

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Parish Profile

We are St John's

We have been a sanctuary for people in the heart of downtown Mason City, Iowa, for 152 years. We are Episcopalians and share the good news of grace and God's love for all.

We come from many other Christian and religious faith communities.

Our outreach to the community is growing.

We are known for our family friendly and welcoming Eucharistic Liturgy at Sunday morning services, pancakes and sausages on Shrove Tuesday, and the Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St. Francis, special services at Lent, Holy Week, and Advent.

We are much more than that.

In the past few years, our imprint inside and outside our sanctuary has grown.

You will find our welcoming presence at weeknight online Compline services, community PRIDE festivals, fellowship game nights, on a parish hall pickleball court. We offer a space for AA groups, a circle of knitters, mid-week noon prayer, personal prayer, silence, and meditation.



Our Good News Garden grows tomatoes and other vegetables for parishioners and passersby. People pause and often sit and listen to the Spirit in resting places outside our beautiful church and grounds.

Our Hygiene Pantry helps those who need personal care items and we contribute to a neighboring church food box.



The spirit of the Hygiene Pantry inspired a free used coat rack that is now frequently seen out in the church yard. Members of the community are able to walk or drive over and grab a coat as the weather turns cold.



We are learning to reach out, to invite others, but it's not something we're good at.

We will get better with a strong resolve and dedication to be Christ's witnesses in our community, our diocese, and to anyone who will listen.

Faithful leadership, both pastoral and especially lay, is the key to long-life survival.

We have about 60 families are on the stewardship rolls.

Sunday services average 30-40 parishioners with more than a dozen others online.

We want to grow in love, we want to be inviting.

We want to serve Jesus and share His love for all.

We would love for you to Join us on The way as a guide and companion. We are seeking an educator and a priest.



Be an educator as well as our priest

The North Iowa area offers our part-time priest at St. John's opportunities to connect with community life, educational pursuits, as well as add to salary.

North Iowa is rich with institutions of higher learning. These include North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) in Mason City and Waldorf University in Forest City.

NIACC, a two-year college, employs adjunct professors in many areas of study. NIACC is the first choice for many North Iowa high school students and non-traditional students due to its low cost and small class numbers. It also has strong music, band, and athletic programs.

See what NIACC is all about at <https://www.niacc.edu>

Waldorf University in the Winnebago County city of Forest City is a four-year college.

It is owned by the Waldorf Lutheran College Foundation.

And yes, Winnebago County and Forest City are home to the famous Winnebago motorhome company.

Waldorf is a diverse university which attracts international students. Its music curriculum, particularly its choral program, is well known. Student athletes are also offered many opportunities to excel.

Connect with Waldorf at <https://waldorf.edu>.

Both colleges also offer many online courses our half-time priest may be interested in teaching.

Welcome to Cerro Gordo County, IA.

We're situated halfway between Des Moines and the Twin Cities (100 miles) via Interstate 35. The county was founded in 1851 with its name taken from the Battle of Cerro Gordo in the Spanish-American War. Cerro Gordo means Rock Hill or Fat Hill, due to the extensive limestone deposits found in the area.

The county seat is Mason City. The soil is black and rich. It's farm country with corn and beans staples. It's also home to several manufacturing plants and high-tech industries.

Highlights of area history and cultural attractions:

The Park Inn, the last standing hotel designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. It is completely renovated and welcomes guests. Wright also designed a family home, the Stockman House, which is now a museum and open to the public for tours. Also the Rock Glen area of Mason City is a showcase of Prairie Style homes and brings visitors from around the world.

Mason City is the birthplace of composer Meredith Willson. Willson was the creator of Broadway musicals "The Music Man", "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," as well as classic songs, including "It's Beginning to Look (A Lot) like Christmas." You can see a recreation of the 1962 movie Streetscape at The Music Man Square in downtown Mason City. The Square is also a music education and concert venue, and is available to rent for weddings and other gatherings.



The Park Inn



The Stockman House



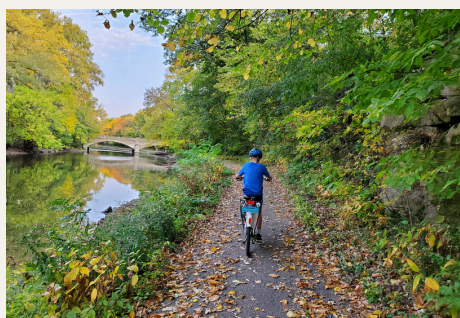
The Music Man Square



Sculptures on Parade in Mason City is a revolving exhibit of sculptures by artists which range from whimsical to modern. Several have been purchased for the city's permanent collection of sculptures,



The MacNider Art Museum in Mason is free and open to the public. The historic building became a museum in 1964 and is known worldwide for its collection of Bill Baird puppets (Sound of Music fame). It also has an extensive collection of paintings by American masters including Grant Wood and Thomas Hart Benton. The museum offers classes on creative art genres for all ages and is host of an annual arts festival and other events as well as art competitions.



North Iowa has an abundance of nature and bicycle trails. Lime Creek Nature is free and open daily. It features a 400-plus acre of restored prairie, open fields, timber. It has a nine-mile network of trails. Its for walkers, bikers, horseback riders, and open for winter sports, such as snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. Its nature center building displays environmental and animal displays and hosts events in all seasons. North Iowa has an extensive trail system for walkers and bicycles. Trails in North Iowa include the High Line Trail, River Walk Trail, Shell Rock River Greenbelt, River Bluffs and Winnebago River, and many others.



The nine-mile Trolley Trail connects Mason City to Clear Lake along County Road B-35 and networks with other trail systems.

For more information on all the recreational opportunities in Mason City visit masoncity.net.

Other North Iowa highlights:

West of Mason City is the city of Clear Lake. The focus of the city revolves around Clear Lake, a 3,684-acre natural spring fed body of water. Boating, sailing, fishing, two state parks with campgrounds are among The Clear Lake Yacht Club offers sailing lessons for all ages and is host to several regattas in the summer.

The historic Sea Wall downtown was built by Works Projects Administration (WPA) skilled laborers who had no work in the 1930s because of the Great Depression. Downtown Clear Lake focuses on “shop local” with family-owned restaurants, coffee shops, bars, gift shops.

Also in Clear Lake is the legendary Surf Ballroom and Museum. The Surf draws musical acts of all genres. It’s best known for the last concert played by Buddy Holly on Feb. 2, 1959, and the after-concert plane crash in a nearby farm field which killed Holly, Richie Valens, J.P. Richardson “The Big Bopper” as well as local pilot Roger Peterson. The Surf holds a Winter Dance Party the first weekend in February in memory of “The Day the Music Died”. The Dance Party brings Holly and 1950s music fans to Clear Lake from around the world.

What to know about other attractions and events in North Iowa?

Go to: www.thisisnorthiowa.com.

Photos Provided by:

