



# THE EVANGEL

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

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

I know I preach often about God being right where we are. I also know that most of the time, preachers are preaching what they themselves need to hear! So when I was away on vacation in August, my primary experience was of all the ways God showed up.

It all started when the cottage we had booked (at the last minute) got changed to one on the lake...with a dock I could fish from not 30 yards from the back door... I fished a little almost every day. And God smiled. We went for a walk through Duck Park in Alpena, which has a lovely paved trail (as well as other trails), and met an older couple with whom Sr. Linda-Susan had a wonderfully long conversation while our dog Sadie and I continued wandering. They were delightful people – and told us about the Dog Park. Yes, God had shown up under the covered bridge at Duck Park.

On three or four occasions, we went to said Dog Park – and again found God already there. Folks with dogs seem pretty friendly, and Sadie had the chance to run and play. One day, a woman named Judy came to the fence (from the outside) and started a conversation. She said God had told her to come to the park and pray a blessing for the folks there. This was her ministry, she said. I thanked her for her blessing. God shows up.

One morning when I had Sadie outside (on a leash, of course), the trash truck was stopped at the edge of the road to empty the dumpster. “William” got out – then came toward us – with a dog biscuit for Sadie. He came and petted her – and we talked about how “personal” his job is. “It’s not just about trash,” he said. “I know my customers, and they like to be complimented, and they like people who are friendly to their animals.” We talked about his work as ministry – about how he knows who has what in their trash and what it means about a family’s situation... We made each other smile and feel good. And God showed up.

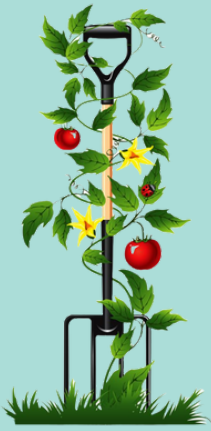
There was a woman at Ocqueoc Falls who waded into the water with Sadie because I wasn’t dressed for it... the person at the library who found a map for the Barn Quilt Trail for us... the sound of the waves surrounding lighthouses we had not seen before...

The last night of vacation, when I went out on the dock one last time, the sky was streaked with red after a storm, and the loons were calling. Yep. The Holy One shows up – within the people and nature around us - and even within us.

Thank you for the time away. Hope you took some, too.

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

Sr. Diane+



# Good News Garden



The Good News Garden has entered the harvest phase. We have started taking produce to the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen. We are still working every Friday at 9:00 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](mailto:cochr1ll@cmich.edu)) or Ulana ([klymy1au@cmich.edu](mailto:klymy1au@cmich.edu)) for more information.



# Let Peace Reign

## Community Peace Event

**Location: Island Park, Mt Pleasant, MI**

**Time: 3-6pm, Saturday, September 23, 2023**

**Community Peace Walk**

**From Mount Pleasant City Hall to Island Park**

**Arts and Crafts**

**Food Venders**

**Door Prizes**

**Community Speakers**

## Candlelight Vigil

**Bring lawn chair or blanket**



**For more information, contact:  
Human Rights Committee-Isabella County  
[hrcisabellacounty@gmail.com](mailto:hrcisabellacounty@gmail.com)**



Let Peace Reign is a non-denominational community event, open and free to the public



**Holy Hikes**  
**September 23, 2023 - 1PM**  
**Mill Pond Park**  
**607 S. Adams Street**  
**Mt. Pleasant**

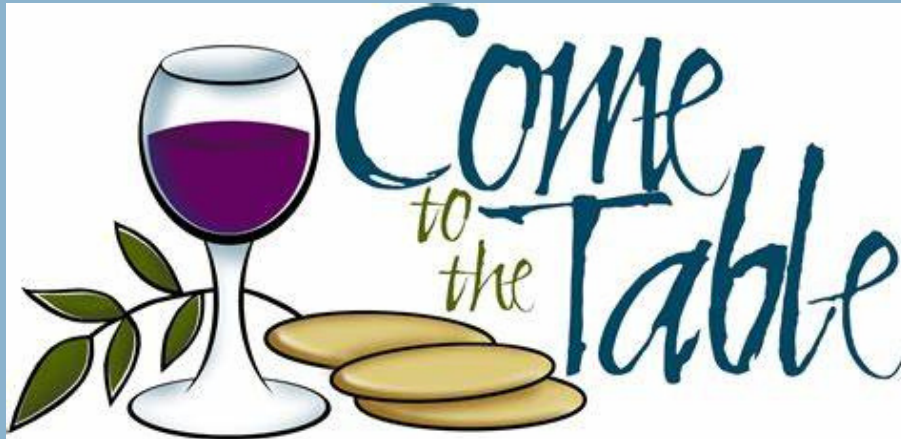
All hiking sites have been carefully selected to be relatively easy treks to ensure access for all generations and most mobilities. We expect to spend about 90 minutes on the trail, including time both hiking and stopped for prayer and reflection. The hikes will start at 1pm. In the case of rain, the date will be rescheduled.

We ask all participants to [RSVP](#) to let us know they're coming and so that, in case of weather, we can notify you about any cancellations or postponements.



September 23rd  
Mill Pond Park  
Mount Pleasant, MI

## Second Service



One Sunday a month, St. John's will offer a second service. This is a way to offer additional worship opportunities, provide flexibility for those who may not be able to attend the usual service time, and offers a stronger sense of inclusivity.

The second service in September will be held on **September 24th** at **4PM** in the chapel – downstairs at the north end of the undercroft.

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.

*Save the  
Date!*

December 1, 2023  
noon - 8 pm  
*Artist Reception*  
6 - 8 pm

December 2, 2023  
10 am - 6 pm

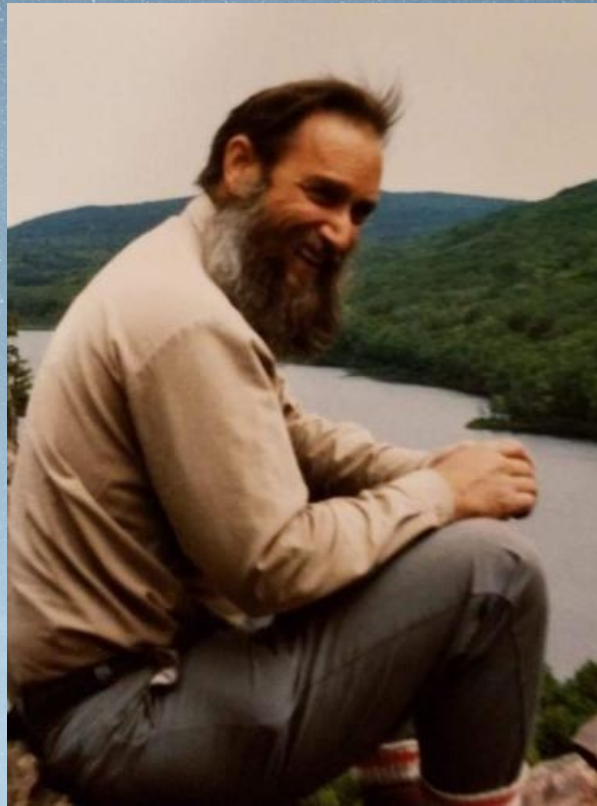
St John's Episcopal Church  
Parish Hall  
506 S Washington, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
<https://www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com/>



*Celebrate the arts and enjoy the  
holiday spirit with St. John's!*



## Thomas Bambas 1938-2023



Thomas Bambas was a gifted metalsmith, an esteemed professor in the Art Department at CMU, and member of St. John's many years ago.

Tom shared his exceptional talents with both his students and our congregation. Through his meticulous craftsmanship, he adorned our church with stunning silver items such as the baptismal font cover, a chalice, and matching cruets and candlesticks for the altar. These beautiful pieces created by Tom embodied not only his skill, but also his devotion to our community. As we mourn his loss, we also celebrate the indelible mark he made on our shared history.



The 2023 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!

## **Vestry Meeting, 16 July 2023**

Present: Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Rector; Nancy Herman-Kinney, Sr. Warden; Jerry May, Jr. Warden; Mary Stewart Kiesgen; Pat Thurston; Lara Raisanen, Acting Clerk; Dan Eichinger, Acting Clerk; Alice Ciccu present via zoom Clancy DeLong, Treasurer, DJ Proctor

Absent: Kevin Davidson; Olivia Ohler; Jen Dingman, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 11:51 AM. Pat led Vestry in opening prayer.

Meeting minutes from 25 June 2023 were approved. Jerry moved to approve the minutes; Mary Stewart seconded his motion. All approved.

### **Pastoral Report - Sr. Diane:**

- People noticed The Evangel was published without the Vestry minutes. The reason was explained, and approved minutes will be published going forward, beginning with June's minutes in August.

- College of Congregational Development: Due to an unforeseen and unavoidable conflict, Jillian Davidson could no longer attend. The decision was made to postpone St. John's participation until 2024 when our full contingent of participants could attend. Sr. Diane was told St. John's presence would be missed.

- The first Sunday 4:00 pm service will be held 30 July in the chapel. We will hold these services monthly for a period of time and then evaluate. Volunteers will work to get the chapel ready; the church's cleaning crew will be notified to make sure the chapel is cleaned. This service will not be streamed online.

- Sr. Diane will be away Friday, 21 July to Saturday 22 July.

- She is looking for a supply priest for the two Sundays in August (6 and 13) and will keep us posted. The person who agreed to supply has a happy family event that supersedes her ability to supply for us.

- The icon retreat will be held 14 - 17 Sept (Thursday - Sunday). Cost to participants will be decided when all details are set. The retreat will be in the evenings on Thursday and Friday, all day Saturday, with time Sunday for finishing. This year's icon is a Madonna and child.

### **Building and Grounds - Jerry:**

- Three big painting jobs remain; Jerry received quotes for each portion separately. It was decided parish volunteers will be able to paint the east wall of the church, saving us almost \$3,000. We will advertise this special work weekend frequently. The date chosen is Friday and Saturday, September 8 -9 with a weather date of September 15 -16. This work weekend may also include the new columbarium setup.

- Discussion of power washing the soffit and potential damage to the old brick resulted in Clancy mentioning the possibility of (baking) soda washing (a gentler technique often used on historic buildings). Jerry will both investigate soda washing and mention the brick concerns to the painter.

- Quote for additional concrete work (sidewalk in front of red door) and columbarium base is \$1,000 by the same company doing the sign (JRock).

• Motion made by Pat and seconded by Nancy: To approve \$3,402.92 to JJ Solutions, LLC for appropriate preparatory work and painting of the church fascia, soffit, windows and door trim. To approve the \$1,000 increase in cost for the additional concrete work by JRock. The motion passed unanimously.

### **- Sign update:**

• Old sign has been preserved. It needs some repair and painting, then will be affixed to the parking lot side of the Parish Hall.

• The concrete will be poured Monday, July 17. • New digital sign should be delivered in August.

**Art Show - Pat:**

- The Art Show will be Nov 17-18 or December 1-2. The goals of this art show are to promote parish and community artists, to showcase our parish's support for the arts, and to raise money for the church.

**Outreach – Olivia – No Report**

**Formation – Lara – No Report**

**Hospitality – Jen – No report**

**Administration and Finance - Clancy:**

- The Rummage sale final total is \$6,216 which includes a direct donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund of \$500. - Our investments are recovering well with the Episcopal fund move and overall improvements in the market. - Audit on track. - Still keeping an eye on utilities expenses and the sign costs. Vestry will need to consider fundraisers for the sign.

- Motion to open a new CD for \$20,000 made by Lara, seconded by Jerry. Motion passed unanimously.

**Diocesan Update - Lara:**

No report. After the Treasury update, Vestry entered executive session.

At this point of the meeting, Lara had to leave for a Diocesan meeting and Dan took over meeting minutes.

Next meeting date: 20th August 2023

## July 2023 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of July (58.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 135,833.29 (68.80% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	128,146.86 (58.66% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ 7,686.43

The budget continues to be strong financially. A special thank you goes out to Jerry May and his crew for making spring cleanup successful and the preparation and painting of the east side of the church.

Please verify that your estimated giving amount is up to date.

### Special projects:

**External Sign Upgrade:** The concrete work for the foundation is complete and we are waiting for the sign from the manufacturer. A thank you to Alice Ciccu for taking on the role as project manager. Sign companies offered third party coordinators for \$3,000.00.

**Columbarium Expansion:** Concrete work is completed and as well as repair of the sidewalk. The initial planned weekend for installation is September 8-9,

If you are interested in a niche, please contact Pamela Dingman for more information.

### Cash Balances

<b>Cash in Checking Account</b>	52,476.28
<b>Certificate of Deposit #1</b>	43,581.97
<b>Certificate of Deposit #2</b>	20,000.00
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	94,156.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>210,214.88</b>



Remember Our  
Homebound Members  
Drop a card to our parish  
members who are homebound.

**Alma Dickerson**  
Isabella Medical Care Facility  
1222 North Drive  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
989-289-0799

**Sandy Wood**  
2812 Weatherwood St.  
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

**Fran Weaver**  
Comfort Care  
1945 Churchill Blvd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Nancy Fulton**  
1945 Churchill Blvd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Joan Kadler**  
Crestwood  
2378 S. Lincoln  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
989-772-2803

**Elliott Parker**  
Crestwood  
2378 S. Lincoln  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

### 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:  
paddingman@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.



### September Birthdays

David Shirley	09/03
Matthew Blackburn	09/04
Emma Dingman	09/04
Clancy DeLong	09/05
Laura Cochrane	09/10
Sharon Bolton	09/20
Elizabeth Brockman	09/20
Kevin Davidson	09/20
Carol Lauffer	09/26
Frank Benn	09/29



Charles & Doris Sherwood	09/06
Randi & Lynne L'Hommedieu	09/11
Donald & Janice Schurr	09/18
Tom & Mary Ellen Cochrane	09/28

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:

September 3

September 10 Ford & Pamela Dingman

September 17 DJ Proctor & Christi Brookes

September 24 Dan & Jasmine Eichinger

Lay Ministers:

Lectors

Prayers

September 3

Ulana Klymyshyn

Jim Thurston

September 10

Kip Cosan

Jillian Davidson

September 17

Tom Cochrane

September 24

Dan Eichinger

Dan Eichinger

Greeters Schedule:

September 3

September 10

Kevin & Jillian Davidson

September 17

Clancy & Patricia DeLong

September 24

Ford & Pamela Dingman



# September Calendar

**Sundays: 09/03, 09/10, 09/17,  
09/24**

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

**Mondays: 09/04, 09/11, 09/18,  
09/25**

6:30 pm G.A.

**Tuesdays: 09/05, 09/12,  
09/19, 09/26** 11am Tai

Chi with Judy

**Wednesdays: 09/06, 09/13, 09/20,  
09/27**

10am Church School  
via Zoom

6pm Yoga with Judy

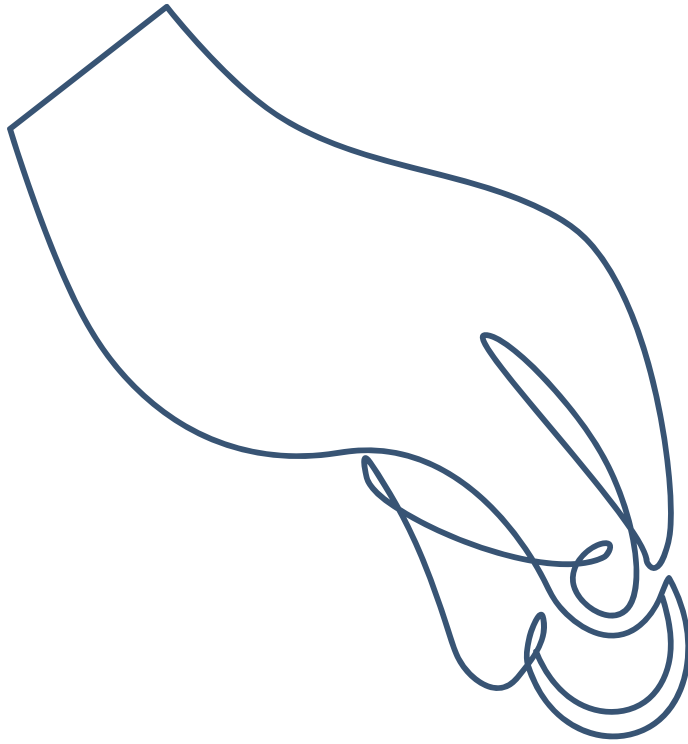
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

**Thursdays: 09/07, 09/14, 09/21,  
09/28**

11am Tai Chi with Judy  
8pm Compline via Zoom

**Fridays: 09/08, 09/15,  
09/22, 09/29**

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

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

Dennis Flynn

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