



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

February is upon us! The weather outside may be frigid, but you can warm your hearts by joining us for the VALENTINE-MAKING PARTY on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 2-4:30 PM. Then you can also warm the hearts of others by sending those and other Valentines to folks who might need a little pick-me-up – including our home-bound parishioners. (The list with addresses is elsewhere in this and every Evangel.)


Then get ready to enjoy another community celebration at the Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday February 21st (the day before Ash Wednesday). Come for pancakes and sausage and a special cake – wear fun hats and beads and be a little silly!

Our Ash Wednesday liturgies on February 22 will be at noon and 6pm. I will also be offering Ashes to Go – possibly outside the Wesley Center on campus (near the corner of Washington and Preston) where we did this last year.

As we move into Lent toward the end of the month, I urge you not to think of what you might give up – but instead what practice you might take up during this season. Come to the Wednesday night Lenten series on Zoom (more info below). Begin or continue praying Morning and Evening Prayer (<https://dailyoffice.app/> or <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/>). Send a card to a fellow parishioner or someone you have been out of touch with. Instead of “giving up” cookies, make some cookies to give away! Fast from that which separates you from others, pray for those you find hard to love, give of your time and your heart.

Have a blessed Lent!

Sr. Diane+



**Be My Valentine Making Party
with Blessing of the Valentines Service**

Reminder that St. John's is having a Valentines making party at the Parish house on Saturday, February 4th from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. The cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. If you have not signed up yet, please call Pat Thurston at 517-303-1046.

Lenten Series - 2023

March 1, 8, 15, 22

Soup, bread, and fruit at 6:30PM in the Parish Hall, followed by the videos beginning at 7PM each Wednesday. (Also available on Zoom beginning at 7PM.)

March 29 - Wrap-up discussion of the series **ON ZOOM ONLY!**

The Easter Stories: Celebrating, Questioning, and Explaining the Easter Stories – a series of four videos with John Dominic Crossan – a noted scripture scholar and the co-author (with Marcus Borg) of *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*.

Each week, we will have a visual lecture from Crossan guiding us through the Easter stories, followed by a chance for discussion.

- 1. Metaphors for Jesus' Exaltation**
- 2. The Western Tradition of Individual Resurrection**
- 3. The Eastern Tradition of Universal Resurrection**
- 4. Reconciliation of Eastern & Western Resurrection Traditions**

Thoughtful Threads



Thoughtful Threads will meet on February 20th at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. Yarnists, weavers, embroiderers, quilters, sewists... whether you've decades of experience or just want to learn how, join us! This is a space to learn, to focus on our projects, to socialize, and to celebrate these ancient arts. All are welcome.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

St. John's Episcopal Church

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Beginning at 6:30pm

206 W. Maple Street

Mt. Pleasant



Join us to celebrate "Fat Tuesday" with
pancakes, sausage and a special dessert

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."

Diocesan Decisions: Feedback Wanted!

Currently, the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan are in a joint Season of Practice, thinking about a closer relationship and potentially merging together. We share some staff (including our Bishop) with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan right now, and when new Canon Missioners are hired, we will share even more staff, both Ecclesiastical and Administrative. A bi-diocesan committee called **Building Bridges** is on a listening tour to hear our thoughts on our shared staff and on working more closely together. They are asking the following four questions, and our Weekly Connection group met to discuss them on February 1. The conversation will continue February 8, or you can send your own feedback to **Lara Raisanen**, our Diocesan Council representative:

1. How can Diocesan staff, committees, and commissions support your parish in living into its ministry and mission?
2. Looking forward, what do you think is critical to the growth and health of both Dioceses' mission and ministries during the next 5-10 years?
3. What excites and/or concerns you about moving into a closer relationship / potentially merging with the other Diocese?
4. Moving forward, what successes would you like to see our two Dioceses build upon, and what challenges or obstacles should be prioritized?

The Weekly Connection group discussed the first two questions this week, and will discuss the last two next Wednesday. Here is a summary of their conversation; please add your voice if you feel called to do so:

Overall, we want responsiveness from Diocesan staff. Naturally, our parish wants to see our Bishop and feel his Ecclesiastical presence. Canon Anne has been a great help to our parish, and we want our next Canon Missioner to know our parish equally as well and be available as she has been. As for administrative staff, we want timely responses to communications, and assistance when required. Some examples: Ecclesiastically, we want recognition of individual parish traditions, the freedom to be ourselves (as ecclesiastically appropriate), and the help to be authentically Episcopalian. Administratively, we want timely help to access opportunities from the larger church, communication about Diocesan business, and for all parishes to be treated with equal importance. We want to be able to share resources with other congregations, and be provided the mechanisms to facilitate those relationships.

On Sunday, January 29th during coffee hour, our parish discussed the map options presented for new Canon Missioner regions. It was a lively and engaged conversation, and our parish had a clear preference for the map option which keeps congregations in geographically-delineated regions. Our questions and feedback have been sent to the Diocesan staff coordinating this process. Again, if anyone has additional feedback or questions, they can contact Lara. She will be part of the bi-Diocesan Council conversation and vote on these maps at the next joint meeting later in February.



