



# THE EVANGEL

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

## *WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:*

- November 2025 Vestry Minutes- 3-4
- November 2025 Financial Report - 5
- St. John's January Calendar - 8

My dear St. John's folk and friends,

The entry of the New Year holds all kinds of symbolism. For many, it can be seen as a new beginning, a chance to start something – or to stop something! This time around the sun, I am aware of the gift of time – and doing some soul-searching about how I use the gift. What do I want for this year? – but also, what choices do I make about the day, or the hour, or even the minute before me?

On Sunday, Jan. 4, we will bless our calendars, timepieces (including phones), and anything else we use to mark the passage of time. A blessing you might use at home is included in this newsletter. We will also be “chalking the doors” in church – the practice of blessing associated with the Feast of Epiphany and the Magi – blessing our worship space (and our homes). A blessing you can use at home is also included in this newsletter.

On Friday, January 23, we will have a public showing of the film Sugar Cane at 5:30 PM in the parish hall. See below for more details. PLEASE mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Finally, January – for us Episcopalians - means ANNUAL MEETING! As we have announced in church and posted in the THIS WEEK email messages, we will have a PARISH CONVERSATION about the BUDGET on Sunday, January 11 (led by Senior Warden Dan Eichinger). I will CONVENE our ANNUAL MEETING on SUNDAY January 25 after Eucharist.

In this year to come, may we all find a way to nurture the Divine Spark that dwells within each of us – and to share that Light of Christ with the world.

A blessed new year to us all.

Sr. Diane+

## Minutes, November 2025 Vestry Meeting

Saint John's Episcopal Church  
Minutes of November 16, 2025 meeting

Meeting came to order at 11:30 AM

Present: Liz Brockman, Kevin Davidson, Clancy DeLong, Dan Eichinger, Jerry May, Sam Raisanen (guest), Jim Thurston, Brenda Rau (guest)

Brenda Rau gave an update on potential changes to St. John's phone system. The Outreach Committee is suggesting utilizing an electronic transfer assistant to answer and route incoming calls to St. John's office. The decision tree for this system would route appropriate calls for economic assistance to Listening Ear, calls of spiritual, emotional, personal nature would be routed to Rector Diane or Deacon Jess, business calls would go to the office assistant.

The vestry will accept quotes for setting up and providing this type of service.

Pastoral report: Rector Diane's report was given by Dan Eichinger.

- o Thanksgiving Day Eucharist will be at 10:00 AM followed by a potluck Turkey Dinner for all who wish to stay and join in the festivities.
- o The evening of Dec. 21, 2025, St. John's will host Advent and Carols.
- o Rector Diane is writing grants to help fund Deacon Jess's position with St. John's.

Treasure's report: Clancy Delong

- o There has been a delay in the audit, but it should be available in the next 7 – 10 days.
- o In the future St. John's should be able to use an internal committee to annually review St. John's financial accounts. By using such committee, St. John's should be able to get by with having a full audit every 10 years.

§ As retiring treasurer, Clancy volunteered to serve on the committee.

- o Choir Director, Eric Vinciguerra, has requested \$1,000 for the purchase of new music folders.

§ By consensus the Vestry determined to delay this purchase.

The Vestry went into closed session to review the 2026 budget. The 2026 budget will be presented during the 2026 Annual Meeting in January.

Property report: Jerry May

- o The structural evaluation has been completed, and WTA is currently writing its report.
- o Cody's Property Care of Mt. Pleasant will be providing snow removal for the upcoming winter.

Next meeting; The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for Dec. 21, 2025. Dan will send out a Doodle Poll to determine an alternate date.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry May

## November 2025 Financial Report – Evangel Enclosure

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of November (91.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts..... \$ 202,135.34 (88.28% of budget)  
 Unrestricted operating fund expenditures..... 215,650.49 (90.24% of budget)  
 Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures..... \$ (13,515.15)

Through November income remains down. We are looking forward to an exciting new year. Please confirm that your estimated giving card has been turned in. If you need an estimated giving card, please contact Pamela Dingman.

We no longer have envelopes for giving. So special appeals sometimes get overlooked. Special appeals for your Thanksgiving Offering, Christmas Offering, Christmas Greens and Flowers and Christmas Baskets for our adopted families are online. You may link to our giving page via our website or [Click Here](#) to give online.

### Cash Balances

Isabella Bank - Checking	29,558.69
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 12-27-25	21,935.43
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	89,371.59
Members First CU - CD 05-30-26	15,271.27
Endowment Fund	126,187.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>282,331.80</b>

Clancy



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

Margaret + 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

### 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.



### January Birthdays

Nancy Hartshorne	01/01
Christi Brookes	01/04
Harry Kuhn	01/09
Barbara Sheperdigian	01/10
Martha Rarick	01/15
Kip Cosan	01/21
Sondra Johnson	01/22
Matthew Kinney	01/22



### January Anniversaries

## 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:

**January 4** Lynne L'Hommedieu

**January 11** The Davidson Family

**January 18** Liz Brockman and Laura Cochrane

**January 25** The Eichinger Family

## Lay Ministers:

	Lector	Prayers	Acolyte
<b>January 4</b>	Ulana Klymyshyn	Pat Thurston	Adam Baker
<b>January 11</b>	Mary Stewart Kiesgen	Jeanne Maxon	Peyton Eichinger
<b>January 18</b>	Derek Rivard	Brenda Rau	Matthew Kinney
<b>January 25</b>	Denise Keeler	Jim Thurston	Misha Proctor

## Greeters

**January 4** Clancy and Pat DeLong

**January 11** Pamela and Ford Dingman

**January 18** Pamela and Ford Dingman

**January 25** The Davidson Family

# January Calendar

## Sundays:

**01/04, 01/11, 01/18, 01/25**

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

## Mondays:

**01/05, 01/15, 01/19, 01/26**

6:30pm GA

## Tuesdays:

**01/06, 01/13, 01/20, 01/27**

6pm Recovery 360

## Wednesdays:

**01/07, 01/14, 01/21, 01/28**

6pm Tai Chi with Judy

7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

## Thursdays:

**01/01, 01/08, 01/15, 12/22,**

**01/29**

4pm Choir practice

8pm Compline via Zoom

Office Closed

## Fridays:

**01/02, 01/09, 01/16, 01/23,**

**01/30**

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** SUGARCANE 5:30 in the Parish Hall

## NATIVITY IN A SACK



We will be hosting a farewell coffee hour on January 18<sup>th</sup> after Sunday morning service to wish Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane well and safe travels on their next adventure. Please join us in saying goodbye!

**Farewell**

YOU WILL BE  
GREATLY MISSED

# Upcoming Meetings

**January 11:** Parish Conversation about the budget, led by Senior Warden Dan Eichinger. To be held after coffee hour.

**January 25:** Parish Annual Meeting led by Sr. Diane Stier. To be held after coffee hour.

# Right to be YOUTH

A PARENTS GUIDE TO  
BYSTANDER EMPOWERMENT

January 13 & 20, 2026  
7:00-9:00 PM via Zoom

*A two-part series on raising  
compassionate, confident kids.*

**The training will include:**

**Guided conversations.** How to build belonging in churches and youth spaces

**Learning new tools.** “Right To Be’s” 5Ds—easy tools for safe, effective intervention

**Leaving with resources.** Receive a discussion guide, quick-reference sheet, and free resources.

Attend one or both sessions;  
each includes a short recap.



Susanna McKinney,  
Senior Manager of Partnerships,  
*Right to Be*



## SUGARCANE

JOIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY  
SCREENING TOUR

SUGARCANE, the award-winning debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie, is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school, shedding light on years of forced separation, assimilation and abuse that Indigenous children experienced at the hands of Church and government. This urgent and timely film brings the hidden story of cultural genocide to audiences worldwide while celebrating the resilience of Native people as they work to overcome cycles of intergenerational trauma.

Join us on January 23rd in the Parish Hall for the showing of SUGARCANE. William Johnson, Curator of Cultural Resource Management at Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, will introduce the film and lead a discussion afterward. It will be from 5:30pm-8:00pm with popcorn and refreshments.



**SUGARCANEFILM.COM**



The 2026 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!

# 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. Mosier Street, Mt. Pleasant

**Gratiot Office:**  
525 N. State Street, Alma

### MAKE A DONATION

Scan the QR code, visit our website ([unitedwaygcm.org](http://unitedwaygcm.org)) to donate, or text UNITEDWAY to 26989.



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





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](http://www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com)

Alice Ciccu



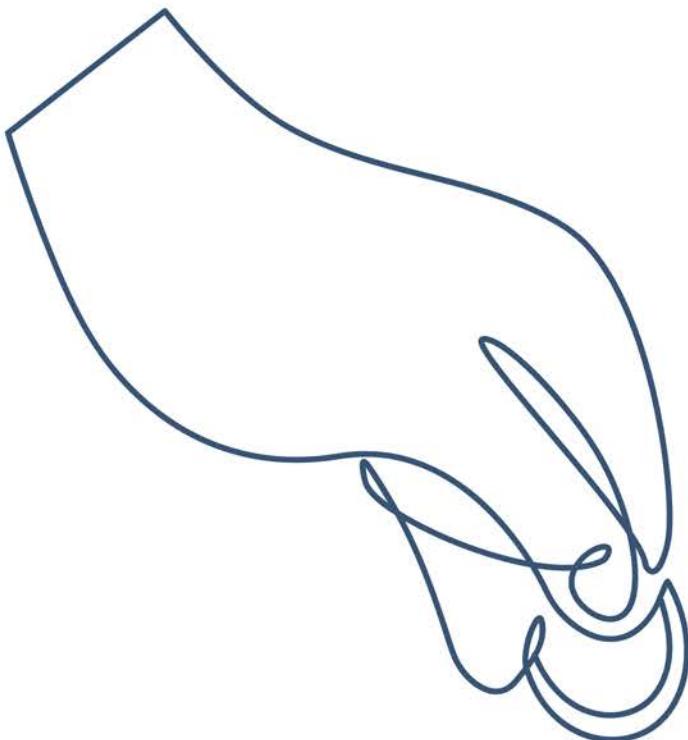
### St. John's Choir

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](mailto:saintjohnsmp@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com](http://www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com)**  
**Facebook: [St. John's Mount Pleasant](https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Mt.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

**2026 Vestry Members**

Clancy DeLong  
Elizabeth Brockman  
James Thurston  
Kevin Davidson  
Lara Raisanen