

St. John's Worship Offerings

Live Streamed on our Facebook page and website

Along with In person Worship

Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. and

Compline Monday & Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m.

You don't have to sign up with Facebook to watch. As long as a person has internet access and a computer, tablet, smartphone or other device, they can watch. Sunday service can also be viewed on our website at www.stjohnsmasoncity.org

Join us for in person worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.



Find us on
Facebook

Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmcia/>

The Members of St. John's Vestry

Vickey Basgall, Senior Warden

Mara Linskey-Deegan, Junior Warden

Laura Bernemann, Jeanne Cornick, Gregg Rosenblatt, Linda Willeke

During the interim time of not having a rector or priest in charge, the Vestry members will be our guides. If you have questions please contact a member of the Vestry.

Teams

Worship Team: Mara Linskey-Deegan, Stephanie Prohaski, George Riesen, Sue Stone
(planning worship services)

Regional Missioner Team: Karen Jacobs, Katherine Evans, Jan Willeke
(meeting with Rev. Stephen Benitz)

Transition Team: Jeanne Cornick, Dale Schirmer, Jane Reynolds
(meeting with Meg Wagner from the Diocese of Iowa, planning the search for a priest)

Fellowship Team: Terry Allen-Burns, Sue Stone, Parish Members (food activities)

St. John's Episcopal Church

120 First Street NE, Mason City, Iowa 50401-3302

Phone: 641.424.1300 E-mail: sjcemc@gmail.com

www.stjohnsmasoncitysecureversites.net

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Clergy, Staff, and Ministry Volunteers

The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, Bishop of Iowa

The Rev. Barbara M. McCaulley, Priest Associate * The Rev. Kathryn S. Campbell, Priest Associate

The Rev. Canon Elliot Blackburn, Rector Emeritus

Susan Stone, Parish Administrator * Dan Hardy, Treasurer

The mission of St. John's is to welcome and reach out with the love of God to all our neighbors



January 2025

Volume 95 Issue 1

The WORD

St. John's Episcopal Church
120 First Street NE
Mason City, IA 50401-3302

January 2025

Dear Community,

I have been the Senior Warden at St John’s for the last two years and it is with gratitude that that I look back at these years. The first year was fairly uneventful (the usual vestry activities, 150th Birthday Celebration, small capital campaign, etc.). Because of Father Stephen’s resignation, the second year has been vastly different. However, due to the overwhelming willingness of the vestry and the congregation to push fear aside, to work together and to seize on the opportunity that often arises from crisis, we are moving forward to becoming an even stronger congregation. I am so thankful for all of you and your commitment to St. John’s. Merely stepping inside our beautiful church, one can feel the spirit working and be reminded that fear does not reside here, faith, hope and love do.

“Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

~ Thomas Aquinas

Vickey Basgall

Annual Reports are Due Monday, January 20, 2025

Please send your Annual Report via email to sjecsue@gmail.com no later than **January 20, 2025.**

Reminder:

Please contact the church office if you would like to use a meeting room or area in the church. The church building calendar is kept in the church office and that way it can be checked for room and time availability.

Thank you.

Thank you:

To all who helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. A wonderful turn out and a fun lunch afterward. Many hands make light work. The sanctuary looked amazing. And to all who helped take things down and put them away.

To the Worship Team for choosing the reading and hymn selections for Christmas Lessons and Carols. You are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Employees of the City of Mason City

On December 3rd our own Mara Linskey-Deegan with the help of another city employee came with boxes and bags of hygiene items for the Hygiene Pantry. There were also gloves and socks for the free coat rack. Their yearly donation is greatly appreciated.

To my dear friends,
Thank you so much for the cards and well-wishes.
From a long-lost member, Kris Leaman



St. John’s Kitchen Update

On January 2, 2025 the plumber came and installed two new sink faucets and his part of the dishwasher. It was timely that he could unclog the drain in the old kitchen also that day. Now we need to have an electrician come and do updating on the electrical outlet. It may seem like this is taking a lot of doing.....and it is. When things have not been changed for about 25 years it just happens.

Dismantling Racism Training

If you need to update your or have never taken the training, here is an opportunity. Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. training is being offered online by the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa.

This training is required for all who serve in the Episcopal Church in any capacity.



Planning Ahead

Would you be interested in volunteering to organize the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day? This is a great community ministry. You do some shopping, organizing of workers and have a good time. The date is Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Check your calendar and contact the church office if you are willing and able.

How can I help?

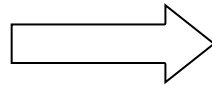
To Make a Monetary Donation to St. John's Episcopal Church

Your check can be mailed to
St. John's Episcopal Church
120 1st Street NE
Mason City, IA 50401

You can go to [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)
to make a monetary donation to
St. John's
or go to www.stjohnsmasoncity.org



Use this QR Code to make a contribution to St. John's



Coffee Hour is in the Parish Hall

Thank you to all who have signed up to serve as host at Sunday Coffee Hour. There are many dates left to choose from. No experience is required. Treats are not necessary.

Collecting Coats for the Winter Free Coat Rack Continues

The coats found new homes very quickly. Hats and gloves leave as quickly as they are clipped to the rack. Thank you to all who have donated winter wear.



