



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vestry Meeting Minutes-12-19

St. John's February Calendar- 23

Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

The month of March will carry us through Lent into Holy Week (the week before Easter) and the Triduum – the “three days” of Maundy (Holy) Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

I was giving someone a “tour” of St. John's this week – which included talking about the changes COVID prompted us to make – like installing the video equipment and sound system so that we could livestream our services to folks at home. That has been a literal godsend for many folks – and it is a “comfy” option some folks choose even when they could come to church!

For Holy Week, though, I urge you to mark the dates on your calendars now – nearly a full month before those days will be upon us – so that you can really make space and time to be here in person if at all possible. There is a physicality to the sacraments and to these sacramental days.

The Thursday of Holy Week is known as Maundy Thursday in the Episcopal Church - (known as “Holy Thursday” in some circles). We call it that because of Jesus's mandate (“mandatum” in Latin) at the Last Supper to love one another as he loved us. We wash one another's feet during that service – as John's gospel tells us Jesus did at the Last Supper. Being part of the Mandatum – the washing of the feet – is a very prayerful and powerful experience...even if one simply is ‘present’ for it.

At the end of the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, we strip the altar and the sanctuary – so that we are left with the emptiness. The elements – the consecrated bread and wine remaining from Eucharist – are reserved in the lower chapel for our use during the Good Friday service.

On Good Friday, we pray the liturgy from the Book of Common prayer together at noon – which includes special intercessions for the whole world, a time of reverencing the wood of the cross, and the reception of Holy Communion that was reserved the night before. At 3 pm, we gather to pray together the Way of the Cross using adaptations of prayers written by Deacon Nancy Casey Fulton – meditating on Christ’s crucifixion - then and now.

Finally, we gather together again on Saturday evening to celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter. We light the new fire outside, celebrating the Resurrection – acclaiming Christ as our Light as we light the Paschal Candle. We process into church and light our own candles from the Paschal Candle. – We will hear the scriptures telling of salvation history, we will bless the water and renew our own baptismal promises. We will again sing “Alleluia” with full voices!!!

It is a very meaningful time – that “Holy Week” – those days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Easter Vigil. Let us take the rest of Lent to make space and time, so that we can celebrate those days together.

Blessings to you,

Sr. Diane+

The Paschal Candle



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.



Daylight savings begins March 10th
Don't forget to set your
clocks ahead one hour.



Our next week of hosting the ICRH shelter is March 17-24! Please use [this online form](#) to sign up for evenings 7-10pm and mornings 7-9am.

Thanks to the generosity of community members and St. John's parishioners, the dinners for the week are provided for. We still need people to serve and clean up on Monday, March 18th and Thursday, March 21st. We also need breakfasts for Monday through Sunday of that week. Please let Ulana know (klymy1au@cmich.edu) if you can help out as noted above.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday – 7PM

Holy Eucharist with foot washing;
stripping of the alter

Good Friday - Noon

Good Friday service (Book of
Common Prayer)

Good Friday – 3PM

Stations of the Cross - adapted from
Nancy Casey Fulton

Easter Vigil – 8PM

Great Vigil of Easter – lighting of
the New Fire – with Baptisms

Easter Day – 10AM

Holy Eucharist



Easter Basket Outreach

It's time to start planning our Easter outreach baskets. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the church with a list of items needed. Please include your name and the quantity you will purchase next to the item. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Brockman at **989-560-8432** or by email at **brock1em@cmich.edu**. Please have all donations in by Monday, March 25th.

Thank you.



Mark your calendar! 2024 St Johns Summer Outing Great Lakes Loons Game, Sunday, June 9, 2024

Please join us for the St Johns summer outing to Dow Diamond in Midland, MI to see The Great Lake Loons vs. Cedar Rapids Kernals. We need to have a tentative number to the Loons ticket office by Wednesday April 17th. We will be sitting in the Northern Lights Pavilion, same place as last summer at \$27/ticket. It includes the ticket, a meal (traditional picnic food), and unlimited soft drinks.


If there is a chance that you would like to attend, please let me know (djdingman@charter.net or phone/text 989-488-7085) and I will ensure that they reserve a section big enough for us.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!



Easter Flowers

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. You may [contribute online](#) (Your paragraph text) or by using the envelopes found in the church. In order to be recognized in the bulletin, please return your contribution to the Offering Plate on Sunday or return it to the Parish Office by March 22nd.





The 2024 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!

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

Absent: Nancy Herman-Kinney, Jerry May, DJ Proctor

Meeting called to order at 11:53am. Pat led the group in an opening prayer.

Minutes from Oct 15, 2023, monthly Vestry meeting were reviewed. Dan moved to approve the minutes; Mary seconded. All approved.

Worship Committee

- Art Show reception – 6pm Fri Dec 1st
 - All are invited to attend
 - Final preparations for the event are being made
- United Thank Offering
 - Today Nov 19th so it is complete for 2023

Rector's Report

- Thanksgiving Day service – 9am
- Advent booklets at the church for anyone that wants them
- No Advent Lessons & Carols – doesn't make sense w/o an organist
 - Will attempt something with only hymns, etc.
- 5pm Christmas Eve Service
- 10am Christmas Day Service

Property Committee

- External structure/brick work needs to be completed
 - Grant money to cover 50% of the cost might be available from the National Fund for Sacred Places.
 - Deadline for LOI submission is 2/22/24.
 - Jerry, Lara and Alice will make up a committee to pursue this, 1 additional member would be nice to have.
 - Architect in Saginaw who specializes in churches will be contacted
 - Additional fundraising will be necessary before July, 2024

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for November 2023

- Clancy noted that this would be an appropriate use of endowment funds
- Lara noted that matching funds might also be available from the National Church
- Jerry, Lara and Alice will make up a committee to pursue this, 1 additional member would be nice to have.
- Architect in Saginaw who specializes in churches will be contacted
- Additional fundraising will be necessary before July, 2024
 - Clancy noted that this would be an appropriate use of endowment funds
 - Lara noted that matching funds might also be available from the National Church
- External painting completed
- Sign update – Mason is injured and work has been put on a temporary hold

Outreach Committee

- Thanksgiving baskets – stuff due today, Nov 19th, Alice will help put them together after Vestry and Adam will help Olivia deliver them
- Finals baskets for our St Johns College Students
 - Matthew Alton, Emma, Matthew Kinney, Zach, Choral Scholars – send it to the Department office – Jen to place the order, others to donate funds for it
- People Helping People – offering to deliver Christmas Trees to homes who need them
 - Individuals can sponsor a tree to help with the cost
- Christmas Baskets will be done, more details to come

Human Resources

- Organist position has been posted in multiple locations, no good candidates yet
- Organ/Music Program contacts at MSU, CMU, SVSU have been contacted
- Johnathon Korpi may be back in Mt Pleasant, might be a temporary option?
- Alice will look at ZipRecruiter

Administrative Committee

- Separate budget meeting to be scheduled on Dec 12th @ 6pm in the Parish office

Education Committee

- Christian Formation
 - Diocesan sponsored curriculum – for up to 25 kids, can partner with other churches to make it more affordable

- Story Makers - \$1000 annual license fee, 42-week curriculum
- Lara shared the box that she and Sam bought for Toddler age and it's been donated to St John's
- Committee formed to look at options for Episcopal Formation; Nancy Herman-Kinney, Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane

News from The Diocese

- Lara is now the head of the Diocesan Committee in the absence of our Bishop as of Nov 18, 2023
 - Building Bridges – Combined Eastern and Western Diocese
 - Lara will send Juncture info and a Vestry discussion and parish wide meeting will be scheduled to ensure that all have an option to understand the upcoming vote and express concerns/opinions
 - Kevin asked if the Vestry can also get pros and cons of each, historical significance, etc.
 - There are a lot of mixed feelings about the merging of the Dioceses with respect to how to name, where to put the new office, etc.
 - Decision will happen in March no matter what because it needs to be taken to the General Convention and if the decision isn't made now, the next General Convention will be in 3 years
 - Lara will put together an announcement for the December Evangel
 - Diane will determine dates for both the Parish wide meeting and Vestry discussion, needs to happen before the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sun Jan 14, 2024 (Sun Jan 21 make-up date)
 - Convention Delegates will be selected in January as usual at the Annual Meeting and Juncture will take place in March

Parish Life/Social Committee

- 2024 Loons game info to be sent before the Dec 17th meeting so a date can be selected and a decision on what format (suite, reg seats, Northern Lights Pavilion (2023 seating))

Senior Warden Report

- No Report

New Business

- Clancy noted that according to IRS rules, the Rector's housing allowance needs to be approved on Sun Dec 17th

Next meeting Sunday December 17, 2023 at 11:30 after coffee hour

Juncture meeting Thurs Dec 7th 7pm by Zoom

Diane led the closing prayer. Mary made a motion to adjourn, Kevin seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04pm

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

Absent: Nancy Herman-Kinney

Meeting called to order at 11:41am. Pat led the group in an opening prayer.

Minutes from Nov 19, 2023, monthly Vestry meeting were reviewed. Dan moved to approve the minutes; Mary seconded. All approved.

Minutes from Dec 8, 2023, on-line Vestry meeting were reviewed. Kevin moved to approve the minutes. Dan seconded. All approved.

Worship Committee

- Art show was a huge success from all aspects. \$750 collected from space rental, \$130 expenses, <\$100 outreach for donations. Evaluations will be reviewed to see what can be improved for future. Snowed just before the event and Pat shoveled. In future, we can let snow removal person know 24 hours ahead of events and he will monitor.
- Prayers by Jerry May today were very special and we are thankful for him sharing them with us.

Rector's Report

- 2nd Eucharist seems to be well received; Supper Church will be December's rendition of it.
- Home communion team needs help. Work to recruit new volunteers in the new year.

Property Committee

- Jerry had a request to spend some of the designated B&G funds for a coded lock for the Lantern door. Keys that are out there aren't working, there is something wrong with the lock. Jerry will research the options because the panic bar may be an issue due to fire code concerns.

- Sign is operational. Brick still needs to be painted and the top, like the old sign, still needs to be finished. Work will be done to determine the right sign font, colors, etc. to make it consistent with our needs. Router work needs to be done to separate the sign administrative access from the regular Wi-Fi access. Clancy/Alice to work with Sam Raisanen to do this. DJ would like to get a picture that says “Thank you BWF” and send it to them.

Outreach Committee

- Campus ministry - Committee of Mary, Liz Brockman, and anyone else (Eric?) to plan choral scholar events, rehearsal places for existing students, etc. Former scholars are very successful and might be willing to contribute to the future scholars. Mary will chair this.
- Christmas baskets – done and will be delivered on 12/18

Human Resources

- Student Ethan Kindle, interested in being our organist/pianist for the Spring semester. Mary has checked with former colleagues, etc. and he comes highly recommended. Audition and interview will be scheduled after New Years.

Administrative Committee

- Kevin asked about how the organist, temporary pianist payments will be handled in the future? Budgeted item for the permanent organist has been removed for 2024 with hopes that we get a \$5000 relief from the Diocese and any temporary payments will be in kind.
- Funding secured for one choral scholar for 2024
 - Has anyone reached out to former choral scholars to contributions to choral scholar funding?
 - Reunion of choral scholars?
- Funding in the future for a pianist scholar?
- Evangel blurb in Jan about these reminders
 - Cost of using a credit card for online giving vs a debit card
 - Anyone that needs to take the minimum distribution from the IRA etc. can make that distribution out directly to St John’s and the individual doesn’t have to pay taxes.
 - Donor advised fund is another option. Alice will help draft this.

- Rector's compensation
 - 2024 package reviewed.
 - Lara moved to approve, Mary seconded. All approved
- Rector's housing allowance
 - The vestry on the 17th day of December 2023, after discussing the amount to be paid to the Rev. Sr. Diane Stier as parsonage allowance, on motion duly made and seconded, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas the Rev. Sr. Diane Stier is employed as Reverend of St. John's Episcopal Church, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, which does not provide a residence for her, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation of \$101,445 to be paid to the Rev. Sr. Diane Stier during 2024, that \$24,000 be designated as parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

- Lara moved to accept the housing allowance, Kevin seconded, all approved.
- Lara moved to accept the Dec Treasurer's report, Kevin seconded, all approved.
- 2024 Budget
 - As of end of Nov we are ~\$10,000 in the red
 - Dec is usually high in terms of income as parishioners catch up annual pledge amounts
 - 2023 budget was balanced with pandemic funds
 - These funds will not be available in 2024
 - Discussion on how donations from wills are designated, endowment funds, memorials, endowment fund for choral scholars.
 - Lara made a motion to approve the 2024 draft budget to present at the annual meeting., Mary seconded, all approved.
- Audit report for 2022 records isn't ready yet but it's almost done.

Education Committee

- Christian formation
 - Story maker books ordered, Lara thinks they will be great for kids, maybe not for adults.

Diocesan Update

- No report

Parish Life/Social Committee

- Loons game
 - Sun June 9th 2024 – Northern Lights Pavilion will be reserved for a min of 50 tickets to start, \$27/each.

Senior Warden Report

- No report

New Business

- Formation of nominations committee to identify new Vestry members and ask existing members if they will serve again. Goal - find enough people to fill all positions
 - Olivia is up in Jan
 - Jerry is up in Jan
 - Nancy is up in Jan
 - New Senior Warden needed

Next meeting Sunday Jan 21 immediately following The Annual Meeting

Diane led the closing prayer. Kevin made a motion to adjourn, Lara seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06pm

January 2024 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of January (8.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 13,368.28 (5.86% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	16,032.18 (7.02% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (2,663.90)

Historically, January is a slow month for both in income and expenses.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	50,109.80
Certificate of Deposit #1	44,451.85
Certificate of Deposit #2	20,399.12
Endowment Fund	99,652.84
Total	<u>214,613.61</u>

Please confirm that your estimated giving amounts for 2024 are up to date.

Clancy



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

Nancy Rivard
Green Acres Mt. Pleasant
1809 E. Remus Rd., Apt 303
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



March Birthdays

Jeanne Maxon	03/06
David Kinney	03/09
Nancy Herman-Kinney	03/20
Diana Clapp	03/29

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: pamela.dingman@gmail.com. Thank you.



March Anniversaries

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:

March 3	Sharon Bolton & Elizabeth Brockman
March 10	Clancy & Patricia DeLong
March 17	Dan & Jasmine Eichinger
March 24 Palm Sunday	David & Jen Dingman
March 31 Easter Sunday	No coffee hour

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
March 3	Nancy Hartshorne	Ulana Klymyshyn
March 10	Jeanne Maxon	Barbara Sheperdigian
March 17	Jennifer Dingman	Jim Thurston
March 24 Palm Sunday	Tom Cochrane	Dan Eichinger
March 31 Easter Sunday	Sr. Linda-Susan Beard	Derek Rivard

Greeters Schedule:

March 3	Ford & Pamela Dingman
March 10	Mary Stewart Kiesgen & Sharon Bolton
March 17	Tom & Mary Ellen Cochrane
March 24 Palm Sunday	David & Nancy Kinney
March 31 Easter Sunday	David & Jennifer Dingman

March Calendar

Sundays: 03/03, 03/10, 03/17, 03/24, 03/31 10am Holy Communion
(In person, Facebook, & YouTube)

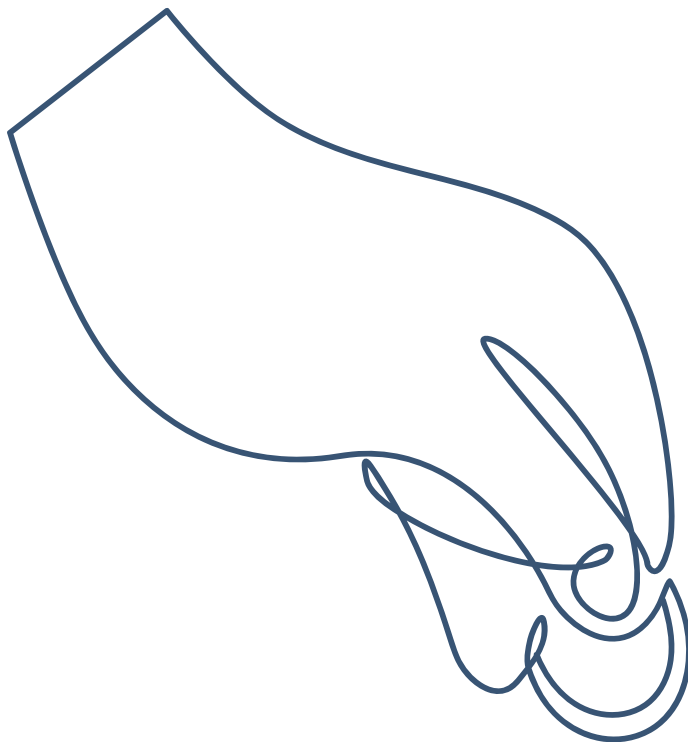
Mondays: 03/04, 03/11, 03/18, 03/25 6:30PM GA

Tuesdays: 03/05, 03/12, 03/19, 03/26 11am Tai Chi with Judy

Wednesdays: 03/06, 03/13, 03/20, 03/27
10am Church School
via Zoom
6pm Choir Practice
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays: 03/07, 03/14, 03/21, 03/28
11am Tai Chi with Judy
8pm Compline via Zoom

Fridays: 03/08, 03/15, 03/22, 03/29
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:

Ethan Kindle

Choirmaster:

Eric Vinciguerra

2024 Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: Dan Eichinger

Jr. Warden: Jerry May

Treasurer: Clancy DeLong

Co-Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu,

Vestry Clerk: Jennifer Dingman

2024 Vestry Members

David Proctor

Mary Stewart Kiesgen

Olivia Ohler

Pat Thurston

Kevin Davidson

Lara Raisanen