and enjoyed by everyone who attends our service. The children understand the difficult and heart-wrenching events of Holy Week which led to Jesus' death on our Earth. They also understand why we rejoice in the glorious events of Easter morning when God's son, Jesus, rose to Heaven to live forever with God.

– Mary Ellen Cochran



Ways to Help...

Help the Ukrainian People:

UNICEF - <https://www.unicefusa.org/>

Doctors Without Borders -

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/ukraine>

Voices of Children - www.voices.org.ua/en/

International Committee of the Red Cross - <https://icrc.org/en/donate/ukraine>

Save the Children - <https://support.savethechildren.org/>

UN Refugee Agency - <https://give.unrefugees.org/>

CARE - <https://my.care.org/>

International Medical Corps -

<https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/country/ukraine/>

Easter Basket Donation

All donations are due on Palm Sunday!
Please Contact Ella or Olivia for more details.

Here is the sign-up form to distribute:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e49a9ad22a4fe3-stjohns1>



Remember Our Homebound Members

Drop a card to our parish members who are homebound.

Alma Dickerson

461 E. Wing Rd.,
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858
989- 772-2516.

Sandy Wood

Prestige Centre
5785 E. Broadway Rd.,
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Fran Weaver

Comfort Care
1945 Churchill Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Joan Kadler

Crestwood
2378 S. Lincoln Apt.7
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-772-2803

Elliot Parker

1267 Masonic Ct.
Alma , MI 48801



April Birthdays

Adam Baker	4/3
Ezra Hart	4/5
Seth Hartshorne	4/7
Ralph Baber	4/8
Tom Cochrane	4/12
Margaret Kuhn	4/13
Jennifer Dingman	4/14
Ardent Hart	4/16
Megan Blackburn	4/22
Jaclynn Cosan	4/24
Alexander DeLong	4/24
Chirstopher DeLong	4/24
Pamela Dingman	4/29

St. John's Prayer Group

If you wish to add or remove names from the Prayer List, please call Sr. Diane Stier, 989- 807-0215, the church office, or email Pamela Dingman: padingman@hotmail.com. Thank you.



April Anniversaries

Steven Berkshire & Eileen Swinehart - 4/30/2004

Pastoral Care



Just a reminder: you should let the parish office know if you are ill and wish to receive a call from the Rector.

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for March 2022

Present: DJ Proctor, Tom Cochrane, Ella Jo Regan, Pat Thurston, Diane Stier, Olivia Ohler, Jerry May, Mary Kiesgen, Clancy Delong, Ulana Klymyshyn, Alice Ciccu, Jen Dingman (clerk)

Absent (excused): Nancy Herman-Kinney

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm

Pat led the opening prayer

Minutes from Feb 22 meeting, Feb 28 Special Meeting and notes from the Vestry retreat were reviewed. Clancy noted that Sam Raisanen should be added under the Administrative category on the vestry organization slide from the retreat. Changes made. Mary to accept with changes, Pat seconded. All minutes accepted.

St Johns Short and Long Term Goals

Alice led the discussion using the starting point created during the vestry retreat. The goal was to define and agree upon a couple of short and long term goals for St Johns. These goals can then be discussed during individual committee meetings to define strategy and tactics. Topic was reviewed from the beginning for Ulana's benefit since she was unable to attend retreat.

3 breakout groups took 2-3 values and then discussed and defined a short term goal and then the larger group came back together to discuss. After the review it was noted that we were running short on time so a special Vestry meeting was scheduled for Tues Mar 22 to discuss and finalize these goals.

Outreach

Easter Baskets – 2 families have been identified and specifics have been passed along to Laura.

Restoration House – There are currently 15-16 people in the shelter each day. St John's will host Mar 27 – Apr 2. Volunteer support has been great, most meals are set already just need a couple additional breakfasts and overnight volunteers. Ulana to write up a summary of what is needed.

We will have materials on hand to make small easter baskets to give to children residents if there are any.

Buildings & Grounds

Carpet - Jerry reported that the carpet is ready for installation. Decision needed on the color of the plastic edges that cover the edges of the runner in the church. Options were black or gray and unanimous vote for black.

Senior Warden's Report

Nancy was absent so nothing new to report

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for March 2022 continued...

Music & Liturgy

Space for alternative liturgy – the Goodrow office/classroom will be cleaned out on 3/23 in an effort to move things out of the chapel and get back to using that space for special services. Choir supplies will be moved into the classroom in the undercroft once it has been cleaned out. The choir will still be able to use the chapel for practice.

