



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 4, 2023)

St. James Episcopal Church, Pentwater, Western Michigan

82 S. Wythe Street, Pentwater, MI 49436, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 11/30/23.

tlittle@edwm.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
10	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$36000			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$36000		
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	No		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)			
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
	No	Yes	No

Assumes part-time Priest-in-Charge will be retired. Position is for 1/3 time. Summer ASA 35.

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

We successfully adapted to ZOOM Sunday sessions. There was prayer, Bible reading and discussion, relating the scriptures and COVID through our lives together. Summer only participants were able to participate throughout the year. It was a meaningful time. We continue to adapt to the post-COVID world with modifications to the Communion ritual (eg. intincture, not common cup.). We are working through a major challenge with this Rector search right now. We are blessed to have a vestry of various backgrounds and interests who are working towards a common goal. In recent years, St. James decided to use its endowment fund to support local charities, donating in aggregate almost \$90,000

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

- For St. James, the immediate future is how we will be staffed and organized when our current rector leaves. Will we have an organist? The vestry and others, including newer congregants, have stepped up and taken on new responsibilities. - St. James must learn how to grow the membership of our church and not rely solely on the rector. We must welcome summer visitors and embrace long-term and newer worshippers. - This year we will have a direct mail campaign to folks in our village, inviting them to come celebrate God's glory and blessings with us. - We have a new family with two children. We have added some activity pages available at the back of the church for them since we have no Sunday School. Additionally, we do have bags with activities available in the hallway for younger children. - Our website is being significantly updated and improved to more accurately reflect who we are, where we are as a church community and what we do for our community with emphasis on the welcoming environment of St. James. - Our By-Laws were modified last year to allow for "electronic" meetings as technology evolves. Many of our meetings are now routinely held electronically.

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

inspiring preacher, pastoral care, administrator, Kind and joyful heart

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

St. James, Pentwater celebrates Eucharist each Sunday, one service with traditional music. Traditional Rite I or II services are offered on Sundays and holidays as appropriate. Occasionally, we use Morning Prayer liturgy. Both the 1982 and Celebration Hymnals are used for variety with traditional hymns our mainstay. As volunteers step forward, there has been instrumental accompaniment in addition to the organ (eg. trumpet, violin).

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

- Historically, the rector invites newer parishioners to participate as lay readers and servers and/or they volunteer and are welcome to do so since our congregation is so small. - The rector varies the way we read the Psalms, including reading a verse from person to person throughout the congregation. - Folks are actively recruited for vestry and Sunday counters by the rector or by others. - The congregation must learn to be more intentional here, not relying solely on the rector to turn visitors into newcomers and parishioners. We are all workers in the vineyard.

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

- After every service all are invited to join together for coffee/tea and other goodies. Person-by-person, as each is willing, we share what is happening in our lives and, from time to time, what our or others' needs may be. This time is important to building community and providing spiritual and emotional support. - The rector actively calls on parishioners and others who need emotional and/or spiritual support and guidance. When appropriate, the rector notifies fellow parishioners of need. - Some parishioners have willingly stepped in to support those in need of social or decision-making support, sometimes arranging for or performing house maintenance. - There are no organized prayer groups or Bible study. Lenten studies have not resumed post-COVID. - There is an informal "greeting card" ministry to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, etc. - Putting this altogether, we need to exercise mind, body and soul regularly and often.

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

- Many of our members volunteer for various non-profit organizations in Pentwater and surrounding areas. One of the benefits for St. James in this activism is learning how other organizations grow and following these organizations' examples. - The rector makes parishioners aware of others in need in the community as appropriate. - St. James' rector has been available for pastoral care and for funerals of long-time Pentwater residents who have no church affiliation.

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

- We have made significant financial contributions to several regional charities (COVE, Love Inc., Girl Scouts, etc.), over \$23,000 in 2022. - Parishioners volunteer for various non-profit organizations in our village and the surrounding area (eg. Pentwater Service Club, Pentwater Historical Society, Shelby Rotary, Trinity Lutheran Church, New Era's food pantry, Pentwater's 'Find a Stone' project). - As we attend functions sponsored by other groups, we must be mindful how we live our beliefs. Like Christ, we must walk the walk, not just talk the talk. - One of our parishioners has served on Diocesan Council for the last several years. - We have joined with another local church for certain services; they have been welcomed to use our Parish Hall as needed for prayer meetings. - A local Girl Scout troop has periodically used the Parish Hall in the last few years as well as local card groups and AA.

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

- In the last few years, we have chosen to make significant, impactful donations to select area charities and the Diocesan Youth Camping Program, rather than making small donations to many charities. Additionally, we have increased the overall giving total to tens of thousands a year versus a few thousand (\$23,000 in 2022). - Last year our traditional chicken dinner resumed under the new leadership of a "summer member". New ideas and a new circle of community friends led to a sell-out in 45 minutes!

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

- St. James, Pentwater is blessed with supportive summer parishioners who support this trio of parish stewardship. - Because we are a small parish, we are reliant on a small core of volunteers who give of their time and talent, whether that lies in reading the Word of God on Sunday mornings, building a creche worthy of a new Christmas tradition, helping cook and serve the annual August grilled chicken dinner, and so forth. - The rector is faithful in publicly thanking those who provide extraordinary gifts to St. James, whether the gift is spreading mulch or providing new flags or helping a person with end of life decisions. - We are thankful to God that we are operating "in the black" in spite of, or perhaps because of, our historic "soft" approach to the annual stewardship drive which consists of a letter to parishioners from the rector. Again, our summer parishioners supplement the fulltime parishioners nicely. - Though we are a small parish, we are blessed by benefactors of the past that allow us to be generous without jeopardizing the day-to-day operation. The finance committee actively manages the allocation of our assets to take advantage of changing market conditions.

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

- One parishioner says, "I am unaware of conflict during the time (about 15 years) we have regularly attended St. James. If there are conflicts, they are kept quiet. I have been told that years ago, some left, unhappy with the time of the scheduled Sunday mass which started earlier in summer than the rest of the year. Last year, after a poll of parishioners, the time was changed to the later time throughout the year. I am unaware of anyone leaving because of this change."

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?

- Communication is key to change in any organization. In the Church we are also blessed to have the ultimate Key to help guide and support pending change. So, prayerful consideration and clear, complete communication are paramount.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Sam Morrison	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2007-01	2023-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
John Robert Hector Jr.	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1987-01	2006-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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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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Contact:
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Worshipping Community Web site: stjamesepiscopalpentwater.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop: (616) 319-2006 psingh@edwm.org or psingh@eastmich.org
The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh

Diocesan Transition Minister 810-300-9177 tlittle@edwm.org or tlittle@eastmich.org
The Rev. Canon Tracie Little

Current Warden/Board Chair 312-502-0314
Curt Voges

Previous Warden/Board Chair 614-496-7648
Ron Bach

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader