



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Vestry Meeting Minutes-8-9

St. John's April Calendar- 2 and 11

Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

And all around us, the glories of springtime are making themselves known. But we may only see the budding trees, feel the sun's warmth, notice the crocus and daffodil and johnny-jump-ups poking out if we leave the tombs of our dens and venture forth into the world around us.

And so it is with Easter. Mary encounters the Risen Christ because she dared face her grief and ventured to the tomb. The reluctant Peter and John see the empty tomb and wrappings left behind because they were told to come and see.

Ah! But the Risen Christ has more compassion for us than nature does at times. Even if and when we lock ourselves away in some upper room, Christ will find a way in – to proclaim “Peace” to us... and then to send us forth, in the power of the Spirit, to live out that which we profess...

Christ is Risen, indeed!

Have a blessed Eastertide!

Sr. Diane+

P.S. I will be gone the week of April 24-29. Stay out of trouble! ☺

Thoughtful Threads



**Thoughtful Threads will meet
Tuesday, April 18th 6:00 pm
in the Chapel at St. John's**

Bring your own projects and join us as we continue our contemplative, spiritual journey into the rich history and meaning of fiber arts.

This month we will continue exploring how our fiber and fabric projects connect us to the world around us, and how God flows from that work into the hearts of others.

In-Person Safe Church Training

In-person Safe church trainings will be held in the Parish Hall on:

Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00

Saturday, April 15 at 10:00

Sunday, April 16 after coffee hour

There is also a train-on-your-own web model that can be taken at any time. It can be found on the diocesan website.

If you are a Vestry member, work with a children's or adult ministry, or simply are interested in attending, *please register with Lara Raisanen for one of those sessions by Wednesday, March 15*. Training must be renewed every three years. If you choose to complete the web training module, or are attending one of the upcoming scheduled Zoom trainings, please let Sr Diane know.

What is Safe Church? It is a policy that is "intended to provide you with the tools and insights to take an active role in keeping our communities safe. They will give our communities a vocabulary for discussing the issues of sexual misconduct and harassment and assist in and teach all of us healthy boundaries and loving ways to interact with the children and other adults in our midst. This will further the crucial mission of transforming all of our churches into truly safe spaces for God's beloved children."



St John's Episcopal Mt Pleasant and The Great Lakes Loons

To once again celebrate St John's, summer and one of America's favorite past times, we are planning an afternoon baseball game at Dow Diamond, Midland, MI where The Great Lakes Loons play. The Great Lakes Loons are a local MiLB LA Dodgers Affiliate team. More info about The Loons and Dow Diamond can be found at www.milb.com/great-lakes.

On **Sunday June 11, 2023**, as part of Dow Diamonds Faith & Family Celebrations, The Loons will be playing the Lake County Captains starting at 1:05pm. Sunday games are special because every Sunday "Kids Eat for Free" and after the game finishes, kids can line up and run the bases.

We will have a luxury suite upstairs and tickets will be ~\$23/each as long as we hit the **minimum number of 30 attendees**. Please plan to attend and you can reserve your spot by either calling/emailing the office or call/email **Jennifer Dingman, (989) 488-7085** or djdingman@charter.net. A minimum number is required by April 15, 2023 so please reserve your spot today!



The NEW 2023 Altar Flower Calendar is posted in the Lantern across from the elevator. Please consider a Sunday that is a good date for you to honor or remember a loved one and sign up to provide altar flowers. Flowers are a wonderful addition to worship! You may use flowers from your garden or a store and arrange them yourself, or arrange with Elliot's or Norm's Florist to do arrangements and they will deliver to the church. Thank you!

Thank You!



THANK YOU to each and all!

Lectors and Intercessors, choir members, altar guild members, acolytes, greeters, those who beautified the sanctuary with flowers, those who livestreamed our services, those who contributed to the Easter Basket outreach and those who delivered them, all who prayed through the Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil, and Easter Sunday!

