



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vestry Meeting Minutes-8-9

St. John's December Calendar- 2 and 11

Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!” For many of us, the hymn that carries those words into the air is ingrained in our souls, an iconic representation of the season of Advent. It speaks of a longing deep within us for what was promised: “Behold! The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel – which means ‘God with us.’” Yes, God with us. That is the promise; that is truth; and it is our deepest longing.

There is another hymn that expresses the same longing – although the words changed over the years and some people have come to use them in a pejorative way. One dictionary source says, “Rooted in an American spiritual and folk song of the same name, kumbaya refers, often disparagingly, to moments of or efforts at harmony and unity.”

Yes, I'm laying “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” side by side with “Kumbaya” – and I can almost hear some people sneering. But stay with me.

The origin of Kumbaya – and its devolution – are laid out nicely in this article from NPR. Most likely, “kumbaya” is a transliteration of the plea for God to “come by here.” Someone's crying, Lord – Come by here. The song came from the Gullah people of South Carolina and Georgia – not Europe. Its words are a transliteration from English, not Latin. But the heart-felt plea of “Come by here” echoes the same longing of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

However we spend these days of Advent, whatever our plans for Christmas, and whatever words we choose – let us all pray: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!” “O Lord, Come by here!”

Have a most blessed Advent – and a love-filled Christmas.

Sr. Diane+

Please join us for a candlelight
festival of

Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 11, 2022,
4:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Reception will follow in the
Parish Hall



Christmas Sponsorship

We are sponsoring 3 families and 2 Christmas dinner baskets this year. There is one list with everything listed, so make sure to scroll to the end of the list to see all three families:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e49a9ad22a4fe3-christmas2>

Nancy and Olivia ask that you bring your wrapped gifts/food for baskets to the old rectory by Sunday, 12/18.

If you need help with the sign-up, contact Laura at cochr1ll@cmich.edu



2022 Christmas Flowers & Greens

It is that time of year again! We are asking for contributions for flowers to decorate the church and enhance our worship. These contributions may be made as a memorial, in honor of, or as a thank offering and will be included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Envelopes will be available in the church and must be placed in the offering plate or in the church office by Friday, December 16th in order to be recognized in the bulletin. You may also donate online using the online giving method [here](#).

"Greening" of the Church and Parish Potluck Brunch

Mark your calendars for Sunday Dec 18th, the last Sunday of Advent, where we will gather immediately after Eucharist to "Green" the church on the last Sunday of Advent and share some Holiday cheer with a potluck in the Parish Hall.

There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex beginning Sun Dec 4th and the meal will be Italian style. Pasta, Salad and Garlic Bread Oh My! There will also be games and just time to sit and visit with one another as we move towards the end of 2022.

If you want to sign up for something but won't be in church next weekend, please email or text me, Jennifer Dingman, djdingman@charter.net 989-488-7085, and I'll mark you down.

Please join us, we are looking forward to seeing you there!

PS the church picnic was originally announced for Sun Dec 11th but in looking at everything else that was happening on that day, we decided to move it to Sun Dec 18th instead.

Christmas Outreach of Isabella County is still in need of donated items and donations to help those in need this holiday season.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH **of Isabella County**

DONATIONS NEEDED

CHECKS CAN BE MAILED TO
Christmas Outreach of Isabella County
P.O. Box 1227 Mt Pleasant MI 48804

ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF

FRI DEC 9TH 10am - 5pm

SAT DEC 10TH 10am - 5pm

SUN DEC 11TH 2pm - 4pm

AT CAMPUS LIFE

(FORMER COCA-COLA BUILDING)

1200 W HIGH ST • MT PLEASANT MI

ITEMS TO DONATION FOR 2022:

NEW OR GENTLY USED

**COATS, SNOW PANTS, HATS, MITTENS,
BOOTS, TOWELS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS,
LINENS, & CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
INCLUDING CHRISTMAS TREES**



Pictured L-R: Ryan Linton, Pauline Knilans, Sammie Heath, Rev. Diane Stier, Elizabeth Brockman, Annika Lipar and Noah Walther.

On December 3 & 4, the choral scholars performed in the Central Michigan University Juletide music concert. It was a fantastic performance and our choral scholars were great!



Choral Scholar Noah Walther

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/>

Episcopal Relief & Development - support.episcopalrelief.org/donate



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



December Birthdays

Lois Klumpp	12/02
Andy Brockman	12/04
Diane Benn	12/06
Jim Thurston	12/08
Elliott Parker	12/13
James Wilson	12/13
Mary Ellen Cochrane	12/19
Harriett White	12/24
Doris Sherwood	12/25
Patricia DeLong	12/30

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.



Minutes for Vestry Meeting for November 2022

Present: Pat Thurston, Diane Stier, Olivia Ohler, Jerry May, Clancy Delong, DJ Proctor, Tom Cochrane, Alice Ciccu, Ulana Klymyshyn, Nancy Herman-Kinney, Mary Kiesgen, Dan Eichinger

Absent – excused: Jen Dingman

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:02pm.

Pat led the opening prayer. Diane acted as Clerk. Nancy led the meeting.

Minutes from October meeting were reviewed. No changes suggested.

Olivia moved to accept minutes as written. Pat 2nd. All approved.

Property Committee

- Rectory foundation work is completed. Next job is to repair the steps at the front door of the church and expand the columbarium foundation for the two new units.
- Digital sign – Committee is still working on this.

Worship Committee

- Committee met November 14.
- Family/Youth Services
 - Discussed youth involvement, other churches have youth services, music and lectors led by young members. Possibly in a family potluck/evening prayer format. Suggested the next Family Potluck/Evening Prayer be in Feb around Valentine's Day. The Hart family volunteered to lead the Valentine's Day worship service. Jen (Social) to coordinate the potluck.
- Worship Committee will narrow its focus in 2023 to get family potluck/evening prayer services off to a good start.
- Committee will continue to watch/visit other parishes to get ideas. It was suggested that we ask families what they would like to see. Devote some time to this during the annual meeting.
- Choral Evensong scheduled Dec 11th at 4pm. Wedding at the 10 AM service. No potluck that day.
- December 18th will be Greening – Potluck to follow?

Outreach Committee

- 2 families for Thanksgiving baskets. Olivia reported that the congregation stepped up and provided everything requested plus more. Nancy and Matthew delivered those this afternoon. Thanks to Nancy for stepping up when Olivia was recovering.

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for November 2022

- Restoration House was here Nov 13-20. The week went well. Ulana reported that we had a smaller group than usual – not more than 15 people any day, while in the past we have had 25-30. It was the decision of the ICRH to have people sleep in the undercroft and small rooms only, which limited the number. Parish hall wasn't used for sleeping because the guests reported there was too much light, noise, and lack of privacy. Tension rods and black-out curtains for future? Ulana, DJ, Laura and Alice will debrief. 2nd host week is March 26. Committee will come back to Vestry with a proposal for March.

Education Committee

- Diane ordered Advent booklets from Living Compass that we've used before. They will be sent directly to homebound parishioners and the rest made available to the congregation in the Narthex.
- Mary Ellen has also written materials for use by families that are printed as a booklet.

Parish Life/Social Committee

- Diane will discuss with Jen about having a meal after the Greening on the 18th, instead of on the 11th – and having the normal reception after Advent Lessons and Carols.

Administrative Committee

- 53 pledge cards sent out - \$173,000 in estimated giving – can add another ~\$7000 (\$5000 more than last year). 16 have not been returned so there is opportunity to get a bit more, but Clancy noted that probably only two or three and those have already been included in the estimated amount.
- Rummage sale proceeds – previously voted to move those to the sign budget but as the sign is now delayed, the committee thinks it should stay as part of the operating budget. Clancy explained to Dan that that there was a positive balance when he suggested moving the money originally and now there is a deficit. It was suggested that if we are projecting to finish with a deficit it might make sense to move it for the upcoming fiscal year. It was noted that we pay back the diocese 12% of our budget, which comes out of our operating budget. Funds for capital projects are not subject to this percentage. It was suggested that the funds be used for outreach in the future. This may motivate volunteers and buyers.
- Need a motion to move the residuals from the carpet and the sound project (totaling about \$100) to the sign fund. [NOTE: This will be on the December agenda.]
- Rector's housing allowance and salary need approval. Diocese has increased the minimum by 5%. Suggests that while trying to maintain cost of living, parishes make it up later, if possible.
- Electric and Gas – Clancy will need to estimate new rates, based on current costs and estimated usage.
- Important note - when we look at the budget, we must keep in mind what we are here for.

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for November 2022

Pastoral Report

- Diocesan Convention was Oct 28/29 and for the first time, all delegates were available. Lara Raisanen also attended as Northern Region member of the diocesan Advisory Council.
 - Bishop is working to get key groups/committees from both dioceses to work more closely together in 2023.
- Christmas Eve service time and the use of candles on Christmas Eve were discussed.
- End of Life planning – several 2-hour sessions on Sundays after coffee hour, Diane to propose dates. Could we have estate planning included? Remind parishioners that they can include St John's in their wills. There is a checkbox for that on the online giving site, but no one has used it. Clancy suggested David Kerr to give a presentation on this.

New Business

- Planning for the coming year? Suggested having a mini-2-hour retreat in the Parish Hall
- Vestry membership? Tom, Nancy, and Ulana are going off, Ulana and Tom will serve on the nominating committee.

Next meeting Sunday Dec. 11 at 11:30 AM in the rectory.

Pat led the closing prayer.

Tom motioned; Nancy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm

October 2022 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of October (83.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts..... \$ 157,957.30 (86.69% of budget)
 Unrestricted operating fund expenditures..... 169,170.97 (73.88% of budget)
 Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures. \$ (11,213.67)

If you haven't already done so, please make sure you have turned in your estimated giving amounts for 2023. This will greatly assist us in developing the 2023 budget. Contact Pamela Dingman, our giving secretary, for forms or additional information.

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

Special projects:

Sound/Video System: All expenses for the project have been paid

External Sign Upgrade: Whittemore Foundation grant request has been approved. The sign committee is creating a proposal to send to additional vendors. Grants and funds collected account for \$13,392.50 being raised to date.

Columbarium Expansion: The proposal for the expansion of our columbarium has been approved. This will provide two additional units; 48 niches. A check in full has been issued, giving us a 3% discount.

Cash Balances

Cash in Checking Account	67,187.09
Savings	26,781.15
Certificates of Deposit	16,091.50
Endowment Fund	83,670.78
Total	<u>193,730.52</u>

Cash Sources This Month

Traditional Giving	10,673.33	74.44%
Online Giving	3,665.78	25.56%
Total	<u>14,339.11</u>	100.00%



Merry
CHRISTMAS

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:

December 4	Pamela & Ford Dingman
December 11	Renee Babcock & Kathy Conlon
December 18	David & Nancy Kinney

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
December 4	Barbara Sheperdigian	Tom Cochrane
December 11	Jeanne Maxon	Jennifer Dingman
December 11	Advent Lessons & Carols Ulana Klymyshyn, Kip Cosan & Mary Kiesgen	
December 18	Dan Eichinger	Patricia Thurston
December 24	Nancy Hartshorne	Jennifer Dingman
December 25	Dan Eichinger	Dan Eichinger

Greeters Schedule:

December 4	Mary Kiesgen & Laura Cochrane
December 11	David & Jennifer Dingman
December 11	Advent Lessons & Carols Jim & Patricia Thurston
December 18	Ford & Pamela Dingman
December 24	David & Emma Dingman
December 25	Jasmine & Isla Eichinger

December Calendar

**Sundays: 12/4, 12/11, 12/18,
12/25**

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

**Mondays: 12/05, 12/12, 12/19,
12/26**

6:30 pm G.A.

**Tuesdays: 12/6, 12/13,
12/20, 12/27**

11am Tai Chi
with Judy

**Wednesdays: 12/7, 12/14, 12/21,
12/28**

10am Church School
via Zoom

6pm Yoga with Judy

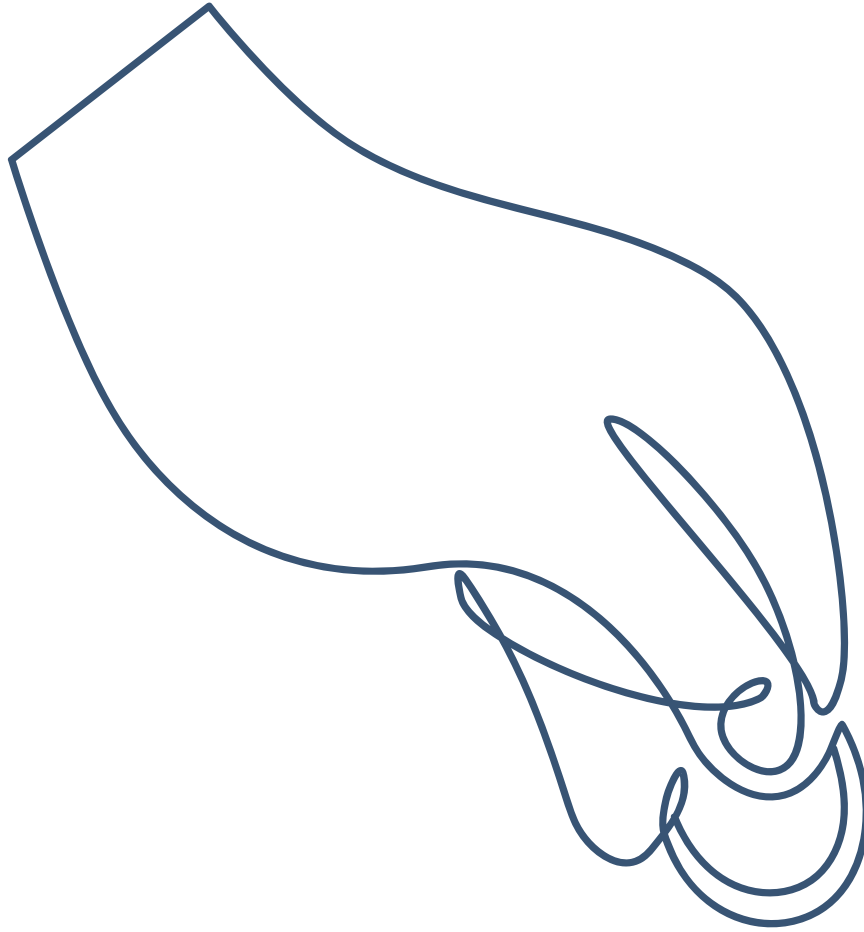
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

**Thursdays: 12/8, 12/15, 12/22,
12/29**

11am Tai Chi with Judy
8pm Compline
via Zoom

**Fridays: 12/9, 12/16, 12/23,
12/30**

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, 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

2022 Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: Dr. Nancy Herman-Kinney

Jr. Warden: Jerry May

Treasurer: Clancy DeLong

Co-Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu,

Vestry Clerk: Jennifer Dingman

2022 Vestry Members

David Proctor

Mary Kiesgen

Olivia Ohler

Pat Thurston

Tom Cochrane

Ulana Klymyshyn

Organist:

Dennis Flynn

Choirmaster pro tempore:

Eric Vinciguerra