



# THE EVANGEL

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

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

June was a busy month...lots going on in the community as well as at St. John's. Some folks have noticed that we seem to put "outside" activities front-and-center in the weekly THIS WEEK at St. John's email messages or in the Evangel. The Evangel is the parish newsletter, after all, isn't it?

Well, yes it is. But... the parish – the church – is more than what happens within the walls of the church (or the parish hall). As we hear in this Sunday's Gospel passage (Mark 6:1-13), Jesus sends us out – to carry his mission into the world. He commissions us to preach and heal – to bring the good news – to those outside our walls... and that means we need to be present in the community.

We go to graduation parties, we celebrate retirements and birthdays and anniversaries of folks in the parish, to let one another know that they matter to us – that we care for and celebrate with them. But if we are to be church, if we are serious about what we say – that everyone is our sister and brother – then we also need to be present to care for and celebrate others – in the community around us.

And that is why we go to PRIDE celebrations and Juneteenth festivals and days of Remembrance for our Indigenous siblings. We go to be present – to honor and celebrate and care for those we say are welcome in our St. John's house.

Our presence matters to people. Folks noticed that St. John's had a presence at the Juneteenth celebration, at the PRIDE pop-up event in town, and at the day of Honoring, Healing and Remembering for the tribe. Our presence tells people that we care enough to be there – and that might be the encouragement they need to dare to believe they might really be welcome at St. John's.

I wear my collar most of the time I'm in town. I never wore a "habit" in my earlier days, because I saw that as a way of being 'set apart' or special, and I did not want to communicate that message. But I wear my collar now as I'm out and about – to let people know that St. John's is present and available. The other day when I was going through the checkout at Ric's, the cashier noticed my St. John's button/pin and the PRIDE Ally pin I had on. They offered that they had been baptized in the Episcopal church – and we had a brief conversation about that. Whether or not they will ever come through our red doors, we made a connection – and they felt affirmed. That is why I wear my collar...and that pin.

St. John's is the church – yes. But we can only fully be church when we extend ourselves and our welcome beyond our doors.

Remember that you are loved – and so is everyone else you will meet.

Sr. Diane+

Present: Diane Stier, Clancy DeLong, Pat Thurston, Mary Kiesgen,  
Kevin Davidson, Jerry May

Zoom: Lara Raisanen, DJ Proctor, Jen Dingman (clerk)

Absent: Alice Ciccu, Dan Eichinger, Liz Brockman

Meeting called to order at 11:41am. Pat led the group in an opening prayer.

As a reflection on today's anthem, Diane asked the group to spend a few minutes, with your morning coffee for instance, to send prayers and wishes of well-being to the world every day.

Minutes from Apr 21, 2024, Vestry meetings were reviewed. Kevin moved to approve the minutes; Mary seconded. All approved.

### **Rector's Report**

- 2nd service will continue through the summer
- Diane asked that we have someone sit with homebound parishioners who are brought into church to attend to their needs, water, etc., during the service
- Diana Clapp was moved into hospice, please keep her in your prayers
- Greeters to remember to welcome visitors both before and after the service
- Diocese has asked Diane to be on a committee regarding Convention planning, the desire is to have a local parish involved
  - Christi offered to help as well
  - There has been a suggestion to have the Saginaw Chippewa tribe participate and there was a discussion of how St John's could facilitate this educational opportunity for Convention attendees

### **Property Committee**

- Committee met with Cleaning Solutions to review the needs for the church and the Parish Hall and there has been an improvement in the service. Cleaning day was changed to Thursday so that it's closer to the weekend services
- Sign topper is done, just needs to be installed
  - Base was originally intended to be painted white but that would be one more thing to be maintained. Is this still wanted? All agreed to leave it as is for now and if there is concern we can revisit this topic

## *Minutes for Vestry Meeting for May 2024*

- Work Week – June 17 – 20th, evenings
  - Wednesday June 19th will be a light day to allow St John's to honor Juneteenth
  - Added item - install non-slip on the front steps coming into the church
    - Reach out to a member of the Property Committee for a list of the other items that will be worked on
- Kitchen reorg/cleaning is going to be done outside of work week
- Lots of events planned in the city for Juneteenth so a special event will not be hosted at St John's
  - Big Island Park event St John's pop-up booth is suggested at the Juneteenth event
  - Jerry suggested that we remember that this event is not a celebration, it is a remembrance of a terrible event and that we should be mindful of that

### **Worship & Hospitality Committee**

- St Johns has been contacted by local Lutheran and Presbyterian churches about having a community service in Aug/Sept timeframe to replace a Sunday morning service in Island Park
  - Planning meeting coming up to discuss how this would work and what the focus will be and Diane will attend to include St John's
- Planning calendar for summer months is being circulated for additions. Pat to resend the link to vestry.

### **Human Resources**

- Performance reviews for church employees are underway

### **Administrative/Finance Committee**

- Income should be about 33% after 4 months and we are at 33.1% so we are doing well
- Pledges are slightly ahead but Clancy reminded us that we need a bit extra to balance the budget
- Rector's discretionary fund is slightly over but special attention is being paid to ensure that we end the year within budget
  - Mary made a motion to accept

### **Education/Christian Formation Committee**

- No report

### **Outreach Committee**

- No report

### **Diocesan Update**

- No report

### **Parish Life/Social Committee**

- Loons Game – June 9, 2024
  - Final Count is 33 individuals
  - 4 scholarship tickets – cost covered by gifts in kind
- Ethan mentioned that The Cabin would give St John's a nice discount on pizzas for a summer picnic or other church event; maybe a summer picnic? Jen to plan something.
- June 2nd, brunch coffee hour and special service to honor St John's parishioners who have retired in the last couple of years
  - Dave, Linda-Susan, Tim, Nancy, and Liz

### **Senior Warden Report**

- No report

### **Old Business**

- No report

### **New Business**

- Clancy suggested to move June meeting to Sunday June 24th, skip July and move the August meeting ahead 1 week to August 25th. To be reviewed with Senior Warden.

Next meeting TBD

Pat led the closing prayer

Meeting adjourned at 12:37pm

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of May (41.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 85,394.00 (37.41% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	89,472.63 (39.20% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (4,078.63)

Income for May was one of the lowest, if not the lowest income month since I have been treasurer. In a year in which we are attempting to turn things around, we find ourselves \$12K down from this period last year. Share your income generating or cost savings ideas with a vestry member.

Please confirm that your estimated giving amount is up-to-date.

**Cash Balances**

<b>Isabella Bank - Checking</b>	41,697.55
<b>Members First CU - Savings</b>	5.00
<b>Members First CU - CD 04-22-25</b>	45,123.09
<b>Isabella Bank - CD 09-24-24</b>	20,665.28
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	104,333.78
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>211,824.70</u></b>

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

### 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.



### July Birthdays

Hazel Hart	07/04
Ann Marie Orren	07/08
Olivia Ohler	07/11
Karen Varanauskas	07/15
Jillian Davidson	07/16
Joyce Baugh	07/19
Claudette Shaffer	07/21
Bernice Cole	07/22
Sam Raisanen	07/24
Ford Dingman	07/25
Robert Cosan	07/28



### July Anniversaries

David & Jennifer Dingman	07/11
Ralph Baber & Karen Varanauskas	07/15
Eric & Jessica Vinciguerra	07/15
Sam & Lara Raisanen	07/20
Clancy & Patricia DeLong	07/25

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:

July 7	Lynne L'Hommedieu & Sharon Bolton
July 14	Ford & Pamela Dingman
July 21	DJ Proctor & Christi Brookes
July 28	The Davidson Family

Lay Ministers:

	Lectors	Prayers
July 7	Ulana Klymyshyn	Ulana Klymyshyn
July 14	Mary Stewart Kiesgen	Patricia Thurston
July 21	David Kinney	Nancy Hartshorne
July 28	Jim Thurston	Kevin Davidson

Greeters Schedule:

July 7	
July 14	Tom & Mary Ellen Cochrane
July 21	David & Nancy Kinney
July 28	The Eichinger Family



# July Calendar

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

**Mondays: 07/01, 07/08, 07/15, 07/22, 07/29** 6:30PM GA

**Tuesdays: 07/02, 07/09, 07/16, 07/23, 07/30**  
11am Tai Chi with Judy

**Wednesdays: 07/03, 07/10, 07/17, 07/24, 07/31**  
10am Church School  
via Zoom  
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

**Thursdays: 07/04, 07/11, 07/18, 07/25**  
11am Tai Chi with Judy  
8pm Compline via Zoom

**Fridays: 07/05, 07/12, 07/19, 07/26**  
Nothing on these days  
Office Closed

## The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe Elected as 28th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

Elected on the first ballot, confirmed by the House of Deputies The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, bishop of the collaborating dioceses of Northwest Pennsylvania and Western New York, has been elected as the 28th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

He was selected by the House of Bishops on the first ballot with 89 votes out of 158 votes cast, and, once the request was made to the House of Deputies, quickly confirmed.

Bishop Rowe is 49 — the youngest bishop to be elected to this role. He will be consecrated as Presiding Bishop on November 1st.

[Click here to read the press release.](#)

The text of Bishop Sean's remarks to the General Convention will come later, including his shout out to the faithful discerners of Eastern and Western Michigan.



# RUMMAGE SALE

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make St. John's annual rummage sale a success!



# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## **Good News from People Helping People (PHP) of Isabella County**

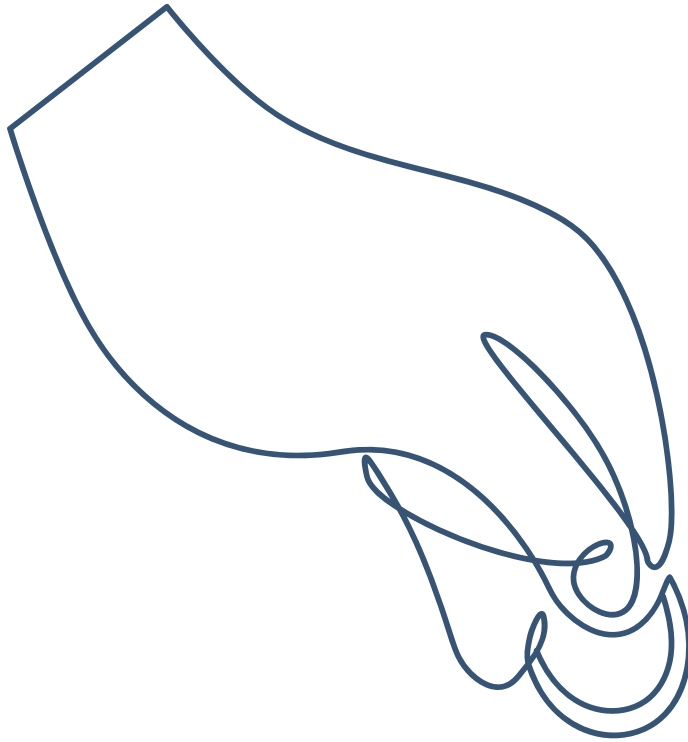
PHP is thrilled to announce a Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation (MPACF) grant award of \$17,000! The grant application was submitted to the MPACF in March, and PHP received the good news in late June. This award was the largest MPACF given in its Summer 2025 distribution.

In addition, the \$1,000 donation given by St. John's in the April/May "Team Up with Tim" campaign was literally tripled. First, the St. John's donation was matched by the Brockman family, and then it was re-invested in a United Way matching grant. That means \$1,000 from St. John's grew to \$3,000!



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!



## 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:**

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