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for March 2023

Present: Diane Stier, Olivia Ohler, Jerry May, Clancy Delong, DJ Proctor, Nancy Herman-Kinney, Mary Kiesgen, Kevin Davidson, Lara Raisanen, Dan Eichinger, Jen Dingman (clerk)

Absent: Pat Thurston

Meeting called to order at 11:51 am. Diane led the group in an opening prayer.

Nancy suggested some rules to make the meetings run more efficiently and ensure that all topics can be covered in a timely manner.

Meeting minutes from Feb 12, 2023 were reviewed. Spelling correction to Dominic Crossan's name. Dan moved to accept the minutes with this correction, Olivia seconded. All approved.

Property Committee

- Security – 2 options presented to address the needs described during Feb meeting.
 - Solar powered motion detector lights – install them near the 2 lantern doors and this will provide lighting after dark for anyone coming through those doors and deter any persons with ill intentions. \$30-\$80/each and easy to install
 - 24-hour monitoring system like Simply Safe - \$300-\$400 for installation and ~\$1/day for 24-hour monitoring

There was some concern with the 24-hour monitoring system, not only cost but the need to have a St Johns member be always “on call” to deal with any issues. It was noted that this type of system may be overkill considering that there hasn't been a history of issues. Diane also noted that some groups/individuals who use the church require anonymity/discretion and that a camera system may be a concern. Vestry decided to investigate the motion sensor lighting and fixing the dysfunctional doors that started this conversion in Feb.

- Authorization to Spend – Topic revisited and Vestry decided that Jerry, as the head of Buildings & Grounds, already has authorization to spend within the B&G budget and for any purchases where there could be a question, consultation first with Senior Warden and then Vestry if needed. No motion needed.

Worship Committee

- Holy Week services
 - Palm Sunday Apr 2 10:00am – trial run of “old” altar placement
 - Help on Sun Mar 26 will be needed to move altars and arrange the front of the church
 - Maundy Thursday Apr 6, 7pm
 - Procession to the Garden of Repose (place where the host is held until the Good Friday service). The Chapel will be transformed into this space as it has been historically.
 - Vigil – sign-up sheet will be circulated to get volunteers to “Keep Watch” for as long as there are available people. Mary noted that this is such an important quiet time and that historically there have been many who have been willing to “Keep Watch” through the night.
 - Good Friday Apr 7, 12:00 pm and Stations of the Cross 3:00pm
 - Easter Vigil Apr 8, 8:00pm
 - Potentially 3 baptisms
 - Easter Sunday Apr 9, 10:00am
 - No coffee hour
- Evensong
 - Sunday Mar 19, 4pm
 - Sunday Apr 23, 4pm
- Family Potluck + Worship service moved to May 20
 - Planned in the Chapel/Undercroft, Parish Hall already reserved that day

Outreach Committee

- Easter baskets – Olivia has reached out to the shelter for families.
 - Since Easter is close to ICRH, it was suggested that we have Easter goodies for our guests as well as our homebound parishioners
- Restoration House Mar 26 – Apr 2
 - Privacy concerns – short term fixes to block the Parish Hall windows can be made, privacy within the Parish Hall for each individual will be harder to address and won't be possible before Mar 26. Ideas for this are being considered for implementation before Nov 2023 so that St Johns can host the entire shelter need base of 30-40 people

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for March 2023

- ICRH Fundraiser Sat Apr 15, 5pm, Sacred Heart Parish Hall, \$30 per person or \$240 per table
 - Dinner, Fellowship and Paddle Auction
 - St Johns asked to put together a basket for the auction
 - St Johns will purchase a table
- Campus Ministry – Recital scheduled Mar 25, 3:00pm, St Johns
 - “Open Mic” format plus a reception
- Good News Garden – seeds have been purchased and will be started this week at Emmaus
- Care Packages for St John’s college students – letting our students know that they are still part of St Johns
 - 4 students currently; Emma, Matthew, Matthew and Zach
 - Nancy and Jen to put something together

Education Committee

- Safe Church training – there are still many who haven’t committed to a date. Lara is keeping the list and Mekeila is keeping the completion certificates in the office.
- Diocese Sunday School Curriculum – Mary Ellen likes the Lenten series and after completion of the 6-week curriculum, she will provide her recommendation for purchasing the full year curriculum. With the Diocesan subsidy, the cost would be ~\$1.50/child for the full year.
- Vacation Bible School – It was noted that beginning in 2023 may be a stretch given the work that goes into planning and execution so the goal is to put together a program to start in 2024. Lara noted that this is a great opportunity to not only support our Parish youth but also others in the community to carry out our mission and grow the church.

