



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People of St. John's and Friends,

One of the things I keep hearing people express is a sense of helplessness when it comes to the suffering and injustice going on all around the world right now. When the sun is shining and there are lots of things going on in our own lives, we can sometimes distract ourselves. But eventually we hear at least a snippet of the news again - or see a picture of what life in Gaza or Sudan or Ukraine looks like right now.

No one has any magic solutions. What we do have is our commitment to the Way – and to seek and serve Christ in all persons. Sometimes – often – being present is enough. Simply being present says, “I am here for you. I see you. I support you. You are not alone.”

Here are some ways we can be present this month (with more information about each one later in this issue):

- June is PRIDE month – let us see one another and celebrate the rainbow of inclusion. On June 1 we will once again have a “St. John's” table at the local PRIDE fest held at the (tribal) Broadway Park from 2-5 PM. It is important for us to be there.
- Friday June 5th is the annual Day of Healing and Remembrance at the former Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School. The day begins with an early morning prayer service at the cemetery on Bamber Road. A very powerful ceremony... and an opportunity to be present and pray with our indigenous siblings. The day continues with events on the grounds of the Boarding School.
- Observe Juneteenth– the day when – two years AFTER the Emancipation Proclamation – the abolition of slavery in Texas was ordered on June 19th, 1865. St. John's will have a table again at the celebration at Island Park from 4-8 PM. See more information below.
- The rummage sale – another chance to show up for St. John's and for the larger community – will be June 18, 19, & 20. You can start bringing your treasures to the Lantern on June 1.

(Continued on next page)

• Finally, we all know that June brings celebrations of graduations and marriages and fathers; let us celebrate our families – those into which we were born, and those we have chosen. Take time this month to be present to one another!

And for those of you wanted more news about St. John’s itself, there is a separate article about that!

Remember that you are loved.

Sr. Diane+

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Prayer for Juneteenth

We pray, O Lord, for change.

Jesus you revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds,
and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins.

Guide us, through the love you revealed,
to establish the justice you proclaimed,
that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace,
united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you.

And most of all, Lord, change our routine worship and work into genuine encounter with you and our better selves so that our lives will be changed for the good of all.

Amen

Prayer adapted from Racial Healing and Liturgical Resources found at this page.

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WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST. JOHN'S

Perhaps most folks don't know all that we're doing as a faith community – so here's a partial list:

- The majority of our monetary assistance to folks in need (the “Discretionary Fund”) now goes through the LEAF fund – the Listening Ear Assistance Fund. For those who remember the Goodrow Fund, this is a similar emergency fund. At the suggestion of our Outreach Committee last fall, we worked with Listening Ear (LE) to develop a referral system whereby we referred people who called for assistance to LE, they took all the phone calls and referred back to us those they could not help at the moment. This has now grown to include many of the churches in the area. We send our funds to LE, and they field the calls and use our funds to help people directly. This has been a great time and energy saver for us. We still do get direct emergency requests from folks, and we respond to those requests as our “Discretionary Fund” budget allows.
- Also as a result of discussion in the Outreach Committee, we started a Little Free Pantry several months ago. Thanks to the Grant Committee (Nancy H., Brenda R., and Liz B.), St. John's received a grant from the diocese that provides us with some funding to help keep the Pantry stocked. It is well used!
- The Clean & Bright ministry, led by Jim T., has expanded to include the opportunity for folks to take a shower at St. John's. Many of the volunteers who formerly helped with this ministry are no longer able to do so – which means we are looking for more volunteers! – In March, C&B provided 25 loads of laundry for 13 households and one shower.

- Community Engagement is an important way for St. John's to avoid being "Mt. Pleasant's best kept secret!" We were represented at this year's Isabella County Historical event (highlighted in last month's Evangel). We will have a "table" at PRIDE Fest and Juneteenth. With Sibling Jess's leadership, we are represented at events on the CMU campus. Thanks to Jim & Pat, John & Darlene, Monica, Joyce & Roger, Adam, Ulana, and anyone else who has shown up to help at our tables at these events! Some of our folks are also involved in Indivisible Central Michigan (ICM) - "a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting democracy, upholding the Constitution, and fighting against discrimination." ICM was the driving force behind the Community Interfaith Vigil for Humanity last fall. Out of that experience has emerged The Welcome Table - an interfaith group of faith leaders that meets regularly to focus on and promote our shared values. ICM also conducts a food drive each Saturday during their demonstrations, and contributes regularly to our Little Free Pantry.
- The Good News Garden is alive and well. The north half of the garden is planted, and we will start transplanting tomatoes, peppers, and squash plants this week. Last year the garden provided over 200 pounds of fresh produce to the soup kitchen and food pantries EACH WEEK during the harvest season...

I'll end this by paraphrasing John 21:25

"But there are also many other things that [St. John's] did [and does]; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

Minutes, April 2026 Vestry Meeting

The May meeting of the Vestry was postponed, so the April minutes were not approved. The July Evangel will have minutes from the April meeting.

April 2026 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of April (33.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts \$ 70,908.55 (31.99% of budget)

Unrestricted operating fund expenditures 86,300.42 (35.19% of budget)

Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures \$ (15,391.87)

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	62,202.70
Isabella Bank - Savings	200.00
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 03-27-27	22,264.78
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	90,924.05
Members First CU - CD 05-30-26	15,505.83
Endowment Fund	128,699.34

Total

319,803.68

Regards,
Sam



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

Nancy Rivard
Comfort Care

Emelia Parker 1945 Churchill Blvd.
(Alex's House) Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
616 Boothbay Ct.
Beavercreek, OH 45430

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.



June Birthdays

John Keeler	06/04
Jessica Hart	06/14
Jessie Stevens	06/18
Lynne L'Hommedieu	06/19



June Anniversaries

Colin and Anne Alton	06/02
Tim and Nancy Hartshorne	06/13

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:

- June 7 The Eichinger Family
- June 14 Pat and Clancy DeLong
- June 21 Lynne L'Hommedieu
- June 28 Pamela and Ford Dingman

Lay Ministers: Lector

Prayers

Acolyte

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| June 7 | Mary Stewart Kiesgen | Dan Eichinger | Peyton and Isla
Eichinger |
| June 14 | Brenda Rau | Jim Thurston | Misha Proctor |
| June 21 | Sr. Linda-Susan Beard | Pat Thurston | Adam Baker |
| June 28 | Denise Keeler | Sr. Linda Susan Beard | Adam Baker |

Greeters

- June 7 Pamela and Ford Dingman
- June 14 The Eichinger Family
- June 21 Pamela and Ford Dingman
- June 28 Pat and Clancy DeLong

June Calendar

Sundays:

06/07, 06/14, 06/21, 06/28
10am Holy Communion (In person, Facebook, & YouTube)
11am Coffee Hour

Mondays:

06/01, 06/08, 06/15, 06/22, 06/29
6:30pm GA

Tuesdays:

06/02, 06/09, 06/16, 06/23, 06/30
6pm Recovery 360

Wednesdays:

06/03, 06/10, 06/17, 06/24
10am Bible Study Zoom
6pm Tai Chi with Judy
7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays:

06/04, 06/11, 06/18, 06/25
4pm Choir practice
8pm Compline via Zoom
Office Closed

Fridays:

06/05, 06/12, 06/19, 06/26
Nothing on these days

Join us Sunday May 31 at coffee hour for the screening of Monica Bird's film, "*Mikhail goes to hell*" (Rated PG-13). This film was Monica's masters project! Come see her work!



Honoring, Healing & Remembering

Join us on the 92nd anniversary of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School closing. We recognize the suffering, strength and resilience of the children through a day of memorial and fellowship.

For more information, contact:
MHadden@sagchip.org | 989.775.4076

Save the date! Friday, June 5, 2026

Join the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe on the 92nd anniversary of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School closing. We recognize the suffering, strength and resilience of the children through a day of memorial and fellowship.

Friday, June 5, 2026

Sunrise Ceremony

7 a.m. | Mission Creek Cemetery

1 Mile North off of Pickard Rd. on Bamber Rd.



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



RUMMAGE



SATURDAY, JUNE 6

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Library Annex

301 South University Street

Mt. Pleasant

Drop off items at

Friday, June 5

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Library

301 S. University

Mt. Pleasant

**Illinois Street entrance
across the street from the
Sacred Heart playground.**

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

Your email newsletter from Indivisible Central Michigan contains a link to **SIGN-UP GENIUS**. Click on the highlighted word and follow the prompts.

Start saving items now!

WHAT WE ACCEPT:

- Dishes • Glassware • Vintage Silverware • Pots & pans
- Utensils • Pottery • Jewelry
- Collectibles • Scarves • Belts
- Clean bedding & blankets
- Spring & summer clothing **ONLY**
- Tools • Garden items • Sports
- Books • Art • Games
- Home decorating items
- Tables • Chairs • Dressers

WHAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

- High chairs • Strollers
- Baby seats • Bassinets
- Couches • Loveseats • Pet items
- Plastic food containers

NEEDED:

Bags, wrapping paper, bubble wrap

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friday set up - June 5

9-10	Set up tables & chairs
10-12	} 4 receivers 4 unloaders 4 pricers 4 arrangers
12-2	
2-4	
4-6	

Saturday Sale – June 6

9-11	} 4 floor assistants 4 cashiers 4 baggers • 4 loaders
11-1	
1-3	
3-5	Clean up Annex. Load unsold items.



Parents, Families, and Friends
of LGBTQ+ People

Follow us:   

Annual Chocolate Party

Sponsored by:  Delta College

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Andersen Enrichment Center
120 Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw

Come enjoy delectable baked goods, appetizers, wine, & other drinks.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available via going to our website at pflagglb.com or by scanning our QR code below. Tickets will also be available at the door.



Since the 1990s, this annual event has raised vital funds to support our chapter's programs and services.

ST. JOHN'S RUMMAGE

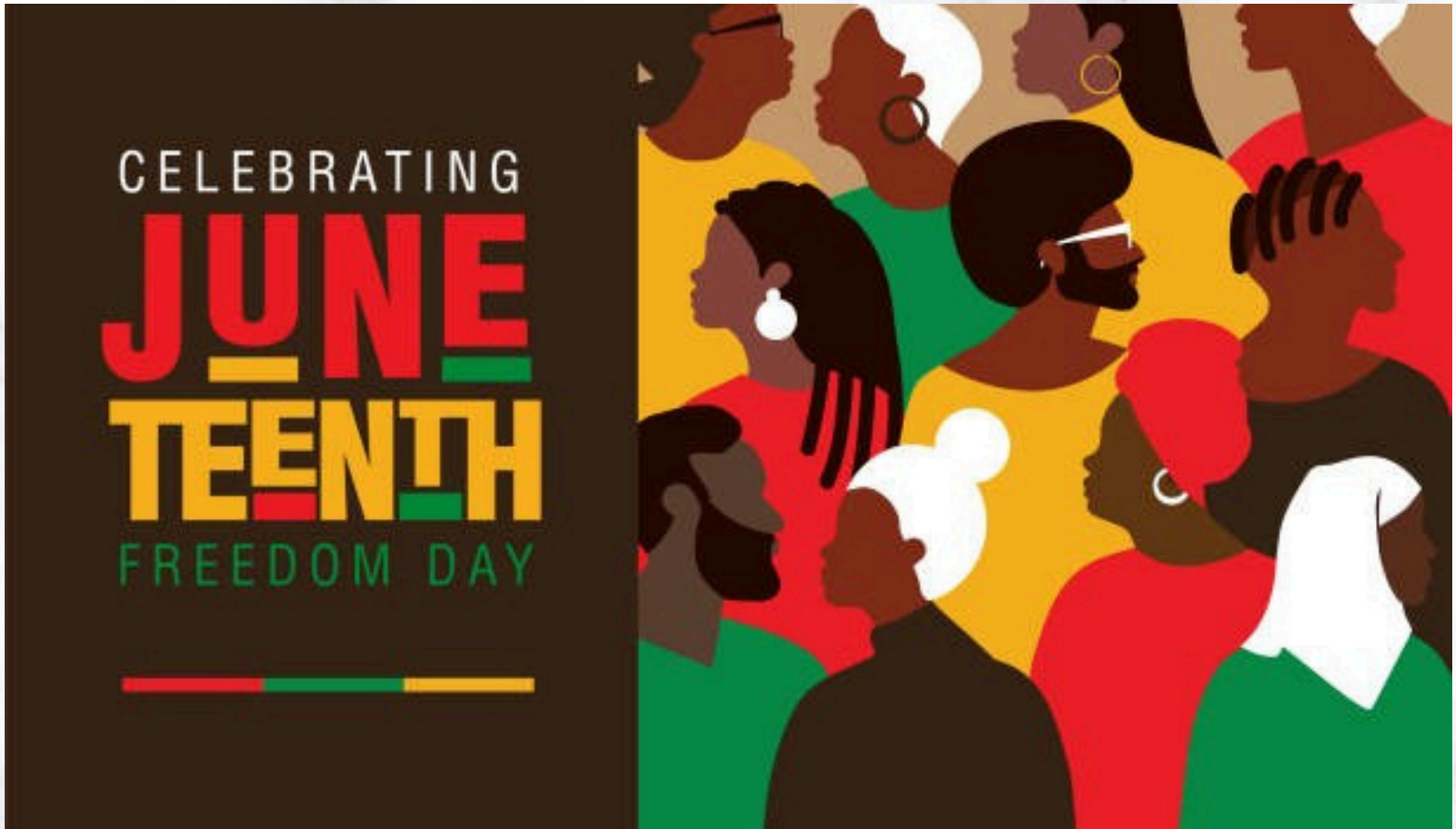
DONATIONS
CAN BE
DROPPED
OFF IN THE
LANTERN
BEGINNING
JUNE 1ST



SECONDHAND, FIRST-RATE FINDS

JUNE 18, 19, & 20 • 8:00AM-4:00PM

206 W. MAPLE,
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858



The 2026 Juneteenth celebration in Mount Pleasant will be centered around Island Park on Thursday, June 19, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is the main community gathering of the year, organized by Central Michigan University's Office for Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in partnership with the Middle Michigan Development Corp.



We're thrilled to announce our fifth annual Mount Pleasant Pride Festival will be back again in 2026! Come celebrate, uplift, and advocate for our regional 2SLGBTQIA+ community in a vibrant, inclusive setting.

Saturday, June 20, 2026, 2:00 PM–5:00 PM.

Broadway Park, 2451 Nish Na Be Anong Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Admission is FREE FOR ALL!

More event info:

<https://greatlakesbaypride.org/regional-pride-celebrations/#mt-pleasant-pride-fest>

- ▶ **This festival is open to everyone—come as you are and celebrate our diverse community!**
 - ▶ **Food trucks offering a variety of delicious options**
 - ▶ **Informative and inspiring Two-Spirit presentation**
 - ▶ **Local 2SLGBTQIA+ vendors and community resources**
 - ▶ **Family-friendly atmosphere and plenty of opportunities to connect**
 - ▶ **The event is outdoors—be sure to dress comfortably and bring sunscreen!**



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!

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



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.

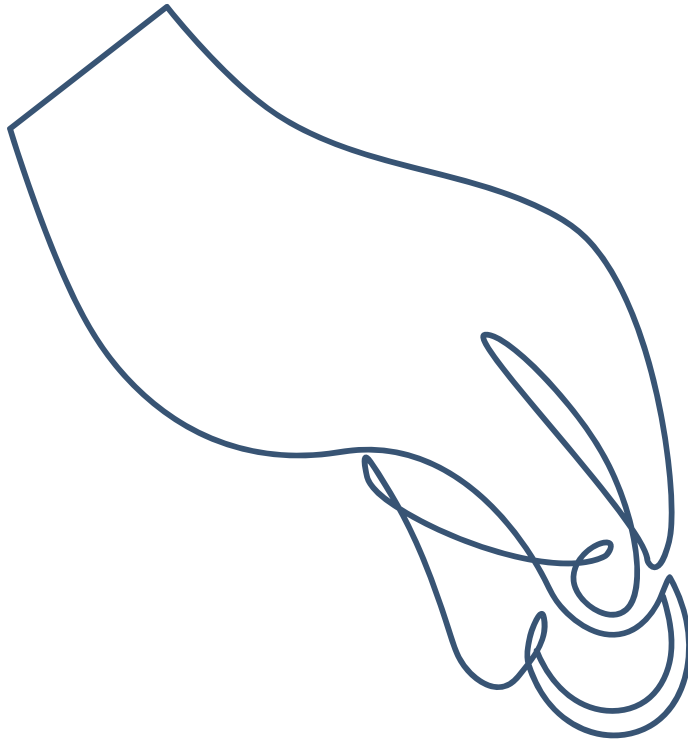
Please let Jim Thurston know if you'd like to volunteer 2-3 times a month. Or, as your schedule allows.





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