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!

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for January 2023

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

Excused: Dan Eichinger

Meeting called to order at 1:03 pm.

2023 Meetings will be in person on the second Sunday of each month after coffee hour.

Nancy Herman-Kinney has agreed to serve as the Senior Warden. Pat moved that Nancy be elected as Senior Warden. Kevin seconded and all approved.

Jerry May agreed to serve as Junior Warden for 2023.

Jen Dingman agreed to serve as the Clerk. Mary moved that Jen be elected as Clerk. DJ seconded, all approved.

Next meeting Sunday February 12th after coffee hour.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm

Minutes of Annual Meeting January 2023

2023 Annual Meeting

January 15, 2023

******This meeting was conducted in person and by Zoom for any who were unable to make it in person.

Meeting called to order at 11:30am

Opening prayer was lead by members of The Vestry

Election of Clerk

Jen Dingman was nominated as clerk and approved by acclamation.

Agenda

Diane reviewed the agenda and noted some time built in for unlisted items brought forward by the congregation.

2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting made by Pat, seconded by Christi. All approved.

Nominations for Vestry

Diane reviewed the vestry term rules and requirements as well as existing vestry terms, which terms had ended and which members are eligible for reelection. There are 3 empty spots that currently need to be filled. Dan Eichinger was serving the remaining months of Nancy Herman-Kinney's term and is eligible to stand for his own term and has agreed to do so if elected. Ulana brought forward 2 additional nominees, Lara Raisanen and Kevin Davidson. No other nominees were made. Tom made a motion to elect Dan, Lara and Kevin by acclamation, Kendall seconded, all approved. Diane noted that the Vestry should stay after the meeting for a couple of min to decide on 2023 meeting times and to elect a Clerk and Senior Warden.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

2022 Delegates were Nancy Herman-Kinney and Christi Brookes. Christi gave a summary of her experience at the 2022 Convention and noted what a wonderful event it was. Diane asked for nominees to serve as Delegates for 2023. Nancy and Christi self-nominated. Diane asked for alternates, 2-3 needed. Lara nominated Sam and there was a brief discussion about the requirements to serve as a delegate and if Sam would qualify. Lara read the applicable Canon and Kevin suggested that we accept Sam as an alternate nominee based on his confirmed participation in spiritual communion. Clancy and Adam were nominated as alternates as well. Tom moved to accept Nancy and Christi as the 2023 Convention Delegates and Sam, Clancy and Adam as the alternates. Alice seconded, all approved.

Unfinished Business

During COVID, St Johns had several important events that weren't fully recognized and celebrated and Diane wanted to include those in the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Celebration of the retirement of Nancy Fulton – Deacon

Celebration of the retirement of David Shirley – Verger

The Parish presented each of them with framed certificates that noted their contributions to St Johns during their appointment.

Statistical Report

David Shirley presented the 2022 Statistical Report. Several highlights he noted were the fact that the 2022 attendance numbers include both in-person and online attendees but the online attendees is just the number of connected devices which might not accurately reflect the number of attendees. There was a discussion on whether having an accurate count affects anything important like tangible/financial and the answer was no. Jim noted that in the future if an accurate count is desired, there could be a process for online connections to note how many people were participating. Thanks to Eric for his service to provide St Johns with wonderful music. Thanks to Nancy, Mary and Pat for doubling the number of home communions and thank you to David for keeping the church statistics.

Senior Warden Report

Nancy thanked everyone for their contributions to St Johns despite the challenges and uncertainties of 2022 and noted that this Parish is truly guided by the Holy Spirit. Diane thanked Nancy for her service as Senior Warden as her term is ending and her report.

Rector's Report

Diane thanked God for all of us and how it makes it possible for each of us to do what God is asking you to do. Examples include the Good News Garden and COVID "Coffee Hour to go."

She noted that the College for Congregational Development will take place in Midland, MI starting this year July 23 – 28th, 2023 and the second week will be hosted in 2024. Each parish is allowed to send a team of 2-3 people plus the Rector and the cost is \$900/team. One individual has already come forward to participate on that team. David asked who is paying for this and it was noted that the funds could be pulled from the remaining Christian Spirituality funds and the Diocese is subsidizing the remaining \$600/person.

Diane thanked everyone who made the Campus Ministry creation possible. Lara and Liz wrote the grant proposal based on the desire to develop and expand the already existing Choral Scholar program. Grant approvals will be communicated in February. Liz has graciously agreed to be the Chaplain for that program if successful.

Minutes of Annual Meeting January 2023

Discussion about the “What’s next with the Diocese” Listening Sessions. In person event at Holy Family Church in Midland on Sunday Jan 22 and additional virtual sessions will be scheduled. These sessions will give details of what is being discussed for the potential joining of the Eastern and Western Diocese. Diane encouraged everyone to attend a session.

Safeguarding Gods People training is now required for anyone who serves individuals in the Parish, also required for The Vestry. 3 options in March that will be live streamed and Diane suggested that one of these sessions could be viewed in the Parish Hall. Each person needs to be recertified every 3 years and David will send the dates.

