



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People of St. John's and Friends,

I smile sometimes when "church" folks talk about the summer as "down time" – when things slow down around the church. That is not our general experience here at St. John's!

June was a busy month...lots going on in the community as well as at St. John's. We started with the Day of Honoring, Healing, and Remembering with the tribe. Then came PRIDE Fest in Mt. Pleasant, the Juneteenth celebration at Island Park. Our Grant Committee has continued to meet and work toward finding funding for our outreach efforts as well as our general expenses. And we started off this month of July with our second PRIDE Communion in the parish hall.

What's coming next? On Sunday, July 19, there will be NO SERVICE at St. John's. Instead, we'll be gathering with other churches from the community to celebrate **WORSHIP IN THE PARK**. This service (with Holy Communion) will be held at Island Park and will begin at 10:30. There will be a potluck meal afterward. This is a way for us to celebrate with others, even though we may differ in doctrine or theology or worship styles! Please come to join us.

St. John's... the parish – the church – is more than what happens within the walls of the church (or the parish hall). We are called – and then we are sent. That's the meaning of the Dismissal each Sunday! In order to bring the good news to those outside our walls, we need to be present in the community.

Part of what makes it possible for us to engage in our ministry is the work of the **GRANT COMMITTEE**. Brenda, Liz, and Nancy have put in more hours than any of us know, I think – and the results have been many. Please take time to read the article in this issue of the Evangel.

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

Sr. Diane+

From the Grant Committee

GRANTS!

We are so blessed to have recently received not one, not two, but **THREE** grants! Two of them (totallying \$10,000) will support Jess in her campus ministry. The third grant, for \$13,500, will allow us to give more generously to Listening Ear each month, purchase food and hygiene items for our Little Free Pantry, purchase supplies for the Clean & Bright Laundry/Shower Ministry, and support at least 2 events with the PRIDE center. Stay tuned - more grants are in the works.

Minutes, April 2026 Vestry Meeting

Sunday, April 19, 2026 Vestry Meeting

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

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

Opening Prayer by Stier

Administrative Business

- Agenda approved via acclimation.
- Approval of March 2026 minutes: motion Davidson, second May; motion passed unanimously

New Business

- Parishioner has requested Vestry consider new chairs for the Parish Hall, as the current chairs are aging and uncomfortable for many people
 - Considerations are cost, type (comfort & accessibility, ability to clean, etc)
 - What to do with the existing chairs?
 - Decision: Vestry will keep this request in mind at year end, being mindful of budget constraints and realities.

Pastoral Report - Stier

- Outreach:
 - Community Assistance will be handled through the Listening Ear Assistance Fund (LEAF). St. John's has been in talks with Listening Ear (LE) to finalize what this will look like in practice - primarily whether any community assistance requests should still come directly to St. John's/Sr. Diane. St. John's clarified that we are giving them our assistance funds to distribute; there isn't extra money so no requests should come to the parish. There will be a meeting in May with other churches to increase capacity and reach of the LEAF program.
 - The Little Free Pantry is well-used. Several volunteers (some from Indivisible), Natalee, and Sr. Diane all check stock and refill as needed. There is a donate to the pantry option on the website. It has been used. We also received a grant, and some funds will be used for the Pantry. Spark Good, a Walmart program, will be in place soon.
- Brockman suggests reaching out to the Food Pantry.
- Davidson suggests reaching out to area Food Banks.

(Continued on next page)

- Grants:

- Celebrate the hard work of the grants committee!
- Holy Shift (Rev. Hart's campus ministry program) received \$10,000 which will help solidify this position permanently and hopefully increase Hart's staff time.
- Mission & Community Engagement Grant Fund awarded St. John's \$13,500.
- \$50/month (\$600) will support Clean & Bright ministry.
- \$50/month (\$600) will support maintaining a clean and equipped shower area.
- \$1,000 - will support St. John's participation in local pride events
- Brockman suggests increasing monthly donation to LEAF (above) from \$400 to \$500. Vestry unanimously agrees with this suggestion.
- Raisanen questioned if Juneteenth would need any funds.
- By using Brockman's suggestion, that leaves (up to) \$5,300 to begin building an endowment type fund for community assistance, or to invest a larger amount of funds into a specific project.
- Community Engagement:
 - The "Welcome Table" (interfaith group started by Indivisible) continues to meet monthly.
 - Stier attended the Pastor's Prayer meeting, which is a place to build connections and relationships with our more evangelical faith siblings. Group focus is a Jail Ministry.
- Technology: J. Thurston & Ciccu are doing a great job keeping technology updated. New volunteers to assist them?
- Good News Garden: Seeds have been planted; greenhouse is up - waiting on weather.
- Weekly Worship: Stopped monthly supper church due to low attendance.
- Pastoral Care:
 - Parishioner Visits by Stier and others
 - Officiated Mekeila's father's funeral
 - Pastoral Care is helping others with whatever their needs are - "just helping folks with whatever they need" (anyone can do this!)

Campus Ministry Report - Hart

- 10 individual meetings
- Using the Presbyterian Church's existing RSO for events at CMU
- Should Hart have a dedicated cell phone for campus ministry?
- Society of St. John's Abiding Hope grant opportunity- \$50,000/year for three years - this award would be more a partnership with the Society and could be life-changing for our new campus ministry program. Grants committee is working hard for this.

(Continued on next page)

Committee Reports

A. Building and Grounds - May

1. Moisture on eaves issue could be solved with gutter installation.
2. Applying for grants to maintain and restore structure.
 - a. MPACF: community shared space.
 - b. Sacred Spaces: will require 50% matching funds; can use other grant monies for the match.
 - c. Diocesan Brick & Mortar
3. Some of the structural work can be completed by parishioners; May will create a priority list of tasks; Vestry will call for volunteers.
4. Architect's Report is helpful and worthwhile for several reasons; it both helps task planning and is allowed as documentation for several grants.

B. Worship - no report

C. Human Resources - no report

D. Administration & Finance -S. Raisanen

1. Treasurer's Report is received.
2. Budget is still normal and on track for this time of year.

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: 1:00 p.m.

Next meeting: to be determined.

Respectfully submitted by Lara Raisanen, Clerk

May 2026 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of May (41.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts..... \$ 80,469.54 (36.30% of budget)
 Unrestricted operating fund expenditures..... 106,173.21 (40.60% of budget)
 Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures..... \$ (25,703.67)

If you would like to financially participate in our mission. Please contact Pamela Dingman for an estimated giving card or give directly to a specific cause (e.g. Food Pantry, Youth Ministry, Rector's Discretionary Fund, etc.) via our giving page [Click Here to Give.](#)

Year End Balances

Cash Balances

Isabella Bank - Checking	49,648.22
Isabella Bank - Savings	200.00
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 03-27-27	22,331.73
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	91,246.08
Members First CU - CD 11-30-26	15,554.44
Endowment Fund	128,699.34

Total

307,686.79

Regards,
 Sam



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

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

Carol Lauffer
P.O. Box 125
Spofford, NH 03462

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

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.



July Birthdays

Hazel Hart	07/04
Ann Marie Orren	07/08
Olivia Ohler	07/11
Derek Rivard	07/15
Jillian Davidson	07/16
Cindy Robards	07/17
Joyce Baugh	07/19
Valerie Bowman	07/19
Claudette Shaffer	07/21
Bernice Cole	07/22
Margaret Blackburn	07/23
Sam Raisanen	07/24
Ford Dingman	07/25
Robert Cosan	07/28



July Anniversaries

David and Jennifer Dingman	07/11
Eric and Jessica Vinciguerra	07/15
Sam and Lara Raisanen	07/20
Clancy and Pat DeLong	07/25

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:

July 5	The Davidson Family
July 12	The Eichinger Family
July 19	Lynne L'Hommedieu and Liz Brockman
July 26	Jen and Dave Dingman

Lay Ministers: Lector

Prayers

Acolyte

July 5	Brenda Rau	Derek Rivard	Adam Baker
July 12	Denise Keeler	Jim Thurston	Peyton Eichinger
July 19	---	---	---
July 26	Pat Thurston	Jen Dingman	Misha Proctor

Greeters

July 5	Christi Brookes and DJ Proctor
July 12	Pamela and Ford Dingman
July 19	Pamela and Ford Dingman
July 26	Jen and Dave Dingman

July Calendar

Sundays:

07/05, 07/12, 07/19, 07/26

10am Holy Communion (In person, Facebook, & YouTube)
11am Coffee Hour

Mondays:

07/06, 07/13, 07/20, 07/27

6:30pm GA
1pm Violin classes in the Undercroft

Tuesdays:

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

6pm Recovery 360

Wednesdays:

07/01, 07/08, 07/15, 07/22,
07/29

10am Bible Study Zoom
6pm Tai Chi with Judy
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays:

07/02, 07/09, 07/16, 07/23,
07/30

4pm Choir practice
8pm Compline via Zoom
Office Closed

Fridays:

07/03, 07/10, 07/17, 07/24,
07/31

Nothing on these days

OUR PFLAG STORY

We lived in the country without many neighbors. Our son and daughter did normal things growing up. We were oblivious to what was bubbling inside our daughter. It began with mood swings, then bouts of anger and depression. It morphed into counseling sessions, then, while in therapy, self-harm and suicide attempts. After a few months of therapy, and her fifth hospitalization, she “came out” with her, new to us, sexual orientation. She was afraid that we would not accept her. We were stunned to a degree yet relieved that we could put a name on what we all were going through. At that time, she became part of the gay community as we knew it then, and it took one more hospitalization before each of us could breathe. We took time to process these recent life events. Loving her as we always did was the only approach for us. While the three of us struggled at times, we survived the roller coaster journey and remained close. About three years ago our church had its first Gay Pride table during a pop-up Pride event located on the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Reservation at Broadway Park in Mt Pleasant. We helped man the table. PFLAG was at this Pride event, and it was during this event that PFLAG became a part of our life. We explored what PFLAG is and what it means to the community. We wanted to be a part of an organization with a mission of advocacy, education and support. We were in. We attended our first meeting of PFLAG at the Saginaw Great Lakes Bay location shortly after the pop-up Pride event. The people attending the chapter meetings were warm and welcoming. Over these three years friendships have developed. Today our daughter and her same sex partner are part of our life. We embrace who she is and support her identity. As part of our support for her and others, we became more active with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

She told us how proud she is that we are part of PFLAG. The public commitment we are making to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to love, serve, embrace their humanity and stand up for them is especially important for her.

As our church, St John's Episcopal, began to explore more inclusive opportunities, our congregation grew to include several 2SLGBTQIA+ community members. Over time a small contingent of the community traveled the distance to Saginaw for the monthly PFLAG meetings. With forward thinking leadership, Mount Pleasant, Michigan is becoming a satellite of PFLAG Great Lakes Bay Region Chapter. Our first meeting had 25 participants and our second, 21, which shows there is a need for PFLAG in Mt Pleasant. We are proud of our story and look forward to a rewarding relationship with PFLAG and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Peace.

—Pat & Jim Thurston



Hello Fabulous Friends, 

St John's Episcopal Church is hosting a PRIDE Eucharist/Communion, July 5, at 4 pm with a reception afterward. St John's is a PFLAG GLB community partner in Mt Pleasant. The officiant will be The Rev. Jess Hart. Join us on Sunday for a PRIDE Communion service! St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall – 516 S Washington, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. “The church with the red doors.”

2026 Mt Pleasant Satellite PFLAG GLB MEETING & EVENTS SCHEDULE – JULY and AUGUST

All meetings are 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. at St John's Episcopal Church with the presentation 'zoomed' from the First United Methodist Church, in Saginaw. The first half of each meeting is a presentation; the second half is confidential support groups. Sunday, July 19 - Annual Summer Picnic at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Saginaw. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. NOTE: This is our July meeting; different time & different location. Come join PFLAG GLB for its annual summer picnic! Music, games, raffle prizes, friends, and food! Bring a dish to pass if you are able; but not required.

Monday, July 20 – Book Club Soiree, 6:00 p.m. in the parlor at First Methodist Church 4790 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw. Book: Last Night at the Telegraph Club, by Malinda Lo, Historical Fiction
Sunday, August 16 – Monthly Meeting. Topic: Sharing Our Stories with Purpose – a letter writing exercise to our elected officials advocating for our community.

