

TRANSFIGURATION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INDIAN RIVER, MICHIGAN



THE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

WELCOME TO TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH

Thank you for your interest in our church.

Many of you who are interested in our church are in the same position each member of our congregation once was: You are searching for the right community to worship with and a warm and friendly atmosphere that emulates your spiritual beliefs and affords those beliefs an opportunity to manifest.

Our beautiful little church in the woods shines light on many in our community. Please join us and see firsthand that what you are looking for really does exist!

Currently our activities are often defined by COVID, but our spirit, faith, and hope are ever present.

Peace,
The Families of Transfiguration Episcopal Church

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What sets Transfiguration Apart?

There are many wonderful churches in our area, all having something to offer. As a congregation, we believe there are three characteristics that set Transfiguration apart:

- ***We're receptive!***

The friendliness and genuine warmth extended to all newcomers is intrinsic with our values as followers of Christ. After visiting our church, most visitors mention the genuine acceptance afforded to them from our congregation.

- ***We are doers!***

God has blessed us all in many ways. We believe that using our gifts to help our community is not only self-gratifying but is our call as Christians in the world. From our monthly Senior Lunch to our community Star Program, helping others in our community is a benchmark of Transfiguration. If you are inclined to volunteer for any of our worthwhile endeavors, we welcome your support with open arms.

- ***We are a congregation of friends and believers!***

As you join our congregation, you will find that the spirit of one for all and all for one is the signature cornerstone of our beautiful church in the woods. We are all friends as well as a congregation of Believers.

Our History

Transfiguration Episcopal Church began its life as a Mission Church sponsored by St. James' Episcopal Church in Cheboygan, Michigan.

The Episcopal Church of Indian River held its first services in 1958 in a specifically designed trailer in downtown Indian River. Over the next several years the church raised funds to purchase the present property and erect a building that was architecturally in harmony with its natural surroundings. The summer and winter congregations were taken into consideration when addressing the versatility of the structure.

The first service in the new church was celebrated on July 2nd, 1967. The church was granted status as a parish in 1975 and was officially named "Transfiguration Episcopal Church."

Transfiguration is in an area that continues to draw visitors, retirees, out of state new residents and the migration of down state residents. The area is special to the outdoorsman and to the individual looking for the serenity that only God's incomparable nature can provide. Our attractions extend from the largest amount of water surface of any county in Michigan to the largest crucifix in the world. Nature provides a show for all seasons, our Lord's visual blessings are never ending!



Special Support in Our Church

Deacon John Wallace brings a special ministry to our church. A Deacon's Ministry is varied and personal. Deacon John is a Healthcare Chaplain in the community. He serves as a County Commissioner, and he is an integral part of our church community as well as the community at large.

Elinore Barney is a Chaplain, a preacher and has completed her seminary training. Her experience as a founder of three Montessori schools and her outreach in the community has provided much guidance for our church.

Mary Smith is our "jack of all trades." She is our church administrator, our organist and music director and a bright light with many of the answers.

COVID and Our Church

As with all churches, COVID provided a special set of challenges. We were fortunate in that we started broadcasting our Sunday service live in January 2020, because we wanted to provide it to those who could not be in church or to those who were looking for a service on line. When the churches started their Hiatus, our Rector added Evening Prayer several times a week online which gave us more chances to gather in spirit. Our Vestry and Mission meetings were held on Zoom. The Vestry called our parishioners each week. We continued and still continue to provide personal needs items to our community by providing curbside pickup.



We are fortunate that we have had a low number of cases in our county and surrounding area. Even so, we are following Diocesan guidelines and limiting the numbers in the Sanctuary with masks and social distancing. We are continuing our Live Internet Sunday Service and our calls and cards to parishioners. And we continue our Peace with a smile and a wave.



Worship with Transfiguration

Worship is an integral part of our relationship with God. Please, come as you are, and join us at any of our regular services. During COVID, we wear masks and social distance. We also limit our attendance to 25 on any given Sunday.

Sunday Service at 10:00AM

This is held in the Sanctuary and also live broadcast on Facebook on our Facebook page.

About our worship style:

Transfiguration Church is currently offering a traditional service including Holy Eucharist every Sunday that we have a Supply Priest. Otherwise we celebrate Morning Prayer.

The liturgical style of our church is open and relaxed. We follow the Book of Common Prayer. The services are led by our Rector or a visiting minister, but Lay Readers take part by reading the Old and or New Testament Lesson and Prayers for the congregation.

An important part of our worship service is the Passing of the Peace. We look at this time in our service as a way to joyfully greet all who are worshipping with us. It is a time for us to reach out and energetically share a warm welcome, a kind word and a heartfelt smile with each other! After the service, the congregation will gather for coffee and treats for a sense of community! During COVID, our Peace is a smile and a wave and there is no coffee hour.



Outreach

Outreach in the community is the crucial call of Christians in the world. To live out our Gospel charge to change the world, Transfiguration is involved in outreach ministries across Indian River and the surrounding area.

