



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

We've had a lot going on in these past weeks. The Rummage Sale (that initially we thought we might have to skip again) was a huge success – thanks to all who contributed their unwanted or unneeded items as well as those who gave of themselves during the sale! (See pictures below.)

And the Work Week was another great experience! Jerry had made a detailed list of what needed to get done, and folks showed up to “make it so!” (More pictures – below.)

This month, take a rest. Enjoy the middle of summer. Then get ready for a ballgame in August, and an Icon Retreat and a Parish Picnic in September!

Mostly, remember that you are loved – and then pass it on.

Sr. Diane+

Now You Know...

Ever wonder why St. John's church doors are painted red? I bet if we took a poll of a dozen parishioners, we would have an equal number of different answers to the question! There is no definitive answer – but here are some possibilities:

One origin of church doors being painted red might be a link to the story of the Exodus – reminders that God “passed over” or protected the houses of the Israelites whose door posts were marked by the blood of the Passover lamb. Historically, churches painted their doors red to signal those fleeing that they were places of sanctuary – meaning a place where one would be “safe.” Legally, if someone fled into a church, the civil authorities (e.g., police) could or would not pursue them there. In recent years, “sanctuary” has been provided by some churches specifically for immigrants being pursued by authorities.



During the Civil War, red doors on any house were supposed to be a sign that the home was a “safe house” for those traveling the Underground Railroad.

For most Episcopal churches today – including St. John's – the red doors are meant to be a sign of WELCOME and SAFETY. All are welcome, and St. John's tries to be a “safe” space for everyone. The red doors also make us VISIBLE in the community.

SO NOW YOU KNOW!!

Some of the other associations with “red doors”:

WELCOME. In early American tradition, a red door symbolized to tired horse and buggy travelers that a home was a safe place to rest and stay.

MORTGAGE FREE. Tradition in Scotland holds that homeowners paint their front door red to signify that they had paid off their mortgage.

GOOD LUCK. Chinese consider red to be a lucky color and therefore many Chinese put a fresh coat of red paint on their front doors as part of their New Year celebration every year.

ENERGY. The principles of Feng Shui state that bold colors invite positive energy and that bold colors like red invite opportunities and abundance.

REMINDER. Although many claim Albert Einstein to be one of the most brilliant minds ever, he, too, had his blind spots. Allegedly, Einstein painted his front door red because he couldn't remember which house was his.

John-Michael Scurio. <https://www.iloveureka.com/post/why-is-the-episcopal-church-door-red>.
<https://www.tomieraines-housingnews.com/the-meanings-behind-red-front-doors/>



To 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 August 14, 2022 The Loons will be playing the Peoria Chiefs 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. This particular Sunday is extra special because Lou E Loon will also be celebrating his birthday. Please plan to attend, box seat tickets are \$12.50 each 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 July 14, 2022 so please reserve your spot today!



Register Now! Icon Writing Retreat of St. Michael, Angel of Peace.

- **When: September 14-17, 2022, Wed – Sat, 9 am-5 pm daily**
- **Where: St. John's Episcopal Church Parish House, Mt. Pleasant MI.**

St. John's Episcopal Church is accepting registrations for the Icon Retreat. Sessions run from 9 am to 5 pm daily in the Parish House. No previous experience or artistic proficiency required. The retreat is limited to 20 people. The cost is \$375 per person and includes lunch, art supplies, instruction, and Fr. Pearson's expenses. Scholarships may be available.

Reserve a space by July 30 by calling the Parish Secretary at 989.773.7448 and providing a \$150 deposit payable to: St John's Episcopal Church, 206 W Maple Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 The balance is due by August 21.

Fr. Pearson will preach at the Eucharist service at 10 am on Sept 18. There will be a display and blessing of the icons in church.

Visit Fr. Pearson's website at <https://www.facebook.com/Peter-Oearsib-1481031262164372/>



**FAMILY PICNIC
AND WORSHIP SERVICE**

A celebration of our parish community coming in September - food, games, fun and worship. Date to be announced. We are looking for interested people to plan the picnic and service. Please contact Jen Dingman (djdingman@charter.net) or Pat Thurston (pattt1246@gmail.com) to volunteer on the planning committee.



GOOD NEWS GARDEN

The Good News Garden has started! We have tilled, unfurled the irrigation lines, laid plastic, started planting the many seedlings we have, and started fencing in the veggies. Throughout the summer, we will be working every Friday at 10:00 a.m., and we would love anyone who is interested to stop by during that time. No experience necessary, just gardening gloves, a bottle of water, a hat, and yourself. Volunteering anytime would be great, though, whether you want to join in just once or regularly.

Please contact Laura (cochr1ll@cmich.edu) or Ulana (klymy1au@cmich.edu) for more information.

ISABELLA COMMUNITY Soup Kitchen

6,000 MEALS IN 60 DAYS!

June 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022

The Isabella Community Soup Kitchen has been serving individually packaged lunches since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2022. Since then, we have doubled the number of lunches we serve. Occasionally serving over 300 lunches a day! The people we serve include children, veterans, seniors, and other community members in need.



With the overall cost of food increasing and lunches being prepared individually, there are additional food costs like disposable food containers, plastic silverware, individual packets of condiments, and paper/plastic bags.



The goal of our 6,000 meals in 60 days campaign is to raise the funding for all meals served in June and July.



For just \$5 you can fund one meal and help us to accomplish our goal of 6,000 meals in 60 days!

Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 872, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804 or made online at icsk.org through our donation link.

2022 Rummage Sale

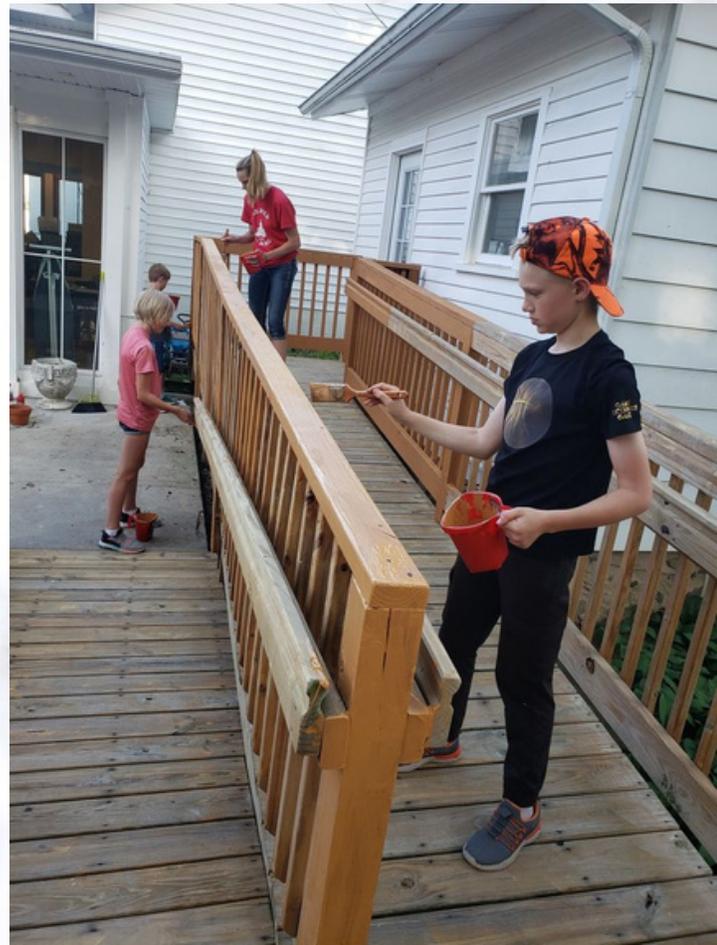


The rummage sale was a great success. We raised \$3,253.00! Thank you to all who donated items for the sale and a big thank you to those who worked the sale. All of your hard work is greatly appreciated!



2022 Work Week

Thank you to those who gave their time to the "Work Week." All of your hard work is greatly appreciated and everything looks great!





The 2022 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!

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/>



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

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.



July Birthdays

George Clapp	7/03
Hazel Hart	7/04
Ann Marie Orren	7/08
Olivia Ohler	7/11
Karen Varanauskas	7/15
Sally Goodrow	7/16
Joyce Baugh	7/19
Claudette Shaffer	7/21
Bernice Cole	7/22
Sam Raisanen	7/24
Ford Dingman	7/25
Kendall Klumpp	7/26
Robert Cosan	7/28



George & Diana Clapp	7/03
David & Jennifer Dingman	7/11
Henry & Nancy Fulton	7/13
Ralph Baber & Karen Varanauskas	7/15
Eric & Jessica Vinciguerra	7/15
Sam & Lara Raisanen	7/20
Clancy & Patricia DeLong	7/25

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for June 2022

Present: Pat Thurston, Diane Stier, Olivia Ohler, Jerry May, Clancy Delong, Ella Jo Regan, Mary Kiesgen, Jen Dingman (clerk)

Absent: DJ Proctor, Tom Cochrane, Ulana Klymyshyn, Alice Ciccu, Dan Eichinger

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Pat led the opening prayer and Diane asked each member to describe an instance in the last 7 days when we had "seen God and his works." Uplifting start to the meeting

Minutes from May 17 meeting were reviewed, and all changes communicated via email were confirmed. Olivia moved to accept minutes as written, Pat seconded. All approved, minutes accepted.

Senior Warden Discussion

Diane noted that we still do not have a senior warden and that we will continue this way until the end of the year. Not critical to have one immediately but there are instances where the senior warden is needed for signatures, etc. but Clancy can fill that role for now.

Property Committee

Parish Work Week was a huge success. Everything on the list was completed and there were many hands to make light work. Other items noted during the week that need to be addressed.

1. Shingles on the roof cap are missing and need to be replaced
2. Brick on the wall near the English Garden is starting to fall apart. As it was washed, the paint and part of the brick surface was coming off. Washing was halted to avoid any further damage and several people, including a CMU restoration specialist will be asked to evaluate and give suggested solutions.

The rectory foundation work was reviewed. Clancy confirmed that we have received the funds to pay for Option A and Jerry noted that it was suggested that Option B would indeed improve the integrity of the foundation so both options are being considered.

Toto continues to do a nice job taking care of the lawn and his service will continue.

Plaque honoring Eleanor Dawson needs to be put on the bench and into the garden.

Worship Committee

Family Picnic – Date to be determined and Pat to write an announcement for The Evangel. Sept 18 is the end of the ICON Retreat so this date should be avoided.

Dennis Flynn Vacation request - Dennis has asked for 3 consecutive weeks off and there was discussion about the impact of that. We do not currently have a "fill-in" for this position nor does the current Vestry understand the specifics noted in the contract that was negotiated with Dennis upon accepting his role. A formal review of that contract is needed to ensure that it meets both the church needs as well as Dennis' and at least one "fill-in" should be identified to allow for Dennis to take time off. Mary Kiesgen will work on this aspect in the coming months, meanwhile, it was suggested that the Vestry approve Dennis's request for 3 weeks of vacation

Jen moved to approve the request; Pat seconded. All approved.

It was also noted that the sound update worked, however the lector needs to stand right in the center of the podium, otherwise the sound quickly deteriorates. It was also noted that a "sound check" would be beneficial before the service to ensure that everything is working and that the quality is as it should be.

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for June 2022

Outreach Committee

Clean & Bright is officially back in effect. Ella has 3 volunteers.

The committee is still looking for volunteers for the card ministry and planning for the first session and Ella noted that the cost of postage should be added to the budget.

Education Committee

No report

Parish Life/Social Committee

Loons game on Aug 14 is coming together nicely. ~20 tickets are spoken for already. Initial count and 50% deposit is due by July 14, Jen will take care of this part and simply collect ticket \$ from attendees on the day.

New acolyte training is to be scheduled and the way that the Lay Ministry schedule was discussed.

To ensure that everyone is on the same page, an email will be sent to all ~1 week prior to the schedule being completed to ask for dates that parishioners are unable to serve.

It was also suggested that we should make a formal schedule for running the digital service broadcast each Sunday so that others are trained, and Alice doesn't feel obligated to be in church every Sunday.

Administrative Committee

Rummage sale netted \$3,253. Clancy noted that since we weren't planning on having it this year, this \$ isn't noted in the budget. There was a brief discussion of whether or not the \$ should be donated or used for a specific purpose.

\$ from employee retention credits haven't come in yet but the process is expected to be slow.

Treasurer's report was reviewed and it was suggested that we approve the Treasurer's report.

Mary moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Olivia seconded. All approved.

Pastoral Report

The Bishop's visitation date is set for Sunday January 8, 2023. During that visit he would like to review our most recent Mutual Ministry Review. This still needs to be completed for 2022. Parish Life Committee will plan a "special" coffee hour for this date.

Diane will meet with Carmichael, Director of Listening Ear, on 6/30/22 to discuss the resurrection of The Goodrow Fund. Community need is definitely there.

Kate Forsyth is willing to meet with individuals to discuss communications topics, emails, website, etc.

Mary Kiesgen has agreed to officially be the Minister of the Cup going forward.

New Business

Clancy noted that the picture of the church on the website is incorrect. He will take some pictures in the coming weeks to update it.

Whitmore Foundation grant to get funds for the new sign and other things has been submitted so no vote is needed yet but if the grant is approved, a decision will be needed.

Next meeting Tuesday July 18th at 7pm

Pat led the closing prayer and Diane led a 2nd prayer for all those in the world who are hurting.

Jen moved to adjourn, Mary seconded, all approved.

May 2022 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of May (41.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts \$ 87,136.51 (47.82% of budget)

Unrestricted operating fund expenditures 85,104.52 (41.31% of budget)

Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures \$ 2,031.99

The Administrative Committee has applied for a grant from the Whittemore Foundation to cover most of the costs of upgrading out sign. Please verify that your pledge is up to date during the summer months.

Special projects:

Sound/Video System: All expenses for the project have been paid. We've still seeking \$2,800 in donations to finish paying for the project.

An infrared sensor for the lectern microphone is being installed the week of June 21st.

Carpeting: Funds received, carpeting installed, vendor paid, project complete.

External Sign Upgrade: Grant applied for.

Columbarium Expansion: In discussion.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	67,661.43
Savings	26,774.44
Certificates of Deposit	16,081.38
Endowment Fund	90,692.41
Total	<u>201,209.66</u>

Cash Sources This Month

Traditional Giving	7,270.23	56.86%
Online Giving	5,516.37	43.14%
Total	<u>12,786.60</u>	100.00%

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:

July 3	Lynne L'Hommedieu
July 10	Clancy & Pat DeLong
July 17	Laura Cochrane
July 24	Renee Babcock & Kathy Conlon
July 31	David & Nancy Kinney

Lay Ministers:

Lectors

Prayers

July 3	Mary Kiesgen	Mary Ellen Cochrane
July 10	Carol Lauffer	Dan Eichinger
July 17	Jim Thurston	Barb Sheperdigian
July 24	Derek Rivard	Jim Thurston
July 31	Dan Eichinger	Kip Cosan

Greeters Schedule:

July 3	Sharon Bolton & Laura Cochrane
July 10	Liz Brockman & Mary Kiesgen
July 17	Ulana Klymyshyn & Lynne L'Hommedieu
July 24	Jim & Pat Thurston
July 31	Pamela & Ford Dingman

July Calendar

**Sundays: 7/3, 7/10, 7/17,
7/24, 7/31**

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

**Mondays: 7/4, 7/11,
7/18, 7/25**

Nothing on these days

**Tuesdays: 7/5, 7/12,
7/19, 7/26**

11am Tai Chi
with Judy

**Wednesdays: 7/6, 7/13,
7/20, 7/27**

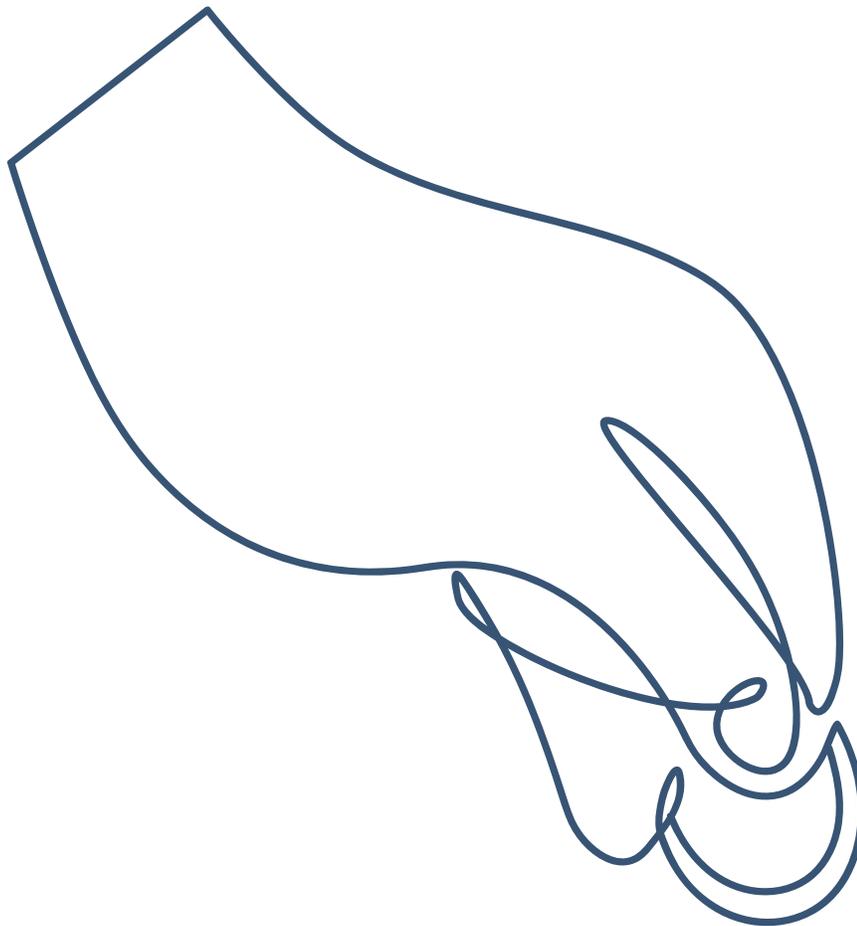
10am Church School
via Zoom
6pm Yoga with Judy

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

11am Tai Chi with Judy
8pm Compline
via Zoom

**Fridays: 7/1, 7/8,
7/15, 7/22, 7/29**

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 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.**
- 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