



# **2023 PARISH OVERVIEW**

## **EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Hastings, Michigan

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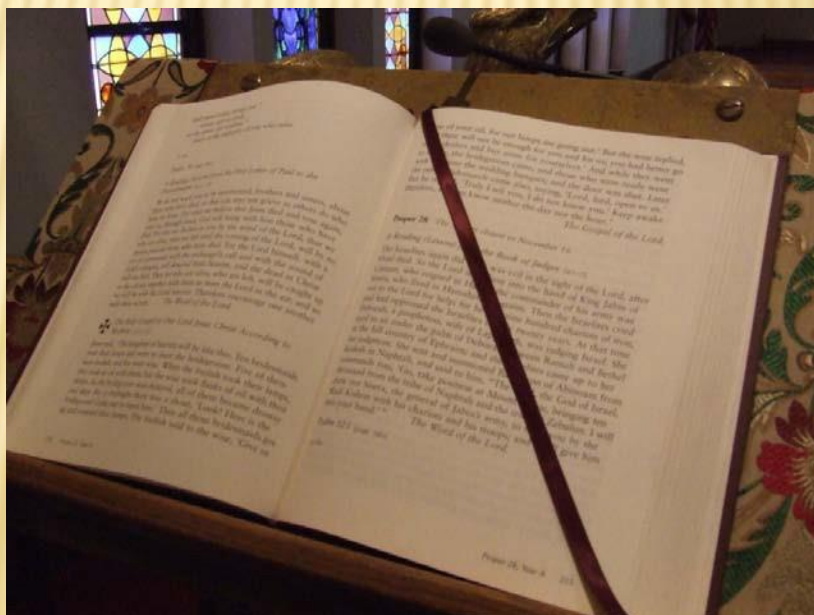
# WELCOME TO EMMANUEL CHURCH

*“Emmanuel: In all time of our tribulation;  
In all time of our prosperity.”*

Inscription on the 1,200-pound Meneely  
Foundry church bell in our bell tower, dated 1871

## Mission Statement

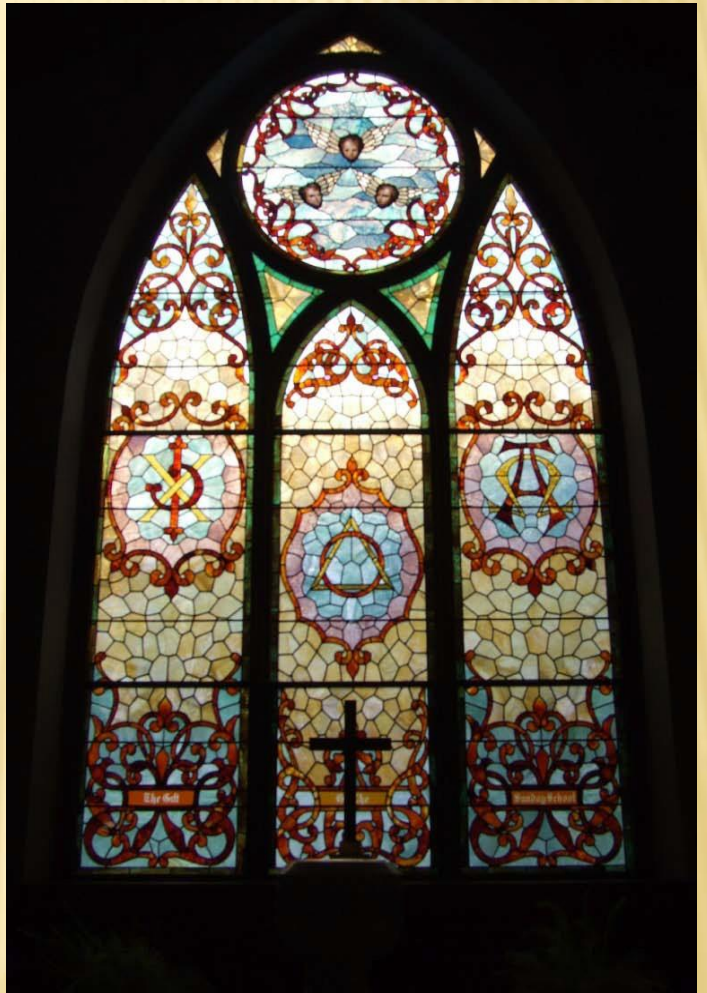
*Emmanuel Episcopal Church is a caring Christian community that  
shares God's grace, gospel and love with all people.*



# OUR NEXT RECTOR

Emmanuel Episcopal Church seeks a rector who teaches the Catechism, who believes in the Resurrection and preaches about the Risen Christ. We seek a rector who embraces the power of Baptism and the Eucharist. Emmanuel Episcopal Church seeks an inspiring preacher who incorporates contemporary issues and social justice while relating biblical teachings to daily living.

We value a rector who has expertise in biblical and theological matters and who will challenge our thinking. We seek a leader who is approachable and accepting of all, who also understands how to attract new members and young families and increase our community outreach. We want Emmanuel to grow in faith, in numbers, and in God's service. Because liturgy and worship are important to us, we seek a rector who is at home leading the congregation in worship and who appreciates ritual and ceremony while helping our community to grow and stretch. We seek a spiritual guide and counselor who has a relaxed, informal approach but with a high degree of spirituality who leads by word and example.



*The large memorial window at the west of the Church serves as a colorful backdrop for the Baptismal Font. The window was given by the Sunday School, the same group who in 1879 donated \$1.50 to create a church Building Fund stimulating an effort that on Advent Sunday, 1895, resulted in the consecration of the present Emmanuel Church structure by the Right Rev. Bishop Gillespie.*

# OUR GOALS

- ❖ To help our parishioners deepen their personal spiritual relationship with God
- ❖ To become a community leader in doing God's work
- ❖ To become a Beloved Community – active in social justice initiatives
- ❖ To grow Emmanuel by attracting younger families
- ❖ To grow Emmanuel through lay ministries thus helping parishioners discover their own gifts for ministry and service
- ❖ To strengthen our Christian education programs for children, youth, and adults
- ❖ To help parishioners understand their use of money, time, and talents as expressions of Christian stewardship



*"This Christmas morning, I am very grateful for all those members of Emmanuel that have, through the years, been faithful in their attendance, financial support and service and made it possible for Shannon and me to just walk into town and find good liturgy, fine music, great fellowship and sincere welcome."*

Rev. Dr. John Conrad  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# OUR CHALLENGES

- ❖ Congregational growth, particularly among younger generations
- ❖ Congregational expansion in Lay ministries
- ❖ Continued growth of congregational engagement within our local community

# OUR STRENGTHS

- ❖ Strong sense of community and family within the parish
- ❖ Vibrant spirit of welcome and acceptance of all people
- ❖ Proactive stance in relation to issues of social justice
- ❖ Active music program for all ages
- ❖ Well-maintained facilities that we share with others
- ❖ A solid financial footing



# WE WORSHIP AND PRAY

We utilize The Holy Eucharist: Rite II of *the Book of Common Prayer* and *Enriching Our Worship* with a clear preference for traditional liturgy in contemporary language.

We celebrate spoken and sung Eucharist on Sunday mornings at 10 am and on occasion incorporate the use of incense, chimes, bells and chanting to enhance worship. We seek connections between the Eucharist and our daily lives. We have also developed live-stream capabilities to offer the liturgy online.

We live the Liturgical Year and the rhythm of the Church Seasons. We have special liturgies during Advent, Lent, on Christmas Eve, and Holy Days such as Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Great Vigil of Easter, All Saints and Christ the King.

As part of our regular worship service, we encourage parishioners to add their own prayer petitions. We invite parishioners to come forward to receive blessings to celebrate milestones, anniversaries, and challenges in their personal lives. We value the time during the sharing of the Peace to greet visitors and fellow parishioners.



# WE WORSHIP AND PRAY

Music is a very important part of our worship. Fortunately, Emmanuel has a strong music program, led by our Director for Music Ministry. We use *the Hymnal 1982* in worship as well as *Wonder, Love and Praise* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II: An African-American Hymnal*. We have a grand piano in our Nave and a restored Odell Tracker Pipe Organ. The organ was built in 1867, installed in 1910, and restored in 2000. Both instruments are used during worship.



A small side chapel, unused for many years, was restored in 2022. It looks out over the Memorial Garden, and we hope to use it for mid-week Eucharists and Tuesday evening Centering Prayer, with a potential to make it available to the downtown community as a quiet place for prayer and contemplation.



Top left: Prelude, Easter 2023  
Bottom left: Restored chapel

Top right: Odell Tracker Pipe Organ  
Bottom right: Memorial Garden

# WE TEACH AND LEARN

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In addition to programs of study during the Season of Advent and Lent, in 2018-20 twelve members of the parish participated in *Education for Ministry* (EfM), the adult Lay Formation work of the Episcopal Seminary at Sewanee. Through small mentored groups and a four-year curriculum, EfM “provides a framework for understanding and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened...(in order to) develop a theologically informed, reflective and articulate laity.” There is opportunity now for members to join online groups. This area of Adult Formation is an enticing opportunity for the future.

Emmanuel hosted a 10-session *Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle* via Zoom in 2020-21. This interactive study had been piloted by the Dismantling Racism Task Force of the Diocese. The group was comprised of nine Emmanuel parishioners and three participants from other Hastings churches. The group grew into a new entity “*Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity*.”



*Sacred Ground meeting*



*Youth Group members leading an activity*

We have created a welcoming space in the Nave for young children. There is a **unified** goal from the Parish assessment to grow and attract young families to Emmanuel. In 2023 we hired a Director for Youth Ministry and are now able to offer Sunday School on a regular basis, along with Vacation Bible School in the summer.

# WE ENGAGE WITH OUR PARISH AND DIOCESE

The lay leadership of Emmanuel includes a nine-member Vestry elected to staggered three-year terms. We have several guilds/committees which help to do the work of the church and an active lay ministry to serve our church.

Parishioners serve as Eucharistic Ministers, acolytes, lectors, ushers, and as members of the Altar Guild. Volunteers read the prayers of the people and present the elements while others help with Sunday School, livestreaming, and the weekly community breakfast. Volunteers also provide transportation to church for parishioners who are unable to drive.

We enjoy fellowship with each other and look forward to gathering. Parishioners take turns in the kitchen making and serving drinks and baked goods for coffee hour after Sunday service. We have a well-attended annual Parish picnic in August or September. We also have a Lenten soup meal with a lesson once a week during Lent. In addition, we celebrate major holy days with special receptions.



*"This church is very accepting of people the way they are. There's an openness. This (church) felt right."*

*-Liz M*

# WE ENGAGE WITH OUR PARISH AND DIOCESE

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*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* has been a popular activity over the years. A dinner is planned and singles, couples, and families sign-up, with several agreeing to act as hosts. The hosts invite their assigned persons, none of whom are aware of who else is attending. Hosts provide a main dish and ask guests to provide other parts of the meal. The day comes, the guests arrive, surprised to discover who is attending and have a chance to talk with old friends and make new ones.

On occasion, a Pastoral Care Volunteer Team has operated by dividing the parish list among themselves with each volunteer checking in with 3-5 parishioners and alerting the Rector of needs.

Emmanuel sends a team to Diocesan Convention every year and in early 2022 three members of Emmanuel became part of the inaugural Diocesan Creation Care Task Force. This task force has now expanded to include the dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.



# WE CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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Caring for people within and beyond our walls is a priority at Emmanuel. We share our gifts with the community, participating in community efforts to address poverty, hunger and homelessness in Barry County.

In 2016 efforts began in Barry County to establish a local [Family Promise](#) organization. This was a major project that involved providing temporary housing for homeless families, keeping children in school, and hiring staff to offer training and support in job training, budgeting, and finding and facilitating available and appropriate housing. Emmanuel was involved from the beginning and in 2019 we hosted our first families. From early 2020, families have been housed at the Family Promise Day Center with hosting congregations bringing meals and providing overnight supervision there. Family Promise of Barry County continues to evolve and Emmanuel teams with St. Rose Catholic Church to feed and provide overnight supervision for families, two to four weeks per year.

In addition, Emmanuel has provided support to the local [United Way](#), [Barry County Cares](#) (a LOVE-Inc organization), the [Family Support Center](#), [Plainsong Farm](#) and [Malembe Rise](#), an educational non-profit in the DR Congo. We also collect non-perishable foods each Sunday for delivery to the local food pantry.

Emmanuel values its strong ties to the surrounding community and participates in various local events. Each year we participate in the local *Crop Walk*. We regularly have a booth at the [Hastings Summerfest](#) celebration. Emmanuel is also a popular annual venue for the [Thornapple Arts Council Jazz Festival](#).

Several community groups have found a home at Emmanuel. The local *Kiwanis* organization meets here, as do *Gideons* and *Alcoholics Anonymous*.



# WE CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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Now in its second decade, a weekly community breakfast is hosted at Emmanuel every Saturday morning. The thinking behind establishing the breakfast was simple... Hastings had a weekly evening meal served at another church, but no breakfast. We thought we were filling a hunger need in our community, but it soon became clear that the breakfast fed not only the body but also the soul, by filling social, emotional and spiritual needs for preparers, servers, and guests alike.

Volunteers from the parish and community share a meal and social time with guests, with an average of 60 meals served each Saturday. In the kitchen and with our guests, we talk, laugh, work as a team, and give of ourselves. The breakfast operates on free-will offerings and the generous support of community members who are not members of Emmanuel. Take-out is available for those unable to join in person, and food that has not been served is provided to [Green Gables Haven](#), a domestic violence relief shelter.



# WE ARE MINDFUL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

In 2018, after the formation of the *Care of Creation Committee*, the breakfast crew began composting waste. The composted soil was made available to parishioners and the larger community and was used to recondition a Memorial Garden that had suffered from a lack of attention. The committee began to look at our physical space, used an energy consultant and began to replace lighting and heating components in the buildings. By mid-2018, Emmanuel had initiated conversion to LED lighting and in December had switched to smart thermostats overseen by a parishioner/energy manager. This led to early inquiries into the possibility of a roof-top solar installation.

Russ and Jean Hammond, long-time parishioners, said, “*Why wait until we are gone to leave a gift to Emmanuel? Why not make a difference now?*” Parish youth were involved in several educational coffee hour presentations and parish education continued with informational posters throughout the buildings. And so, through the generosity of Russ and Jean and other parishioners, the diocese and other members of the greater community, Emmanuel was able to install and dedicate 66 panels on the south & west facing roof tops in fall of 2019. Since December 2021, carbon emissions from our facility have been 73% less than 2018. In addition, Emmanuel received the *2021 Solar Steward Award* from the West Michigan Chapter of the *US Green Building Council*.



*Left: Commissioning Ceremony for the Solar Array installation*

*Right: Russ and Jean Hammond at the Commissioning Ceremony*

# WE ARE MINDFUL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

In 2021, Emmanuel partnered with Grace Lutheran Church in the *Consumers Energy Home Energy Analysis House of Worship Rewards Program* and were able to facilitate more than 80 home energy audits among parishioners, friends and people in the diocese.

Emmanuel has also become a member of the *Climate Witness Project* and *Michigan Interfaith Power and Light*

Recognizing that advocacy is part of Care of Creation, Emmanuel participated in a *Sierra Club Citizen Lobby Day* and members have attended *Hastings City Council* meetings to request a clean energy standard for new multi-unit construction projects in the city. Members from Emmanuel also played a role in developing, organizing, and presenting Barry County's inaugural *Earth Day* celebrations in 2023. This effort has continued to grow, and planning is underway for 2024 events.



Above: Climate change presentation during coffee hour

Top left: Participating in inaugural Earth Day expo event

Bottom left: Family Promise and Solar Stewards awards

# WE ARE MINDFUL OF OUR RESOURCES

We have a total 108 communicants in good standing with an average Sunday attendance of 52 members and 40 pledging units.

Emmanuel currently has a firm financial foundation, and we are debt-free.

