



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

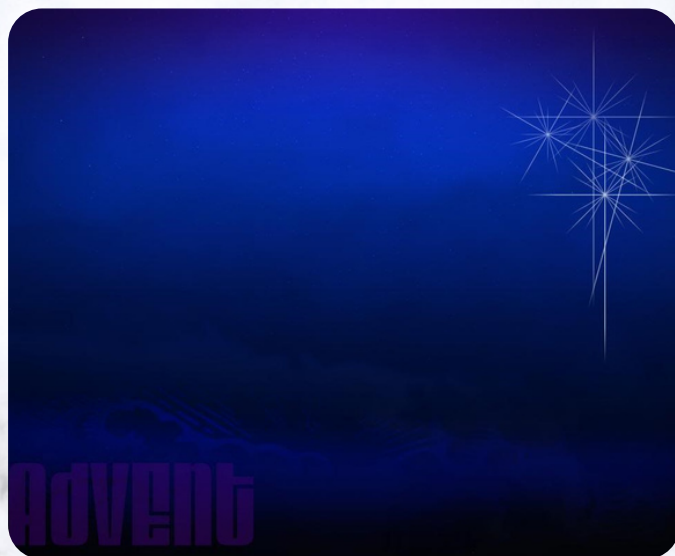
News About Possible Juncture-12

Vestry Meeting Minutes-13-15

St. John's December Calendar- 19

Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

Deep blue...the color of the sky as it turns from night to dawn...



This is the color of Advent – a season, for us in the northern hemisphere, that begins in the deep darkness and carries us just past the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. This is the color that carries us and all the world's angst into the silence of waiting for the dawn. This is the color that bears the weight of darkness, but carries within it the hope of the light to come, and the promise of joy in seeing that Light.

Put together an Advent wreath for yourself... or light one candle in the darkness. Sing out your longing for the long night to be over: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" Sing out our world's need for the Incarnate God: "Someone's crying, Lord. Come by here..."

Pray for eyes and hearts open to the Holy already in our midst, and yet still and always coming.

Have a most blessed Advent...

Sr. Diane+

Art Spirit

St John's Episcopal Church Art Show

506 S. Washington

Mt Pleasant, MI

Dec 1st, noon – 6 pm

Dec 2nd, 10 am – 4 pm

-
- Pottery
 - Digital Art
 - Photography
 - Mixed Media
 - Jewelry
 - Fiber Arts
 - Painting
 - Original Cards
 - Journals



"St. John's Episcopal Church announces its first annual art show, "Art Spirit", to be held on December 1st from noon – 6 and December 2nd from 10-4 in the parish hall at 206 W. Maple Street. Local St. John's church artists and friends will display their works for sale. Come and see paintings, digital art, ceramic gifts, textiles, jewelry and other handmade items for sale in time for the holidays. Have your face painted in the holiday spirit.



*Join us for a reception for the
Art Spirit artists
Friday
December 01, 2023
6-8 pm
St. Johns Parish Hall
Family and friends of artists
invited!*

There is a special reception on December 1st from 6 - 8 pm to celebrate the arts for all church members and artists' friends. The St. John's Art Spirit show is designed to support local artists and the arts in Mt. Pleasant, and to help bring the holiday spirit to the Mount Pleasant community. Help us promote the show by forwarding the event flyer to your friends.

Expanding Our Understanding

On December 3 and 10, join in a St. John's coffee hour discussion of Judaism and Islam, focused on religious practice. On December 3, Kelly Murphy, professor of religion at CMU, will present on Judaism.

On December 10, Laura Cochrane, professor of anthropology at CMU, will present on Islam. Both will be short presentations with time for questions and discussion afterward.



Please join us for a candlelight festival of
Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 10, 2023, 5:00 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church

Reception will follow in the Parish Hall





Our “second service” in December will be “Supper Church” on Sunday, December 17, at 4 pm. We will start with a shared meal (potluck) in the parish hall. (We will have rotisserie chicken as one main dish that I provide!) – Then we will celebrate Eucharist around the same tables where we have shared supper. This was how we celebrated Canadian Thanksgiving and our Indigenous Peoples Day Eucharist – and it seemed to work very well. – Hope to see you there!

-Sr. Diane+

WORSHIP LEADER TRAININGS

Opportunities in 2024 for lay leaders seeking licensing



Have you felt the tiny nudging of God to be a part of putting together and officiating powerful and transformative lay-led liturgies? Have you heard that tiny whispering to learn more about leading worship? Have you been invited by your church to become a licensed Lay Worship Leader? Or perhaps you've been a licensed Worship Leader for a while and you're looking to expand your knowledge and capacities?

Here's your chance! Our office of Adult Formation will offer several opportunities for training in 2024.

Licenses are sometimes perceived as an administrative burden at best and a means of gatekeeping at worst. We see them, however, as an important opportunity to demonstrate the importance of a ministry and the work people are doing by investing time and resources into ensuring they are properly equipped and recognized for what they do.

Worship Leaders are laity who regularly lead public worship in the absence of clergy. Training for this license takes place at the diocesan level or in another setting pre-approved by the Canon for Adult Formation. Individuals seeking renewal (EM - Advent 2026, WM - Advent 2027) are expected to participate in continuing education.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

In the Spirit of Giving?

R·I·S·E
RECOVERY, INDEPENDENCE, SAFETY & EMPOWERMENT
Advocacy

Donation Drive

DEC. 1ST - JAN. 8TH

Our shelter is *always* in need of personal care items for the women and children in our shelter. These items help our clients carry on with normal, healthy living while in shelter. This is why we are hosting a donation drive for businesses in Gratiot, Clare and Isabella counties!

We are looking for donations of personal care and hygiene products. We recommend: hair care products (shampoo, conditioner, oils, hair brushes, etc.) for women and children, body wash (for women & children), period products, lotion, hand soap, q-tips, loofahs, washcloths, razors, shaving cream, and more!

If your organization is interested in participating, please contact Jessie for more information at jschrot@riseadvocacy.org



Please Join

the *eye* site

By participating in a Holiday
food drive that directly benefits
the

ISABELLA COMMUNITY
Soup Kitchen

Please donate your non-perishable goods to the designated drop
box located in the entrance way of our office anytime between
November 20th through December 20th. Goods will be donated to the
Soup Kitchen on December 21st.

the *eye* site

ISABELLA COMMUNITY
Soup Kitchen

Wish List:

Spaghetti Sauce
Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatoes
Beans – kidney, black, red, pinto, etc
Corn
Green Beans
Diced or sliced carrots
Mushrooms
Sweet Potatoes
Peach Slices
Pear slices
Pineapple Chunks
Mixed Fruit/Fruit Cocktail

Wish List:

Mandarin Oranges
Applesauce
Sliced Ripe Olives
Pickle Relish
Ketchup
Mustard
Mayonnaise or Salad Dressing
Oil – Olive, Vegetable
Vinegar – White, Cider, Red Wine
Cheddar Cheese/Nacho Sauce
Barbeque Sauce
Salsa – Mild
Pesto

the *eye* site

ISABELLA COMMUNITY
Soup Kitchen

Wish List:

Soups – Any variety
Rice – Brown or White
Pasta – Any kind
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Tuna or Chicken
Coffee
Tea Bags
Creamers – Non dairy in shakers or
packets
Fruit Punch or Lemonade Mix
Pan Spray

Wish List:

Crackers – Saltine, Ritz, etc
Chips – Potato and tortilla
Flour
Sugar – White and Brown
Pickle Slices – Gallon jars
Salt
Pepper





2023 Christmas Flowers & Greens

We are asking for contributions for flowers to decorate the church and enhance our worship. These contributions may be made as a memorial, in honor of, or as a thank offering and will be included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

Envelopes will be available in the church and must be placed in the offering plate or in the church office by Friday, December 17th in order to be recognized in the bulletin. You may also donate online using the online giving method [here](#).



Diocesan Report - Juncture Information



The Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan have been in a Season of Practice, working together and even sharing staff, for several years. This was done to discern what a juncture (merging) of the two dioceses would look like. In early 2020, right before Covid changed everything, our two dioceses formed a [Building Bridges Steering Committee](#).

In March, our parish will send two delegates and Sr Diane to a special called convention to vote on this juncture. If you would like to weigh in on this momentous, historic decision, there are several opportunities to learn more about juncture - what it means, what might be good or bad about the decision, and how being a part of a new diocese will affect St. John's.

Here is the [2023 report](#) from the Building Bridges Steering Committee. I encourage you to click through, to read what the members of the steering committee presented at Convention in October. Additionally, under "[Previous Communications](#)" from the link above you can find every report Building Bridges has issued.

In preparation for upcoming zoom information and question sessions, [Building Bridges published a FAQ](#). If you can attend one of these zoom sessions, please do so:

- [Tuesday, December 5th, 2:00 PM](#)
- [Tuesday, December 5th, 7:00 PM](#)
- [Saturday, December 9th, 10:00 AM](#)

Also, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to [contact me directly](#). We will have an all-parish meeting after coffee hour on January 14. If you cannot attend church in person, there will be the option to zoom into this meeting.

Thank you for taking such an active interest in our diocesan life.

Lara Raisanen

Vice Chair

EDWM Diocesan Council

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for October 2023

Present: Diane Stier, Olivia Ohler, Pat Thurston (Zoom), DJ Proctor, Mary Kiesgen, Kevin Davidson (Zoom), Dan Eichinger, Clancy Delong, Alice Ciccu, Jerry May, Jen Dingman (clerk)

Absent: Nancy Herman-Kinney, Lara Raisanen

Meeting called to order at 11:42am. Pat led the group in an opening prayer. Alice lead the meeting at Diane's request.

Minutes from Sept 17, 2023, monthly Vestry meeting were reviewed and there was 1 noted correction. Mary moved to approve the minutes; DJ seconded. All approved.

Rector's Report

- Fall Bonfire was a success
 - Indigenous People Day banquet in the Parish Hall was also a success. Had 23 St John's attendees. Planning to open it up to more people in 2024.
- St Johns has a lot of home bound parishioners, a big thanks to Pat and Mary for bringing communion to them and making them feel still part of our parish.
- Thanksgiving Day service will be held at 9am as we have historically
- All Saints Day – Wed 11/1/23
- Convention Oct 27-29th – Diane, Christi Brookes, Nancy Herman-Kinney and Lara Raisanen will be attending. St Johns Postulates will also be in attendance.

Property Committee

- Painting was completed, dormers still need to be finished.
- Snow removal bid from Dale in – \$35/ Removal. Jerry noted the consistent job that Dale does and would like to give him a bit more than he bid. \$35/removal does not adequately account for his time. Olivia made a motion to award a bid to Dale in the amount of \$50/removal. Jerry seconded. All approved.
- Kevin presented some research on security cameras that St Johns could employ to protect the new sign once it's in and operational. Vestry asked Kevin to summarize the options presented and then we will revisit the topic next meeting or as needed.

Worship Committee

- Art Show: Dec 1-2
 - 12 - 8pm Friday (6-8pm reception), 10am – 6pm on Saturday
 - Space for up to 15 artists and booth fee is \$75
 - 9 committed thus far, 6 from St Johns and 3 non-St Johns members
 - Not actively recruiting more to ensure that all stations are in the Parish Hall or in the Lantern. More exposure that way and easier for attendees to see everything all in one place.
- United Thank Offering
 - Pat to write something up for the bulletin
 - Sun 11/19 will be the in-gathering

Outreach Committee

- Announcement will go in the bulletin for Thanksgiving Baskets. Going to include household cleaning products as well
- St Johns is now a referral center for The Care Store

Human Resources

- Organist job description is posted, only 1 applicant so far from CMU
- Will keep options open to pianists that can also temporarily play while the search continues
- Mary and Clancy both will be active in the search

Administrative Committee

- \$3,000 in the red, a flip from last month, not concerning
- Sept was the lowest month for receipts in a long time, is the lack of an organist affecting attendance?
- Organist salary and Diocesan suggested staff salary increases need to be considered
- Any new budget items to Clancy by next meeting.
- Diane writing a letter for the stewardship committee to highlight the work that the hands of St Johns accomplish

- 2 motions needed
 - Add Jim Thurston as signatory for the St Johns safe deposit box and accounts
 - Mary made a motion, Olivia seconded. All approved. Documents signed.
 - Allocate funds from the Rummage Sales to the Rector's Discretionary Fund
 - Mary made a motion, Olivia seconded. All approved.
- Spring Project List to be included in the budget
- Speaker in the Nursery needs to be installed so that anyone in there can hear the service.
Clancy will reach out to Steve Roth

Education Committee

No report

News from The Diocese

- No report in Lara's absence

Parish Life/Social Committee

- Scheduling for the 2024 Great Lakes Loons outing is underway

Senior Warden Report

No report in Nancy's absence

New Business

- New sign installation is underway, electrical work is next
- St John's Playbook is almost finished, just waiting on a couple last pieces
- Homeless Shelter planning is underway and it is likely that they will have a permanent facility sometime in 2024. This may be the last rotating shelter
 - St John dates
 - Nov 12 – 19
 - Mar 17 – 24
- Ulana has suggested that we create a new outreach to try and get back to doing some of the things that The Goodrow Fund used to do. Ulana to send a proposal to the Vestry for consideration at the next meeting.

Next meeting Sunday November 19, 2023

Pat led the closing prayer. Olivia made a motion to adjourn, Jen seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm

October 2023 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of October (83.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 170,776.17 (86.49% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	160,396.35 (82.16% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (8,708.92)

Income is once down once again for October.

The Stewardship Campaign will be under way when you read this. Please take into consideration the requested increase when you submit your estimated giving amounts this year.

Please confirm that your estimated giving amounts for 2023 are up to date.

*Great News! An anonymous donation for \$10,000 has been pledged to our digital sign.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	34,406.39
Certificate of Deposit #1	44,014.83
Certificate of Deposit #2	20,198.64
Endowment Fund	91,385.57
Total	<u>190,005.43</u>



Remember Our
Homebound Members
Drop a card to our parish
members who are homebound.

Sandy Wood
2812 Weatherwood St.
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

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

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

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

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: pamela.dingman@gmail.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.



December Birthdays

Lois Klumpp	12/02
Andy Brockman	12/04
Diane Benn	12/06
Jim Thurston	12/08
Elliott Parker	12/13
James Wilson	12/13
Mary Ellen Cochrane	12/19
Harriett White	12/24
Doris Sherwood	12/25
Patricia DeLong	12/30



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:

December 3	Clancy & Patricia DeLong
December 10	Elizabeth Brockman
December 17	David & Jennifer Dingman
December 24 (10am)	No Coffee Hour
December 24 (5pm)	No Coffee Hour
December 25 (10am)	No Coffee Hour
December 31 (10am)	No Coffee Hour

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
December 3	Kip Cosan	Sharon Bolton
December 10	David Kinney	Jennifer Dingman
December 17	Dan Eichinger	Jeanne Maxon
December 24 (10am)	Jim Thurston	Kip Cosan
December 24 (5pm)	Jennifer Dingman	Jennifer Dingman
December 25 (10am)	Dan Eichinger	Dan Eichinger
December 31 (10am)	Ulana Klymyshyn	Ulana Klymyshyn

Greeters Schedule:

December 3	The Eichinger Family
December 10	David & Jennifer Dingman
December 17	Ford & Pamela Dingman
December 24 (10am)	Mary Stewart Kiesgen
December 24 (5pm)	Rex & Emma Dingman
December 25 (10am)	The Eichinger Family
December 31 (10am)	

December Calendar

**Sundays: 12/03, 12/10, 12/17,
12/24, 12/31**

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

**Mondays: 12/4, 12/11, 12/18,
12/25**

6:30PM GA

**Tuesdays: 12/05, 12/12,
12/19, 12/26**

11am Tai Chi with Judy

**Wednesdays: 12/06, 12/13, 12/20,
12/27**

10am Church School
via Zoom

6pm Choir Practice

7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

**Thursdays: 12/07, 12/14, 12/21,
12/28**

11am Tai Chi with Judy

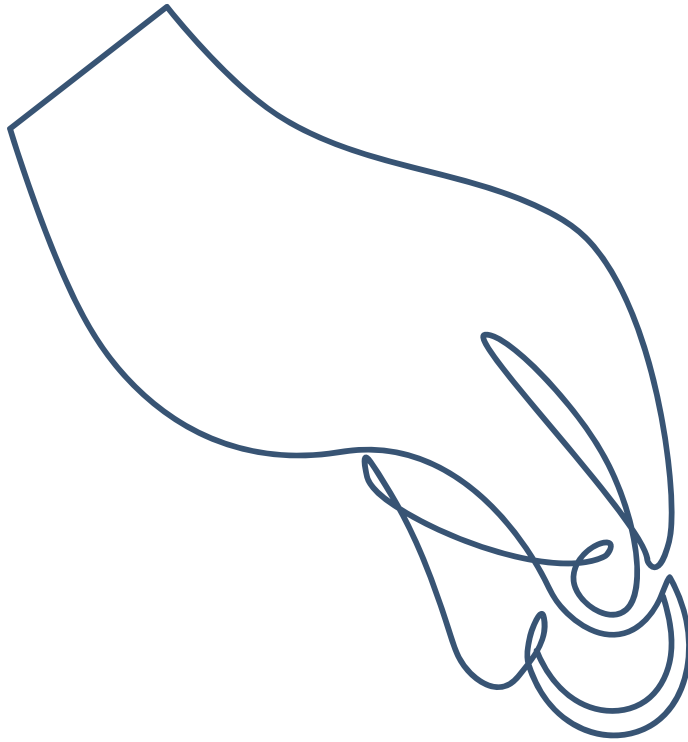
6pm Tai Chi with Judy

8pm Compline via Zoom

**Fridays: 12/08, 12/15,
12/22, 12/29**

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 offer to the church, or give through “Giving Tools.” 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 give online by visiting the Giving Tools link on our website, or by scanning the QR code below.



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

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:

Choirmaster:

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