

***The Episcopal Church of the Mediator
welcomes all people as children of God wherever they are on
their faith journey; nourishing all through worship, study and
love according to our Baptismal Covenant, striving to serve our
parish families, community and our world in the reconciling
name of Christ.***



A VIEW OF THE CHURCH FROM RED ARROW HIGHWAY

***We will spread the Good News and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ
in actions of service, witness and compassion.***

The Church of The Mediator in Harbert, Michigan welcomes you to our parish profile. The Search Committee, with the generous help of the congregation, has tried to provide a comprehensive picture of our parish so you may see who we are, where we are, and where we hope to go. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to share this information about our wonderful church.

WHO WE ARE

We are a welcoming church, a friendly and caring group of people traveling together on our faith journey.



Our year-round congregation comes from twelve different towns in Michigan, two towns in Indiana, Chicago and its suburbs where some live during the week and are year round on the weekends. A significant number of parishioners have second homes here and attend only in the summer months. These seasonal people are members, not visitors and have representation on the vestry, participate in the service, and join our various summer activities.. We welcome all people in our church, regardless of sexual identity, orientation, race or ethnicity. We believe that God loves everyone.



Because of our location in a popular tourist destination, we usually have quite a few visitors in the pews, particularly in the summer and on holidays. This demographic diversity is at the heart of our parish.



HOW WE WORSHIP

Our Sunday service is at 10:30 am, Rite II with inclusive language. Our congregation likes to sing using hymns and service music from the 1982 Hymnal and other sources. We have a choir led by volunteer professional choir directors. We are actively searching for a part time organist. Our church has two organs: a W. Zimmer & Sons pipe organ in the balcony and an electronic organ with midi with recordings from the hymnal.



At communion, we sometimes use music from *Wonder, Love and Praise* or a congregational song book, often accompanied by guitars and piano. Traditionally, the service has an intimacy that is a reflection of the spirit of the congregation. We have an enthusiastic passing of the peace and a well-attended coffee hour. The Wednesday morning service in the chapel is quite informal and is attended by a handful of loyal members. At times the service has been followed by centering prayer, Bible study, and a Quaker prayer circle convened by a summer member. Our previous rector and a retired priest in the congregation each celebrate one Thursday morning a month at The Whitcomb, a retirement home in St. Joseph. This is a very informal Eucharist for the residents. Members of our congregation often attend these services as do members of the other local churches. Other area Episcopal clergy serve on the remaining Thursdays.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

HOW WE TEACH AND LEARN

Children and Youth

The mission of the Children and Youth Formation Ministries at the Church of the Mediator is to nurture the young person's natural love for God and to help them find their place within the church community.



The Atrium (the children's classroom) is open on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. During this time, there is a structured lesson for children aged 3 through 12 drawing on the Montessori Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Weaving God's Promises For Children, Illustrated Children's Ministry, and the daily lectionary. For older children and youth, the sessions are self-directed using various materials for bible study and working through Catechism/Confirmation workbooks: I Will With God's Help and My Faith, My Life.



Parishioners and youth from The Mediator participate annually in the church summer camp.



Children's Christmas Pageant

Adult Education/Formation

A monthly Saturday exploration of Christian church history is hosted and actively supported by the parish. During Lent an appropriate book is selected for reading followed by discussion at Wednesday night soup suppers. The last book read was “Waking Up” White by Debby Irving.

Throughout the year we have special programs led by parishioners and guest speakers.



OUR HISTORY

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator was founded in 1962 as a parochial mission of St Paul's Episcopal Church in St Joseph. The first months of services were held in the home of a parishioner; later in the office of The Molly Pitcher Winery on Red Arrow Highway. In 1965 the church became a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan and a year later initiated a building campaign to construct a church building on donated land on Red Arrow Highway. The first service in the new church was held in 1968.



Drawing of the original church building.

In 1975, no longer a mission church, the parish was able to support part-time rectors yoked to St Augustine's in Benton Harbor. Most prominent of these was the Rev. Charles Frandsen who served 22 years. Now retired, he lives in St. Joseph at The Whitcomb and attends the Thursday services there. In 2002, The Mediator called as its rector The Rev. Paula Durren to serve on a half-time basis. In 2005 she became full-time and in that same year the parish decided that the growth of the congregation warranted a new building, and began a capital campaign. The Mediator spent 2007-2010 raising funds for the present church building which was consecrated on July 17, 2010. The mortgage was retired in 2018 and was ceremonially burned at the Easter Vigil. Rev. Paula retired in the fall of 2018. Currently the Rev. David Brower serves as interim priest.