

ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



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St. John's Episcopal Church

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Curate
Tom Manney

Senior Warden
Becky Foster

Junior Warden
Jack Dodd

A Note from Tom...



"When the Lord closes a door, somewhere He opens a window."

Not sure exactly what caused me to open my very first

letter to the congregation of St. John's with this familiar quotation from... The Sound of Music (as if you didn't know). I guess what I had on my mind was the absolutely craziness of this year. First, we have the Coronavirus pandemic, which cancels my ordination. This is followed by the suspension of Bishop Hougland (which I thought was going to cancel my ordination a second time). And, in spite of all the hardship, suffering, and death that we have seen this year, a window opens. And it's a darn good one, St. John's Episcopal Church.

I'm very, very excited to be returning to St. John's. I have such fond memories of the time I've spent with you. Everything from Pastor Nancy's red shoes, to Barb Cavin's joke about the

Sadducees (they don't believe in the resurrection), to the prayer power I witnessed pulling Tim Wright and Kitty Underwood through their respective illnesses. We grieved together at the death of Don Smith and laughed together at the Seder dinner. And I so look forward to everything that lies before us, both the happy and the sad.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve God and his people in this holy place. I think we're going to have a lot of fun. Oh and the ordination is still on for July 18th. This means that I will celebrate my first Eucharist (God help us) at St. John's on the very next day. Now how cool is that?!?

May God bless us and keep us on our incredible journey through the year 2020.

And thanks for having me!

Tom

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Find us on Facebook!



Kitty Underwood-July 4
Jack Dodd-July 7
Wes Wagester-July 23
Nikolai Wagester-7-23
John Malinich-July 24
Jim Fry-July 25th

Vestry Notes....

Dear Friends,

I have good news to share. At least I hope it STAYS good news. Some of you may have already heard this, but it doesn't hurt to hear good news multiple times. WE CAN GET BACK IN OUR BUILDING FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP! We've been given guidelines from the Diocese about how to keep our gatherings as safe as possible. Neil Hargrave is gathering a team to give everything in the sanctuary a going over. We have masks and are adjusting our seating to keep everyone as safe as possible. And I'm keeping an eye on the Covid stats for Lapeer County to assure us all that we're not experiencing an uptick of infection. We're hoping you will be able to join us on Sunday, July 19th at 10AM for a service filled with alleluias and praise.

Another piece of good news – Deacon Tom Manney will be joining us at St. John's as a "curate". He will be leading worship on the first and third Sundays of each month, will have office hours and will assume other pastoral duties. The even better news – Tom is scheduled to be

ordained a priest on July 18th – just before his first service, his first Eu-



charist ever, with us on the 19th. Now, if I've learned anything this year, it is to manage my expectations. The ordination date may change or it may become unsafe to gather at church. But at this moment, this looks like a wonderful convergence of events for both Tom and for us.

We understand that some will feel more safe staying home for a while longer. OK – how about this? We're experimenting with recording and possibly live-streaming our service from the sanctuary! For those with access to the internet, it will bring us to you in a way that we haven't achieved so far.

So, mark your calendars and be sure there's gas in the car on the night before. I can't wait to see everyone on the 19th!

Peace always,

Becky Foster

Senor Warden

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are glad to formally announce a shift into Phase II of our congregational in-person re-opening and issue some changes to the existing “Plan for Re-Entry for Great Lakes Episcopalians” document, which is linked below.

All faith communities will be able to re-enter their buildings under Phase II directives on June 29th. The first in-person worship services may take place on Sunday, July 5th.

As stated previously, congregations may choose for themselves whether to reopen on that date, delay their reopening, or not open at all until Phase III.

Additionally, the four dioceses have made a few changes to the reopening document, including a major change to Phase II based on feedback from parish and diocesan leaders, further research, and discussion with groups assembled by the dioceses. Understanding that many congregations have made preliminary plans based on the original document, we want to acknowledge your hard work and careful planning and encourage you to live into those plans and make adaptations over time as you learn what might be appropriate for your local context.

Eucharist will be permissible during Phase II, following strict rules and recommendations. The celebration of Eucharist is completely optional and congregations may choose to continue Morning Prayer. This section also makes provision for Eucharistic visitation.

Capacity limits have been modified for indoor gatherings and clarified for outdoor gatherings.

Indoor limits have shifted from 50 persons to 25% of your room capacity, or the maximum number of peo-

ple for the space while maintaining six feet of distance, whichever is fewer.

The outdoor limit is based on the maximum number approved by the state at the time of gathering (currently, this number is 100 persons) or the maximum number of people for the space while maintaining six feet of distance, whichever is fewer.

A new section is included in the document to give guidance on managing the reporting process and internal/external communication should someone become infected who had entered your building or attended a church-sponsored event.

The plan includes new guidance around the use of gloves. Based on research from epidemiologists, gloves should only be used in food preparation and are not as effective as handwashing and sanitizer for virus prevention.

Because our dioceses are in a strange season due to the one-year suspension of the bishop, it is important to note that this conversation, including the dates and the plan changes, has been in-process for several weeks. In the beginnings of this planning with the other dioceses, the discussions included Bishop Hougland with Canon Katie Forsyth, in consultation with other staff and elected diocesan leadership. In the past week, since Bishop Hougland’s departure, the Standing Committee designated Canon Forsyth as our advocate in the discussion and has formally approved the new date and the changes to the phase plan by unanimous vote. We will continue to be a part of discussions and decision-making with the other Michigan dioceses as we move forward.

Yours in Christ,

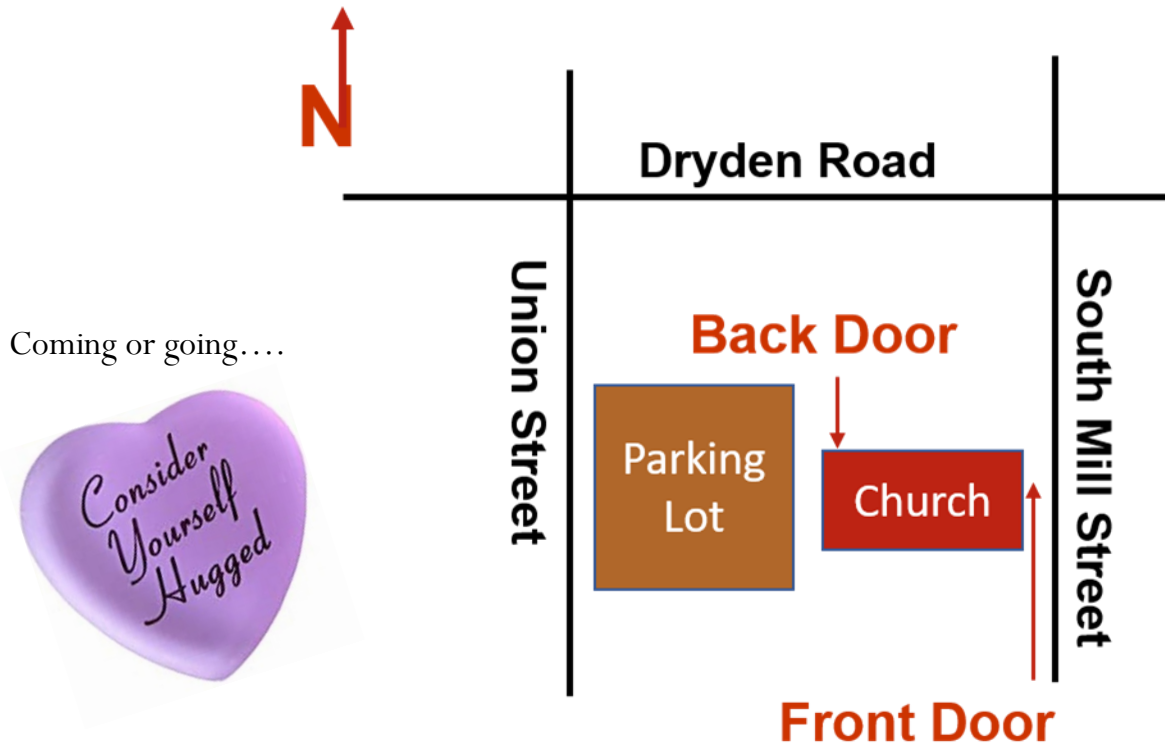
Janet Huff-Worvie, President

On behalf of the Standing Committee
of Eastern Michigan

Just in case you need help remembering...

This is where the building is located.....

Use the back door on the side of the building to enter!



This is what the front of the church looks like
(but there are leaves on the trees now)

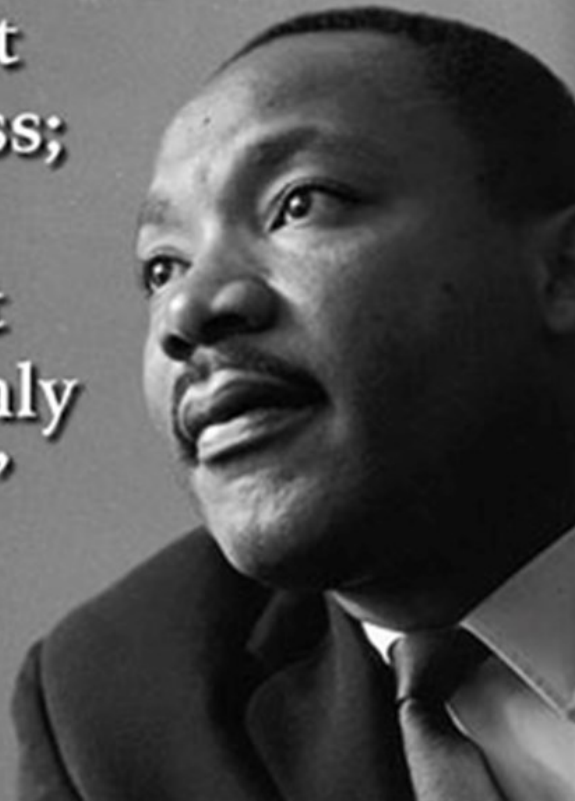
These are some of the folks you will see.....



Martin Luther King

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.
Strength to Love



Ministry Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Worship Leader</u> |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Jul 19, 2020 | Wes Wagester | Rev Tom Manney |
| Jul 26, 2020 | Tammy Turnipseed | Neil Hargrave |
| Aug 2, 2020 | Ina Dockham | Rev Tom Manney |
| Aug 9, 2020 | Jim Fry | Rev Barb Cavin |
| Aug 16, 2020 | Margaret Smith | Rev Tom Manney |
| Aug 23, 2020 | Darlene Herndon | Becky Foster |
| Aug 30, 2020 | Tammy Turnipseed | Neil Hargrave |

