



A modern rendering of St. Aidan. Please note the stag and staff, not to mention the fierce zeal in his eyes!

ST. AIDAN'S STAG & STAFF

The growing community of St. Aidan's is called to be God's light and loving presence through faith, sacrament, and outreach.



Men's Breakfast

First Saturdays —

AUGUST 5

Cooking 8am — Eating 8:30am

Bacon Breakfast — Parish Hall
Backpack Event — Narthex



ST. AIDAN'S DAY

Sunday, August 31

9:30 am

Volunteer Opportunities!

Organize

Bring food

Set up

Clean up

Participate in Worship

Contact **Laura Johnston**: 262-853-6913

Hartford Community Lunch
Saturday, August 30
11:30 am

1st United Methodist



Lunch is served at 11:30am. Come for a free hot meal with the Hartford Community! To volunteer [9 am—2 pm], just show up on the day. If you have questions, please contact **Larry Thomas** at **262-955-4900**.

St. Aidan's parishioners are encouraged to make and share a dessert!



Join in song, prayer, and worship led by our youth and young at heart.

"Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Ex 3:5

*shoes are optional



A Prayer for Gloomy Thinkers

Nadia Bolz-Weber



Dear God,

I woke up today exhausted after a full night's sleep.

My 90-minute walk did not revive me, and a nice

breakfast with lots of protein didn't seem to do the trick either.

And before you ask, yes, I'm fully hydrated, Lord.

Hydrated and weary.

And it's getting harder not to freak out.

All day long, when my thoughts get gloomy:

is this the end of days?

will AI take over everything just like in all those

movies?

should I invest in a bunker?

did we already live through the most peaceful,

prosperous time in history, and we didn't realize

that's what it was, and now it's over, and we will

never get it back again?

I try to redirect my thoughts to:

where is beauty happening in this very moment?

who might need some help today?

what are those show-offy red flowers in my neighbor's

yard called?

how can the sky look that beautiful?

but that amount of re-direction is taking a LOT of

energy, Lord. And maybe that's contributing to

the exhaustion,

What I am trying to say God, is that if you could help

me pivot my restless brain from gloom to gladness

even just like, 10% faster that could make a huge

difference.

Oh, and thanks for this day.

And everything beautiful in my life that I did not earn

or create.

And for dogs.

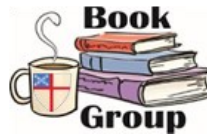
And flowers.

Amen.

Quilts for Good!

St. Aidan's will raffle Mary Moran's quilts in early October, and once again have a booth at the Pink Pumpkin Run. As last year, people will be able to choose the quilts they wish to win and choose between their donations going to Pink Pumpkin Run or St. Aidan's Little Food Pantry. Last year's raffle raised almost \$1700. Mary's new goal is to break \$2000. The full flier and raffle tickets will be available in August.

SNEAK PREVIEW of quilts on PAGE 11!



St. Aidan's Book Discussion

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Putting on the Mind of Christ: The Inner Work of Christian Spirituality

By Jim Marion

What does it mean to follow the path of Christ today? "Putting on the Mind of Christ" is the first book to offer an integral understanding of the Christian spiritual path--one that examines the basic stages of spiritual development described by the great saints and sages, along with the psychological stages of development used by modern psychology.

Anniversary blessings!



Guest celebrant, the Rev. Debra Trakel, blessed the anniversaries of **Greta and Dan Bemi** and **Lorraine and Terry Garner** on July 20.

LIFE IS SHORT
AND WE DO NOT HAVE
MUCH TIME TO
GLADDEN
THE HEARTS
OF THOSE WHO
TRAVEL WITH US
SO BE SWIFT TO LOVE
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND
AND GO IN PEACE
TO LOVE AND SERVE
THE LORD
HENRI - FREDERIC AMIEL

**YOUR PICTURE
HERE!**

Send to —
mphoffmann70@gmail.com

The best people possess a feeling for beauty, the courage to take risks, the discipline to tell the truth, the capacity for sacrifice. Ironically, their virtues make them vulnerable; they are often wounded, sometimes destroyed. - Ernest Hemingway, author and journalist, Nobel laureate (21 Jul 1899-1961)

