



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! – and welcome to the Easter season. There are seven Sundays of Easter (counting Easter Day) before we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. It will take us all that time, perhaps, to take in, absorb, and process what Easter means for us – much like how the soil takes time to warm up with the coming of spring and the flowers dare to stick their noses out of the earth, and the trees dare to bud again. When you see the spring flowers, the budding trees, ask yourself this: “How is the risen Christ-life budding in me?” It’s a question for us all... and the answer may be as quiet and unassuming as a crocus, or as loud and stirring as a spring thunderstorm. But keep asking yourself that question. “How is the risen Christ coming to life in me?”

This issue of the Evangel is packed with information and reminders. There are lots of things coming up that we don't want you to miss. Get a cup of tea or coffee, settle into a favorite chair, and have a good read!

Christ is Risen indeed – and is risen in YOU. Alleluia!

Remember that you are loved – and pass it on.

Sr. Diane+

Thank
You

THANK YOU to each and all!

Lectors and Intercessors, choir members, altar guild members, acolytes, greeters, those who beautified the sanctuary with flowers, those who livestreamed our services, those who contributed to the Easter Basket outreach and those who delivered them, all who prayed through the Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil, and Easter Sunday! We provided Easter meals for SEVEN families, with Easter baskets for the children. We also provided Easter bags and cards for all of our homebound parishioners – for which they were most grateful.

THANK YOU!

Easter Flowers were contributed by...



- Brent and Jeanne Maxon in memory of our parents and Pat
- Barbara Sheperdigian in honor of the Altar Guild
- Carol Lauffer in memory of John Lauffer
- Sr. Linda-Susan Beard and Sr. Diane Stier in memory of Stanley and Mamie Beard and Bill and Marcella Stier
- Kevin, Jillian and Byron Davidson in memory of Ed Maxson, Byron and Anita Davidson, Briellynn Bullard and Wilbur and Marianne Dieterle
- David, Nancy and Matthew Kinney in memory of Michael, Emma Herman, Nancy Gallery Kinney and Thomas Kinney
- Ford and Pamela Dingman in memory of Michael, Alice and Rexford
- Rev. Sr. Diane Stier in honor of Eric, Ethan, and the choir

TEAM UP WITH TIM!

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Over 40,500 Sunday meals served since 2016

In April/May 2024,
Tim Brockman's family pledges
to match PHP donations
up to \$10,000!

Scan the QR Code to make a donation, or make checks payable to People Helping People.



PHP is a 501(c)(3)



venmo

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MT.
PLEASANT PRESENTS

A CHORAL SCHOLAR

VOICE RECITAL

Join us for a free,
entertaining recital
featuring the choral
scholars of St. John's!



WHEN:

SATURDAY,
APRIL 6TH
1PM

WHERE:

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S
PARISH HALL
206 W MAPLE ST, MT PLEASANT,
MI 48858



Choral Evensong

Be sure to mark your calendars for Choral Evensong on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 5PM

There will be a reception immediately following.



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

Please join us for the St John's 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!

On March 16th, delegates from congregations in the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan met for a Special Convention to vote on whether the two dioceses should “juncture.” Our two delegates (Nancy Herman-Kinney and Alice Ciccu) and I traveled there together to represent your expressed feelings about juncture. To that end, Alice was one of those who went to the microphone to speak in opposition to the resolution to juncture. I was one of the clergy who asked for a vote (in our diocese of Western Michigan) “by orders” – meaning clergy and lay delegate votes were counted separately, and the resolution had to pass each order separately. The end result was that the resolution for the two dioceses to juncture passed with more than 80% in favor. I was grateful that the margin was significant – and also grateful that voices in opposition had the opportunity to be heard.



The next step is that the two dioceses will officially become one at the **next Diocesan Convention on October 18-19, 2024**. (All this is pending official approval of the juncture by the General Convention in June, of course – but that is expected.) The Diocesan Convention will be held **here in Mt. Pleasant at the Soaring Eagle Convention Center**.