1st Congregational UCC Church Food Cupboard

Thank you for your continued support. The cupboard continues to feed those in need.



Hygiene Pantry Needs:

Laundry pods or powder

Dish soap (liquid)

We are blessed to have plenty of other items at this time



St. John's is Scheduled for Delivering Meals on Wheels

Before we confirm the scheduled delivering dates of June 16-20, let the church office know if you would be willing to deliver meals. We are given 2 routes and need two drivers each day. Consider doing a route with a friend. It takes about an hour of time and is done over the lunch time. If we don't have volunteers we will have to pass on continuing this ministry.

Pledging to St. John's - 2025

Have you made your 2025 financial pledge to St. John's? If you have not, please prayerfully consider making a pledge. Pledge cards are available on the credenza in the sanctuary or from the church office.

This pledge goes to pay the operating expenses of the church.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Dan Hardy, Treasurer, Vickey Basgall, Sr. Warden, or any Vestry member.

Consider Running for Vestry in 2025

Requirements for St. John's Vestry Service ~ To serve on Vestry you must be enrolled as a baptized and confirmed or received member; be frequent at Sunday worship; support the parish through attendance or participation in special ministries, and have contributed financially to St. John's support for at least three months preceding the election and throughout service if elected.

Saint John's Vestry Duties ~ Terms are three years. The Vestry meets monthly. Meetings are two hours; members must faithfully attend. Vestry members are spiritual leaders of St. John's in addition to caring for our material needs. They should support our ministries, pray for the parish, and to support St. John's by pledging. Vestry members may serve as liaisons to parish commissions.

Contact the Sr. Warden or any Vestry member with your questions.

Vestry-members are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be on Sunday, January 26, 2025.



St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting & Potluck Sunday, January 26, 2025

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

followed by the annual meeting and election of Vestry Members and a potluck.

You are invited to bring a dish to share.

Dates to Remember.

January

- 1 - **Happy New Year 2025**
- 5 - **Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.**
- 7 - **Lectio 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor**
- 9 - **Centering Prayer 6:00 p.m. in St. John's Chapel**
- 12 - **Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Livestream on Facebook & St. John's website**
Vestry Meeting following worship
- 15 - **Game Night 6:00 -8:00 p.m.**
- 19 - **Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook & St. John's website**
- 25 - **WORD deadline**
- 26 - **Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook & St. John's website**
Annual Meeting/Vestry Election and Potluck

Wednesday Chapel a time of prayer, scripture & silence 12:10 p.m. Wednesdays
Join Compline on Facebook weekly Monday-Friday at 8:00 p.m.

Weekly Community Group Meetings at St. Johns

- Tuesday Evening Pickelball in the Parish Hall**
- Thursday-10: 00 a.m. to noon Knitting Group "Natter of Knitters" in the Kuhn Room (weekly)
- NOON AA Meeting in the Parlor (weekly)
- 5:00 p.m. TOPS Meeting & weigh in, in the Parlor (weekly)
- Friday 8:00 p.m. AA "Pioneer Club" Meeting in the Parish Hall (weekly)**
- Saturday 9:00 a.m. Alanon Meeting in the West Alley basement (weekly)
- Morning/afternoon Pickleball in the Parish Hall**

The Share-A-Cookie Trays Were Amazing

Thank you to all who brought cookies to share. Thank you to Terry Allen-Burns for putting together the amazing trays. Thank you to all who delivered the trays to parish members. A wonderful tradition to celebrate the season.

LECTIO

Please join us for Lectio-inspired Reflection, the **first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.** in St. John's Parlor or via Zoom. Park and enter from the east side / Pennsylvania, the north door. If in need of an accessible option, there are ramped entrances. Be prepared with a pen for writing.

Evening Centering Prayer

the **second Thursday of the month in St. John's Chapel** and the fourth Tuesday of the month at St. Joseph's Catholic Church Chapel. Both opportunities begin at **6:00 PM.**

Please join us for one or both!

Questions? Contact Laura Bernemann

St. John's Game Night

Join the fun on the **1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** in the Kuhn Room. Bring your favorite game, a beverage and treat, and invite a friend.



A "Natter of Knitters"

If you would like to learn knitting, have a project you need help with, or are an experienced knitter, you are invited to join the group 10:00 a.m. to Noon in St. John's Kuhn Room. Great conversation is had and friendships are formed. Coffee and often times treats are served.



Memorial Candle

Bringing back these items after the pandemic

Did you ever notice the candle that hangs in the sanctuary to the left, facing the altar? To keep that candle burning all week long, St. John's offers to members the opportunity to sponsor the candle and have your loved ones name prayed for in the worship weekly prayer list. The cost is \$10 per week. If you have a date you would like to reserve please contact Sue Stone in the Parish Office. Let us fill every Sunday.



Turn Lights Out and Close Doors

Several times lights have been left on. Please be sure to turn lights out when you leave a room or the building.

It is also important to be sure doors are closed, especially in the hallway. To conserve energy and have less stress on our heating system we need to be sure to do this. Thank you.