Monday, August 17 - Book Club Soiree, 6:00 p.m. in the parlor at First Methodist Church 4790 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw. Book: The Advocate Educator's Handbook, by Vanessa Ford & Rebecca Kling, Nonfiction

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The Chocolate Party held in Saginaw was great fun and a huge success. Almost 100 people attended, with eight from Mt Pleasant! The Mt Pleasant PRIDE Festival keeps growing. I met people from all over the state!

I hope to see you at the St John's PRIDE Communion on July 5th in Mt Pleasant and the Summer Picnic on July 19th in Saginaw!

Peace,
Pat Thurston



Parents, Families, and Friends
of LGBTQ+ People

Follow us:



Annual Summer Picnic

Join us for our 5th annual summer picnic.
Food, live music, games, & prizes

You can RSVP [HERE](#)

Sunday, July 19, 2026
1:00 - 3:30 PM

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
2525 Hemmeter Road
Saginaw Township, MI 48603

Musical Guest:

**FAT
HENRY**



Bring a dish to pass (use QR code) & a lawn chair. In case of rain, we'll
shift to First United Methodist Church on 4790 Gratiot in Saginaw.



 **ZIIBIWING 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 Ziibiwing 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!*



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

A New Way to Donate

Below is a QR code for quick/easy donating to St. John's! Please note, you will receive a PayPal receipt for donations made through the QR code instead of a year-end statement from us!

Donation



LAY PASTORAL VISITORS

Would you like to visit parishioners and perhaps offer communion?

The diocese is offering training for persons to offer pastoral visitations both in a hospital setting and in homes. This five month class will offer participants a chance to learn how to engage in holy listening. Participants will be required to practice the visitation skills and learn from them through presenting verbatims and receiving feedback. Students will begin to look at specific situations around crisis care, aging and end of life. You will also learn when and how to refer people to other professions and how to engage in self care.

Classes will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. one Saturday a month from September through January. October and November classes will be held online. All of the other months will be held in person at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. Cost will be \$500 with lunch provided. For questions, please contact the Rev. Canon Tracie Little (tracie@greatlakesepiscopal.org).

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!

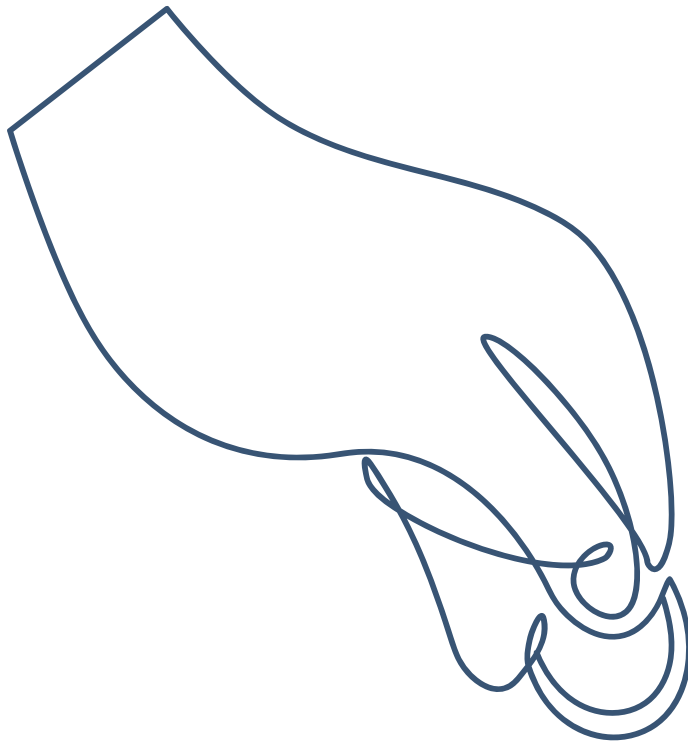
Do you like to have clean clothes? Others do also. Please consider the Clean and Bright outreach as a way to help others enjoy a fresh outlook. Please let Jim Thurston know if you'd like to volunteer 2-3 times a month. Or, as your schedule allows.





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!



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