



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

St. John's Church is the building, perhaps, but more than that it is the people; it is the community; it is about relationship.

We start relationships by getting to know one another. (Keep watch for news about a parish potluck of some kind within the next several weeks.) But also in the weeks to come, we have opportunities to show up for and get to know members of our local indigenous community (see the information below about Every Step Counts this Sunday May 3 and Red Dress Day on May 5).

St. John's is also part of the local community – and we try to be a loving, welcoming, and affirming presence. It matters.

This past month, we hosted the inaugural meeting of the Mt. Pleasant PFLAG satellite chapter (thanks to Jim & Pat). Liz represented St. John's at the Isabella County History show held at the Commission on Aging. St. John's hosted a training/workshop for Strangers No Longer, a faith-based group working on educating folks about the lives of migrant and farmers.

(Continued on next page)



Meanwhile, the Grant Committee is hard at work, and has already gotten grant funds to support Holy Shift (our campus ministry program led by Sibling Jess), and another grant to help fund our Little Free Pantry and other needs in the local community. Give Liz, Nancy H., and Brenda a hearty thanks when you see them!!

In a world that seems broken, it can be hard to be hope-filled, to see the good. What can we do? We can be witnesses... we can listen...learn...love.

Remember that you are loved and you belong – and pass it on.

Sr. Diane+

Minutes, March 2026 Vestry Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Vestry Meeting

Meeting in person and via zoom

Present: Liz Brockman, Kevin Davidson (via zoom), Clancy DeLong, Dan Eichinger, Lara

Raisanen (via zoom), Sam Raisanen, Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Jim Thurston

Absent: Jerry May

Guests: Alice Ciccu, Nancy Hartshorne, Ethan Kindle, Eric Vinciguerra

Meeting called to order: 11:47 a.m.

Opening Prayer by Stier

Administrative Business

- Agenda approved via acclimation.
- Approval of prior meeting minutes:
 - February 2026 (via email): motion DeLong, second Stier; passed unanimously
 - December 2025 (in person): motion Thurston, second DeLong; passed unanimously

New Business

- Grants Committee report (by Hartshorne):
 - WalMart has a “Spark Good” program that could help with our Little Free Food Pantry.
 - This requires a specific bank account. S. Raisanen will set that up and work with grants committee.
 - This program will offer the opportunity to for parishioners and community members to donate foodstuffs and money.
- Choir request for Rodenbeck Fund use (by Vinciguerra):

- Proposal as submitted uses remainder of fund, however, proposal includes request for salary and the fund is not designated for salary use. Vestry recognizes this is a music fund (not choir specific) that is designed for perpetuity and does not support one-time salary use.
- Davidson thanked Vinciguerra for the proposal and noted how much our parish values the choir. If we are limited in what we can fund, he asked what is the most important item. Vinciguerra stated new choir robes are the most important.
- Vestry discussed ways to keep the cost of robe replacement reasonable and asked Vinciguerra to return with a detailed proposal that explored several cost option tiers for acquiring new choir robes.
- Power of Hello - topic will be featured at a special Vestry meeting
- Isabella County History Day - April 25th
- St. John's will host a table
- Borrow our own historical materials from Clark Library
- Must update our history chronicle for accuracy
- Can advertise our own sesquicentennial occurring 2032
- Acolyte training:
 - We need more acolytes; there are interested people
 - DJ Proctor will be in charge of training
- Outdoor Speaker (by Ciccu):
 - There is opportunity from the diocese to reapply for the digital grants money we received last year.
 - Davidson asked Ciccu to bring back specific examples and costs for consideration

Pastoral Report - Stier

- Church received an efficient energy kit from Consumers Energy
- Highlights:
 - Children's space - will consider a soft space in the sanctuary, which has fewer requirements than staffing the nursery

- Ultimate “expensive option” - creating a window or doorway in the wall between the sanctuary and nursery
- Soft space will start by having a conversation with parents
- Rev. Hart is taking lead with this as St. John’s continues to attract families with young children on Sundays
- Rev Hart preaching next Sunday.
- The Rev. David Sikelka is preaching the noon Good Friday service.
- There’s an upcoming baptism.
- Kindle will attend Sewanee’s music conference again this year. Parish will fund expenses.

Committee Reports

A. Building and Grounds - May

1. No full report as May is traveling.
2. 31 March 2026: email meeting to approve summer lawn care contracts; motion May, second Raisanen. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Worship - no report

C. Human Resources - no report

D. Administration & Finance -S. Raisanen

1. February continued January’s good numbers.
2. Everything looks normal for this time of year, as always we pay attention to utility usage especially with rising costs.

E. Christian Formation - no report

F. Hospitality - no report

G. Outreach - see New Business

H. Senior Warden - no report

Old Business - none

Closing prayer: Stier

Meeting adjourned: 1:08 p.m.

Next meeting: 19 April 2026; 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lara Raisanen, Clerk

March 2026 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of March (25.0%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts \$ 51,456.27 (23.22% of budget)
 Unrestricted operating fund expenditures 63,174.30 (25.76% of budget)
 Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures \$ (11,718.03)

Over the past month, with thanks to the work of the Grants Committee, we have received two grants from the Diocese of the Great Lakes: \$10K for Campus Ministries and \$13.5K for See a Need, Meet a Need.

If you would like to financially participate in our mission. Please contact Pamela Dingman for an estimated giving card.

Also, quarterly given reports have been sent, so please confirm that your estimated giving amounts are up to date. To give online, you may link to our giving page via our website or [Click Here to Give.](#)

Year End Balances

Cash Balances

Isabella Bank - Checking	47,730.85
Isabella Bank - Savings	200.00
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 03-27-27	22,200.18
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	90,613.48
Members First CU - CD 05-30-26	15,458.94
Endowment Fund	128,699.34

Total

304,909.77

Sam



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

Nancy Rivard
Comfort Care

1945 Churchill Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Martha Rarick

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

Margaret + Harry Kuhn

temporary address

Serene Gardens of Clarkston

Room 108

5850 White Lake Rd

Clarkston, MI 48346

Carol Lauffer

P.O. Box 125

Spofford, NH 03462

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.



May Birthdays

Jacob Hartshorne	05/10
Donald Schurr	05/18
Sandy Rose	05/24
Ulana Klymyshyn	05/28
Amily Shaffer	05/29



May Anniversaries

Marian Matyn and Rod Leslie	05/23
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Weekly Schedule:

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

Wednesday 10-11AM: [Lectio via Zoom](#)

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

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

Coffee Hour Schedule:

- May 3 Sharon Bolton, Liz Brockman, and Matt and Erica Johnson
- May 10 Pat and Clancy DeLong
- May 17 Pamela and Ford Dingman
- May 24 Jen and Dave Dingman
- May 31 Christi Brookes and DJ Proctor

Lay Ministers: Lector

Prayers

Acolyte

- | | | | |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| May 3 | Jen Dingman | Brenda Rau | Adam Baker |
| May 10 | Denise Keeler | Jen Dingman | Adam Baker |
| May 17 | Mary Stewart Kiesgen | Linda-Susan Beard | Adam Baker |
| May 24 | Jim Thurston | Pat Thurston | Adam Baker |
| May 31 | Derek Rivard | Denise Keeler | Adam Baker |

Greeters

- May 3 Jen and Dave Dingman
- May 10 Pamela and Ford Dingman
- May 17 Pat and Clancy DeLong
- May 24 Jen and Dave Dingman
- May 31 Pat and Clancy DeLong

May Calendar

Sundays:

05/03, 05/10, 05/17, 05/24,
05/31

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

11am Coffee Hour

Mondays:

05/04, 05/11, 05/18, 05/25

6:30pm GA

Tuesdays:

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

6pm Recovery 360

Wednesdays:

05/06, 05/13, 05/20, 05/27

10am Bible Study Zoom

6pm Tai Chi with Judy

7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays:

05/07, 05/14, 05/21, 05/28

4pm Choir practice

8pm Compline via Zoom

Office Closed

Fridays:

05/01, 05/08, 05/15, 05/22,
05/29

Nothing on these days

EVERY STEP SPEAKS:

March for Justice, Awareness, and Remembrance of MMIP

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People



Sunday, May 3, 2026

3 p.m. | Island Park (331 N. Main St., Mt. Pleasant, Mich.)

Kina bi maad ziim gak Kchi pii tend da kwad "All life is sacred"

Walk a mile to remember and help bring awareness to our Missing Murdered Indigenous relatives.

- Please wear red to spread awareness for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Movement.
- Bring pictures of loved ones lost, to carry during the walk.
- Light refreshments and snack foods for everyone

Featured speakers:

- ▶ Melissa Isaac
- ▶ Nick Deplonty, BIA

Free MMIP T-shirt for all participants!



Red Dress exhibits will be featured starting the beginning of April, until the middle of May to bring recognition to this powerful movement.

Locations will include:

- Art Reach Mid Michigan
 - The Red Dress exhibit will run April 27-May 9 with a gallery reception and speaker Marcella Hadden on April 30 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- McLaren Central Michigan Hospital
- Central Michigan University Bowe Center
- Central Michigan University Libraries
- Central Michigan University Museum
- Ninkee Memorial Wellness Center
- Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
- Tribal Operations - Black Elk Building
- Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services
- Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel
- SCIT Behavioral Health
- Zibiwing Center
- Clarke Historical Library
- Veterans Memorial Library
- Mid Michigan College
- Cap of Joy
- R.I.S.E. Advocacy, Inc.
- SCIT Public Safety Building
- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

For more information, contact: Quinn Yurack at QYurack@sagchip.org



Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

"Working Together for Our Future"

7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
989-775-8000
www.sagchip.org



MMIWG

Red Dress Day (or the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ People) is observed annually on May 5 to honor victims and raise awareness of the crisis. Originating from Métis artist Jaime Black's REDress Project, people wear red, hang red dresses, and hold rallies to fight for justice and challenge the high rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls.



ZIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

Support Our Cultural Center *Now Easier Than Ever!*

**** Donate Online with a Simple Scan!****

We are excited to announce a new way to support our vibrant community — online donations via QR code!

How It Works:

- Just use your phone or computer to scan the QR code to the right. →
- Quickly and securely make your donation — no need for cash or checks!
- It's fast, convenient, and contact-less.

Why Donate Online?

- ▶ **Instant Giving:** Your support helps Zibiwing host events, preserve our culture, and grow our programs.
- ▶ **Safe & Secure:** Our technology safeguards your personal information.
- ▶ **Eco-Friendly:** Reduce paper use and effort — do good for the environment!
- ▶ **Accessible Anytime:** Donate whenever it's convenient for you, 24/7.

**Join Our Community
of Supporters!**



Every contribution makes a difference. Whether big or small, your generosity keeps our doors open and our community thriving.

Scan the QR code now and be part of something special!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication!



ZIBIWING 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/ZIBIWING

◆ Mt Pleasant Pride Center ◆

RUMMAGE SALE

DONATIONS NEEDED!

**Furniture & Décor - Tools & Outdoor Gear -
Toys, Books, & Games - Kitchen & Home Items**

Please, NO mattresses, weapons, or personal hygiene items

ITEM DROP-OFF TIMES:

Any Thurs & Fri: 6-8PM thru May 15

Sat April 18: 9:30-10AM

Tues April 28: 6-7PM

Sat May 9: 9:30-10AM

@ MPPC: 201 S University, Suite 106



** All proceeds go to MPPC for programming. Donated items become property of MPPC. MPPC will set prices. Any unsold items will be donated. Donations may be rejected at the discretion of MPPC volunteers. **





The next meeting of PFLAG GLB will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday May 17, 2026 from 2PM - 3:30 PM. We will be in the parish hall on 516 S. Washington Ave. next to the church. PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is an inclusive Ally to the LGBTQ+ community.

Everyone is invited to this advocacy, educational, and supportive safe space gathering. Refreshments will be served while we tune into a Zoom meeting transmitted from the PFLAG GLB location in Saginaw to listen to a featured speaker. Afterwards we will break into groups to discuss the presentation, support each other and explore our concerns.

Please come!

Spring

CAREGIVER TRAINING

FRIDAY

22
MAY 2026

SESSION ONE- 10-11:30

LUNCH- 11:45-12:45

SESSION TWO- 1:00-2:30

Session One: 10:00am- 11:30am -Dr. Lester:

Sister Mara Lester, RSM, MD, an adult psychiatrist from Sacred Heart Mercy Health Care Clinic, will be presenting on the multifaceted topic of suffering, encompassing both physical and emotional pain. Her talk will delve into the notion of pain or suffering as the "fifth vital sign," a concept that emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing pain or emotional considerations as crucial to patient care. Sister Mara aims to deepen our understanding of how suffering impacts individuals holistically, influencing their mental health, quality of life, and overall well-being.

**LUNCH 11:45-12:45- Free lunch provided by COA
Pulled Pork, California Blend, Coleslaw, Parslied potatoes, Apricots**

Session Two: 1:00pm-2:30pm -Mandy Owens:

Mandy Owens, BA, MHA and Dementia therapy certified from Cornerstone Heath Care. Mandy will be speaking on empowering yourself. Join us for a transformative event just for you! In this session, we'll dive into: recognizing and overcoming ageism: Learn how everyday bias can impact you and how to stand tall with confidence. Maintaining dignity through hygiene: Discover practical daily steps that preserve your self-respect and well-being. Boosting health with nutrition: Understand how simple food choices can enhance your energy and longevity.

Free Public Event

ISABELLA COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
2200 S. LINCOLN RD.
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858

RSVP BY MAY 8TH TO BLEONARD@ISABELLACOUNTY.ORG OR CALL BRANDISE AT 989-772-0748 IF YOU WOULD LIKE A LUNCH PROVIDED PLEASE NOTIFY BRANDISE WHEN YOU RSVP



Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes – Search for a BISHOP

With great hope and joy and with the prayers of our diocese, we are thrilled to announce that the application window for our search for our first bishop diocesan is open!

Click [here](#) for details!



Join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship and baseball as we head to a Great Lakes Loons game on Sunday, July 12, 2026 at 1:05 PM at Dow Diamond in Midland, MI! This is a wonderful opportunity for members of our church family to spend time together enjoying America's pastime.

We will again be seated in the Northern Lights Pavilion, where tickets are \$27.50 per person. Each ticket includes entrance to the game and a picnic-style meal with your choice of hot dog, hamburger, or pulled pork sandwich, along with unlimited picnic sides such as potato salad and soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available in the pavilion for those who wish to purchase additional beverages.

Whether you're a big baseball fan or simply looking forward to a relaxed afternoon with friends from church, we hope you'll join us for this enjoyable outing. If you would like tickets, please email saintjohnsmp@gmail.com and/or djdingman@charter.net. Final headcount is due by Monday June 15th so please reserve your spot now!



Episcopal Relief & Development

Working Together for Lasting Change

Wondering how you can help folks in need
in far away places?

Episcopal Relief & Development is a way
to do that!

Episcopal Relief & Development has local
people who can deliver aid funded through
ERD. You can contribute here:



St. John's is currently seeking volunteers to help keep our Sunday services welcoming, organized, and running smoothly. Many aspects of our worship each week are made possible only through the generous gift of time and service from members of our parish community. We are deeply grateful for those who already serve and would love to welcome additional volunteers to share in this important ministry.

At this time, we are especially looking for individuals who would be willing to serve in a few key roles during our Sunday services. These include Acolytes, who assist with the progression of the service, Lectors, who read the Scripture lessons, volunteers to lead the Prayers of the People, Greeters, who warmly welcome parishioners and visitors as they arrive, and Coffee Hour Hosts, who help set up and host the fellowship time following the service.

If you would like to learn more about any of these volunteer opportunities or would like to add your name to the volunteer list, please feel free to email saintjohnsmp@gmail.com and/or djdingman@charter.net. Thank you for your willingness to serve and for helping make St. John's such a vibrant and welcoming community!

Do you like to have clean clothes? Others do also. Please consider the Clean and Bright outreach as a way to help others enjoy a fresh outlook.

Please let Jim Thurston know if you'd like to volunteer 2-3 times a month. Or, as your schedule allows.





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. 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.**





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.”

