



# THE EVANGEL

*The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church*

## **WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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**St. John's February Calendar- 2 and 10**

# Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

It is with joy that I can invite you to celebrate Mardi Gras by coming to the Pancake Supper at St. John's on Tuesday, March 1 – and can welcome you back to in-person worship beginning on Ash Wednesday. The Vestry is asking that we continue to wear masks in church, and I will honor that also.

Even while we are celebrating being able to be back in church, being able to see one another in person, we are all aware of the great suffering going on throughout our world, particularly for the people of Ukraine. What can we do? We can and must pray – for the people of Ukraine, for peace, for a change of heart. Elsewhere in this issue is a list of links to relief efforts and organizations that have been vetted by NPR, which was distributed at the Vigil for Ukraine held this past Saturday in town.

As we move into Lent, 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 (Find the Parish Directory [here](#), password is: sjec206) Fast from that which separates you from others, pray for those you find hard to love, give of your time and your heart.

May we all grow in love this Lenten season, moving from cocoon to butterfly!

Blessings to you,  
Sr. Diane+

# Mark your Calendars...

## **Baptism for Life**

on Sunday's @11:30am on Zoom and in person

## **Children's Sunday School**

starting March 6th after Coffee Hour!

## **Ash Wednesday**

March 2nd - Service @ 12pm and 6pm  
(6pm will be livestream)

## **Pancake Supper**

March 1st @5:30-7pm

## **Lenten Conversation**

Wednesday Evenings

7-8pm on Zoom

Cocoon to Butterfly:

Our Lenten journey speakers will share their personal stories on how their faith has changed them

sign up with this QR:



# Now You Know...

*Ever wonder why we do some of the things we do in the liturgy? Why do some churches face the cross during the creed? Why does the priest ceremonially “wash” his or her hands at the Offertory? Why do some folks kneel at certain parts of the liturgy? This column will be a regular feature of the Evangel.*

*Why does the priest make little crosses before reading the Gospel?*

When the Gospel is about to be read, the priest says: “A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_,” making a small cross with their thumb first on the written Gospel, then over their forehead, lips, and chest. The congregation then responds, “Glory to You, Lord Christ.” Some people in the congregation may also make those little crosses on themselves.

Remember, the cross itself is a sign of redemption in and through Jesus Christ. When we make this sign of the cross, in any form, it’s an outward act to profess our inward faith in the Trinity. This sign declares that, through our baptism, we belong to God.

St. Paul wrote:

‘For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart’ (Hebrews 4:12).

**In the outward sign of crossing our forehead, lips, and heart, we are asking that the Word of God be in or ‘pierce’ our mind, lips, and hearts.**

We cross our forehead so that the Word of God may be in our thoughts and purify our minds. We cross our lips so that our speech may be holy and incline us to share the Gospel with others. And we cross our hearts as a reminder to hold the Word of God in our hearts. All of this is so that the gospel of Christ might truly be what guides our thoughts, words, and deeds.

So now you know!

# 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/](http://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/>

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## **ICRH Shelter**

March 27- April 3, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508044ba8a92fa1f58-icrh15>

Contact Ulana if you would like to help  
with food:

[klymy1au@cmich.edu](mailto:klymy1au@cmich.edu)



## 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

### Elliot Parker

1267 Masonic Ct.  
Alma , MI 48801



## March Birthdays

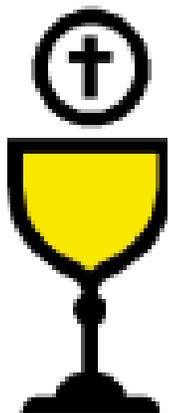
<b>Jeanne Maxon</b>	<b>3/6</b>
<b>David Kinney</b>	<b>3/9</b>
<b>Nancy Herman Kinney</b>	<b>3/20</b>
<b>Diana Clapp</b>	<b>3/29</b>
<b>Ella Jo Regan</b>	<b>3/30</b>

## 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.



## 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.

# Minutes for Vestry Meeting for February 2022

Present: DJ, Tom, Ella, Nancy, Pat, Diane, Olivia, Jerry, Mary, Clancy, Ulana, Alice, Jen (clerk)

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Tom and Ella recited the opening prayer

Minutes from Jan 10, Jan 12 Special Meeting and Jan 16 Special Meeting were reviewed, no changes made. Ella moved to accept as written, Mary seconded. All minutes accepted.

Diane welcomed new members Jen, Mary and Pat and “welcomed back” DJ for an additional 3 years.

Diane reviewed that the Diocese is expiring the restrictions as of March 1st and that in person services will resume on Ash Wednesday March 2nd. Email from Anne Alton encouraging the continuation of mask wearing while in church was reviewed and all agreed that it is a good idea for a period of time. Diane will communicate back with Anne.

**Outreach: Easter Baskets** – We will be providing baskets and full dinner supplies to the typical 2-3 families again this year. Ella will pass along details as soon as they are available. **Restoration House** – St Johns will host Mar 27 – Apr 2. Call for volunteers hasn't gone out yet, Nancy suggested to have materials on hand to make small easter baskets to give to children residents that week due to the proximity to the Easter holiday. Nancy and Ella will lead that effort.

**Buildings & Grounds: Carpet** – Jerry reported that the carpet has been ordered and that the sacristy wasn't originally included but it is now. No update on timing, Jerry to report back when this is available. **Snow Removal** – deal was made with the provider that if he is already shoveling downtown businesses, St Johns will be included, to be completed by 9am on Sunday. Weekly checks for minor work, i.e., salt etc. Days will be tallied at YE, and vestry will be asked to support some level of compensation for that extra effort. Discussion about concrete out in front of the Lantern that is regularly icy and needs salt more frequently because of eavestrough drainage there. Anyone who sees a need should grab salt from inside the door to eliminate the risk of someone falling coming in/leaving by way of the parking lot. **Lawn care** – this is all taken care of for 2022. **“Pet” Projects** – Jerry would like to make a list of projects that people would like to see completed and then reinstitute at least one annual “church workday” to get as many of these completed as we can.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Nancy had nothing to report but was really happy that we were all going to be able to get together for retreat this weekend.

**Music & Liturgy: Choral Evensong** – will be scheduled sometime in March. Tom commented on how big the choir was on Feb 20 and Diane reported that we have several returning choral scholars, just because they want to, plus several “friends” of the church that just wanted to sing so we currently have 12 singing. **Ash Wednesday** – services Mar 2 at 12pm and 6pm. Plans are being made to provide ashes to interested individuals on CMU's campus and there was some discussion about how to best go about that. Ulana suggested that there used to be an office in the UC that would provide the approval for events like this and that she would investigate and report back. **Space for alternative liturgy** – effort to clean out the chapel and get back to using that space for special services. Choir supplies will be moved into the classroom in the undercroft once it has been cleaned out. **New Camera** – problems were occurring with the new camera and feedback was that it was never intended to be used as a web cam. Swift resolution to install a suitable replacement that would meet all of our needs.

**Education: Episcopal 101**–going well. **Children's programs**–families with children are being surveyed to see what their needs/wants are and then a program will be designed with those things in mind. Currently the suggestion is to have something after church during coffee hour led by Mary Ellen as she already has a program framed out.

**Parish Life Social: Pancake Supper** – Tuesday Mar 1 barring any changes in the restrictions. Ford and Clancy will be our “flippers” and Misha will be providing the King Cake. Supplies will be purchased as we get closer, request made for GF pancakes and SF syrup for those who require those.

**Parish Picnic/Block Party** – Diane suggested that we continue to think about the Parish wide picnic once the weather improves and that we may take the idea a bit further and make it a St Johns sponsored Block Party. Ella mentioned that we had done that in the past and no one showed up so there was discussion about how to effectively get the word out and get people to come. Neighborhood App, social media, etc.

**Financial Report:** Clancy reported that Jan is typically a slow month for income and expenses and that Jan 2022 was no exception. Income was ~6% vs. 8.3% and expenses were ~7% vs 8.3%. Still remaining \$\$ in the Holiday Basket, Restoration House funds and that due to recent market conditions, the endowment fund is down a bit. Clancy discussed the ERTC credit that we will be filing for. Diane thanked Clancy for his diligence here because she hasn't heard of any other churches in the Diocese that were aware of this and pursuing it. Questions from Ulana prompted a brief discussion the \$1000 annually that St Johns gives for the Restoration House Outreach vs. the Restoration House line item in our budget as well as the difference between the Rector's Discretionary Fund vs. the Diane Stier Fund. Mary moved to have the Financial Report accepted and Tom seconded, all approved.

**Vestry Retreat:** Retreat is scheduled for Feb 25 and Feb 26 at St Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt. Brief discussion about the schedule and logistics for the weekend.

Next meeting set for Tuesday March 15, likely by Zoom.

Pat led the closing prayer and meeting was concluded

## January 2022 Financial Report

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

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 11,976.11 (6.57% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	14,888.12 (7.23% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (2,912.01)

Income and expenses are both down, as expected for the month of January. Good news, we did receive four months credit (\$ 4,790.48) from the Church Pension Group as part of COVID relief. This is not reflected in the operating fund balance above. Please check to see if your pledge is up-to-date.

If you still need to submit a pledge card for 2022, please contact Pamela Dingman.

Clancy

### Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	55,017.01
Savings	26,771.14
Certificates of Deposit	16,072.77
Endowment Fund	97,630.00

<b>Total</b>	<b><u>195,490.92</u></b>
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### Cash Sources This Month

Traditional Giving	10,252.00	78.93%
Online Giving	2,736.30	21.07%

<b>Total</b>	<b><u>12,988.30</u></b>	<b>100.00%</b>
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# March Calendar

**Sundays: 3/6, 3/13, 3/20,  
3/27**

10am Holy Communion  
(In person, Facebook, & YouTube)  
11:30am Baptism for Life  
11:30am Children Sunday School

**Tuesdays: 3/1, 3/8,  
3/15, 3/22, 3/29**

11am Yoga  
with Judy  
Office Closed

**Thursdays: 3/3, 3/10,  
3/17, 3/24, 3/31**

8pm Compline  
via Zoom  
11am Yoga  
with Judy  
Office Closed

**Mondays: 3/7, 3/14,  
3/21, 3/28**

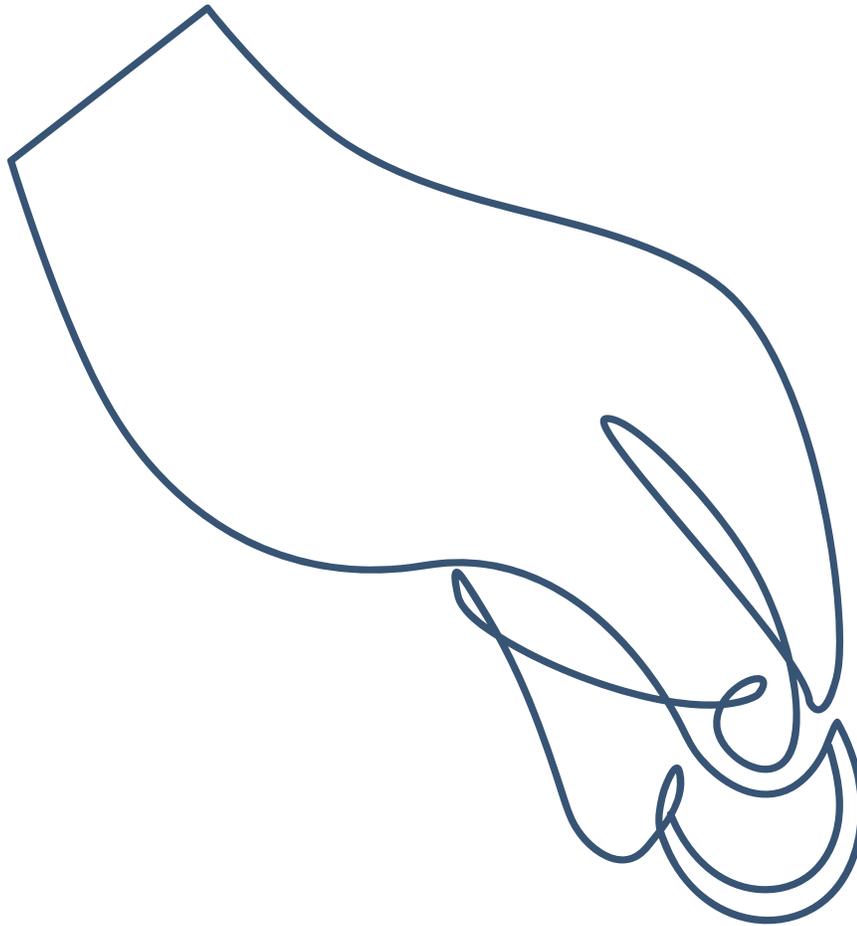
Nothing on these days

**Wednesdays: 3/2, 3/9, 3/16,  
3/23, 3/30**

10am Church School  
via Zoom  
7pm Lenten Program  
via Zoom  
6pm Yoga with Judy

**Fridays: 3/4, 3/11,  
3/18, 3/25**

Nothing on these  
days



# 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](mailto:saintjohnsmp@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com](http://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,

989-488-8413

**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