



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

November, in some circles, is a time of reflecting on the passing nature of things. The temperatures drop, trees lose their leaves, the barrenness of winter appears. In the church year, it begins with the Feast of All Saints – drawing us into a spirit of remembrance of those who have gone before us and leading us ever so mindfully into a celebration of Thanksgiving as an opportunity to enjoy the presence of those surrounding us.

Whether you gathered with us for Compline on the 1st as we named those now beyond our sight, or you are signing up to help when we host Restoration House (Nov. 12-19), or you are making plans for a Thanksgiving gathering, or you are taking time for some interior reflection – know that what moves you to do any of it is LOVE. Love is at your core. It is within you – and all around you – to be noticed, and felt, and shared.

Check out the rest of the newsletter – celebrating what has been, and looking forward to what is to come.

Before this month ends, Advent will be upon us – that season when we focus on the mystery of a God who desired to take flesh – out of Love. Think of it as November's continued gift of drawing us ever more deeply into that mystery of Love – remembrance, celebration, anticipation, incarnation. Take time to savor it all this month.

You are much loved.

Sr. Diane+



November is **Native American Heritage Month**.

Check out the resources available here (from Virginia

Theological Seminary – VTS):

<https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?>

[e=211869d869&u=81191640565cfef85d9ce1249&id=c7605](https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=211869d869&u=81191640565cfef85d9ce1249&id=c7605)

[8bdea](https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=211869d869&u=81191640565cfef85d9ce1249&id=c76058bdea)

Good News Garden

On Saturday, September 30, we put the Good News Garden to bed, had a huge bonfire (which Pasquale Ciccu tended masterfully!), shared a potluck meal, and ended with a prayer (prepared by Pat Thurston) acknowledging God's work in all of creation. What a great day!



Canadian Thanksgiving and Indigenous People's Day

There were 23 of us gathered to share a Canadian Thanksgiving dinner - and to celebrate a Eucharist for Indigenous People's Day. Both were wonderful!



CMU Choir Concert

I was able to attend the CMU choir concert on October 19 - and managed to get pictures with everyone but Pauline! It was a wonderful concert - and I'm always delighted when I can make it there!



4th Joint Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan



St. John's folks got to sit with Rev. Shadrach Owuor and his wife Aclyne at the Diocesan Convention. Shadrach is at Grace Episcopal Church in Port Huron - our "sister" parish from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.





Our shelter week this fall is November 12-19. Because shelter staff will take care of overnights this year, our three needs are meals, evenings, and mornings. Please contact Ulana (klymy1au@cmich.edu) if you can help out with a meal. The evenings and mornings both include some clean-up and spending time with guests. Please contact Laura (cochr1ll@cmich.edu) with questions with questions and sign up here:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508044BA8A92FA1F58-icrh15#/ Thank you!

If you are unable to help with meals, but would like to help in another way, please consider purchasing items from the Restoration House's Amazon Wishlist.



United Thank Offering

In a popular hymn, the lyrics remind us to “Count your blessings, name them one by one... see what God has done.” The United Thank Offering (UTO) gives us the opportunity to count our blessings and share our thankful spirit with others in the United States and around the world. In the past UTO has supported God’s mission by building a senior community center in Louisiana, career readiness training in Haiti, an elevator for a wellness facility in a low-income area in California, Pensacola Area Interfaith Justice Ministry and Indianapolis Trinity Haven Furnishings Project for a dedicated residence for LGBTQ homeless youth.

Remember as we give thanks to God for our blessings, make an offering for each one. Every coin and bill transforms lives. A box for our daily offering and envelopes for our check are available in the narthex. Bring your offering in the form of a check written to St. John’s with “UTO” in the memo line placed in the UTO envelope. St. John’s UTO Ingathering is Sunday, November 19th.

Remember to add the
St. John's Art Show to your calendar.

Contact Nancy Hartshorne (989) 289-7372 or Pat
Thurston (517) 303-1046 for more information.

Art Spirit

St John's Episcopal Church Art Show

506 S. Washington

Mt Pleasant, MI

Dec 1st, noon - 6 pm

Dec 2nd, 10 am - 4 pm

-
- Pottery
 - Digital Art
 - Photography
 - Mixed Media
 - Jewelry
 - Fiber Arts
 - Painting
 - Original Cards
 - Journals



Expanding Our Understanding

On December 3 and 10, join in a St. John's coffee hour discussion of Judaism and Islam, focused on religious practice. On December 3, Kelly Murphy, professor of religion at CMU, will present on Judaism.

On December 10, Laura Cochrane, professor of anthropology at CMU, will present on Islam. Both will be short presentations with time for questions and discussion afterward.



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

Absent: Jerry May

Meeting called to order at 11:54am. Pat led the group in an opening prayer.

Minutes from Aug 20, 2023, monthly Vestry meeting were reviewed and there were 2 noted corrections. Pat moved to accept the minutes; Mary seconded. All approved.

Rector's Report

- Diane is gone Sept 21st – 25th. Pat will lead evening prayer at the Special Service on Sun afternoon and someone will lead the am service.
- Indigenous people day is Oct 9th and there will be something from St John's, plans still underway.
 - 2023 – just St John's
 - 2024 – include the tribe if possible
- Thoughts and prayers for all St. John's and St John's loved ones who have had recent health related issues.
- Oct 1st – Blessing of the Animals

Property Committee

- Jerry absent but everyone commented on how nice the church looks and how many hands have contributed to the efforts this year

Worship Committee

- Art Show: Dec 1-2
 - 12 - 8pm Friday (6-8pm reception), 10am – 6pm on Saturday
 - Space for up to 15 artists and booth fee is \$75
 - 11 signed up/shown interest to date – wood, photo, painting, jewelry, etc.
 - All proceeds go to the artists
 - Save the date flyers are out
 - Planning committee is meeting monthly, Fri night reception host still needed.

- Good News Garden Bonfire – Sat Sept 30th
 - Fall garden clean up – all day
 - Potluck – 1pm
 - Prayer – 4pm
 - Sign up in Narthex

Outreach Committee

No Report

Human Resources

- Organist job description sent to Vestry for comments
 - Search will include posting with CMU School of Music, American Guild of Organists (active chapter in Midland)
 - Non-organ options discussed (piano, keyboard) if an organist isn't available

Administrative Committee

- \$1,900 in the black YTD
- \$5,000 paid to sign company, sign shipped last week
- Insurance replacement cost on the columbarium will result in an annual increase of \$79
- Oct meeting will kick off the 2023 budget process. Suggested adds
 - Asphalt resurfacing for the parking area
 - A budget for individual reimbursements for things like Indigenous People Day, Thanksgiving dinner, etc.

Education Committee

No report

Diocesan Committee

- Commission on Ministry - given all the upheaval within Diocese, the members decided that they would stay on to give consistency to the upcoming candidates (Jess and Christi from St Johns)
- Nov 18th – both councils, standing committee and the Building Bridges will meet face to face to begin working through all the things that need to be accomplished
 - Send Lara any feedback to take to that meeting

- Standing Committee approved the funds to get an interim Bishop
- Clancy noted that at this junction, both East and West would need to change a lot of things regarding finance to align accounting methods

Parish Life/Social Committee

- Schedule for the remainder of the year is done
- No coffee hours on 11/26, 12/24
- Christmas services
 - Christmas Eve 5pm
 - Christmas Day 9am
 - No services currently planned for New Year's Eve/New Year's Day (morning Eucharist on 12/31 will continue as normal at 10am)

Senior Warden Report

- St John's Playbook write ups to Alice by Oct 1 if possible
- David Shirley agreed to train DJ and Dan to train new acolytes. DJ will reach out to David to schedule

New Business

- Convention Oct 27 – 28th
- Christi and Nancy are available to go
- LGBTQ group will be using the church the last Wednesday of each month for their meetings
- Moonyeen's funeral is scheduled for Oct 7th and Dennis will be playing the organ.

Next meeting Sunday October 15, 2023

Pat led the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm

September 2023 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of September (75.00%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 157,255.20 (79.65% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	160,396.35 (73.42% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures..	\$ (3,141.15)

Income is considerably down for September. In 2023, we adopted a deficit budget, balancing it with surplus funds from COVID grants and credits. We will not have that luxury in 2024.

The Stewardship Campaign will commence soon. Our goal is to develop a balanced budget this year. To do so we need your prayers. Prayers that giving is strong and gives us the resources to strengthen existing programs and explore new ones. Prayers for the tough decisions the vestry must make to balance the budget.

Please confirm that this year's estimated giving amounts are up to date.

Special projects:

External Sign Upgrade: All is complete except for the electrical work.

Columbarium Expansion: The project is complete. If you are interested in a niche, please contact Pamela Dingman for more information.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	39,694.78
Certificate of Deposit #1	43,873.20
Certificate of Deposit #2	20,133.65
Endowment Fund	91,385.57
Total	<u>195,087.20</u>



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

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.



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.



November Birthdays

Rebecca DeLong	11/04
Colin Alton	11/08
Eileen Swinehart	11/08
Carrie Blackburn	11/13
Randi L'Hommedieu	11/14
Tim Hartshorne	11/15
Lara Raisanen	11/15
Janice Schurr	11/15
Nancy Fulton	11/19
Gabriel Kney	11/21
Bill Henderson	11/23
Sr. Diane Stier	11/24
Jonathan Scott Shaffer	11/29



Brent & Jeanne Maxon	11/04
Harry & Margaret Kuhn	11/10
Bill & Candy Henderson	11/21
Roger Hatch & Joyce Baugh	11/23
Bob & Kip Cosan	11/28

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:

November 5	Lynne L'Hommedieu
November 12	DJ Proctor & Christi Brookes
November 19	The Eichinger Family
November 26	No Coffee Hour

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
November 5	Jeanne Maxon	Ulana Klymyshyn
November 12	Nancy Hartshorne	Tom Cochrane
November 19	Mary Stewart Kiesgen	Jim Thurston
November 26	Patricia Thurston	Barbara Sheperdigian

Greeters Schedule:

November 5	Mary Stewart Kiesgen
November 12	Ford & Pamela Dingman
November 19	Tom & Mary Ellen Cochrane
November 26	The Davidson Family

November Calendar

**Sundays: 11/05, 11/12, 11/19,
11/26**

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

**Mondays: 11/06, 11/13, 11/20,
11/27**

6:30 pm G.A.

**Tuesdays: 11/07, 11/14,
11/21, 11/28**

11am Tai Chi with Judy

**Wednesdays: 11/08, 11/15, 11/22,
11/29**

10am Church School
via Zoom

6pm Choir Practice

7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

**Thursdays: 11/09, 11/16, 11/23,
11/30**

11am Tai Chi with Judy

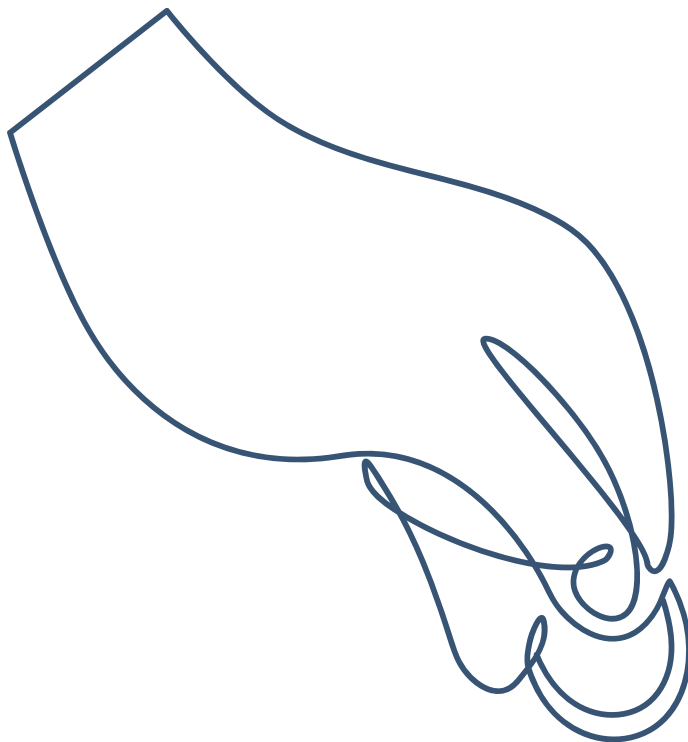
6pm Tai Chi with Judy

8pm Compline via Zoom

Fridays: 11/10, 11/17, 11/24

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, 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:

Choirmaster:

Eric Vinciguerra

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

Dan Eichinger