



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

September 2025 Vestry Minutes- 5-7

September 2025 Financial Report - 8

St. John's November Calendar - 14

Friends,

This month I am yielding this space to share what Deacon Nancy Casey Fulton shared in the November 2014 Evangel. Read it. Inwardly digest it. And know that she still speaks to us today.

Sr. Diane

Outside the Tent

Henry and I have just returned from Montreal, where he attended a professional meeting. I visited a genealogical library to check a document, and the McCord Museum to see “Wearing Our Identity: The First Peoples Collection,” a stunning exhibit of clothing, jewelry, purses, and other assorted objects. The collection encompasses all the indigenous tribes of Canada, including the Mi’kmaq, who gave me two grandmothers, daughters of the chief who married French men, in the seventeenth century. I lingered over the tiny beaded caps for their babies, the Basque-like hats given to girls when they reached womanhood, and the nineteenth-century men’s dress robes that imitated European military uniforms of the period. There are, of course, no photographs of Mi’kmaq women and men of the seventeenth century, but their exquisite work conjured up for me a creative, skillful people. And the exhibit got me thinking about a poem I wrote twelve years ago for *Racism and Prayer*, a Morehouse publication in 2003. Back then I didn’t know I had First Nation ancestry, but I was painfully aware of the pockets of racism that still resided in me, especially toward Native Americans. I read the poem over, something I haven’t done in years, and while I think it could use some editing—I did do a bit!—I am struck by the final verse:

*Be with me, Creator of all these beautiful people,
as I move from the middle of my journey into its endings.
Stretch my narrow heart and mind. . . .*

Oh, how my Creator is stretching my heart and mind! Norman Massey said famously that we only change when we have a “significant emotional experience,” and I see now that this is mine. And I am thankful.

Nancy

Journey and Confession

In the beginning, Sister Marie Josetta taught us gently
that we are all your children.

But I confess to you, my Maker, that in the northwoods of 1954—
where Lutherans and Methodists were heathens in my world;
where Finns filled in for Poles in heartless jokes;
where Indians were not the noble people
whose arrowheads my father found in childhood fields,
but penniless men who staggered into ER on Saturday night;
where Jews were the misguided race who killed my Savior,
arrogant east coast city boys who filled my father's harangues
of life in the Army barracks—

I lived in a daydream, never thinking that her gentle teaching of your love
extended far beyond the hallways of my school,
beyond the streets of my small white town.

In fifth grade, our teacher nudged us beyond ourselves
to correspond with children in the tobacco country of North Carolina.

But I confess to you, my Maker, that in my northwoods town—
where African Americans never walked the streets,
but carried my bags and served my sandwiches
on the Streamliner to Chicago—

I reeled when my penpal sent me a picture of her class,
smiling black children all.

Where is that photograph now,
where the smudged fifth-grade handwriting of her letters?
Where is she now, a woman in middle-age,
who shook me briefly from my monochromatic world?

And now, many miles from my northwoods beginnings,
settled into land peopled by farmers of hardy German and Irish lineage—
with a Native American casino gnawing at the edges of our fragile tolerance;
with a world no longer white crashing into my consciousness
every night on the evening news—
I marvel at the beauty of the people you have made,
and yet I confess to you, my Maker, that I am only at the middle of my journey,
that pockets of resistance deep inside surprise me
when I think I've sprung loose from the provincial heart inherited from my home,
from my nation, from my church.

Be with me, Creator of all these beautiful people,
as I move from the middle of my journey into its endings.
Stretch my narrow heart and mind,
prod my lagging step,
and comfort me with your forgiveness when I slip back toward habits
I don't always want to leave behind.

Deacon Nancy Casey Fulton

Minutes, September 2025 Vestry Meeting

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Vestry Meeting

Meeting in person and via zoom

Present: Liz Brockman, Kevin Davidson (via zoom), Clancy DeLong, Dan Eichinger, Rev. Jess Hart, Jerry May, Lara Raisanen(via zoom), Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Jim Thurston

Meeting called to order: 11:46 a.m.

Opening Prayer (and moment of quiet collection) by Stier

Administrative Business

-Motion to approve minutes from the 24 August 2025 meeting by May; Brockman second.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Vestry video meetings may be called by Rector or Sr. Warden. This ensures confidentiality of Vesty conversation and deliberation, especially around sensitive topics.

-All Choral Scholar positions have been filled.

Pastoral Report- Stier and Hart

- Stier away 28 September(post Worship in the Woods) through 5 October 2025. Hart away 30 September through 5 October.

-Diocesan Convention held 23-25 October 2025.

-Upcoming Events, new information:

- Worship in the Woods, 28 September

- Emmaus has an open air chapel now!

- Worship 4:00 pm; potluck following.

- Campus Ministry collective has been invited.

- Holy Shift, CMU:

- First event a success; 16 participants attended.

- Hart is offering Bible study “Religion and Halloween” during October.

- Indigenous People’s Day & Canadian Thanksgiving - 13 October: Thurstons providing turkey; contacted Tribe for guidance (no issues). Vestry thanked them for their generosity.

- Interfaith Vigil - 10 October 2025, 7:00 pm. Town Center. There will be a variety of music and prayers; Choral Scholars may sing. Stier will offer closing and create bulletin.
- Other special events continuing as planned previously.

Committee Reports

A. Building and Grounds -

1. Evaluation of church by architect occurring Thursday, 25 September.
2. May will work with others to procure requested documents - date of roof & blueprints.

B. Worship - no report

C. Human Resources - see Old Business

D. Administration & Finance -

1. Audit is now on schedule.
2. Budget deficit is less worrisome.
3. MOTION (see New Business): Vestry hereby moves to add Samuel Raisanen as a signatory to accounts held with Isabella Bank and Members First Credit Union. He also will be granted online access to all accounts.

Motion by DeLong; second by Thurston. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Christian Formation - no report

F. Hospitality - no report

G. Outreach - letter from Pat Thurston

1. Pat Thurston convened an upcoming series of meetings with Sr. Diane, Rev. Jess, Sharon Bolton, Barb Sheperdigian, and Nicki Crouse from Listening Ear.
2. Pat Thurston will provide report to Vestry once meeting series is complete.

H. Senior Warden - no report

Old Business

- Administrative Assistant -

- One interview complete; two scheduled in the coming week.
- Davidson reiterated that no one thinks Jessie is not qualified; it is important for past precedent to stand and Vestry's hiring policy be followed.

- Vestry Vacancy -

- Vestry still maintains quorum in Kojo's absence. The seat does not have to be filled at this time. We should continue to think about parishioners who may be interested in serving the parish by Vestry participation.

New Business

-Official resolutions adding Samuel Raisanen as a signatory on the bank accounts will be provided to Isabella Bank and Members First Credit Union, along with a copy of these minutes showing Vestry's motion and approval.

Closing prayer: Stier

Meeting adjourned: 12:45 p.m.

Next meeting: 26 October 2025; 11:30 a.m. Respectfully submitted by Lara Raisanen, Clerk

Page 3 to 4

September 2025 Financial Report – Evangel Enclosure

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of September (75.00%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts	\$ 152,827.15 (66.74% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures	174,063.93 (72.84% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures	\$ (21,236.78)

Through September, income remains down. Excluding the audit, our income is down nearly \$11,000. Please verify that your estimated giving amount is up-to-date.

We have paid \$9,500 toward the audit thus far. The audit is funded by prior years' surplus. The audit should be completed in early November.

The Stewardship Campaign for estimated giving amounts shall commence on October 26th. Estimated giving cards are due back to Pamela Dingman by Sunday November 9th. Active participation is needed for St. John's to maintain its wonderful programs.

Cash Balances

Isabella Bank - Checking	26,313.41
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 12-27-25	21,792.06
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	88,751.99
Members First CU - CD 11-30-25	15,181.24
Endowment Fund ****	119,585.94

Total

271,631.62

**** Quarterly report not available

Clancy



Has anyone noticed the new website!?! I am very excited to announce that we were awarded a Grant from the Diocese's Digital Ministry Taskforce to upgrade our outdated website! The Digital Ministry Grant is designed to "help congregations deepen our digital presence – to make it more engaging, accessible, and sustainable. To remain relevant, accessible, and invitational for generations to come, our congregations must continue to invest in digital platforms as vital spaces for ministry."

We won one last year that we used to install a speaker in the nursery so people who need to use it during the service can still hear everything in the sanctuary.

This year it came around again, and I submitted a grant to upgrade our website.

It was in bad need of a refresh and the current platform it is on is not being actively supported. We used the grant money for a web developer to move to a better technical platform and give us an improved design.

We can still make changes, so if you have any input on the design or for additions, please let me know!

www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com

Alice Ciccu



The Good News Garden has produced thousands of pounds of produce this year! Now, it needs to be cleaned up for the winter. If you have time, anytime, you are welcome to go to the garden and pull up tomato and other plants and put them in the compost pile.

We will gather at 10am on Saturday, November 1 to move the irrigation lines and harvest the garbanzo beans together. If we still have work to finish up, we will do so on November 8. Send a message to Diane or Laura if you want to participate!

Thank you to all who faithfully showed up to help with preparing, planting, tending, and harvesting. We fed a lot of folks!



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

Emelia Parker
(Alex's House)
616 Boothbay Ct.
Beavercreek, OH 45430

Harry Kuhn
temporary address
Serene Gardens of Clarkston
Room 108
5850 White Lake Rd
Clarkston, MI 48346

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

Martha Rarick
362 E. Baseline Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Margaret Kuhn
1003 Mariette
Weidman, MI 48893



November Birthdays

Colin (James) Alton	11/08
Eileen Marie Swinehart	11/08
Randi L'Hommedieu	11/14
Laura Raisanen	11/15
Tim Hartshorne	11/18
Janice Schurr	11/19
DJ Proctor	11/20
Sr. Diane Stier	11/24
Maisha Wright Andrychowski	11/25
Jonathan Scott Schaffer	11/29

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.



November Anniversaries

Brent and Jeanne Maxon	11/04
Harry and Margret Kuhn	11/10
Joyce Baugh and Roger Hatch	11/23
Bob and Kip Cosan	11/28

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.



Weekly Schedule:

Sunday 10AM: Holy Communion: In Person or [Facebook](#)
or [YouTube](#)

Wednesday 7PM: [Connections Conversations by Zoom](#)

Thursday 8PM: [Compline \(Night Prayer\) by Zoom](#)

Coffee Hour Schedule:

November 2	The Davidson Family
November 9	The Eichinger Family
November 16	David and Nancy Kinney
November 23	Dave and Jen Dingman
November 30	Olivia Ohler and Louis Klumpp

Lay Ministers:

	Lector	Prayers	Acolyte
November 2	David Kinney	Kevin Davidson	Adam Baker
November 9	Derek Rivard	Sharon Bolton	Peyton Eichinger
November 16	Linda Susan Beard	Brenda Rau	Matthew Kinney
November 23	Ulana Klymyshyn	Jen Dingman	Misha Kinney
November 30	Mary Steward Kiesgen	Tom Cohrane	Adam Baker

Greeters

November 2	Ford and Pamela Dingman
November 9	Sharon Bolton and Laura Cochrane
November 16	Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane
November 23	Clancy and Pat DeLong
November 30	Christi Brookes and DJ Proctor

November Calendar

Sundays:

11/02, 11/09, 11/16, 11/23,
11/30

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

Mondays:

11/03, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24
6:30pm GA

Tuesdays:

11/04, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

Wednesdays:

11/05, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26
6pm Tai Chi with Judy

7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays:

11/06, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27
4pm Choir practice

8pm Compline via Zoom

Office Closed

Fridays:

11/07, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28
Nothing on these days

Ryan Linton

Senior Voice Recital

Saturday, November 1st
at 2:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
Mt. Pleasant, MI





A COMMUNITY SING: A TIME OF MUSICAL FUN AND COMMUNITY HEALING

Nov 8 | JAN 10 | MARCH 14 - 3:00P



**For anyone who loves to sing, no matter how you sound
Enjoy some oldies, goldies, classics, folk and favorites.**

Bring your friends and make new ones.



111 W SUPERIOR ST | DOWNTOWN, ALMA, MI

BUILDING BRIDGES: FROM ISOLATION TO CONNECTION

- **Submissions open: Oct. 1st**
- **Submit your art by: Nov. 5th**
- **Art goes live: Nov. 9th**
- **Learn about Art, Therapy, and Building Bridges: Nov. 14-19th**



www.MichiganSafeSpace.com
LGBTQIA+ Therapy & Counseling

FEED THE NEED

Food Insecurity Community Response

HOST A COLLECTION

Host a nonperishable food collection at your organization or business and we'll help you get connected with your local food pantry for a pickup or dropoff.

Dropoff items at one of our United Way offices or directly at a food pantry.

Montcalm/Ionia Office:
110 E. Main Street, Stanton

Isabella Office:
524 E. Moster Street, Mt. Pleasant

Gratiot Office:
525 N. State Street, Alma

MAKE A DONATION

Scan the QR code, visit our website (unitedwaygcm.org) to donate, or text UNITEDWAY to 26989.



NEED HELP? CALL 211 TO BE
CONNECTED WITH FOOD
ASSISTANCE RESOURCES
NEAR YOU.





STUFF THE AMBULANCE

Food Drive

**Join us in supporting our neighbors and helping
local families put food on the table**

We are collecting baby supplies, canned goods and
non-perishable food items to help families within our
own community..

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8

8:00am to 7:00pm

At the Walmart in Mount Pleasant

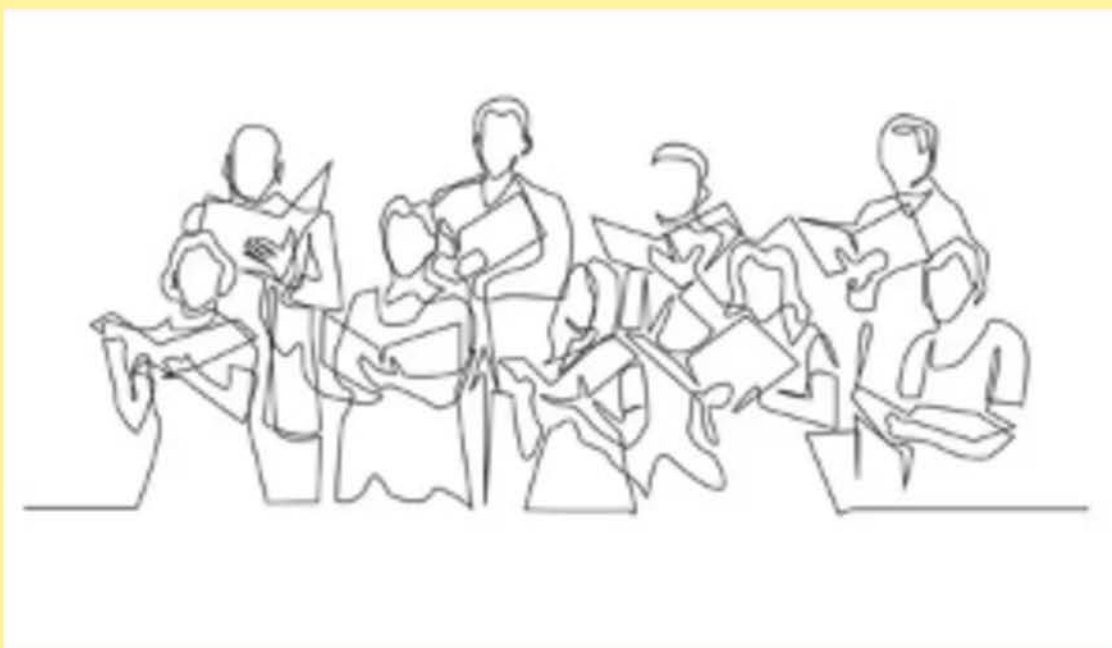
All donations will go to the Community
Compassion Network in Mount Pleasant





The 2025 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!



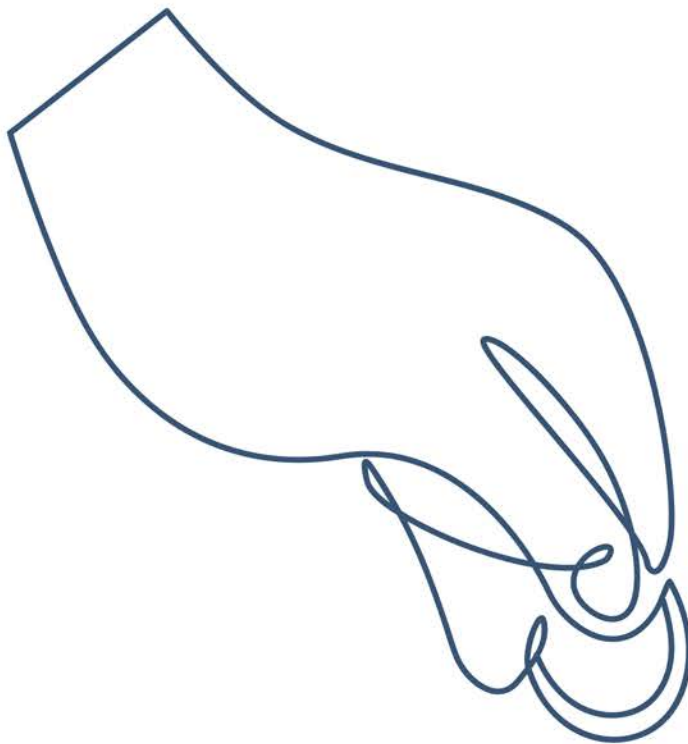
St. John's Choir

Sing for Sunday morning service, September through Pentecost (May),
with a weekly rehearsal.

Practices will be on Thursdays from 4-6pm.

New voices welcome!

Contact Sr. Diane if you are interested in any of the ministries!



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
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
The Rev. Jessica A Hart, Deacon
Organist: Ethan Kindle
Choirmaster: Eric Vinciguerra

2025 Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: Dan Eichinger
Jr. Warden: Jerry May
Treasurer: Clancy DeLong
Co-Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu,
Vestry Clerk: Lara Raisanen

2025 Vestry Members

Clancy DeLong
Elizabeth Brockman
James Thurston
Kevin Davidson
Lara Raisanen