This will be an historic convention: we will need to pass new Canons (rules about how the new Diocese of the Great Lakes will operate), a budget, etc. Alice and Nancy will continue to serve as our elected delegates to this convention. However, since it is in our backyard, you may want to attend all or part of the convention as a visitor. **If you would like to attend the convention at a visitor, please let us know**. Visitors do need to be registered in advance.

“But what can we do?” – We can start by learning more...



Many of you have discussed the “angst” you feel about the situation in Gaza and about the seemingly endless conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. The Episcopal Church News service recently released information about an organization formed to help us gain a better understanding of our Palestinian siblings. You can see that press release [here](#).

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship also has information about its Palestine Israel Network on its website [here](#).

Solar eclipse viewing times for Michigan cities on April 8, 2024



City	Partial eclipse start time	Max coverage time	Percent coverage
Detroit	1:58 p.m.	3:14 p.m.	99%
Ann Arbor	1:57 p.m.	3:13 p.m.	99%
Flint	1:58 p.m.	3:14 p.m.	97%
Battle Creek	1:55 p.m.	3:11 p.m.	96%
Lansing	1:56 p.m.	3:12 p.m.	96%
Kalamazoo	1:54 p.m.	3:10 p.m.	96%
Midland	1:58 p.m.	3:14 p.m.	94%
Grand Rapids	1:55 p.m.	3:11 p.m.	94%
Alpena	2:01 p.m.	3:17 p.m.	90%
Gaylord	1:59 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	88%
Traverse City	1:58 p.m.	3:14 p.m.	88%
Mackinac Island	2:00 p.m.	3:16 p.m.	86%
Marquette	1:58 p.m.	3:14 p.m.	79%



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, Liz Brockman, Pat Thurston, Mary Stewart Kiesgen, Kevin Davidson, Dan Eichinger, Clancy Delong, Alice Ciccu, Lara Raisanen, Jerry May, DJ Proctor, Jen Dingman (clerk)

Absent: none

Meeting called to order at 11:46am. Pat led the group in an opening prayer.

Diane asked the group to reflect on “How you have seen God in your everyday life?”

Minutes from Dec 17, 2023 and Jan 21, 2024, monthly Vestry meetings were reviewed.

Mary Stewart moved to approve the minutes; Dan seconded. All approved.

Rector’s Report

- Busy week
 - Pancake supper – Good turnout; only one or two not from the parish
 - Ash Wednesday/ Ashes to-go
 - Ashes-to-go: 8 attendees, two unknowns; will most likely repeat next year.
 - Noon service is more heavily attended than 6 PM.
 - We have a written agreement/contract with Ethan Kindle as organist/accompanist – through the end of the semester. Another individual with past experience as a church organist has made contact and may be able to serve as a back-up.

Property Committee

- Kitchen Refrigerator
 - From Alice, “Ford and I went to ABC Warehouse and found a GE GDE25EYKFS – full depth freezer. It will fit in the current space; the measurements are H-71”; W-32.75”; D-37”. The fridge space is 17.5 cu ft – which should be enough. It also has a freezer which means we could start using it and retire the fridge from the undercroft. I wouldn’t get rid of that one until after shelter in April just in case we need it, though. We don’t need to hook up the ice maker - this will save room and trouble. We can also remove the vegetable drawers and use that space differently. The current price at ABC is \$1,299, but that sale ends today. Normal price is \$2,099.”

- An anonymous donor gave \$1,000 toward the purchase of the new refrigerator. With taxes and extended warranty final price of the refrigerator was ~\$1,500. After receiving no dissent from an email to Dan, Clancy, and Sr. Diane. I made the decision to purchase the GE from ABC.
- **Action:** This purchase leads to the need for further discussion of a decision tree for Jr. Warden decisions concerning Church expenses. I will have an example for the Vestry to consider during the March meeting.
- **Exterior Bricks of Church**
 - Condition of the exterior bricks on the old section of the Church isn't great. I was fortunate enough to find an architect who was willing, to this point, to provide his professional opinion for free.
 - Report from Ken Lemiesz, WTA Architects, Saginaw, MI
 - "In general, nothing jumped out at me with regards to a major failure of the brick. Although, I do question what (white) coating product had been applied. Was it considered a "breathable" product? If not, moisture could become trapped in the soft brick behind the coating, and freeze/thaw conditions could then spall the face of the brick. I did not see any spalling overall except for a small piece above a lower window on the northeast end. It appeared that the reddish brick color was leaching out through the white coating at various areas. By any chance would you have any photos of the brick conditions prior to applying the white coating? I would recommend for now that you monitor the brick for any new spalling conditions, especially during this time of the year where you have thawing temperatures during the day and freezing temperatures at night. Also, verify that the coating was an exterior, breathable product."
 - **Action:** I replied back to Ken concerning the coating that was used and what might be used in the future.
 - This action does not address Kevin D's concern for cracks in the stained glass windows. Originally, I thought the bricks and cracks would be addressed collectively. If the bricks are stable the cracks will need to be addressed separately.

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for February 2024

- Night light for alley west of Rectory, motion activated or light sensitive
 - After leaving the Fellowship Hall one evening, a parishioner requested the Vestry consider a nighttime light in the alley running west of the Rectory. Excellent idea. Should it be motion activated or light sensitive? I can contact Block Electric for an estimate.
 - **Action:** I will have a couple of options for consideration during the March Vestry meeting.

Worship & Hospitality Committee

- Develop an annual parish calendar that can be used for planning purposes
 - Pat will send an email to gather all activities
 - Develop an electronic platform to keep all activities, different from the website calendar
 - There is a version available on OneDrive that needs to be updated
 - Give Mekeila access to keep everything up to date

Human Resources

No report

Administrative Committee

- Treasurer's report
 - 5.86% income (should be ~8.5%) but not concerning, it is always that way
 - New refrigerator (\$1,500) will be paid by gifts in kind and restricted funds
- Switch bank?
 - Isabella Bank & Trust – being uncooperative and difficult. They have lost their “hometown bank” feel and the % interest is lower and fees are higher
 - Jim Thurston suggested a credit union, they pay more on CD's and overall seems like a better idea
 - Clancy will bring options for the vestry to consider at March meeting
 - Lara offered to connect Clancy with ICCU because they have programs specifically for non-profits
 - Liz suggested that we talk to IB&T about the customer service before making the switch

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for February 2024

- It's been asked to rekey the locks due to the number of keys that are unaccounted for/unreturned.
 - Dan to send email to Jerry to begin to work on what locks and how. Digital keypads? Other options? Proposal for Vestry in the future. Any thoughts from Vestry members to Dan and Jerry.
- Meeting on Tues 2/20 Clancy will be attending under "Cares Act 2.0" where additional funds may be available for companies who have retained their employees

Education/Christian Formation Committee

No report

Outreach Committee

- Formerly led by Olivia and Nancy who have both left the Vestry, need a new chair
- Liz will help co-chair this committee and help with on Easter/Christmas baskets
- Vestry members to solicit new individuals for committee chair

Diocesan Update

No report

Parish Life/Social Committee

No report

Senior Warden Report

- 2024 Safe Church Training needs to be updated
 - Lara will send an email for those who need to take it and then will keep a list of when everyone is due. Needs to be renewed every 3 years.

New Business

- Digital sign tag line? All are welcome, Thoughtful Theology? Something that runs all the time? Options? Think on it and gather options
- March 17th – 24th, St John's hosting Restoration House Shelter host week

Next meeting Sunday Mar 17, 2024, at 11:30pm

Pat led the closing prayer

February 2024 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of February (16.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 29,762.48 (13.04% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	35,233.98 (15.44% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (2,663.90)

Through February income remains lower than expected. Please confirm that your estimated giving amount is up-to-date.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	37,679.47
Certificate of Deposit #1	44,599.72
Certificate of Deposit #2	20,466.98
Endowment Fund	99,652.84
Total	<u>202,399.01</u>

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
Comfort Care
1945 Churchill Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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

Mary Lou Nowicki
Crestwood
2378 S. Lincoln Rd.
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

Diana Clapp
Comfort Care
1945 Churchill Blvd.
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:
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.



April Birthdays

Adam Baker	04/03
Ezra Hart	04/05
Seth Hartshorne	04/07
Ralph Baber	04/08
Tom Cochrane	04/12
Margaret Kuhn	04/13
Jennifer Dingman	04/14
Ardent Hart	04/16
Jaclynn Cosan	04/24
Alexander DeLong	04/24
Christopher DeLong	04/24
Pamela Dingman	04/29



April Anniversaries

Steven Berkshire & Eileen Swinehart
04/30

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:

April 7	Ford & Pamela Dingman
April 14	Olivia Ohler & Lois Klumpp
April 21	The Davidson Family
April 28	DJ Proctor & Christi Brookes

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
April 7	Nancy Hartshorne	Sr. Linda-Susan Beard
April 14	Jim Thurston	Barbara Sheperdigian
April 21	David Kinney	Tom Cochrane
April 28	Jeanne Maxon	Mary Stewart Kiesgen

Greeters Schedule:

April 7	Clancy & Patricia DeLong
April 14	Ford & Pamela Dingman
April 21	Tom & Mary Ellen Cochrane
April 28	The Eichinger Family

April Calendar

Sundays: 04/07, 04/14, 04/21, 04/28 10am Holy Communion
(In person, Facebook, & YouTube)

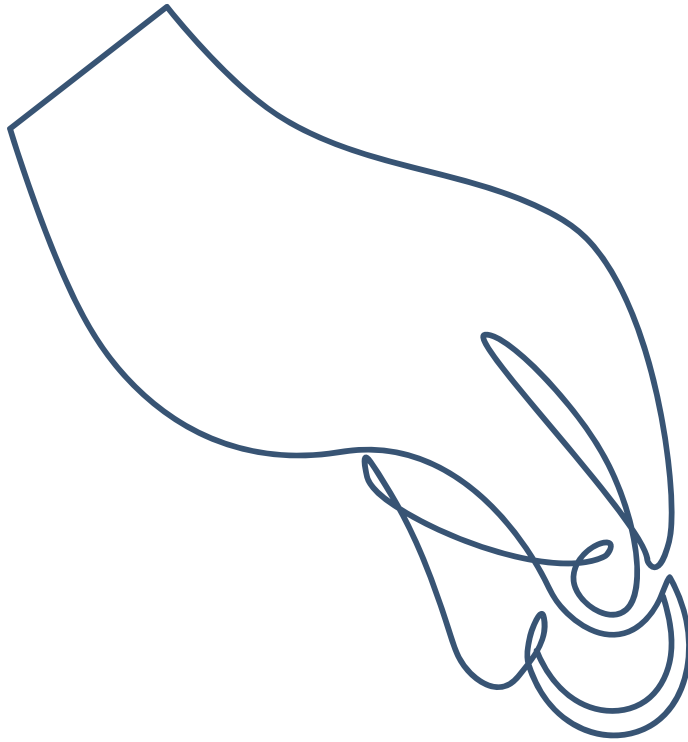
Mondays: 04/01, 04/08, 04/15, 04/22, 04/29
6:30PM GA

Tuesdays: 04/02, 04/09, 04/16, 04/23, 04/30
11am Tai Chi with Judy

Wednesdays: 04/03, 04/10, 04/17, 04/24
10am Church School
via Zoom
6pm Choir Practice
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays: 04/04, 04/11, 04/18, 04/25,
11am Tai Chi with Judy
8pm Compline via Zoom

Fridays: 04/05, 04/12, 04/19, 04/26
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

Clancy DeLong

Mary Stewart Kiesgen

Elizabeth Brockman

Pat Thurston

Kevin Davidson

Lara Raisanen