

St. John’s Worship Offerings
Live Streamed YouTube
Join us **Along with In person Worship**
Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.
Worship will be in the Chapel during Advent



Also Check Out
The Episcopal Church-Northwest Iowa
on Facebook

An Order of Worship for the Evening
the 4th Thursday of each month
5:30 p.m. in St. John’s Chapel

Let us pray for the call of a Clergy Person for St. John’s

Thank You for Your 2026 Pledge of Financial Support to St. John’s

If you have not made a financial pledge, please pray about making the commitment. A pledge can be made weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or a one time gift.
The Vestry and Treasurer are able to make a yearly budget based on the pledges recorded.
The money pledged is used to pay general bills such as utilities, building expenses and staff.
Without your support a plan cannot be made.
If you have questions please speak with the Treasurer, Dan Hardy or any Vestry Member.

Thank You!

Thank you to those who offer their time and talents to St. John’s.
From mowing the church yard to vacuuming, to serving during worship or being on the Vestry, St. John’s needs everyone. There is something for everyone to help with. If you would like to volunteer, speak to a Vestry person about what task you are interested in doing for the church.
“Many hands make light work”

January 2026 Newsletter/Calendar and ROTA will go out after the New Year

St. John’s Episcopal Church
120 First Street NE, Mason City, Iowa 50401-3302
Phone: 641.424.1300 E-mail: sjecmc@gmail.com
www.stjohnsmasoncitysecureserversites.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



December 2025

The WORD
Volume 95 Issue 12

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

In the month of November I joined a group of friends on a Step A Way to the New Melleray Abbey near Dubuque. It was a well-organized three days and two nights of silence and contemplative practices amid the monks, stone walls and fir trees. We were led by Becky Elsbernd and Rev. Stephen Benitz.

During our time at the Abbey, we read and re-read the story of the loaves and the fishes from Mark 6. We paused to pray with the monks at 4:30 / Vigils, 7:30 / Lauds, 11:45 / (Sext), 1:45 / None, 5:30 / Vespers and 7:30 / Compline. We practiced Centering Prayer, a Daily Examen, Lectio Divina, Prayer of Imagination and considered a Rule of Life (developed by Benedict of Nursia). At times we ate in silence. At times we had a choice to spend time alone or to enter shared space with supplies provided for art and crafts.

I embraced the experience from the moment I committed to the time away. I made a practice of getting up earlier (so . . . going to bed earlier) and found peace in the pre-dawn hours. I recognized my current contemplative practices as yoga, meditation, walks (with Lucky-dog) and energetic prayer, but began to see even my “work” as prayer. And, at a mention from Becky, I picked up my knitting (after many years) to bring along. I made time before and since to join our knitting group at St. John’s. Lovely!

As I returned home I have leaned into “slow down”, “let go” and “keep it simple”. These intentions create space for living fully each day. And in preparation for the blessed seasons of Advent and Christmas, I encourage you to nurture your own rhythms of silence.

Peace to you and yours, Laura Bernemann

Dear St. John’s Family,

As a Community how are we doing?
Do you have a comment, compliment, concern?
The Vestry is at your service.

For any of the above communication, please contact
Senior Warden, Jeanne Cornick (641-425-6915) or
Junior Warden, Laura Bernemann (641-210-8605).
The other Vestry members are also available to listen.
Gregg Rosenblatt (641-420-6249)
Dale Schirmer (319-531-0885)
Mara Linskey-Deegan (641-583-2502)
Jane Reynolds (641-529-3797)

If there is no immediate answer, please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Reminders from St. John’s Vestry

The procedure for hospitalized members is to call the church office or Sue Stone at 641-231-4202. A family member or a Mercy/Hospice Chaplain can do this for you. The procedure to be used in the case that someone is deceased, is to call the church office or Sue. Sue will proceed as needed.

Use of the church building or it’s contents should be scheduled with the church office/Sue Stone.



Using the Church Building Reminders

Please remember to clean up after your group event.

If you use the dishwasher, remember to finish and remove the loads of dishes and drain the dishwasher before shutting it off. Instructions are on the wall by the dishwasher sink. Put away all clean dishes.

Wipe off tables, kitchen counters, and put the room like it was when you came. DO NOT touch the thermostat. The temperature is set for the entire building. Take out the trash (trash dumpster in next to St. John’s in the alley).

Turn off lights and make sure the room door is left open. When you exit the building be sure the exit door locks behind you and that any other entrances are locked.

If you are unable to do these tasks, please contact the church office before your gathering.

ALL building use needs to be arranged with the church office.

Volunteers Needed in Cerro Gordo County!

Do you have a little time to make a big difference? We're looking for caring community members to join our volunteer team! We need helping hands for: ~ Food Bank Runners (Help us fight food insecurity!) ~ Medical Transportation Drivers ~ Errand Buddy ~ Companionship, both in-person and over the phone Even a couple hours a month can brighten someone's day and strengthen our community. If you'd like to volunteer or learn more, please contact Laura Allen at 641-847-4276 or lallen@elderbridge.org Together, we can make Cerro Gordo County a kinder, more connected place!

Parish Thermostats Are Set for Heat

The thermostats have been set for the winter. Please do not change them. Thank you.

How can I help?

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

You can go to Tithe.ly to make a monetary donation to St. John’s or go to www.stjohnsmasoncity.org And click on GIVE

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

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



Coffee Hour Hosts

Please sign up to serve as a Sunday coffee hour host.

Freedom In His Grace Warming Shelter

For the next few months please bring items to be offered during the offertory to help support the shelter. At this time, locations in downtown are seeing a growth in homeless population. Lets help give them a place to sleep. Items requested are listed here.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Breakfast Cereal | Instant Oatmeal Packets | Breakfast & Soft Granola Bars |
| Bottled Juice | Creamer & Sugar | Fruit /Applesauce Cups |
| Coffee | Kleenex | Winter / Waterproof Gloves and Boots |
| Backpacks | Hand & Foot Warmers | Adult Winter Socks |
| Laundry Soap / Dryer Sheets | Cleaning Supplies | Toilet Paper Paper Towels |

1st Congregational UCC Church Food Cupboard

Individual packaged food items can be brought in and placed in the basket at the sanctuary entrance.
Thank you for your continued support.
The cupboard continues to feed those in need.



St. John’s Free Coat Rack

We are looking for clean, gently used winter coats, snow pants, hats, mittens/ gloves, socks and warm weather clothing such as lined flannel shirts.
The rack is located inside the office ramp door entrance.
All are welcome to add items to the rack.
Please, NO scarves, summer jackets or regular street clothing,

An Order of Noon Day Service Wednesdays during Advent

Wednesday Chapel during Advent will have an expanded format.
Beginning at 12:10 p.m. we will follow the service of Noon Day Prayer (BCP p. 103).
Scripture lessons and Psalms will be read as usual, along with the Collect of the Day.
Advent Wednesday Chapel will be held Dec. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17.

Share A Cookie Sunday December 7

Please bring a dozen of your favorite holiday treats to share with the congregation.
Leftovers will be frozen for future coffee hours.



Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 21, following the
Worship Service

A light lunch will be offered in the Parish Hall

Taking down of the greens will be after the Worship
Service on Sunday, January 4, 2026



Advent Gospel Conversation

Continues to be offered at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor
during the Sundays in Advent.
All are welcome.

Christmas Flower Offering

St. John’s will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. If you would like to give a monetary gift in memory, celebration or honor of someone, please have it and the information you would like to appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin, into the church office no later than Wednesday, December 17. If you would like to place it in the Sunday offering, be sure to mark it Christmas flower.



Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 p.m.

December 24, 2025 in St. John’s Sanctuary
Holy Eucharist
Celebrants: The Reverend Barbara McCaulley
and
The Reverend Elliot Blackburn

Dates to Remember.

December

- 2 - **Lectio at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor**
- 7 - **Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and livestreamed on YouTube**
Share a Cookie Sunday
- 9 - **Game Night 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**
- 11 - **Centering Prayer 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel**
- 14 - **Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and livestreamed on YouTube**
Vestry Meeting
- 21 - **Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and livestreamed on YouTube**
Greening of the Church & a light lunch
- 23 - **Game Night 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**
- 24 - **Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**
Church Office is Closed December 24—January 5
- 25 - **WORD deadline**
- 28 - **Christmas Festival Lessons & Carols 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and**
livestreamed on YouTube

Wednesday Chapel a time of prayer, scripture & silence 12:10 p.m. Wednesdays

Weekly Community Group Meetings at St. Johns

- 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)
- Saturday 9:00 a.m. Al-anon Meeting in the West Alley basement (weekly)

St. John’s Game Night Has Moved

Join in the fun the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.**
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Kuhn Room



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

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.

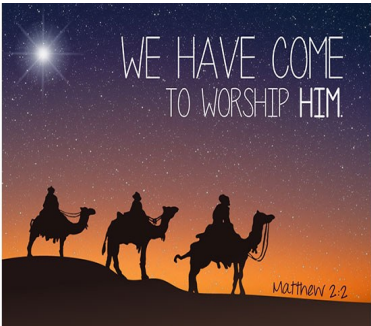
It is Vestry Nomination Time

There will be 2 openings, each with a 3 year term.
The election will be held during St. John’s 2026 Annual Meeting

If you are interested in running for Vestry and have questions, contact a Vestry member.
Nomination forms are available outside the chapel and from the church office.

Taking Down the Greenery in the Sanctuary Sunday, January 4 following the worship service

Let’s help our Altar Guild clean up the sanctuary following the Christmas Season



Sing in the season of Advent at our online Advent Taizé Service on

Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7pm CT, premiered on our **YouTube Channel.**
Join us in the stillness of the evening as we begin the season of Advent with contemplative poetry and music.

After the premiere, the video will remain on our channel and the Contemplative Underground website as a worship resource.

A “Natter of Knitters”

Are you wanting to learn how to knit? Do you need assistance with a project? Are you working on a project and would like to gather with a delightful group? Please come check out the “Natter of Knitters” 10:00 a.m. to Noon on Thursdays.