Choral Evensong - Scheduled for Sunday April 3rd at 5pm

Holy Week – below are the services that will be held

Maundy Thursday 7pm (with “vigil” in the chapel until 10pm)

Good Friday 12pm (in person) and Stations of the Cross 7pm (by Zoom)

Easter Vigil at 8pm beginning with the new fire outside in the garden. (Ford will make the fire.)

** candles for Easter Vigil will be made on Sat Mar 26 in the parish hall, all welcome to attend

Worship Committee – Pat noted that the first meeting will be held soon

Education

Episcopal 101 – great attendance. Have transitioned over to Baptism for Life

Children’s programs – Lenten Children’s series has been a huge success. This has drawn in new families.

Vestry Required Training – Safeguarding training and Dismantling Racism (will be presented after coffee hour on April 3rd). Safeguarding available online now.

Parish Life Social

Pancake Supper – was a big hit

Fellowship/Hospitality Committee - to begin planning additional activities for the parish

ICON Retreat – Fr. Peter Pearson will be at St Johns Sept 14 – 17 – making an angel icon.

Financial Report

Pledges are behind in Jan/Feb but March brought in \$18k in the first 2 weeks, on track. Funds for carpet were received. Mary made a motion to approve, Tom seconded. Financial report approved.

New Business

Church Next – Diane noted that she will be spending \$300 for a series of online courses through Church Next. The topics are vast including some that will be used for Baptism discussions and even acolyte training. Diane will be checking it out soon and reporting back.

Acolytes – Jen noted that Emma is no longer able to serve due to work and going away to school in the fall and Rex will not be able to serve from Memorial Day weekend until August. That only leaves Adam and Matthew so an effort to identify and train new acolytes is in our best interest.

Special meeting scheduled for Tues Mar 22 to finalize St Johns Goals and Objectives at 7pm

Next regular meeting set for Tuesday April 19, likely by Zoom.

Olivia made a motion to adjourn, DJ seconded, all approved.

Pat led the closing prayer and meeting was concluded at 8:58pm

February 2022 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of February (16.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 23,149.53	(12.71% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	30,965.43	(15.03% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (7,815.90)	

Pledge income is down 4%. Please verify that your pledge is up-to-date.

Clancy

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	49,055.09	
Savings	26,771.14	
Certificates of Deposit	16,075.50	
Endowment Fund	95,807.17	

Total	187,708.90	
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Cash Sources This Month

Traditional Giving	5,649.10	50.51%
Online Giving	5,534.77	49.49%

Total	11,183.87	100.00%
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Weekly Schedule:

Sunday 10AM: Holy Communion: In Person or [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)

Wednesday 10AM: [Church School by Zoom](#)

Wednesday 7PM: [Connections Conversations by Zoom](#)

Thursday 8PM: [Compline \(Night Prayer\) by Zoom](#)

Coffee Hour Schedule:

April 3rd	Christi, DJ, and Misha
April 10th	David & Jen Dingman
April 16th	Lynne L'Hommedieu
April 17th	Laura Cochrane
April 24th	Clancy & Pat DeLong

Lay Ministers:

Lectors

Prayers

April 3rd	Daniel Eichinger	David Kinney
April 10th	Mary Ellen, Nancy H, Derek	Tom Cochrane
April 14th	Barbara Sherperdigian	Renee Babcock
April 15th	Mary Kiesgen	Jeanne Maxon
April 16th	Carol, David K, Daniel E. Mary K.	Mary Ellen & Tom C.
April 17th	Anne Alton	Derek Rivard
April 24th	Tom Cochrane	Mary Ellen Cochrane

Greeters Schedule:

April 3rd	David & Jen Dingman
April 10th	Liz Brockman & Laura Cochrane
April 14th	Lynne L'Hommedieu & Jeanne Maxon
April 16th	Ford & Pamela Dingman
April 17th	David & Nancy Kinney
April 24th	Renee Babcock & Kathy Conlon

April Calendar

Sundays: 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24

10am Holy Communion
(In person, Facebook, & YouTube)
11:30am Baptism for Life
11:30am Children Sunday School

