



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Sep 11, 2021)

Grace Church Port Huron, Eastern Michigan

1213 6th Street, Port Huron, MI 48060, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 11/14/21.

[mspencer@eastmich.org](mailto:m Spencer@eastmich.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
130	2	1	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$72000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes		Yes

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

Our church is a historical building that is very beautiful, but it has presented some significant challenges for parishioners with limited accessibility. The Accessibility Project was created to remove these barriers and allow for all members to fully participate in worship and fellowship. In order to achieve this goal, changes were made to the interior and exterior of the building. A ramp and loading area were built to help parishioners enter and exit the church space safely and with ease. An adjustment to the entrance of the nave was made by removing stairs and making the space one level, affording access to all. An elevator was installed to allow passage to all five levels of our building. Two handicap accessible restrooms were added to the church, as well. The planning and construction for this project was quite lengthy, but once it was complete, there was a large sense of pride and joy. We are now able to share our space with all.

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

In preparation for more participation in a world still dealing with COVID, we are engaging in research for alternative models for our church. This is new ground and we are not sure what this may look like. In the meantime, we have used Zoom to keep people engaged in worship, bible study and meetings when we were unable to meet in person. Our worship is live streamed each Sunday so that those who are unable to attend, still have an option of engagement. Our building is open to share space with community groups and another worship community C4Yourself. We realize that we have space for growth in this area, and are working to establish a sustainable plan for our future relevance to our community.

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

Inspiring leader; empathetic listener; engaging preacher

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

Grace has three services each week. Worship on Saturday evening is at 5:30 pm. This is a small informal group that participates in evening prayer or Eucharist if a priest is present. Sunday morning has two services. One is at 8:00 am, which is a spoken Rite II Eucharist. The other service is held at 10am, which is a Eucharist which can be described as broad church. Usually the service is from the Book of Common Prayer, but there are times when alternative forms of worship are used.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

At Grace, we offer many of the standard committees that you will find in all Episcopal churches. To help people find their fit in a committee, we host an annual Ministry Fair to offer education for each group, as well as an opportunity to join.

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

We care for our community by staying connected in many different ways. During COVID, there was a phone ministry that was created to check on the emotional and physical well-being of our parishioners. Prayer ministry, prayer shawls, and the Soup Group provide care and comfort to those in need. The Priest and deacon are available to meet with those who need counsel and comfort. We also offer an errand ministry for those who need to get to appointments, complete errands, and attend church services if they are unable to drive. We encourage spiritual and social connectedness through weekly bible study, monthly social hours, and a monthly book club. Physically, yoga classes are offered each week for parishioners to improve their flexibility and yoga practice.

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

Outreach is an important part of who we are. We have a food pantry that provides food in emergency situations to the community, this includes meals for area children who experience food scarcity and need meals for the weeks where school is not in session. Our Community Garden called the Good News Garden provides food to our community through the help of C4Yourself Church. We welcome community support groups such as Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous on a weekly basis. We open our doors to a local non-profit organization called Community Enterprises of St. Clair County, which serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This group utilizes space for classes that teach life skills, spiritual growth, art and music. They also participate in Wednesday Eucharist. Opening our building to the community is a vital part of our ministry and we look forward to seeing continued growth in this area.

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

One of the ways Grace is involved with the religious community in Port Huron is through a series of Lenten Luncheons during the season of Lent. This ecumenical program provides an opportunity for community fellowship. Participation in conversation on race with other faith communities has been an area of importance. We have also partnered with other community churches for youth activities. Within the larger faith community, we have been a host site for the Annual Trinity Wall Street Conference.

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

The Soup Group began in December of 2019. This ministry provides warm soup for the elderly, the sick, and those who are shut-in. Mary Gale McPharlin brings parishioners together once a month to make soup and freeze it for later use. Additionally, the Good News Garden began the summer of 2020, and it provides fresh produce to those who experience food scarcity. This ministry is a partnership with C4Yourself Church. Jeannette Ettin is the chair for this ministry.

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

Once a year, we hold a stewardship drive. During this time, we offer parishioners a period to reflect on the importance of the church and how we can support its mission through service and monetary gifts. Our campaign includes a letter from the rector to all parishioners regarding the importance of stewardship. We host a ministry fair to offer information about ways to be involved in the church. During the service, we share personal stories. Stewardship is extremely important to Grace Church in order to successfully operate on a balanced budget. We support our Community Foundation by holding our funds locally. Our practice of stewardship encourages parishioners to be actively involved throughout the year by providing time, talent, and monetary support.

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

When conflict arises, we have learned that open communication is key to reaching a resolution. Through the use of newsletters, emails, Sunday announcements, and discussion groups, we are able to provide information directly and transparently. Open discussions offer opportunities to discuss questions and concerns. One of the largest areas of concern always surrounds modifying the physical space of the building. Recently, in order to make the building more accessible, significant physical alterations had to be made, which resulted in conflict and many differing opinions. Through open communication, providing information, listening and collaboration, we were able to complete a successful project.

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?

Although difficult for many, change is inevitable. We have had to navigate both positive and negative change. When the time came for St Paul's Episcopal Church, Port Huron to close their doors, it was a sad and troubling time for the congregation. Working to positively incorporate St. Paul's, joint services were held featuring their liturgical items. Stained glass windows from St. Paul's were hung within Grace's walls. There was a welcoming service to joyfully celebrate the joining of parishes. The people of St. Paul's have enriched our worship, fellowship, and our leadership. Unfortunately, we had a difficult change when the Chapel of the Holy Innocents was modified from a children's chapel to a flexible worship space. This chapel was built through monetary gifts, several given by parents who had lost children. When the change was proposed, many original donors were not given time to process this change before the parish was notified and the change was made. This resulted in very hurt feelings that still exist. Through these two very different experiences, we learned important lessons. We continually strive to strengthen our communication within our church.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Lydia Agnew Speller	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2013-01	2021-02

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Robert Trask	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge		2012-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended

Church School Yes		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 14	Number of Students for Children School 26
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School 4	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School 17	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School 2	Number of Students for Adults School 12
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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.graceporthuron.org

Media Links:

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

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan is in conversation with the Diocese of Western Michigan. In the fall we will elect a bishop provisional to lead both dioceses for two to four years of conversation. The Transition Minister can provide more information.
989-752-6020 mspencer@eastmich.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer

Current Warden/Board Chair

Maureen Porada

mlp50@aol.com; 810-324-2691

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Christy Allen

church_lady_c@hotmail.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader