



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vestry Meeting Minutes-8-9

St. John's May/June Calendar- 2 and 11

Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

Greetings to you in this season of Spring! This is a BIG issue - two months' worth in one! That's what happens when we usher in a new administrative assistant and the rector can't keep all the plates spinning at once! The pages hold a great deal of information - so please keep scrolling to see it all!

As I have watched the changes in nature that surround us these days, I have been in awe of how nature adapts herself, and thought how we have been doing that, too, all these months-turned-into-years of the pandemic.

- After a two-year hiatus, we are returning to holding our RUMMAGE SALE this year (June 23-25), thanks to Alice and Renee and Kathy (and Karen, for sharing her knowledge from years past!) – and all the others who will help. (More info below.)
- Children's Sunday School has been running since the beginning of Lent (thanks to Mary Ellen and her various helpers) – and the children are now exploring their new Bibles and are learning a song they will sing on Pentecost.
- Our folks who cannot get to church get visited regularly and share in the Eucharist with us, thanks to Mary and Pat.
- Alice keeps our online community connected with the livestreaming of our Sunday services.
- The Vestry has organized itself into committees – which seems to be helping us carry out our mission and keep our meetings on track.
- The Administrative/Finance committee (with Clancy at the helm) constantly assures that we are on firm ground, with the help of each of us giving of ourselves.
- Junior Warden Jerry has organized a “work week” scheduled for the week after Father's Day – June 20-24 – so that we can all pitch in to help with yard cleanup, maintenance work, and preparing for the Rummage Sale. (Many hands will make light work – and we can do it together!)
- We'll be training new acolytes as some of our current “servers” are heading off to school away from home.

There have also been other “personnel” changes. Nancy Herman-Kinney has resigned her position on Vestry – as well as her place as Senior Warden. We are still working on naming a new Senior Warden, but Vestry appointed Daniel Eichinger to complete Nancy's Vestry term.

Last but not least, we have a new Administrative Assistant! Mekeila Sanchez came into the office on May 2 and has been hard at work ever since! I've asked her to introduce herself – and you will find her info below. Welcome, Mekeila!

Sr. Diane+

Greetings to all!



My name is Mekeila Sanchez. On May 2, 2022, I began my role as Administrative Assistant here at St. John's. I have not had the opportunity to meet everyone, but to those I have had the pleasure of meeting, I can't thank you enough for the warm welcome!

I have worked as a legal assistant for over 15 years in law offices both here in Michigan and in Los Angeles, California. This is my first experience as an administrative assistant outside of a law office. It's a big change from the office environment I'm accustomed to, but I am excited for this new adventure!

I live in Alma (where I was born and raised) with my husband, Jay, and our nine year old daughter, Ramona. I enjoy camping during the summer, gardening, baking, and spending as much time with my extended family as I can, as family is very important to me.

I hope to meet each and every one of you in the near future. Again, to those I have had the pleasure of meeting, I thank you for welcoming me with open arms!



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.



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!



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/>

Now You Know...

One of the things COVID did was make the use of the altar rails (or communion rails) for receiving communion an unsafe practice. While some folks are longing for a return to using the altar rails, there are as many who prefer coming forward in procession without using the rails.



How did the use of altar rails get started? Why have we used them?

Here is what the Episcopal Church website has to tell us about ALTAR RAILS:

Chest-high rails around the altar were used as early as the fifth century to prevent the people from interfering with the ministers of the eucharist. The people came to the altar rails to receive the sacrament, which meant that the altar rails served as communion rails. Some places continued the early church practice of administering communion by ministers who moved among the people. Standing was the normal posture for receiving communion until the thirteenth century, when kneeling to receive the sacrament became customary. This practice was related to the elevation of the host by the celebrant. Altar rails were first used in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The Puritans disliked altar rails. They often removed them from churches and moved the altar into the body of the church. William Laud (1573-1645), Archbishop of Canterbury, directed that altars be returned to the east wall of churches and fenced by altar rails for protection against desecration. The altar rails were latticed. Bishop Wren of Norwich noted that they were "so thick with pillars that doggs may not gett in." The English clergy continued to move among the people to administer the sacraments until the eighteenth century, when the altar rail came to be used as the communion rail. In the nineteenth century, the chancel was seen as the room for the sacrament and the nave was seen as the room for the liturgy of the word. Altar rails in the Episcopal Church are low, reflecting the assumption that the people will kneel to receive communion. Altar rails may be made of metal or wood. Current liturgical usage has emphasized the shared participation of celebrant and people in the eucharist, and tended to remove barriers between the altar and the congregation. Standing to receive the sacrament is practiced with increasing frequency, and altar rails have been removed from some churches. Altar rails may become obsolete as standing to receive communion becomes more widespread in the Episcopal Church.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/altar-rails>



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.



May/June Birthdays

David Blackburn	5/5
Jacob Hartshorne	5/10
Candy Henderson	5/17
Donald Schurr	5/18
Katie Hodgkins	5/19
Yvette Crandall	5/20
Ulana Klymyshyn	5/28
Emily Scott Shaffer	5/29
Stephen Weber	5/30
Joan Kadler	5/31
Jessica Hart	6/14
Lynne L'Hommedieu	6/19
Steven Berkshire	6/25



Rod Leslie & Marian Matyn	5/23
Colin & Anne Alton	6/2
David & Carrie Blackburn	6/10
Tim & Nancy Hartshorne	6/13
Kendall & Lois Klumpp	6/16
Elliott & Emelia Parker	6/19

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for April 2022

Present: Dj Proctor, Tom Cochrane, Pat Thurston, Diane Stier, Olivia Ohler, Jerry May, Clancy Delong, Ulana Klymyshyn, Alice Ciccu, Jen Dingman (clerk)

Absent: Ella Jo Regan, Mary Kiesgen

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm

Pat led the opening prayer

Minutes from Apr 19 meeting with the suggested change from Olivia.

Olivia moved to accept, Pat seconded. All approved, minutes accepted.

Senior Warden Discussion

Diane noted that Jen Dingman has been asked to prayerfully consider taking on the position of Senior Warden. Jen agreed to consider it and come back with an answer. No one else from vestry volunteered and DJ noted that Dan Eichinger expressed interest in serving on vestry and possibly taking the Senior Warden role. Dan is new to the church and it was noted that while he would be a good candidate to fill the empty vestry role left by Nancy, he may not be the best fit for vestry given his newness to St John's as a whole. Senior Warden decision will be postponed until the next vestry meeting.

Olivia moved to ask Dan to fill the empty vestry role for Nancy's remaining term and Tom seconded. All approved

Property Committee

Jerry shared a detailed spreadsheet showing the proposed expenses related to lawn care and Parish work week projects.

1. Lawn care bid from Toto – this bid will be voted upon for this season and further reviewed for upcoming seasons. We currently have a donation to cover this cost as long as Toto continues to provide the service and this arrangement will be discussed and considered for 2023 and beyond. Jerry moved to accept the contract of \$1,892 for the summer of 2022, Olivia seconded, all approved.

2. Rectory foundation – Option #1 \$2,300 to repair existing joints and other issues. Option #2 \$4,300 to cover the entire foundation with a "screen" and cover this with a waterproof stucco type of material.

Windows will be covered from the outside in both options. The consensus is that we should consider which option would provide the longest term solution and there was discussion about the longevity of both. Using a Whittemore Foundation grant to cover the cost of this was discussed and it was decided to apply for one in time for their Q2 review in June.

3. Parish work week projects (June 20-24) – Jerry asked that the vestry approve a budget of \$2,000 to cover the full list of projects that are expected to be completed during this work week. This list of projects is necessary and we have an excess of funds to cover this category of things due to the limited amount of this stuff that was completed the last 2 years due to COVID. Jen moved to approve the budget of \$2,000 for work week projects and Pat seconded, all approved.

4. Carpet installation has started and is expected to be completed by Sat May 21.

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for April 2022

5. Sign for the demo on 5/22 is set up and vestry and parishioners are encouraged to drive by and take a look and come prepared to ask questions on 5/22.
6. Complaints of poor sound quality during the virtual service on Sundays was communicated so the sound person was called in and some modifications were made that would hopefully improve the situation.

Worship Committee

Pat described the recent meeting to discuss the idea of an “alternative” service once a month. It was suggested that “alternative” provided a negative connotation so it was decided to use “complimentary” instead. The following ideas were presented;

1. Complimentary service ideas
 - a. Monthly potluck with family worship service
 - b. Hymn sing-along using familiar songs and melodies
 - c. Monthly choral scholar Sunday morning service featuring CMU scholars
2. Language of the service to be inclusive and peace-promoting rather than militaristic
3. Invitation to parishioners interested in planning a family worship service
4. Parish wide offering of education and discussion regarding worship
5. The quality of sound in the broadcast is in question. Alice attended the meeting indicating she will contact the sound representative again to have an evaluation, appropriate adjustments, and improvement – already addressed

It was noted that a monthly Evensong was our traditional way of honoring the talent and contributions of the choral scholars but these haven't been very successful since COVID due to low attendance. Look to reintroduce this concept. It was also noted that there is a strong desire to maintain the traditional worship service on Sunday while supplementing with this complimentary service idea. The group discussed the idea of a Family Worship Service/Potluck specifically in July or August.

Outreach Committee

No meetings of this committee and in Ella's absence, Olivia discussed some ideas that they have.

1. Handwritten notes to absent or irregular parishioners, Diane noted that the church has a large supply of blank cards to use for this activity
2. Reinstating Clean & Bright regularly as it's been done in the past – currently if there is a need, people contact the church office directly and it is set up

Education Committee

1. Mary Ellen is working on a plan to continue Sunday school after coffee hour. Wildly successful and the children really enjoy it. Tom has surveyed the families and they are all on board.

Parish Life/Social Committee

Loons game will be in July/August, date and info to come. Jen offered to help with the Family worship service/potluck when it gets scheduled. Jen will reach out to Maekayla (spelling?) to get appropriate lists to create coffee hour/acolyte/etc. schedule.

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for April 2022

Administrative Committee

No financial report – no new news to report. Diane noted that ~70% of the discretionary fund has been used thus far, so many community hardships right now. Clancy commented that if the donations for this fund continue to come in as they have historically, the funds will be there to continue to help those in need. Diane thanked the administrative committee for their continued efforts.

Pastoral Report

Mutual Ministry Review needs to be done. This is the “performance evaluation” of St Johns and Diane will ask Anne to visit a Sunday Eucharist with the intent of completing this evaluation immediately after. Icon retreat is scheduled for Sept 14-17 in the Parish Hall.

New Business

New acolyte training

There was some interest after the announcement was made during the service and the plan is to get together after coffee hour (when it doesn't interfere with Sunday School) and show the Church Next trainign video. Adam is good to cover through Pentacost, Emma will serve on June 5th during the graduation service and a formal schedule will be submitted before 5/27/22.

Next meeting moved to Tuesday June 28th due to Diane's vacation.

Pat led the closing prayer

Olivia moved to adjourn and Tom seconded, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm

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Pat led the closing prayer

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Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm

March 2022 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of March (25.00%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 46,841.15 (25.71% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	49,014.55 (23.79% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (2,173.40)

Pledge income is down slightly. Please verify that your pledge is up-to-date.

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.

Carpeting: All funds have been received to pay for the project.

External Sign Upgrade: Still in discussion.

Montessori School Proposal: Still in discussion.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	61,989.20
Savings	26,774.44
Certificates of Deposit	16,077.35
Endowment Fund	96,288.50

Total	201,129.49
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Cash Sources This Month

Traditional Giving	18,532.13	64.56%
Online Giving	10,170.94	35.44%

Total	28,703.07	100.00%
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April 2022 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of April (33.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 76,611.81 (42.05% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	68,308.27 (33.16% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ 8,303.54

Pledge income is up due to several parishioners prepaying their pledges. Please verify that your pledge is up-to-date. The paperwork has been filed the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC).

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.

Carpeting: All funds have been received to pay for the project.

External Sign Upgrade: In discussion.

Columbarium Expansion: In discussion.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	69,479.22
Savings	26,774.44
Certificates of Deposit	16,079.40
Endowment Fund	90,109.00

Total	202,442.06
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Cash Sources This Month

Traditional Giving	27,957.75	90.53%
Online Giving	2,923.72	9.47%

Total	30,881.47	100.00%
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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:

June 5	Pam & Ford Dingman
June 12	Harriett White
June 19	Liz Brockman
June 26	Dave & Jen Dingman/ Dan & Jasmine Eichingar

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
June 5	Jen Dingman	Mary Kiesgen
June 12	Tom Cochrane	Renee Babcock
June 19	Kip Cosan	Laura Cochrane
June 26	Nancy Hartshorne	Jen Dingman

Greeters Schedule:

June 5	Clancy & Pat DeLong
June 12	David & Nancy Kinney
June 19	Pam & Ford Dingman
June 26	Renee Babcock & Kathy Conlon

June Calendar

**Sundays: 6/5, 6/12,
6/19, 6/26**

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

**Mondays: 6/6, 6/13,
6/20, 6/27**

Nothing on these days

**Tuesdays: 6/7, 6/14,
6/21, 6/28**

11am Yoga
with Judy

**Wednesdays: 6/1, 6/8, 6/15,
6/22, 6/29**

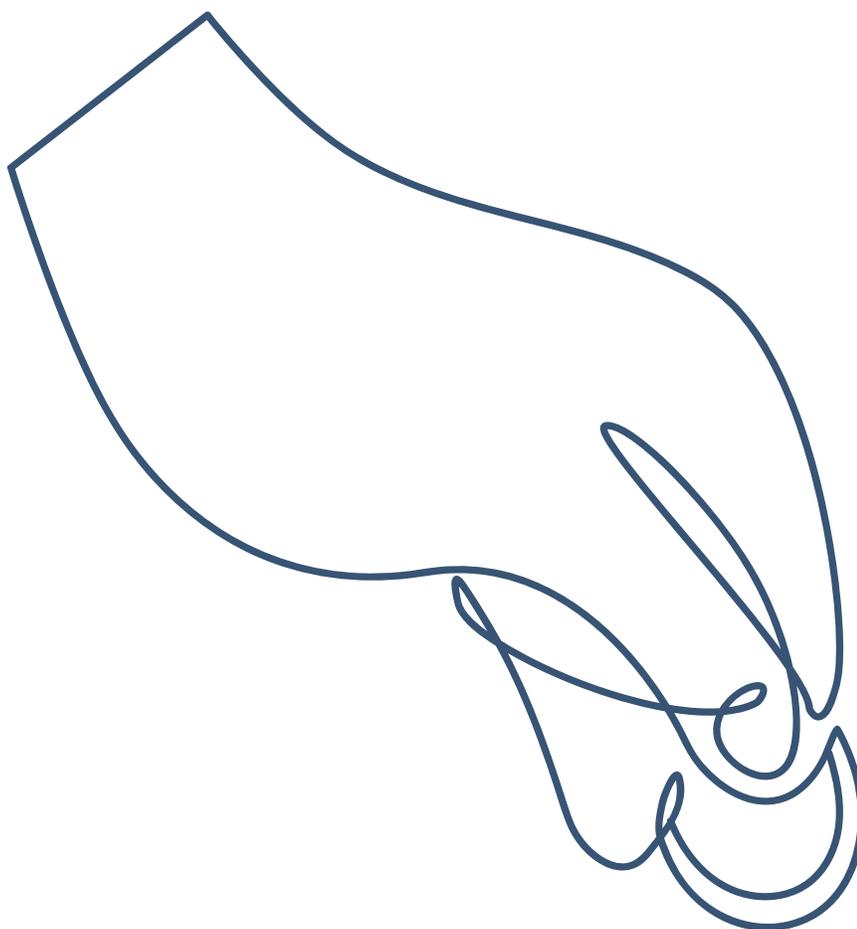
10am Church School
via Zoom
6pm Lenten Program
via Zoom
6pm Yoga with Judy

**Thursdays: 6/2, 6/9, 6/16,
6/23, 6/30**

8pm Compline
via Zoom
11am Yoga with Judy

**Fridays: 6/3, 6/10,
6/17, 6/24**

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 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