Mondays: 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25

Nothing on these days

Tuesdays: 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26

11am Yoga
with Judy
Office Closed

Wednesdays: 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27

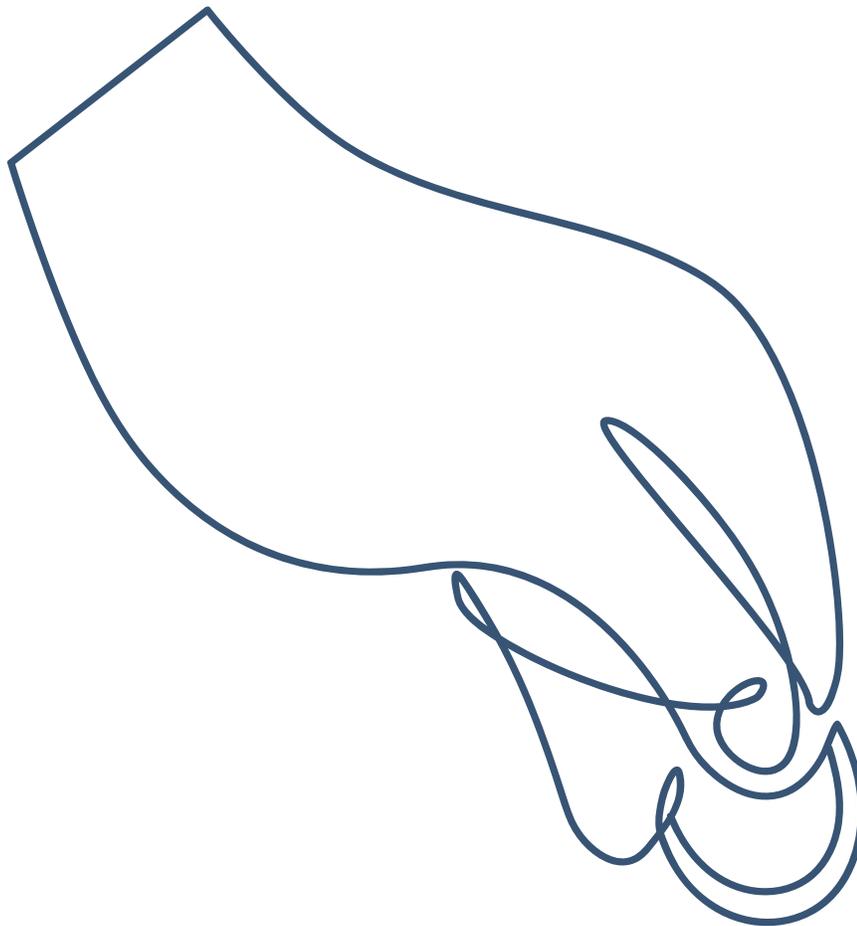
10am Church School
via Zoom
6pm Lenten Program
via Zoom
6pm Yoga with Judy

Thursdays: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28

8pm Compline
via Zoom
11am Yoga
with Judy
Office Closed

Fridays: 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29

Nothing on these days



Different ways to give...

We now have four different ways to give back to the church. You can now drop off at the church, mail your offer to the church, give through “Giving Tools”, and shop on Amazon. Here are the details on how to give:

- 1. You can come to the Church office and drop it through the mail slot.**
- 2. You can mail your offering to the Church, 206 W Maple, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858**
- 3. You can go to Giving tools and give one time or set up recurring donations from a credit card or bank account.**
- 4. You can sign up through Amazon Smile to make a donation when you spend money on Amazon, no extra spending involved!**

Saint John's Episcopal Church
206 West Maple Street Mt. Pleasant, MI
48858
Phone: 989-773-7448
Fax: 989-772-3480
E-mail: saintjohnsmp@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com

St. John's Mission:

St. John's Episcopal Church, with God's help and in the Episcopal Church tradition, lives to proclaim the Gospel of Christ by ministering through worship, outreach, fellowship and education. We welcome all who enter our doors, and we support the diverse callings of each member as we seek to serve Christ in every person.

Rector:

The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, 989-807-0215

Deacon Emeritus:

The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

2021 Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: Nancy Herman Kinney:

989-546-5424

Jr. Warden: Jerry May, 989-506-0373

Treasurer: Clancy DeLong, 989-400-6546

Co-Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu,

989-772-8340

Vestry Clerk: Jennifer Dingman,

989-488-7085

2021 Vestry Members

Tom Cochrane, 989-317-3561

Ulana Klymyshyn, 989-772-5616

Olivia Ohler, 989-317-3897

David Proctor, 989-772-7715

Ella Jo Regan, 989-772-3587

Mary Kiesgen, 989-773-6101

Pat Thurston, 517-303-1046

Organist:

Dennis Flynn, 231-359-2776

Choirmaster pro tempore:

Eric Vinciguerra, 989-289-6301