



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jul 10, 2025)

St. John's Episcopal Church, Iowa

120 1st St. NE, Mason City, IA 50401, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 09/01/25mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

32

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

1

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

1

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

4

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

\$51000

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

Healthcare Options
Negotiable

Dental

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

No

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks
Other

Vacation Weeks Details

3

Continuing Education Weeks

2 (standard)

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget
\$501-\$1000/year

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

The recognition of five members who are active but not yet officially received into the Episcopal Church. Their volunteer gifts include membership in the Missioner and Worship teams, church cleaning, and grounds care. The establishment of a pickleball court in the Parish Hall space during winter months.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We offer live streaming of Sunday services using Facebook and considering the possibility of using youtube or our website and making sure they are on our website. We are currently conducting a capital campaign to raise funds for brick work, windows, and accessible bathrooms. The brick work project began this summer.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

pastoral care, preaching, formation, stewardship

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Mainly traditional using Book of Common Prayer for Sunday Eucharist and other rites. 1982 hymn book also also Lift Every Voice and Sing (Afro-American hymnal). In the past three years we have added a candle stand for those who wish to say prayers before services or after the Eucharist. Father Stephen favored using incense at services. Some from other traditions welcome incense.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

St. John's administrative office person assigns readers, intercessors, Eucharist ministers, ushers for each Sunday Eucharist, and Morning Prayer. We have evening Compline with volunteers twice a week. We offer Wednesday Chapel with volunteers. We have volunteer pianists and organists. We recently trained four parishioners to be Eucharist Visitors. The Altar Guild is active with several members preparing the altar and elements for all services. We name and honor new volunteers in church and outside ministries at Sunday worship services.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

We care for our well-being by our weekly prayer list which is read with the Intercessions each Sunday and emailed to all on our lists. Keeping the office informed on anyone who is ill and in the hospital. We build community inside the parish and outside the parish by encouraging people to join Compline services, Wednesday Chapel, Lectio-inspired meditation, Centering Prayer, game nights, pickleball. Monday and Friday Evening Compline, Wednesday Chapel, game nights, pickleball court.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Our hygiene pantry serves all in need. We contribute to a neighboring church outdoor pantry cupboard. Our beautiful grounds have seating available and welcome all who pass by. We have a free coat rack with winter gear especially offered to anyone who passes by. We have a digital editor at Sunday services who welcomes people who join us online. Our Sunday services are live online on our Facebook page.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

We are part of the western Iowa Missioner group with the Rev. Stephen Benitz. Delegates are sent to Iowa Episcopal Convention and General Conventions. We participate in community events (PRIDE festival, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day, jazz ensemble concerts open to the public at no cost. We share our Good News Garden garden vegetables with the greater community and in a neighboring church's outside food pantry. Other churches, groups, and individuals donate food and hygiene products to our programs. City Hall has a donation time each year. Parishioners have participated in twice a year Walk A Way three-day pilgrimages with a local Lutheran Church. We have free jazz group nights available to the public. These have been very popular.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Midweek Evening Compline began five days a week during the Pandemic. After our priest left, parish volunteers continued offering Compline Monday and Friday evenings. This is on summer break and a decision on continuing will be made this fall. Wednesday Chapel, 20 minutes of prayer, Scripture, and silence at 12:10 p.m. each week led by a lay person.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Parishioners are encouraged to tithe according to the financial gifts God has given them. We offer online stewardship links as well as take offerings each Sunday. Stewardship also includes time and talents, musical gifts, coffee hour hosts, event volunteers. The Vestry recently discussed having a more personal stewardship campaign, encouraging pledges. Out of about 40 households we only received 15 pledges in 2025. People still give but it would be beneficial to have a better handle on our budget if more families pledged. It is also asking for a commitment from parishioners.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

For many years St. Johns had two services every Sunday, 8 a.m. Rite 1 and 10 a.m. Rite 2. Coffee hour and education hour was at 9 a.m. As the number of parishioners declined it seemed like a lot for a priest to do two Sunday services but it was not a topic anyone wanted to address. When Covid started and services went on line it was the perfect time to move to one service. When we went back to in-person services the decision was made to continue with 10 a.m. service with Rite 2. We have incorporated Rite 1 during Lenten Services. The change seemed to be accepted by most parishioners.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Since our Priest left and took a position with the Diocese we found leaders from the parish to assume new roles. We needed to get organized and divide up the roles of what it would take to continue weekly services. As a Vestry we decided to have a service/music team which has done a nice job getting services filled with supply priests. We are fortunate to have three retired priests in our parish. However, two are elderly. We are now starting to use supply priests twice a month and Morning Prayer led by lay leaders the other two Sundays. As we look to the future we realize most likely we will have a half-time priest and it will be the lay leaders of our parish that will conduct the other two Sundays as Morning Prayer.. We have experienced some growing pains and continue to make changes so everyone understands how to conduct Morning Prayer. With grace and open minds we are having services every week and meeting the needs of our parishioners.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Stephen Bentiz	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2018-01	2024-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Bishop Michael Last	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2013-01	2016-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Wendy Abrahamson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2004-01	2013-01

At the present time, we have only two sisters in a family that would qualify for church school on Sunday. They are teenagers. Two of the sisters serve as acolytes and other duties on High Holy Days. However, the family lives out of town and is not at Liturgy every Sunday. We do still remember any young people who visit on festival (Christmas, Easter) days with a gift.

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Worshipping Community Web site: www.stjohnsmasoncity.org

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmcia>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

We are committed to acquiring a half-time priest in charge. We realize that is what our financial resources can afford and will also serve the pastoral needs of our parish. We are developing strong lay leadership.

References

Bishop:

515-277-6170 officeofthebishop@iowaepiscopal.org

The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot

Diocesan Transition Minister

mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org 515-850-5220

The Rev. Cn. Meg Wagner

Current Warden/Board Chair

Jeanne Cornick

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader