



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vestry Meeting Minutes-12-15

St. John's June Calendar- 19

Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

One of the things I keep hearing people express is a sense of helplessness when it comes to the suffering going on all around the world right now. When the sun is shining and there are lots of things going on in our own lives, we can sometimes distract ourselves. But eventually we hear at least a snippet of the news again - or see a picture of what life in Gaza or Sudan or Ukraine looks like right now.

No one has any magic solutions. What we do have is our commitment to the Way – and to seek and serve Christ in all persons. Sometimes – often – being present is enough. Simply being present says, “I am here for you. I see you. I support you. You are not alone.”

Here are some ways we can be present this month (with more information about each one later in this issue):

- June is PRIDE month – let us see one another and celebrate the rainbow of inclusion. On June 1 we will once again have a “St. John's” table at the local Pop-Up PRIDE event held at the (tribal) Broadway Park from 2-5 PM. It is important for us to be there. (We will participate in the Great Lakes Bay PRIDE event on the 24th, also.)
- Thursday June 6th is the annual Day of Healing and Remembrance at the former Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School. The day begins with an early morning prayer service at the cemetery on Bamber Road. A very powerful ceremony... and an opportunity to be present and pray with our indigenous siblings.
- Several events are planned to observe Juneteenth– the day when – two years AFTER the Emancipation Proclamation – the abolition of slavery in Texas was ordered on June 19th, 1865. See Sr. Linda-Susan's article giving some background on Juneteenth later in this issue. Then plan to attend Monday's virtual lecture, Tuesday's luncheon presentation, or Wednesday's celebration of Juneteenth at Island Park!
- Our “Clean-up” week – where we can show up for one another – is the week of Juneteenth also.
- The rummage sale – another chance to show up for St. John's and for the larger community – will be June 27, 28 & 29 . You can start bringing your treasures to contribute on June 10th.
- Finally, we all know that June brings celebrations of graduations and marriages and fathers; let us celebrate our families – those into which we were born, and those we have chosen. Take time this month to be present to one another!

Remember that you are loved.

Sr. Diane+

Pop Up Pride in the Park

Saturday, June 1, 2024

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Broadway Park

2451 Nish Na Be Anong Rd.

Mt Pleasant, MI 48858



Pop Up Pride in the Park will feature:

- Two-Spirit Presentation
- Food Trucks
- Local LGBTQ+ resources and inclusive businesses
- Kickball
- Door prizes
- FREE admission

This is an alcohol and drug-free event out of respect for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Community.

St. John's will have a booth at this event!



Honoring, Healing & Remembering

Thursday, June 6, 2024 • 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

1400 W. Pickard, Mt. Pleasant, MI (Near corner of Pickard and Crawford)

SEEKING DONATIONS for Silent Auction

- ▶ **Now accepting items**
- ▶ **Items can be dropped off at:**
Ziibiwing Center front lobby
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

** Proceeds go to help secure the premises and repairs from vandals/trespassers.*

For more information, please contact:

Marcella Hadden

- Email: MLHadden@sagchip.org
- Phone: 989.775.4751

Nathaniel Lambertson

- Email: NaLambertson@sagchip.org
- Phone: 989.775.4756



ZIIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways



ZIIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM
6650 EAST BROADWAY, MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858
989.775.4750 • WWW.SAGCHIP.ORG/ZIIBIWING



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

St. John's Work Week will be June 17 – 20, beginning at 5:30 PM each evening

- The brick on the original church should be given a second coat of paint.
- Powerwash and paint the front steps of the Church.
- Paint and hang the old wooden sign on the west end of the Fellowship Hall facing the parking area.
- Clean gutters.
- Stain handicap entrance into the Rectory, just one coat on walking area.

- Seal and stripe the Fellowship Hall parking spaces.
- Refresh English Garden.
- Clean and organize kitchen.
- Install new LED lights in undercroft, two lights with battery backup.
- Paint the brick base of the new sign white or coat with a sealant.
- Install set of shelves to the right of new refrigerator in the kitchen.

Juneteenth potluck dinner on June 19. Volunteers may decide they would prefer to take Wednesday evening off.



The annual St. John's Rummage Sale is back and scheduled for **June 27, 28, and 29**. Please look around your house, basement, garage, and shed for anything that you longer need or want. We'll take household items, kitchenware, gardening implements, tools, electronics, toys, baby items, camping/outdoor gear, furniture, office supplies, and children's clothes up to age 12. **You can bring items to the church starting the week of June 10.**

If you would like to help with the sale, or have any questions about an item, please contact **Alice Ciccu** at **206.617.4488** or aciccu@hotmail.com.

Juneteenth Week

Virtual Keynote Address

This event is open to all at no cost and will showcase the talents and insights of distinguished artists: Stacey Robinson & Kamau Grantham

Robinson & Grantham will delve into the significance of their artwork, offering reflections on the themes of culture, freedom and African American Heritage.

Date: June 17

Time: 6PM - 8PM

[RSVP](#) to this Event



Documentary Luncheon & Panel

CMU will host a lunch and documentary on the history of Juneteenth and the economic impact of slavery through present day. The documentary will be followed by a panel discussion and audience questions

Date: June 18

Time: 11AM - 1PM

**Place: Health Professions Building
1200 S. Franklin St. (Room HP 1020)
Mt. Pleasant**

[RSVP](#) to this Event

Juneteenth at Island Park

Juneteenth 2024 will bring together the CMU and Mount Pleasant community at Island Park. There will be speakers, community organizations, arts and crafts, performances, food and fun! Join us on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at Island Park in Mount Pleasant for a day of community bonding and learning.

Date: June 19

Time: 4PM - 8PM

**Place: Island Park
331 N. Main St.
Mt. Pleasant**

The Story Behind Juneteenth



On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation stating that enslaved people **in those states or parts of states still in rebellion against the Union, as of January 1, 1863, would be declared free.** 180 days later, on January 1, 1863, with the war still in progress, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It declared “that all persons held as slaves” **within the rebellious areas** “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

The 1863 Proclamation, however, was limited since it applied only to those states that had seceded from the union and did not apply to border states that had remained loyal. It exempted parts of the Confederacy under Union control and was dependent on Union military victory. **It did not end slavery**, but announced the acceptance of Black men into the Union Army and Navy. By war’s end, almost 200,000 Black soldiers fought on behalf of the Union.

Lincoln’s 1863 language was very precise in naming the areas “in rebellion against the United States.” These included:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk and Portsmouth[)]) . . .

The “excepted parts,” the President said, “are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.” Thus, said Lincoln, “I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free . . .”

A significant number of people, therefore, remained enslaved. Had the Confederacy complied with the return to the Union, slavery would have continued. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation become national policy. It was passed by the senate on April 8, 1864, and by the House on January 31, 1865. Lincoln signed the document on February 1, 1865, and it was ratified on December 6, 1865 – 8 months after Lincoln’s assassination on April 15, 1865. The Thirteenth Amendment stated that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

But slavery did continue; news of the proclamation was slow to reach Texas and did not reach some quarters at all. The news was deliberately hidden by slaveholders in order to preserve “the peculiar institution.” On **June 19, 1865**, more than two months after the Lincoln assassination, the last Confederate community of the enslaved received word that they had been freed from bondage. Union General Gordon Granger led a unit of 2,000 Union troops to Galveston, Texas, to announce that more than 250,000 slaves in that state were free by executive decree. General Order No. 3 declared:

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.”

(In 1860 it had still been illegal for slaves to learn to read and to write; 4,000,000 human beings suddenly “emancipated” without anywhere to go, without resources and educations would enter into a new form of slavery called sharecropping. And some of those who lived in very remote areas in Texas and the Georgia and South Carolina Sea Islands unknowingly continued in bondage for 10-20 years after “emancipation.”)

General Order No. 3 came to be known in Texas as “Juneteenth,” a second Independence Day celebrating the end of chattel slavery after centuries of bondage that began in the American colonies in 1619. It became an official holiday in 2021 by an executive order from President Joe Biden. It was celebrated as a federal holiday on June 20, 2022. Joe Biden said of the official federal holiday:

“In its celebration of freedom, Juneteenth is a day that should be recognized by all Americans . . . A day in which we remember the moral stain and terrible toll of slavery on our country – what I’ve long called America’s original sin.”

On July 5, 1852, Frederick Douglass gave a keynote address at an Independence Day celebration asking: “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” He continued: “I say it with a sad sense of the disparity between us. I am not included within the pale of glorious anniversary! The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought light and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn.”

African Americans have been celebrating Juneteenth since 1865.

Prayer for Juneteenth

We pray, O Lord, for change.

Jesus you revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds,
and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to
the margins.

Guide us, through the love you revealed,
to establish the justice you proclaimed,
that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace,
united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you.

And most of all, Lord, change our routine worship and work into genuine
encounter with you and our better selves so that our lives will be changed for the
good of all.

Amen

Prayer adapted from Racial Healing and Liturgical Resources found at [this page](#).



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 Kiesgen, Kevin Davidson, Dan Eichinger, Jerry May

Zoom: Clancy Delong, DJ Proctor, Jen Dingman (clerk)

Absent: Alice Ciccu, Lara Raisanen

Meeting called to order at 11:38am. Pat led the group in an opening prayer.

Diane asked the group to reflect on where we have seen Christ in our life this past week

Minutes from Mar 17, 2024, Vestry meetings were reviewed. Jerry moved to approve the minutes; Liz seconded. All approved.

Rector's Report

- Diane discussed the Diocesan work groups that have been formed in support of the combining of Eastern/Western Dioceses and expressed the feeling that diversity in these committees is needed
 - Diane asked all of us to prayerfully consider how we may be called to serve to provide this diversity
 - Since Convention is being held in Mt Pleasant, it will never be easier to attend. Registration is required, cost is ~\$25-50/day
- The altar will be moved back after Pentecost
- Choral Scholars last Sunday will be Apr 28th
- Ethan will play periodically throughout the summer

Property Committee

- Three pieces of fascia trim had blown off the rectory, one piece from an area I was not willing to climb on to replace. I hired a roofer to do the complete job. If this continues to be a problem all the fascia will need to be re-nailed.
- Property Committee meeting will be set up soon. Below is my list of jobs to consider for summer 2024. This list will be reviewed at that meeting to add to or reduce the size of this list. Vestry needs to discuss date for spring cleanup.

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for April 2024

- The brick on the original church should be given a second coat of paint.
- Replace the landscaping on the east side of the church, facing Washington St.
- The chips in the stained-glass windows should be addressed.
- Paint and hang the old wooden sign on the west end of the Fellowship Hall facing the parking area.
- Install lights along the alley west of the Rectory.
- Clean gutters.
- Stain handicap entrance into the Rectory, just one coat on walking area.
- Rosebush in the garden needs to be pruned
- Kitchen cleaning and organizing
- Other items that should be addressed, please bring them to Jerry's attention
- Spring clean up day
 - Week before the Rummage Sale is ideal
 - Tues 6/18 – Thurs 6/20 in the evening is the target

Worship & Hospitality Committee

- Last Sunday service is going strong, not many attendees but those that come really like it so it will continue through the summer

Human Resources

- Organist and Choir Director contracts are up for renewal
 - Diane and Dan to discuss
- Custodial services contract also needs to be reviewed
 - Pam/Clancy/Jerry/Diane to review and decide
 - Mary suggested that we call Carrie (in the office) to come over and walk through what is needed so that she can document it and pass it on to the team

Administrative/Finance Committee

- Finance Report
 - Things look good through Q1, income vs expenses are tracking well
 - Budget deficit is being covered through Q1

Education/Christian Formation Committee

- Safe church training dates will be coming

Outreach Committee

- Clancy asked whether it would be appropriate to have our QR code show up at the end of the service with an easy way to donate
- ICRH had their annual fund raising event at Sacred Heart Center. It included dinner and live and silent auctions with over \$30,000 worth in prizes. Next year we need to advertise it among our members and purchase a table for St John's.

Diocesan Update

- No report

Parish Life/Social Committee

- Loons Game – June 9, 2024
 - Currently only 11 individuals signed up
 - Waiting to hear if we can keep our spot in the NLP with this few (usually it's a min of 50)
 - Email reminder to sign up will be sent next week
 - ~20+ more are possible including a few tickets for those who may not be able to fund the outing themselves if scholarship funds are available. Will confirm in the next couple of weeks

Senior Warden Report

- Special meetings of the Vestry
 - By-laws were reviewed and there are no limitations or requirements to hold a special meeting of Vestry at the Rector or Senior Warden's request.
 - No language about voting either so that means that voting by email or whatever method we see fit is appropriate
- Records Management
 - Clark Historical Library houses all historical records (Vestry minutes, etc.)
 - Renovation drawings?
 - Records that are still on site and in an effort to preserve the history, we should review what we have and where and how we want to take care of these records

Minutes for Vestry Meeting for April 2024

- Mary suggested consulting with Marian Matyn on best practices and that maybe David Shirley may be interested in this activity
- Diane printed copies of the Records Management practices used by the Diocese

Old Business

- Certificate of Deposit Move
 - Short and long term rates reviewed for several local banks and CU's
 - Keep checking at Isabella Bank for now (checks very expensive to replace)
 - The proposal is to move the CD, safety deposit box, etc., just need to choose which organization to use
 - Kevin moved that we do a 12 month CD at MFCU and reevaluate rates again at 11 months. Liz seconded. All approved
 - Banking resolution reviewed. Needs Clerk, Senior Warden and Rector signatures. Completed on 4/21/24

New Business

- Sign management responsibility sits with Alice and will remain there and there is a suggestion that we add a recurring message about "All are welcome." Diane and Alice to discuss and implement if agreed.

Next meeting Sunday May 19, 2024, at 11:30am

Pat led the closing prayer

April 2024 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of April (33.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 74,435.68 (32.61% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	72,558.47 (31.79% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ 1,877.21

We have moved one of our Certificate-of-Deposits from Isabella Bank to Members First Credit Union. The yield on the new certificate is 5% APR, generating an additional \$500 annually. The plan is to move the remaining Isabella Bank Certificate-of-Deposit to an institution paying a higher yield when it matures in September.

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

Cash Balances

Isabella Bank - Checking	45,886.12
Members First CU - Savings	5.00
Members First CU - CD 04-22-25	44,936.46
Isabella Bank - CD 09-24-24	20,598.97
Endowment Fund	104,333.78
Total	<u>215,760.33</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
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.



June Birthdays

Jessica Hart	06/14
Lynne L'Hommedieu	06/19
Steven Berkshire	06/25



June Anniversaries

Colin & Anne Alton	06/02
David & Carrie Blackburn	06/10
Tim & Nancy Hartshorne	06/13
Elliott & Emelia Parker	06/19

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:

June 2	Jennifer Dingman & Lynne L'Hommedieu
June 9	Ford & Pamela Dingman
June 16	The Davidson Family
June 23	Clancy & Patricia DeLong
June 30	Olivia Ohler & Lois Klumpp

Lay Ministers:

Lectors

Prayers

June 2	Barbara Sheperdigian	Nancy Hartshorne
June 9	Mary Stewart Kiesgen	David Kinney
June 16	Carol Lauffer	Kevin Davdison
June 23	Dan Eichinger	Derek Rivard
June 30	Jim Thurston	Sharon Bolton

Greeters Schedule:

June 2	Clancy & Patricia DeLong
June 9	DJ Proctor & Christi Brookes
June 16	Mary Stewart Kiesgen & Sharon Bolton
June 23	The Eichinger Family
June 30	The Davidson Family

June Calendar

Sundays: 06/02, 06/09, 06/16, 06/23, 06/30 10am Holy Communion
(In person, Facebook, & YouTube)

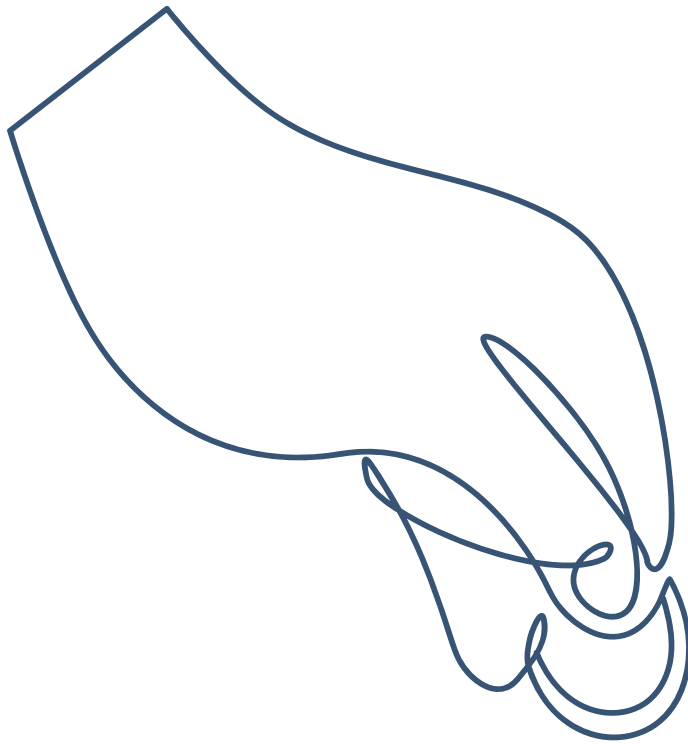
Mondays: 06/03, 06/10, 06/17, 06/24 6:30PM GA

Tuesdays: 06/04, 06/11, 06/18, 06/25
11am Tai Chi with Judy

Wednesdays: 06/05, 06/12, 06/19, 06/26
10am Church School
via Zoom
6pm Choir Practice
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays: 06/06, 06/13, 06/20, 06/27
11am Tai Chi with Judy
8pm Compline via Zoom

Fridays: 06/07, 06/14, 06/21, 06/28
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