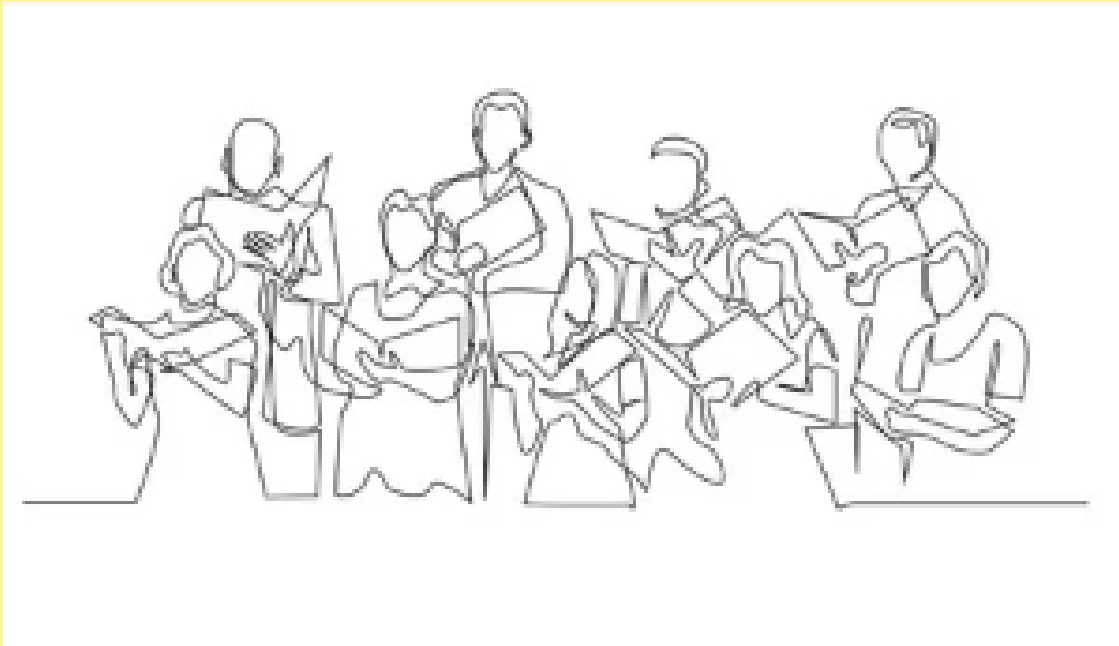
We won one last year that we used to install a speaker in the nursery so people who need to use it during the service can still hear everything in the sanctuary.

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



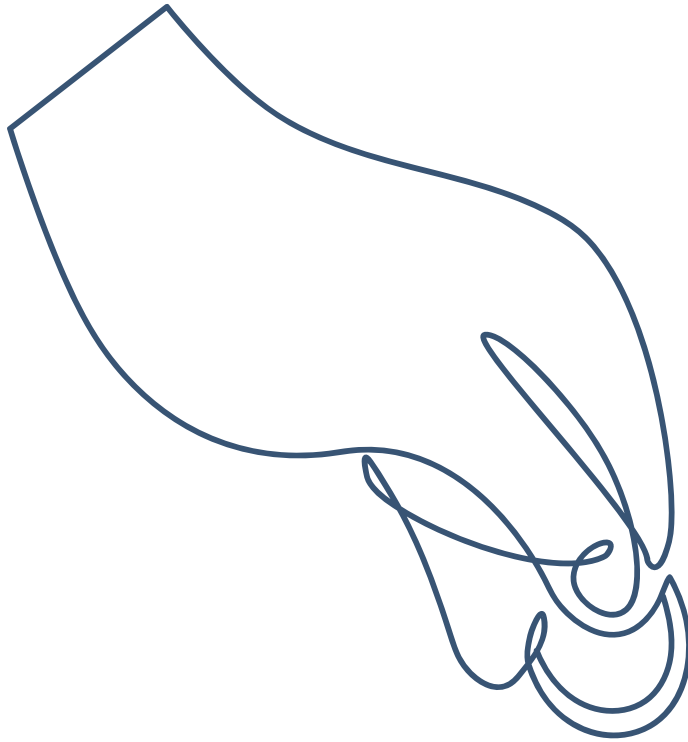
St. John's Choir

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, Assistant Priest
Organist: Ethan Kindle
Choirmaster: Eric Vinciguerra

2026 Vestry Officers

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

2026 Vestry Members

Clancy DeLong
Elizabeth Brockman
James Thurston
Kevin Davidson
Lara Raisanen
Dan Eichinger
Jerry May
Rev. Sr. Diane Stier