



ST. AIDAN'S

MAY 2025
VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 5

STAG & STAFF

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



SATURDAY — MAY 17
9 AM TO 1 PM



It's Coming.....

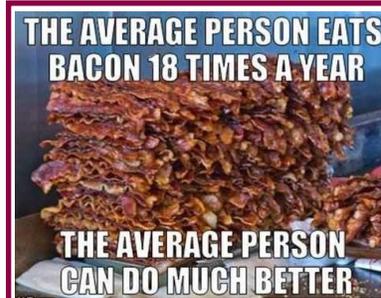
Our annual **Plant Sale** is almost upon us but between now and then, we have lots to do! We need to:

-  **Transplant** the plants to be donated to the plant sale. **Please** label them. Remember we need native plants, perennials, and house plants.
-  **Walk** through the house, garage, and garden sheds. What new and/or gently used garden items can you donate?
-  **Reach out** to your family and friends ask them to do the same.
-  **Deliver** the donated items to church on Thursday or Friday, **May 15 and 16 between 4-6 pm.**
-  **Sit back** and know that your beautiful shared plants are making someone else happy.

Laura Johnston
Plant Sale Chair



Memorial Day Celebration details on page 2.



First Saturdays

MAY 3

Cooking 8am
Eating 8:30am



*We celebrate mothers —
past, present, and all those who
mother.*

THANK YOU!

And

**United Thank Offering
Ingathering**

Bring your Blue Boxes to
church for the collection!
**"Our change changes
lives!"**



See UTO information on page 10.

Easter pictures — pages 3 & 4

I AM
grateful
FOR... *a Year at St. Aidan's*

The last year has flown by so quickly! As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with deep gratitude. It has been a truly special year, marked by meaningful experiences, inspiring people, and a vibrant church community by which I feel honored to be employed.

What makes St. Aidan's so remarkable is how alive it always feels. The church is rarely quiet—there is always something happening — from worship services and book groups to community gatherings and volunteer projects. This constant activity speaks volumes about the heartbeat of the church: it is a place of purpose, connection, and love in action. Never apologize for "bugging me" if you stop in the office. Asking me to help with a project means that there is something on the horizon that is keeping the church active!

One of the most heartwarming aspects of my time here has been the incredible friendliness of the congregation. From my very first day, I was welcomed with open arms. The warmth, kindness, and genuine care shown by every member of this church family made me feel at home, and it's a spirit that continues to uplift everyone who walks through the doors.

Equally inspiring is the congregation's willingness to serve. Whether it's stepping up for Sunday duties, organizing outreach events, or helping behind the scenes, there's never a shortage of volunteers. The level of commitment and generosity in giving time, talents, and resources is something truly special, and it speaks to the heart of what it means to live out your faith.

St. Aidan's is also a church that is always growing and improving. From thoughtful outreach initiatives that extend a hand to those in need, to the ongoing efforts in building improvements and general upkeep, there's a shared sense of stewardship and pride. It's clear that this community is invested in both the spiritual and physical well-being of the church.

As I look back on this past year, I carry with me immense gratitude for everything St. Aidan's represents. It has been a blessing to be part of such a dynamic and loving community.

With gratitude and joy,

Tara

Tara Nooyen

Administrative Assistant
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
secretary@staidans-hartford.org
(262)673-7273

Simply Butterflies

Butterflies are an important part of the threatened family of pollinators. Butterflies are drawn to flowers, feeding on nectar for energy, and flowers are a rich source of this food. While foraging for nectar, butterflies incidentally help pollinate plants by transferring pollen between flowers.



We've heard and read about butterfly gardens featuring native milkweed, black eyed susan, bee balm and, perhaps, envied those gardens. For some though, that style of garden may require more space and/or effort than we can provide. Fear not! There are many easy to grow annuals which are a lure for butterflies. They include: Lantana, Zinnias, Marigolds, Alyssum, Petunias, and Sunflowers. With Spring planting right around the corner, we hope you'll keep these in mind.

Laura Johnston

Creation Care Commission



Memorial Day May 26, 2025

The Hartford Veterans Itinerary:

- 6:00am** The rounds of the four Cemeteries
- 6:30am** Erecting Avenue of Flags at Sawyer Park
- 7:00am** Veteran's Breakfast at The Mineshaft
- 9:00 am** Naval Memorial in front of City Hall
- 9:10am** Vietnam Memorial at the Triangle
- 10:00am** Parade from Washington Heights to Sawyer Park*
With City Band, Central Band, and HUHS Band
- 10:30 am** Traditional Memorial Day Program at Sawyer Park
[Broadcast Live on WTKM 104.7]
- 11:15 am** Meet & Great the Veterans at Hammering Hanks'

***To get involved — Call Ron Schnorenberg
414-416-9118**

**VFW's Avenue of Flags
Sawyer Park in Hartford**

May

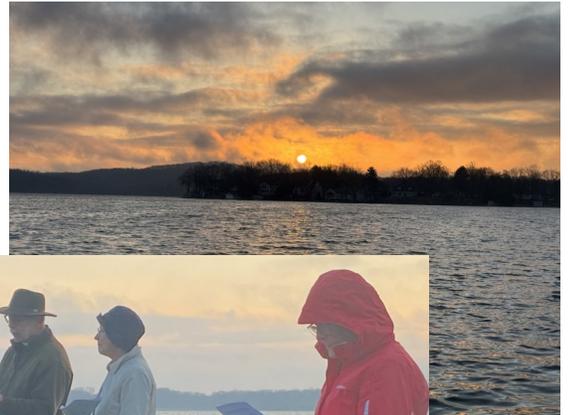
- 15** — Police Officer's Memorial Day
- 17** — Armed Forces Day and Downtown Car Show!
- 26** — Memorial Day with 10:30 am Program

Preparation and Celebration — Easter 2025 @ St. Aidan's

Ecumenical community
Potato Bar



Sunrise Service — we are Easter people
and Alleluia is our song!



Creating St. Aidan's unique, multi-colored Pascal Candle



Keeping warm!

St. Aidan's Easter Celebration!



Blessing the Pascal candle.



Paper "stained-glass" window with the congregation's handprint lilies created by the Sunday School

Esther's Epistle

Welcome to May - in the church! The trees and flowers are starting to bloom, and some of us are even beginning to dig in the dirt. This is the time of year when we feel called to a stronger connection with the earth, a greater appreciation of new life, and a deeper awareness of God's love. This month, we continue to observe the Easter season. We pray for individuals who "mother" on Mother's Day, Sunday on May 11, and we will honor all those who enable others to flourish in a variety of ways. On Saturday May 17th, the St. Aidan's Plant Sale offers a special opportunity to share our appreciation for our "mother earth" while we share the gifts of nature.

Spring invites us to think in new ways, about ourselves and our church community. I look forward to worshipping and continuing to engage in conversation about the future of St. Aidan's. On Friday May 23, St. Aidan's Vestry will gather for a planning session. Our goal is to "ground" ourselves in 1) the wisdom of scripture, 2) knowledge of church tradition, and 3) our many faith experiences. I hope that this experience will inspire us to glorify God and build community in new ways.

In the beauty of spring as we observe growth in the natural world. I pray that we will continue to learn from one another, follow where God is leading us, grow in our faith, and bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Mother Esther +



Hartford Union High School Day of Service

We had a great group of young people from HUHS spend their Day of Service at St. Aidan's. Led by **Mike Schmidt**, they spread mulch in the garden, shampooed pews, collected trash along the lot line, washed windows inside and out, and even helped organize and move rummage for our sale! Many thanks to these amazing young people!



Church Poets

It might betray something about my religiosity that when I saw the announcement on the church's marquee [somehow, I think *marquee* is the wrong word]

FORBIDDEN FRUIT CREATES MANY JAMS, I did not for even half a second consider jam meaning problem, jam meaning blockage, jam meaning trouble [nor did I immediately consider jam meaning party or celebration]. I thought they were having a jam sale fundraiser. Which, in retrospect, I've never seen, though it's a good idea.

The Book of Delights
Ross Gay



Episcopal Jedi

So, chosen by
God Life of
for this new **Love**,
dress in the wardrobe
God picked out for you:
kindness ^{compassion}
^{humility}
gentleness
forgiveness
& **patience**
And regardless of
what else you put on, **wear Love.**
It's your basic all-purpose garment.
Never be without it
Colossians 3:12 & 14

It's OK to
dress casual for church.
Jesus did.



ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



Happy May! 2025

| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Reader | K. Fairchild | L. Molenda | D. Bemí | M.B. Moran |
| Prayers | A. Pollock | C. Gardner | K. Fairchild | L. Molenda |
| Acolyte | A. Schrunk | S. Schmidt | L. Daley | J.P. Schrunk |
| Usher | R. Schnorenberg | Schmidts | Webers | Schrunks |
| LEM | B. Schrunk | M. Weber | A. Pollock | M. Hoffmann |
| Counters | C. Gardner/Moran | Hoffmann/Pierce | Schnorenberg/A.M-Meigs | Weber/Fairchild |
| Altar | L. Schrunk | | | |



| | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Reader | E. Wetzel | S. Schmidt | B. Pollock | L. Daley | B. Schrunk |
| Prayers | D. Bemí | T. Schlaefer | E. Schmidt | M. Hoffmann | B. Pollock |
| Acolyte | A. Schrunk | L. Daley | S. Schmidt | J.P. Schrunk | A. Schrunk |
| Usher | J. Pierce | Pollocks | L. Molenda | R. Schnorenberg | Schmidts |
| LEM | L. Johnston | M. Weber | J. Pierce | B. Schrunk | A. Pollock |
| Counters | Gardner/Hoffmann | Schnorenberg/Pierce | Fairchild/Moran | Pierce/Marsh Meigs | Schnorenberg/Weber |
| Cleaning | Gardner | | Trewyn | | Weber |
| Altar | L. Weber | | | | |

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 — MAY 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|-----------|-----------|---|---|-----------|---|
|  <p>3rd Sunday — Sharing Sunday The “loose” [paper and coin] collection supports Mother Esther’s discretionary fund which helps people in our community in need — more often than you might think! Please be generous!</p> | | | | 1 | 2 | 3  Men’s B’fast 8:30 am |
| 4 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am  | 5 | 6 | 7  St. A. B’fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am | 8  Choir 6:30 pm | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am   Stag & Staff articles due | 12 | 13 | 14  St. A. B’fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am | 15  Choir 6:30 pm <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Bring plants/garden art to church — 4 to 6 pm.</div> | 16 | 17  plant sale 9 am to 1 pm |
| 18 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am  | 19 | 20 | 21  St. A. B’fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am | 22  Choir 6:30 pm | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am | 26 | 27 | 28  St. A. B’fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am | 29  Choir 6:30 pm | 30 | 31  Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st United Methodist |

"WE ARE THE Episcopal BRANCH OF THE Jesus movement"



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
 Church Office E-mail:
 secretary@staidans-hartford.org
 Church Website: www.staidans-hartford.org

Church Phone: 262-673-7273

The Rev. Esther Kramer, Ph. D.
 262-309-7661
 estherkramer0806@gmail.com

La Pastora Loretta Mendoza
 Pastoral Assistant
 414-243-2639
 lorettawell@gmail.com

Deacon Terry Garner
 414-807-4378
 dcnterry.g@gmail.com

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: Third Sunday of the month
 Micki Hoffmann, Editor
 Contact: mphoffmann70@gmail.com
 or 262-673-2903



Prayer Chain

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 | |
| Thursdays | | |
| Choir Practice | 6:30 pm | Sanctuary |
| 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.



Favorite church sign from the Good Samaritans
ASPIRE to join them to **help** and **inspire** others!
 Call **Ron** to join OR if you need help.
414-416-9118



Hartford Community Lunch
Saturday, May 31
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**.



Alice's Restaurant

Good Friday morning we woke up to thunder, lightning, and dark skies most appropriate for the day. The rain came off and on but there was enough to make Buster the Dog take as little time as possible outside, and the two of us curled up with reading for most of the morning. By noon we were tired of our books and hungry for something substantial. Is there a sermon in there somewhere? Perhaps, but what transpired was hot soup out of leftovers. I admit to being a great user of leftovers. Anyone who grew up in a family of more than three probably had the same experience -- yesterday's leftover main dish is today's casserole or in our case, soup. Seder supper kale garnish became today's bean and greens soup, warm and comforting in the face of darkness and rain.

Maybe tomorrow will be a day for the garden. The tulips are well up, and the iris are only showing about an inch. There is a bit more trimming to do on the giant hydrangea that I didn't get done last fall, a dilapidated wooden planter that needs to be retired, and peony supports to liberate from their hiding place in the garage. There is hope, there and work, too, but today it is warm soup.

Bean and Greens Soup

Leftover kale or other greens chopped

1 can of white beans

1 carrot sliced

A handful of leftover snow peas and sweet peppers chopped

Half an onion sliced

Chicken or vegetable bouillon

Water

Sauté the carrots and onion in oil and add enough water to make soup along with the bouillon. Rinse the beans and stir in with the chopped kale. Simmer a few minutes to heat and soften the kale to your liking.

Bonus recipe — If you like creamy soups, make up a batch of this and stir in with some water -- instant cream soup! It keeps forever in the cupboard.

White Sauce Mix

2 C. dry milk

3/4 C. cornstarch

1/4 C. chicken bouillon

2 T. dry onion

1 t. basil

1 t. thyme

Pepper

Alice Pollock

1/2 C. dry mix to 2 C. water.
Heat to thicken.



Episcopal Relief & Development Easter Reflection

It is solved by walking.

Saint Augustine

For me, these words by Saint Augustine are a reminder that the only way to grow, the only way to experience the abundant life we are promised in Christ, the only way to the other side of whatever season we are in is to do the things in front of us, one step at a time. There are no shortcuts to becoming beloved community; there are no express trains to the dream of God. No amount of reading, planning or thinking it over will alone accomplish the urgent, bold and inclusive humanitarian action that reaches those made most vulnerable and builds a better tomorrow. It takes walking the walk that Christ has set before us, one our monastic siblings have modeled for us as individuals and faith communities.

Often, we forget that the only way to Easter, the only way resurrection happens, is through the pain of death. For something new to rise, something old must first end. We must make the choice to either stay behind with the ashes of what was or bravely step into that newness with open hands and hearts, loving our most annoying neighbor, sacrificing our comfort to ensure others feel seen and heard and living and worshipping simply so that those in need have enough. These are just some of the steps that lead to wholeness for all.

For Reflection

Where are you looking for resurrection in your community life? What do you need to let die in order for something new to arise?



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 8 Caitlyn Lenz
- 11 Pat Schnorenberg
Barb & Mike Morgan
- 17 Laura Johnston
- 19 CJ Daley
- 20 Lynn Behrendt
- 21 Loretta & Bert Mendoza
- 24 Molly & Zachary Mertens
- 27 Linda Weber
- 29 Zachary Mertens



UNITED THANK OFFERING

Ofrenda Unida de Accion de Gracias

"OUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES"

Story Sharing:

Grant Site Update: 2023 Grant to South Dakota

Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission Horse Camp

From the Final Grant Report

The indoor riding arena funded by the **UTO** has become a vital resource for the Lakota people of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and beyond, serving over 200 at-risk children and youth along with their families, adults in recovery, and church groups. The arena provides a safe and reliable space for the Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission to facilitate a range of programs that foster healing, growth, and connection while enabling our programs to continue year-round despite the region's harsh climate, including extreme temperatures, heavy snow, and muddy conditions.



These are the kinds of programs **YOUR** coins support! This is gratitude translated into action all over the world — and here at home.
Bring your Blue Boxes or a check MAY 11 to church for the UTO Ingathering.



Linda and Mike Weber visited their family in Savannah, GA this Spring to celebrate Betty's first birthday. Pictured at left is their son, Tim, and his children — Elliot, Lena, Carina, and Betty. Happy times for all!



The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month in the middle of May
But if you so much as dare to speak,
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
A wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March.
Robert Frost



HAITI PARTNERSHIP

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WISCONSIN

Excerpts from the

Haiti Partnership Update
Spring 2025

Finding God in Hard Places

“ . . . one afternoon, I walked through the village to see the countryside and get a sense of life in Jeannette. I came upon a smiling young woman in front of her small house of concrete, wood, and corrugated steel. She was a teacher in the parish grade school and saw me earlier in the day. She smiled, greeted me, and welcomed me into the small home she shared with her young child. In spite of the dirt floor, the interior was comfortable and very tidy. She offered me a beverage, told me how honored she was to receive me, and that if I could wait just a little while, she would butcher one of her chickens to prepare a meal for me! I thanked her but told her that I was expected for dinner back at the rectory/guest house. I asked her how many chickens she had. "I have three, but I would be happy to share one with you," she said. I was humbled by the joy with which she received me. After asking for my blessing, she bid me a good evening and I wished the same to her. It was a moment of grace and a real and profound experience of hospitality.

I have respect and a certain sense of awe when I think about the people of Jeannette. Their lives are difficult, and in many ways, they live in a pretty hard and unforgiving place. I think that is part of what gives such an intensity to the beauty, laughter, graciousness, faith, and determination that I saw exemplified in so many ways .“

Father Scott Leannah
Canon to the Ordinary
Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin (DioWis)

CAVASSA PROGRAM

In Haiti, the land itself and people are showing us how to be resilient. In 2024 [link to most recent article], 100 farmers in Jeannette embraced the ancient wisdom of cassava cultivation, receiving training in clonal propagation techniques and 28,680 cassava cuttings. Cassava's unique ability to be harvested from four months onward, either for immediate consumption or for long-term processing, makes it a vital crop in a community where electricity and refrigeration are scarce. This is a lesson in building sustainable ecosystems: **work with what endures**

Inspired by their neighbors' success, over 25 additional farmers have stepped forward to join Phase II, which began in January 2025. **Hope grows, even in hard seasons.**

The initial 100 farmers retained cassava cuttings for replanting this spring. APSHA is committed to ensuring new participants have what they need to begin their own harvests, with even more community members expected to join in the months ahead.

Join us in supporting these farmers as they build a future rooted in abundance and sustainability

For more information about the Haiti Partnership and how to donate go to:

<https://mailchi.mp/diowis.org/dont-miss-these-updates-from-haiti-partnership-10280509?e=ea1fc492b8>

May 2025

52 Ways to Care for Creation

Week 18: May 4-10

Reverent Nature Walk

Go on a walk and try to pay a little more attention than usual to the trees, or the water, and the grass around you. Take time to notice and admire. Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor speaks to this spiritual practice of paying attention in her book, "An Altar in the World."

Week 19: May 11-17

Endangered Species Day

Happy endangered species day! Check out CJM's resource to learn about and celebrate endangered plants and animals. Visit creationjustice.org/resources to access the information.

Week 20: May 18-24

Start a Church Garden

Plant fruits, vegetables, and native plants! Look for plants that attract your local pollinators. Use compost. Start a church gardening club to help tend to the plants. Share the harvest with your neighbors!

Week 21: May 25-31

Rest and Reflect

As Wendell Berry writes, "There are no unsacred places. There are only sacred places and desecrated places." Identify a place that is sacred to you. What makes it so? How can you care for that place?

Find more theological & educational resources at creationjustice.org/endangered



CreationJustice.org



@CreationJustice