



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People of St. John's and Friends,

As I write this, the news is still focused on the shooting that took place at a Catholic school in Minneapolis this week. I ask you to hold the families touched by the tragedy in your prayer – but especially the children: those injured, the two who were killed, the ones who hid under their desks or in the closet, the ones protected by others, all of them deeply affected. Pray for the parents... and pray for our nation.

In the midst of all the chaos in the world around us, joy and hope and prayer are a form of resistance in themselves. We need to make room for all of those in our lives. Welcoming the choir back on Sunday, September 7, will bring us all some of that joy – and will enhance our communal prayer, as well.

How else can we find joy and hope? On Friday, September 19th at 7pm , there will be an Interfaith service (meaning persons of many different religions will gather) at the Town Center (more information to follow). That gives me hope. On the 20th, the Isabella Human Rights Commission is holding Peace Day, again at the Town Center. That gives me hope.

Part of what is hope-full in these kinds of events is the strength we give one another by **SHOWING UP**. We Show UP – and that reminds us we are not alone. It tells others **THEY** are not alone. It boosts our spirits. These kinds of events are seedbeds for hope – and what grows from there is the strength of community.

Please go through the rest of this month's Evangel. There are many things coming up – too many for me to mention all of them here – and I don't want you to miss any of them.

“Life is short. We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.”

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

Sr. Diane+

Minutes from Sunday, June 8, 2025 Vestry Meeting

Meeting in person and via zoom

Present: Kojo Antwi, Liz Brockman, Clancy DeLong (via zoom), Dan Eichinger, Lara Raisanen, Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Jim Thurston

Absent: Kevin Davidson, Jerry May

Guests: Ethan Kindle, Sr. Linda-Susan Beard

Meeting called to order: 11:43 a.m.

Opening Prayer (and moment of quiet collection) by Stier

Administrative Business

- Motion to approve minutes from the 18 May 2025 meeting by Thurston; Eichinger second. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Stier noted that Mekeila likes the new computer; that it is a benefit to parish administration.
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Pastoral Report

- June Supper Church will be the fifth Sunday at 4:00 pm (note the change), and will be a PRIDE communion and celebration service.
- Stier invited: Greg, the keyboardist Great Lakes Bay PRIDE Harmony Choir (and who is a member of St. John's Midland) to play for the service; Angel from the First Church of Christ to be the reader, and KT Mandoka of the Saginaw Chippewa Two Spirit Coalition to give the homily.
- For PRIDE, St. John's is also hosting the Mount Pleasant PRIDE Center silent auction on 21 June in the Parish Hall.
- Juneteenth will be celebrated the week of 16-19 June. Specific activities are printed in the Sunday bulletins and included in This Week.
- Jess Hart has begun CPE (clinical pastoral education). She will be taking over some of the pastoral ministry in her role as St. John's deacon.
- The community ecumenical service is tentatively scheduled for 24 August, location TBD. St. John's will not have Sunday services in our building; instead we will gather with our larger faith community in shared worship and communion.

Committee Reports

A. Building and Grounds -no report

B. Worship - no report

C. Human Resources - There will be two meetings held over the summer.

D. Administration & Finance -

1. Due to the earlier Vestry meeting, financial reports are not yet ready. DeLong will send June reports to Vestry once all information is available.

2. Audit is in process. Audit committee will meet over the summer; there will be some discussion on St. John's internal controls and procedures. It is imperative St. John's creates a finance committee to review financial processes yearly, ensuring full compliance with all diocesan requirements and standard accounting procedures in the interval years between audits.

E. Christian Formation - no report

F. Hospitality - no report

G. Outreach - Clean & Bright: Thurston to research new washer options and report back.

H. Senior Warden - no report

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- Sr. Linda-Susan Beard attended Vestry to discuss music as an act of worship and prayer at St. John's. As background, Beard noted the demographic composition of the parish continues to diversify as the parish grows. She also mentioned the incredible musical talents of parishioners. In addition, the Episcopal Church has added a sixth approved hymnal to its roster; a Lakota Sioux hymnal. Lastly, Beard noted that St. John's parishioner and incoming deacon, the Rev. Jess Hart, is called to campus ministry, where fluency in how young people pray and experience the Holy is critical for a campus ministry's success.

Vestry affirmed support of an integrative approach to music and worship at St. John's. While worship, including music, lies wholly within the Rector's discretion; Vestry also unanimously reaffirmed its support of Rector's worship vision and leadership of St. John's music staff. Vestry supports music choices that enhance worship; is inclusive of all members in our growing, thriving congregation; and offer a welcoming invitation to members of our community to worship and pray with us.

- Kindle expressed enthusiasm to attend the Sacred Music Conference at Sewanee this summer, and noted he has ideas to discuss with Stier which support the call Beard charged to Vestry.

Closing prayer: Stier

Meeting adjourned: 1:16 p.m.

Next meeting, tentatively: 17 August 2025; 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lara Raisanen, Clerk

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July 2025 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of July (58.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts	\$ 120,480.38 (52.62% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures	<u>129,663.35</u> (54.26% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures	\$ (9,182.97)

Through July income remains down. Please verify that your estimated giving amount is up-to-date.

St. John's all-encompassing 10-year audit is in its final stages. This is mandated by the Diocese and it is a \$10,000 expense for St. John's. We can avoid a similar expense in the interim years by doing internal reviews. If you wish to participate in the process, contact me or our Senior Warden Dan Eichinger.

Cash Balances

Isabella Bank - Checking	36,861.16
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 11-30-25	15,091.81
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	88,136.69
Members First CU - CD 12-27-25	21,649.62
Endowment Fund	119,585.94
Total	<u>281,332.20</u>

Clancy

MAINSTAGE

On Sunday afternoon, August 24, St. John's had a table at Main Stage. This was a great opportunity to meet and greet CMU students!





We are starting to harvest in the Good News Garden, and we can use some help! Whether you'd like to harvest just once or several times, we welcome everyone. Our regular times during September are Tuesdays 5:30-7pm, Thursday mornings 9:30 to noon, and you can also stop by when you have time. If you want to be on the weekly update email list, please let Laura know.

We grow organic produce for the Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. We worked with both organizations to know what to grow, when to deliver to them, and it is fun learning how they used the fresh vegetables.

Church in the Park

ISLAND PARK // AUGUST 17 // 10:30AM

On August 17th, we joined with other local churches for an outdoors Ecumenical Service.

Cornerstone Church
Stephen Mowat, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church
Andrew Miller, Pastor

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Dana Hendershot, Pastor

Mount Pleasant First Church of the
Nazarene
Jon Croft, Pastor

St. John's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Rector





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

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

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

Harry and Margaret 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

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.



September Birthdays

David Shirley	09/03
Anna Rau	09/04
Emma Dingman	09/04
Clancy DeLong	09/05
Laura Cochrane	09/10
Christine Dyer	09/15
Sharon Bolton	09/20
Elizabeth Brockman	09/20
Paul Rose	09/28
Frank Benn	09/29



September Anniversaries

Dan and Jasmine Eichinger	09/01
Randi and Barbara L'Hommedieu	09/11
Donald and Janice Schurr	09/18
Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane	09/28

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:

September 7

The Davidson Family

September 14

Clancy and Pat DeLong

September 21

Oliver Ohler and Lois Klump

September 28

Dave and Jen Dingman

Lay Ministers:

Lectors

Prayers

September 7

Kevin Davidson

Brenda Rau

September 14

Linda Susan Beard

Linda Susan Beard

September 21

Jen Dingman

Mary Stewart Kiesgen

September 28

Jim Thurston

Tom Cochrane

Greeters Schedule:

September 7

Ford and Pamela Dingman

September 14

Ford and Pamela Dingman

September 21

Dave and Jen Dingman

September 28

Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane

September Calendar

Sundays:

09/07, 09/14, 09/21, 09/28

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

Mondays:

09/01, 09/08, 09/15, 09/22, 09/29

6:30pm GA

Tuesdays:

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

11am Tai Chi with Judy

Wednesdays:

09/03, 09/10, 09/17, 09/24

10am Church School via Zoom

7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays:

09/04, 09/11, 09/18, 09/25

11am Tai Chi with Judy

8pm Compline via Zoom

Fridays:

09/05, 09/12, 09/19, 09/26

Nothing on these days

Office Closed



**On September 14th, during coffee hour
Firras Garada, DPM
will be here to offer free foot exams and
answer any podiatry questions you may
have.**

**This is a great opportunity to meet and
greet a Mount Pleasant Healthcare
provider!**



Join the Isabella County Human Rights Committee on September 20, 2025 for our annual Let Peace Reign event. Come meet local people who care about peace and support a good cause.

Peace is such a huge issue and talking with like minded individuals may be just what you need to feel safe in your community.

Meet at the Town Center Mt Pleasant on September 20th from 3-6pm. Make friends, enjoy good company, and listen to one another about what peace means to them.

Hope to see you there!

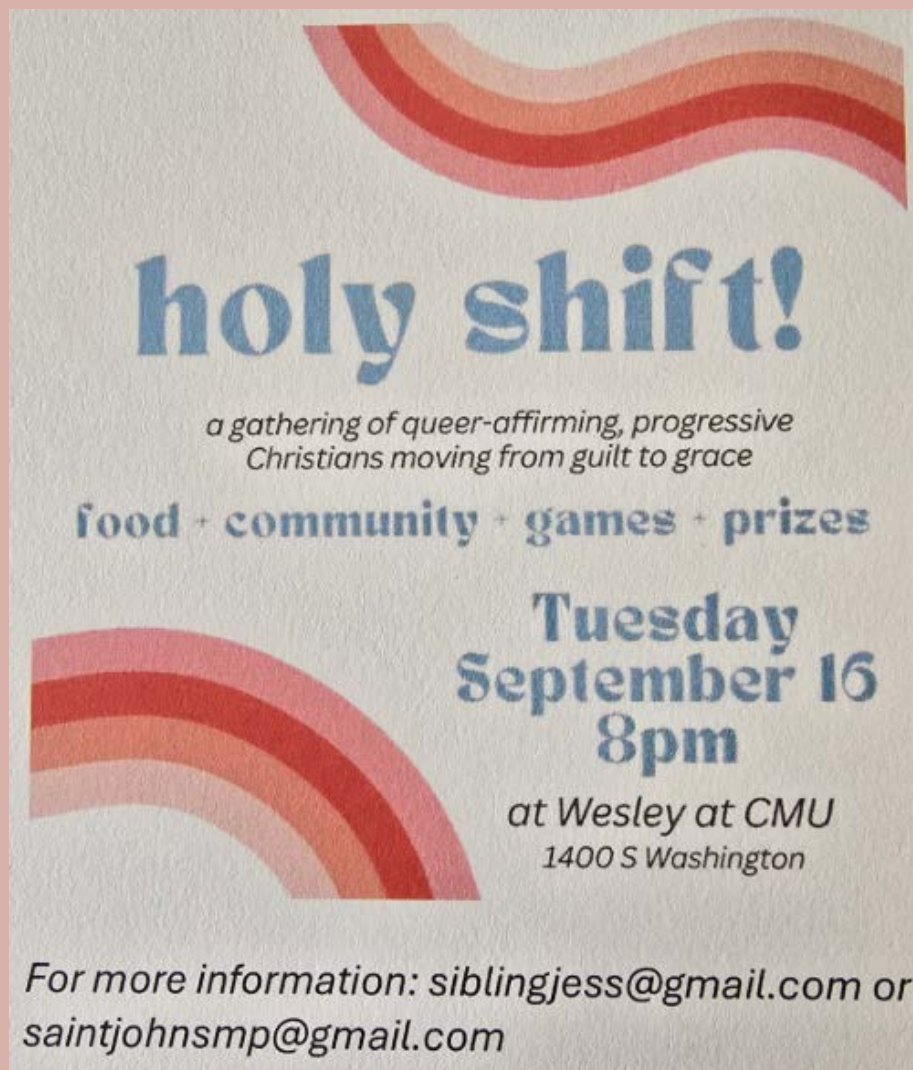


**On September 28th, join us at Emmaus
Monastery for a Eucharist in the woods at
4:00pm**

Potluck following.

**10154 N Pine Grove Road
Vestaburg, Michigan 48891**

On September 16th,
St. Johns is collaborating with First Presbyterian, Immanuel Lutheran, and the
Wesley Center at CMU
to provide a fun event for the community.





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!

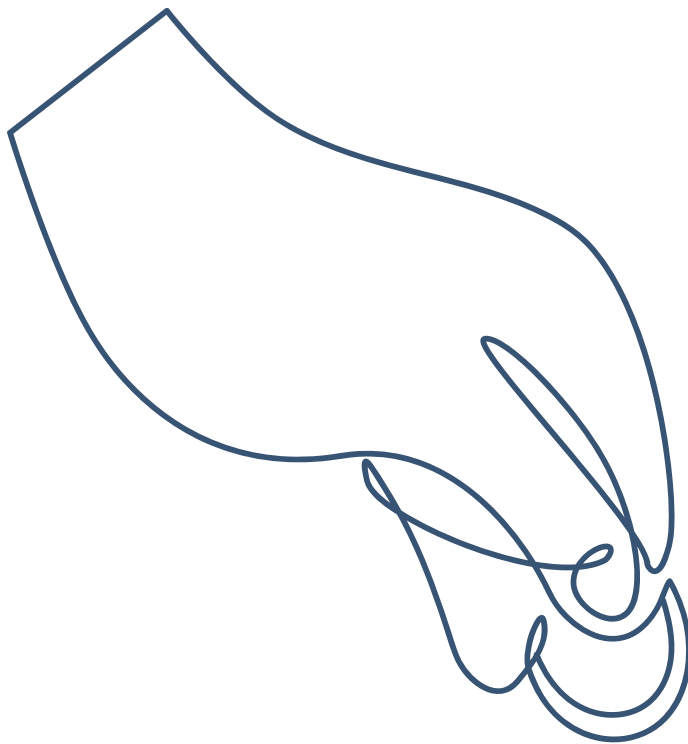
The Singing Church

Starting the August 24,

Eric will be presenting a 3-week workshop series after coffee hour.
We will practice reading music, singing both regular and lesser-known
hymns.

Feel free to attend!

The first Sunday Service with the choir will be September 7;
rehearsal the week of August 24.



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
The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, Deacon Emeritus
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