Esther's Epistle

Dear Friends,

During the summer months, some St. Aidan's parishioners and friends of this congregation travel and some of you may host guests from various places. These are understandable reasons for not joining us at worship on a Sunday morning! While I look to gather again on Sundays in larger numbers, it's important to remember that the Christian church encourages us to take time for rest, to engage with people in the world in new ways, and to extend hospitality to others. We read stories in scripture that portray the followers of Jesus meeting and learning from people as they travel from place to place. We find examples of the way early Christian communities welcomed family, strangers, and travelers.

For many of us, leaving home to experience something new and hosting others causes a certain amount of stress because we may hold expectations that are not always realistic. These experiences of engaging, however, have the potential to transform us into more deeply committed Christians. Making time to step outside of our comfort zones and taking an interest in the realities of others, I believe, will renew our confidence in the goodness of all people.

During the coming months, I pray that we will remember what it feels like to be guests; to eat food someone else has prepared, lie in a bed someone else has arranged, and learn about the life someone else leads. I pray that we will be grateful and remember that God is present wherever we go, working in the lives of all those we meet. As we look to the fall, I also pray that we will remember the call of Christian hospitality, a model for all of us in our daily lives. I pray that we will welcome family, strangers, and travelers who arrive at St. Aidan's and who see our church community not as a private club or the satisfaction of an obligation. Rather, I pray that we will all know the feeling of participation in the on-going tradition of coming to God's house, where throughout the year we can find rest for our souls, spiritual renewal, and eternal joy.

In the peace of Christ,
Mother Esther +

St. Aidan's Little Pantry

A project initiated by St. Aidan's Episcopal Church Women and embraced by the whole congregation —



Pictured above — the food and hygiene items stocked in the Little Pantry in just a few weeks. **The Little Pantry** has become an essential and reliable source for our **neighbors**. Many times I have been greeted by people waiting for it to be filled, children waiting for a box of cereal or a teen waiting for hygiene items. Everyone I have encountered has been extremely grateful. To date we have provided thousands of dollars of food and supplies to our **neighbors**. None of this would be possible without donations of food, items, money, and time. Every little bit has made a great difference and helped us to **love our neighbors**.

Amanda Mercado

Good Samaritan + Food = Loving your neighbor

In Luke's Gospel, the question is asked "Who is my **neighbor**?" In the case of food insecurity, some of our local **neighbors** are those living on fixed or limited incomes, children who do not have access to school meal programs, and the under employed or unemployed. Food insecurity is a condition of living without consistent access to sufficient food or an adequate quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Families experiencing this may need to choose between food and other necessities (rent, medication, health care, etc.). We may think this is a global issue (and it is!), but it's also very much a local concern. Local area companies have permanently laid off workers, closed the business, required employees to take unpaid time off, and/or frozen wages while food prices continue to rise.

Our Little Pantry and local area food banks have seen requests for assistance from households, including those with children, jump sharply over the past few years, driven by the end of federal aid programs, the impact of grocery price inflation, and the reduced ability of private citizens to donate.

YOU can help your **neighbors**:

- ♥ Donate **nonperishable and personal hygiene** items to **our Little Pantry**. Cash donations are gratefully accepted; we'll do the shopping!
- ♥ Donate **perishable items to the Hartford Food Pantry**: fresh fruits, vegetables, cheese, eggs, chicken, and brats.

Please be that Good Samaritan who crosses the road to help.
Blessings on your generosity.

Laura Johnston



deaconspeak: musings from the left shoul-

If you've ever wondered (or perhaps you already know) the "dog days" are the hottest days of Summer, when we tend to be least active. The ancient Greeks and Romans believed that at this time of year, Sirius – the dog star – rose at the same time as the sun and contributed to the heat.



Obviously in modern times we know this not to be true. Nonetheless it is true that we, like our dogs (and other pets), are not as energetic as in more temperate temperatures. Our bodies... our minds... even our spirits may tend to lag a bit.

That is precisely when we need to look for opportunities to engage ourselves. Maybe not so much physically, but certainly we can challenge ourselves mentally and spiritually during these dog days. Some of us may have Summer reading. Others may be looking to "binge watch" TV shows.

Let's not forget our spiritual exercise and growth. This may include reading scripture or other faith-building materials. Maybe add an additional 5 minutes during the day to pray. Or going to worship when on vacation – or even when we feel we just don't have the energy.

Certainly, we need to continue or even increase our activities in reaching out with God's love to those in need, such as those who are hungry, or lonely, or living with violence, or are poor, or feel ostracized due to their skin color, gender orientation, documentation status -- and a host of other things you can identify.

"Walk among them; I'll go with you. Reach out to them with My hand." These are lyrics from "Kyrie Eleison" by J Clark, which is a song I enjoy. It, like scripture and prayer, reassures me that when we do this, we do not do it alone: God is ALWAYS at our side.

Love in Christ - terry



AUGUST 2025



The score is Pollocks 2-raccoons 0.

We have been trying to outwit the raccoons that live in the woods ever since we moved here. They have developed a taste for whatever we put out for the birds -- sunflower seed, thistle seed, peanuts -- they love it all, not to mention the compost pile. I am embarrassed to admit they have been winning for two and a half years, and I would be more embarrassed, but I remember my father doing battle with crows that took up residence in the pine trees behind his house. He didn't do any better.

I complained to my neighbors and any number of other folks that all my education and almost 30 years of teaching teenagers did not prepare me for the tenacity of raccoons. The advice was all the same, a baffle that bears a strong resemblance to a stove-pipe, and so far, for two days, it has worked. I am more than happy to have those furry bandits turn my compost pile so I am hopeful that we may have reached a compromise. We will see.

On another note, having also to do with food, I am sharing the recipe for what I have always known as French Potato Salad. It's great for those summer gatherings as there is no mayonnaise involved, and it is fine cold, hot, or picnic temperature. It's easy to make the day before!

French Potato Salad

Yukon gold or other waxy potatoes,
cut into bite sized pieces and
boiled until just tender

Celery, diced

Red onion, diced

Parsley, dill, tarragon, whatever herbs you like



Dressing

Olive oil

Lemon juice or wine vinegar,
in equal amount to the oil

Salt and pepper,

Be generous.

Alice Pollock

Most of the Pollock, Meigs, and Marsh families gathered this summer.

St. Aidan folks on the move!

Laura & John Johnston at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo. Many of the 15 species of cranes are conserved at the ICF prairie. These are Wattled Cranes.



Lynne Molinda touring the Southwest this spring.



Eileen & Mike Schmidt at St. Anne's in Ankeny, Iowa — "a nice place. The people were very welcoming."

Note from **Eileen**: As I understand the rules when submitting to the Stag & Staff, we get points for a picture from our summer travels, extra points if it is at an Episcopal church, and max points if the church is named St. Aidan's. I am wondering if we can be awarded two levels of points and a bonus for an Episcopal Church that starts with an "A"?

Charles Gardner hiked with his brother-in-law to Finch Lake, 8 miles roundtrip in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado



Alice & Bruce Pollock's grandsons graduated recently. Ben [L] has been accepted at Munich in their Mechanical Engineering program, following his grandfather's footsteps. Noah [R] is doing a gap-year peace corps stint in South Africa teaching English to kids. He also spent a week feeding elephants at a rescue facility.



Ryker and Jax, **Geri Kelly's** grandsons, celebrating summer in Sheboygan as they eat treats in her cute little EV car!



ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAG & STAFF

ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



2025

	3	10	17	24	31
Reader	A. Pollock	K. Fairchild	L. Molenda	S. Schmidt	E. Wetzel
Prayers	L. Molenda	D. Bemi	T. Schlaefer	E. Schmidt	M. Hoffmann
Acolyte	L. Daley	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	A. Schrunk	L. Daley
Usher	Schnorenberg	Schmidts	Webers	Schrunks	L. Molenda
LEM	J. Pierce	A. Pollock	M. Hoffmann	L. Johnston	M. Weber
Counters	Weber/Moran	M-Meigs/ Hoffmann	Fairchild/Gardner	Weber/Schnorenberg	Moran/Pierce
Cleaning		Gardner		Trewyn	
Altar	P. Paddon.				



September 2025

	7	14	21	28
Reader	D. Bemi	M.B. Moran	L. Daley	B. Pollock
Prayers	B. Pollock	L. Schrunk	A. Pollock	C. Gardner
Acolyte	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	A. Schrunk	L. Daley
Usher	J. Pierce	Pollocks	R. Schnorenberg	Schmidts
LEM	A. Pollock	B. Schrunk	J. Pierce	M. Hoffmann
Counters	K. Fairchild/M. Weber	M.B. Moran/Hoffmann	A. M-Meigs/Gardner	Pierce/Schnorenberg
Cleaning				
Altar				

If you cannot serve your appointed time, please arrange for a substitute. Thank you.

Any **permanent** changes to the schedule should be reported to

Gail Hefti at gail.hefti@gmail.com or 920-740-3997.

PARISH EVENTS — AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries 1 Eileen M-Schmidt & Michael Schmidt 7 Sandy Koeller 8 Donna Dinco 10 Mary Ann Talajkowski 16 Sarah & Gary Stage 20 Steve Garbarek 23 Alice & Bruce Pollock 27 Jerry Paquette 29 Sharon & Eric Wetzel 30 Esther Kramer & Thomas Schlafer					1	2  Men's B'fast 8:30 am  Backpack distribution!
3 Worship — 9:30 am	4	5	6  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	7	8	9
10 Worship — 9:30 am	11	12	13  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	14	15	16
17 Worship — 9:30 am  Sharing Sunday Vestry meeting	18	19	20  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	21	22	23
24 Worship — 9:30 am  BAREFOOT SUNDAY 31 St. Adian's Day Worship 9:30 am 	25	26	27  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	28	29	30  Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st United Methodist BRING DESSERT!



St. Aidan's Office Hours

Wednesdays — 9 am to Noon

Fridays — 9 am to Noon

Or by appointment

How to reach us —

Church Mailing Address:

670 E. Monroe Avenue

Hartford, WI 53027

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Tara Nooyen

Administrative Assistant

secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Mary Beth Moran, Treasurer

Vestry Wardens

Eric Wetzel, Senior Warden

Laura Johnston, Junior Warden

Vestry

Geri Kelly

Lynn Molenda

Mike Morgan

Mike Weber

Stag and Staff — St. Aidan's Newsletter

Published monthly

Deadline: 3rd Sunday of the month

Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: mphoffmann70@gmail.com

or 262-673-2903



If anyone has a prayer need for

someone or something, please call **Alice Pollock** [262-707-3456] or the church office.



Mondays --

AA

7 - 8 pm

Parish Hall

Tuesdays --

Women's AA

Noon

Parish Hall

Wednesdays

Office Open

9am - Noon

Fridays

Office Open

9 am - Noon

First Saturdays

Men B'fast

8 am

Parish Hall

Sundays

Worship Service

9:30 am

For information about groups or scheduling the building, contact the Church Office.



BeeFriended!

Once upon a time (this year!), a local beekeeper was so sad as he had no good place to raise his bees. He looked and looked, but no luck. One day, he went to the St. Aidan's Plant Sale and struck up a conversation with our gardening ambassador and expert, **Virginia Peterman**. They talked about plants and bees and lo and behold, Virginia offered her property as a home for the beehives. The beekeeper was very interested, so he visited Virginia and pronounced her yard a perfect fit for his bees. The bees and hives have a new home with Virginia and Bob; we're so grateful to them for their pollinator aid.





UNITED THANK OFFERING

Ofrenda Unida de Accion de Gracias

"OUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES"

Over \$1M awarded for projects focused on water access, sanitation, education

The Episcopal Church Executive Council recently approved more than \$1 million in United Thank Offering grants supporting 27 innovative mission and ministry projects focused on water-related issues around the world.

Projects range from a reverse osmosis filtration system to combat lead-contaminated drinking water in Western Louisiana to indoor plumbing for a South Dakota congregation to water-saving agricultural projects in Tanzania and California's Central Valley.

The funds come from the United Thank Offering's yearly Ingathering, which includes monies collected in "**blue boxes**" at Episcopal churches, designated as thank offerings.



This is the final round of a three-year United Thank Offering grant focus on areas of ministry based on Matthew 25:31-46.* This year's grants fund projects that address sanitation; access to water; and water education or climate change mitigation.

The 2023 and 2024 United Thank Offering grants supported **42 projects** related to the worldwide incarceration crisis and welcoming "the stranger."

"The grant awards emphasize both the physical and spiritual importance of water in our lives," said Karin Elsen, president of the United Thank Offering board. "These funds will be used for the construction of many practical things, such as showers and wells, while also fostering service, hospitality, and renewal through the projects. Many lives will be positively impacted."

The UTO Board received about \$2 million in requests from 43 applications. It was able to fund 27 projects within The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion, including three historical grants.

**Matthew 25:35 - 36*

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.



*Church Sign brought to by the
Good Samaritans of St Aidan's*

The Good Samaritans can't guard your life, but might save your back if you call us to help!

Ron Schnorenberg 414-416-918



3rd Sunday — Sharing Sunday

The "loose" [paper and coin] collection supports Mother Esther's discretionary fund. She uses it to help people in our community in need — more often than you might think!

Please be generous!

Quilts for Good!

Last month's sewing —



Northwoods

New —



Halloween



Crayons



S'mores



WI Teams



Bikini Time



Patriotic

*Outreach Project
Women of the Wisconsin Diocese*



MISSION

SCI upholds our enduring legacy of serving and protecting the personal and professional lives of mariners and seafarers with unwavering compassion and dedication. We are committed to partnering with the maritime industry to ensure dignity within the workplace, and the safety of vessel operations and maritime environments. Through our efforts, we strive to foster a safer, more respectful, and sustainable maritime community, both internationally and domestically.



Christmas at Sea

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE

As a Christmas at Sea (CAS) volunteer, you are joining an inclusive, supportive community that represents the oldest and longest continuously-running charter knitting program in the U.S. CAS delivers the highest volume of knitted gifts to international seafarers of any non-profit, and we are the only chaplaincy delivering knit gifts to the thousands of professional U.S. mariners at work aboard towboats, harbor tugs, and dredges on the Mississippi River system and the Gulf Intra-coastal Waterways. With our limited staff, we are only able to accomplish these impressive numbers because of the active support of our knitters, crocheters, seamstresses, packers, and donors.

"The hallmark of our program is personalization. We never purchase knits from the store. Every gift is hand-made, and for international seafarers, most arrive in a hand-sewn ditty bag. Knitted gifts to U.S. mariners on boats are delivered in boxes containing handcrafted Christmas cards often created by school children." —

Joanne Bartosik, Christmas at Sea Manager

Seafarer's Scarf



About this Pattern: The original seafarer scarf worn the world over!

Note: The first and last 14 inches of the scarf are knit in garter stitch.

The 18 inches of k4, p4 ribbing in the middle make a narrow-looking neck. This makes the scarf more dense and warmer around the neck without adding extra bulk.

Tip: Slip the first stitch of each row purlwise to keep the edges tidy.



Cast on 32 stitches.

Knit even for 14".

*K4, p4, repeat from * across row for 18".

Knit even for 14".

Finishing: Bind off loosely. Weave in ends.

Finished Measurements:
Approximately 6.5" x 46"

Materials: Approximately
300 yards of worsted
weight yarn

US size 6 or 7 needles, or
size needed to get gauge

Tapestry needle

Gauge: 20 sts & 36 rows
= 4 inches square in
garter stitch

CAS is a seamless program- we welcome packages year-round. Donations received after December 15th are usually rolled over into the following year.

**Bring scarves to
the Diocesan
Convention
October 2025 or
mail.**

Address for the mailing:
**Christmas at Sea
International Seafarers' Center
Seamen's Church Institute
118 Export St.
Port Newark, NJ 07114**

Main telephone: 973.589.5828