The table below shows our General Operating Budget of income and expenses for the past four years:

<b>Revenue (undesignated)</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Pledge & Plate	153,663	151,867	149,088	149,509
Emmanuel House Rent	20,500	17,800	20,400	21,074
Other	17,785	11,589	7,153	10,179
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>191,948</b>	<b>181,256</b>	<b>176,641</b>	<b>180,762</b>
<b>Expenses (Operations plus Emmanuel House)</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Diocesan Assessment	15,510	14,654	7,410	12,792
Staff	108,079	112,178	114,295	78,179
Other (Operations plus Emmanuel House)	45,017	39,567	37,826	44,471
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>168,606</b>	<b>166,399</b>	<b>159,531</b>	<b>135,442</b>

# WE REMEMBER OUR HISTORY

Emmanuel Episcopal Church was organized October 17, 1863, and admitted as a parish the following year. It is the 12th oldest parish in the Diocese. The first services in the original chapel were held in October 1866 in the building known today as the *Reverend Donald M. and Lucile V. Gury Parish House*, which adjoins Emmanuel Church. The cornerstone of the church was laid in 1890; the first services were held at Christmas in 1891; and the building was consecrated on Advent Sunday, December 1, 1895. Though it is the oldest continually operated house of worship in Hastings, renovations have made the building accessible to all, with an elevator that reaches every level.

A total of twenty-four rectors have served the parish. Our most recent rector, the Reverend Linnea Stifler, retired late in 2022.

We have also established and maintain a Memorial Garden adjacent to our sanctuary. Cremains of parishioners are interred there.



Above: Memorial Garden

Top left: Church sign on the corner of Broadway and Center



Bottom left: Emmanuel's cornerstone

# WE TREASURE OUR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Emmanuel Campus consists of the *Emmanuel Rectory*, the *Rev. Donald M. and Lucille V. Gury Parish House*, the church building, *Emmanuel House*, and *Hammond Hall*, which connects the Parish House and the church. Building improvements have included redecorating the parish house, refurbishing the kitchen, and installing new restrooms as part of our program to make the buildings accessible to everyone. In addition, we have restored four of the stained-glass windows in our sanctuary.

The rectory, located next door to the Gury Parish House, is a two-story home of about 1,800 square feet. The first story features original hardwood floors, a living room with fireplace, a dining room, kitchen, a den or office, and a half-bath. The upstairs has three bedrooms and a full bath. The basement has a laundry area and a bathroom plus space for storage. It is important to us to have our rector live in the rectory and be involved in the community.

Emmanuel House currently supports two rental apartments on the upper level, while the main floor is rented to an outside substance abuse counseling service, providing additional rental income. The location of Emmanuel House accommodates additional parking for the church and provided the area necessary to complete our accessibility project.



*Top left: The Rectory*

*Top center: The Gury Parish House*

*Top right: The entrance to Hammond Hall*



*Bottom left: Emmanuel House*

# WE ENJOY OUR HOME

Hastings, the county seat of Barry County in southwestern Michigan, is centrally located within an hour's drive of four large cities: Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Battle Creek, and within a three-hour drive of Detroit, Chicago, and the Canadian border. Hastings, the only city in Barry County, has five municipal parks, a two-mile paved walk along the Thornapple River, and eleven nearby municipal golf courses. Located within the city of Hastings across from the courthouse on West State Street is the four-screen movie theater, Hastings 4. Adjacent to the theater is the downtown Hastings spray plaza and next to the Library – the new Thornapple Plaza – an amphitheater.

Emmanuel church is located within three blocks of downtown, close to an elementary and middle school, and less than ten minutes walk from the Thornapple River.

Barry County, with a population of nearly 60,000 – 12,000 of whom reside within five miles of Emmanuel Church – prides itself on providing a high quality of life, creating an ideal setting for any family desiring a rural setting and a natural landscape. The community sits amidst a county of 257 lakes, rivers, and wooded landscape. In fact, no part of the county is more than seven miles from a lake or river. The county boasts a strong educational system, abundant agriculture, and a top-notch healthcare system including a community hospital and federally qualified health center in Hastings. There are some 37 manufacturing firms in the county.



# WE ENJOY OUR HOME

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Only fifteen minutes from Emmanuel is [Charlton Park](#) – the setting for Civil War battle re-enactments, antique auto shows, folk-life festivals, and home of a sixteen building Historic Village. Approximately twenty minutes from the church is [Yankee Springs Recreation Area](#), a 5,200-acre state-managed protected area with three miles of frontage on Gun Lake, picnic areas, campgrounds, foot trails, snowmobiling, and cross-country ski trails.



Approximately 20 miles away is the world class [Gilmore Car Museum](#) which includes several vintage structures including a 1930's Service Station, historic barns, a functioning 1941 diner, and car dealerships from a bygone era. The [Pierce Cedar Creek Institute](#), containing 850-acres devoted to Environmental Education and Research, is located 11 miles from Emmanuel.



The [Village of Middleville](#), just ten miles northwest of Hastings, is the location of the [Paul Henry Trail](#), a paved six-mile walking and biking trail on a former railroad bed close to the Thornapple River. Middleville is home to the area's largest employer, Bradford White Corporation, where over 7,000 water heaters come off the assembly line every day.

# WE ENJOY OUR HOME

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Barry County offers several family friendly events and activities including:

- ❖ [Summerfest](#), an annual festival featuring arts and crafts, parades, music, fun and food
- ❖ [Barry County Fair](#) with rides, shows, [4-H](#) exhibits and more
- ❖ [Community Center](#) with a pool and other recreational facilities that also offers classes
- ❖ [Barry County YMCA](#)

Other area events:

- ❖ [Annual Barry-Roubaix Killer Gravel Road Bike Race](#)
- ❖ [Thornapple Arts Council Jazz Festival](#)
- ❖ [Heritage Days in the Village of Middleville](#)
- ❖ [Arts & Eats](#)
- ❖ [Hastings Holiday Hop & Christmas Parade](#)
- ❖ [Fall Harvest Festival](#)
- ❖ [Fall Color Tours](#)

Area Attractions:

- ❖ [Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum](#) - Grand Rapids
- ❖ [Saugatuck](#)
- ❖ [Holland](#)



*Lake Michigan, within an hour's drive*

# WE ENJOY OUR HOME

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## Higher Education Opportunities:

- ❖ [Kellogg Community College](#) – Battle Creek & Hastings
- ❖ [Western Michigan University](#) – Kalamazoo & Grand Rapids
- ❖ [Michigan State University](#) – East Lansing
- ❖ [Grand Valley University](#) – Allendale & Grand Rapids
- ❖ [Kendall College of Art and Design](#) – Grand Rapids

## Other Resources:

- ❖ [City of Hastings](#)
- ❖ [Downtown Hastings on the Thornapple](#)
- ❖ [Barry County Chamber of Commerce](#)
- ❖ [Hastings Public Schools](#)
- ❖ [Hastings Public Library](#)
- ❖ [WBCH Radio](#)
- ❖ [Thornapple Arts Council](#)
- ❖ [The Hastings Banner](#)
- ❖ [Hastings Reminder](#)
- ❖ [Barry Enrichment Center & Community Foundation](#)
- ❖ [YMCA Camp Algonquin](#)

## Social Services:

- ❖ [Barry County Cares](#)
- ❖ [Barry County Commission on Aging](#)
- ❖ [Barry County United Way](#)
- ❖ [Green Gables](#)



*The Thornapple River as it flows  
through downtown Hastings*

# EMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

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Parish Administrator - Patsy Auer

Sexton - Don Belles

Director for Music Ministry - Mark Doster

Director for Youth Ministry - Sarah Boonstra

## Vestry 2023

- ❖ Sr. Warden – Georgette Schirmer
- ❖ Jr. Warden – Kevin Houghton
- ❖ Sue Casarez
- ❖ Zach Franklin
- ❖ Doris Hale
- ❖ Dennis Mapes
- ❖ Shannon Thornton Nagy
- ❖ Judy Spencer
- ❖ Jackie Wilson
- ❖ Clerk – Deb Williamson
- ❖ Treasurer – Robert Schirmer



Visit our [Facebook](#) and [website](#) pages for additional information and pictures