Parish Life/Social Committee

- 2023 Loons Game – Sunday June 11, 2023, 1:05pm EST, Dow Diamond, Faith & Family Day

Administrative Committee

- Budget looks good, expenses still down, nothing out of the ordinary to report.
- Endowment fund move from Isabella Bank & Trust to the new Diocese investment fund has been completed.

Senior Warden Report

- In the essence of time, the discussion regarding the salaries of the Organist and Choir Director will be tabled until April meeting.

Rector's Report

- College for Congregational Development – Diane, Jillian Davidson and Lara Raisanen will attend
- Website updated needed, will be discussed during April meeting.
- Diocesan Clergy Retreat – May 16 – 18, Diane will be away
- Diocese is supporting local Pride celebrations by providing funds needed to sponsor events, Ulana was noted as the individual who may know best what is planned in Isabella County and how to get involved. Diane wants to take full advantage of this support.

New Business

- Digital sign – 2 new quotes received, committee decided to go with the Mega Technology quote.
 - \$22,000 (does not include electrical work and any brick work that may be needed to harmonize the sign with the church's exterior)
 - There are still some decisions to be made here but, in an effort to make a final decision and begin planning for implementation by July 1 (date by which we are obligated to spend the Whitmore Grant funds received in 2022), Dan suggested that all necessary details be vetted through email and a final vote to take place at Apr Vestry meeting.

Next meeting April 16, 2023 (moved from April 9 due to Easter holiday)

Diane led the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm

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

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 43,282.40 (21.92% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	36,330.07 (16.63% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ 6,952.33

Estimated giving amounts are up this month due to several parishioners paying their entire estimated giving amount in February.

In February, we moved our Endowment Fund from Isabella Bank to The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan Diocesan Investment Fund. This fund includes the diocese’s funds and the endowment funds of several other churches in our diocese. With the merging of funds, we paying less on service fees and expect to see a higher return. The new fund is managed by State Street Global Advisors and we will follow the same investment strategy and the Diocese. We will receiving quarterly reports showing our portion of the gains/losses based on out percentage of assets in the account.

Special projects:

External Sign Upgrade: The sign committee is evaluating proposals from Stewart Signs and Mega LED Technology. Grants and funds collected account for \$13,917.17 being raised to date.

Columbarium Expansion: We are waiting for spring for the installation of our columbarium expansion. If you are interested in a niche, please contact Pamela Dingman for more information.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	65,142.11
Savings	26,784.53
Certificates of Deposit	16,099.63
Endowment Fund	90,161.49
Total	<u>198,187.76</u>

Cash Sources This Month

Traditional Giving	28,275.50	82.50%
Online Giving	5,996.91	17.50%
Total	<u>34,272.41</u>	100.00%



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
2812 Weatherwood St.
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

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

Nancy Fulton
1945 Churchill Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Joan Kadler
Crestwood
2378 S. Lincoln
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-772-2803

Elliott Parker
Crestwood
2378 S. Lincoln
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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:
paddingman@hotmail.com.
Thank you.



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.



April Birthdays

Adam Baker	04/03
Ezra Hart	04/05
Seth Hartshorne	04/07
Ralph Baber	04/08
Tom Cochrane	04/12
Jennifer Dingman	04/14
Margaret Kuhn	04/13
Ardent Hart	04/16
Megan Blackburn	04/22
Jaclynn Cosan	04/24
Alexander DeLong	04/24
Christopher DeLong	04/24
Pamela Dingman	04/29



Steven Berkshire & Eileen Swinehart 04/30

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 2	David & Nancy Kinney
April 9	No coffee hour
April 16	David & Jennifer Dingman
April 23	DJ Proctor & Christi Brookes
April 30	Clancy & Patricia DeLong

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
April 2	Jeanne Maxon	
April 9	Barbara Shepardigian	Jennifer Dingman
April 16	Jennifer Dingman	Kip Cosan
April 23	Tom Cochrane	Barbara Shepardigian
April 30	Derek Rivard	Kevin Davidson

Greeters Schedule:

April 2	Tom & Mary Ellen Cochrane
April 9	David & Jennifer Dingman
April 16	The Davidson Family
April 23	Ford & Pamela Dingman
April 30	The Eichinger Family

April Calendar

**Sundays: 04/02, 04/09, 04/16,
04/23, 04/30**

10am Holy Communion
(In person, Facebook, &
YouTube)

**Mondays: 04/03, 04/10, 04/17,
04/24**

6:30 pm G.A.

**Tuesdays: 04/04, 04/11,
04/18, 04/25**

11am Tai Chi with Judy

**Wednesdays: 04/05, 04/12, 04/19,
04/26**

10am Church School
via Zoom

6pm Yoga with Judy

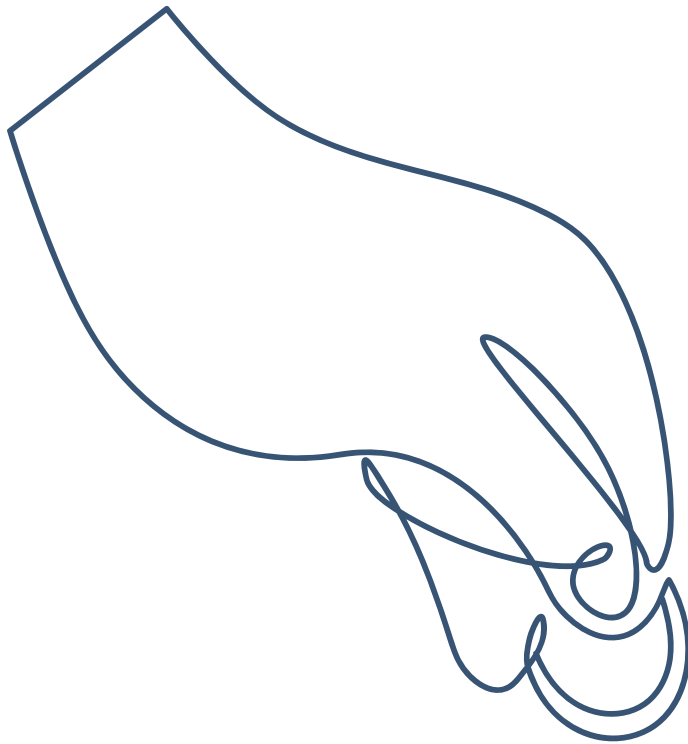
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

**Thursdays: 04/06, 04/13, 04/20,
04/27**

11am Tai Chi with Judy
8pm Compline via Zoom

**Fridays: 04/07, 04/14,
04/21, 04/28**

Nothing on these days
Office Closed



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 offering 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.

Scan this QR Code with your phone camera to be taken directly to the Giving Tools website.



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
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Phone: 989-773-7448

Fax: 989-772-3480

E-mail: saintjohnsmp@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com

Facebook: [St. John's Mount Pleasant](#)

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

Organist:

Dennis Flynn

Choirmaster pro tempore:

Eric Vinciguerra

2023 Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: Dr. Nancy Herman-Kinney

Jr. Warden: Jerry May

Treasurer: Clancy DeLong

Co-Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu,

Vestry Clerk: Jennifer Dingman

2023 Vestry Members

David Proctor

Mary Kiesgen

Olivia Ohler

Pat Thurston

Kevin Davidson

Lara Raisanen

Dan Eichinger