Diane closed with a comment issued by Bishop Singh during his visit to St Johns, “Expect Great Things from God and Attempt Great Things for God.”

Financial Report

Clancy presented his financial report. “We have heat and the lights are on so we must be doing ok.” Things of note in 2022. Paid off the “Under One Roof” mortgage, secured funds for a new digital sign, fixed the Rectory Foundation and too many more to mention. David thanked Clancy for his diligent efforts to secure the financial security of the Parish during the pandemic by pursuing things like the Employee Retention Tax Credit, etc. Adam moved to accept the 2022 financial report. Liz seconded, all approved.

2024 Annual Meeting will be on Jan 21st, 2024.

Pat led the closing prayer.

Lara moved to adjourn, Adam seconded, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:53pm



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

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

Yvette Crandell
110 Apricot Lane
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



February Birthdays

Beth Boman	02/10
Rex Dingman	02/16
Eric Vinciguerra	02/18
Jonathan Korpi	02/22
Marian Matyn	02/22
David Dingman	02/25

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.



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.



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:

February 05	Elizabeth Brockman & Mary Ellen Cochrane
February 12	Jim & Patricia Thurston
February 19	DJ Proctor & Christi Brookes
February 26	Clancy & Patricia DeLong

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
February 05	Derek Rivard	Tom Cochrane
February 12	Nancy Hartshorne	Jennifer Dingman
February 19	Patricia Thurston	Jeanne Maxon
February 26	Barbara Sheperdigian	Jim Thurston

Greeters Schedule:

February 05	Mary Kiesgen & Elizabeth Brockman
February 12	David & Jennifer Dingman
February 19	Lynne L'Hommedieu & Sharon Bolton
February 26	Pamela & Ford Dingman

February Calendar

**Sundays: 02/05, 02/12, 02/19,
02/26**

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

**Mondays: 02/06, 02/13, 02/20,
02/27**

6:30 pm G.A.

**Tuesdays: 02/07, 02/14,
02/21, 02/28**

11am Tai Chi
with Judy

Wednesdays: 02/8, 02/15, 02/22

10am Church School
via Zoom

6pm Yoga with Judy

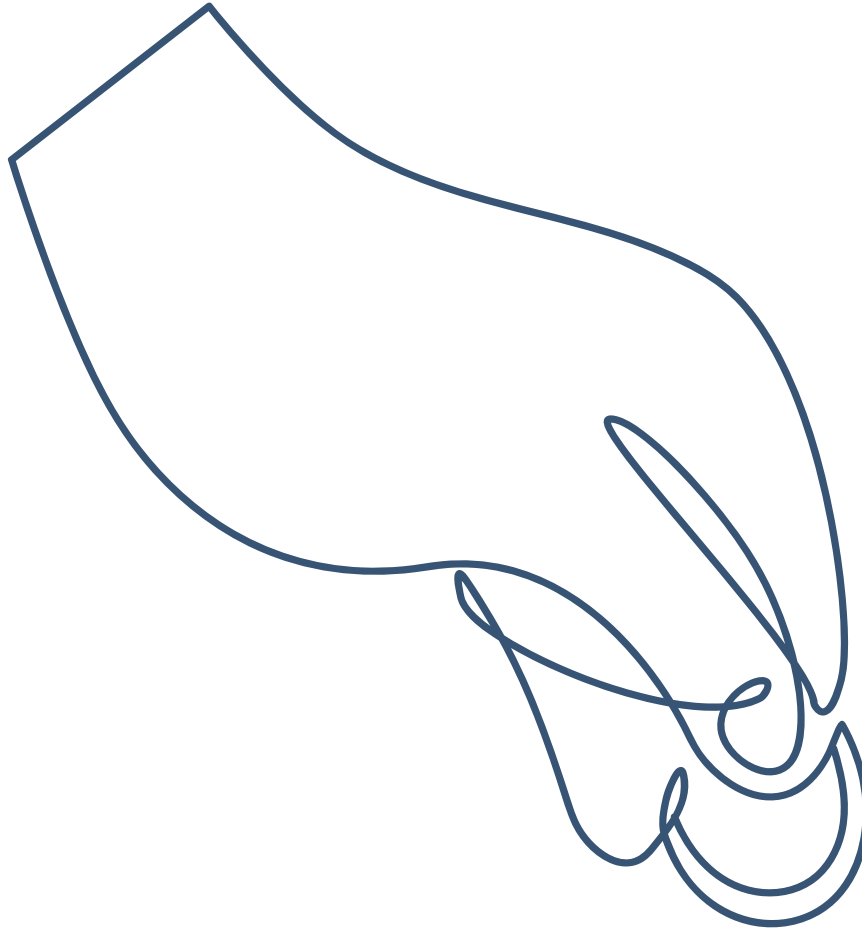
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays: 02/09, 02/16, 02/23

11am Tai Chi with Judy
8pm Compline
via Zoom

Fridays: 02/10, 02/17, 02/24

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, 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

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

Organist:

Dennis Flynn

Choirmaster pro tempore:

Eric Vinciguerra