Senior Lunch

The Senior Lunch Program was an ongoing community outreach ministry. During COVID, we have had to cancel these lunches, but the community is anxious for them to return. The food is prepared in our kitchen and offered free to those attending.

The Seniors have welcomed this opportunity to gather and interact with other seniors that may not get out as much as they would like. All free will contributions for our Senior Lunch go towards supporting the local School Programs.

The STAR Program

Sharing Together Area Resources, or STAR, began in January of 2012. The program helps to fill the gaps for those folks on assistance who are unable to purchase personal items such as soap, toilet paper, and toothpaste under the current Food Stamp policy.

STAR is supplied through donations from our congregation as well as community businesses and nonprofits. The local grocery store contributes by selling us personal need items at wholesale cost. The church, along with other places, were pick up spots. Currently, because of COVID, the items are picked up curbside at the church for anyone who calls with a need.



The School Support Program

The School Lunch Program was started by two parishioners over eight years ago. They realized there were children at our local school who were not able to afford to purchase or bring their lunch to school.

The kids were embarrassed to reveal their financial situation to school authorities and slipped between the cracks. And so our congregation developed a relationship with the school. Both a free will offering from our Senior Lunch Program and a free will offering from our parishioners goes to support the School Lunch Program, ensuring that kids in need of help get it without making it apparent to their peers.

This program has now expanded to provide help in a variety of other ways to the youth at Inland Lakes School. Currently the school has reopened, and the Mission Committee is back to working with the school.



Nature Camp

Up until the summer of 2020 and COVID, our educational Youth Nature Camp has been offered to the community for 7 years. For three weeks in the summer, kids (and anyone else!) visit the little summer cabin on the nature trail behind the church. The goal is to help kids enjoy, feel comfortable and learn about their natural environment.

Scholarships are available to any children who would like to come but cannot afford it. This summer we still encouraged people to use our trail as an outdoor activity.



Scholarships to Camp Chickagami

For several years, our congregation has sponsored campers to attend our Diocesan summer camp, Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle, Michigan.



Scholarships are given to area children that otherwise may not be able to experience those amazing childhood memories of summer camp. Because of COVID, the scholarships this year were for “Virtual Camp.” It was wonderful for our Diocesan camp to offer this option.

Our Mission Committee

Our Mission Committee is always looking for small ways to help those in need in our community. During COVID, we focused on things we could do for them instead of being with them.

We make scarves for the Salvation Army to distribute at Christmas, we support Eat for Heat, we provide gift cards for teachers to buy extra things for their classrooms, we support the local Youth Center and we have a diaper ministry. The list goes on and



on as we look for ways for our whole Parish to get involved in outreach. We are looking forward to getting back to be more personally involved.



Within our Church

Transfiguration offers a variety of things for our parishioners and our community. On the church grounds, available for all, we have:

A walking trail—The marked trail is 1.5 miles long, winding through our 21 acre forested grounds.

A Cemetery and Columbarium—this small intimate area is on the east side of our campus.

Labyrinth—There is a meditation labyrinth located between our parking lot and the entrance to the church.

Supporting fellowship within our Church, before COVID and hopefully again soon, we have:

Sunday School—We use the Sunday School program called Weaving God's Promises. All age children meet together and then attend part of the church service.



Choir—Our choir is joyful and enthusiastic. They practice Wednesday afternoons and Sunday before church. All are welcome. We have a talented Music Director.

Adult Education—This was provided by our previous Rector on Wednesday afternoons. It was a casual and interesting group.

Coffee Hour—Our parishioners take turns providing food for coffee hour after church. A wonderful time to meet new people and catch up with your church friends.

Men's Breakfast—The men of the parish gather at 9:00 on Thursday mornings at various restaurants. Lively discussions ensue.

What we are seeking in a new Rector:

Over the past few years, Transfiguration has been blessed with ongoing growth and development. We hope to continue with this growth in the future, especially when we can get back to normal or New normal after COVID.

Our goal over the last three years has been to provide guidance and care for our aging congregation and at the same time, develop a healthy atmosphere and program to attract families. We offered Sunday School each week and ongoing adult education classes. Our Mission and outreach programs are important to us. They have



included reaching as far as the Dominican Republic and Bolivia, and concentrating on the needs close to home. Monthly Senior Lunch, school scholarships, personal needs closet and summer camp are examples.

Our parish is made up of individuals with diverse backgrounds that share their many talents with our congregation. We are seeking an open-minded Rector, with a sense of humor, that can sustain and be inspired by our diversity, while preaching with a clear and relevant Gospel message. Most importantly our new Rector will be a spiritual guide for our families as we traverse through life.

We are looking for a Full Time or part time Rector, depending on how we can blend our needs and theirs. We are searching for the unique combination in a Rector that understands the importance of pastoral care, community programs, and attracting families to our church. We are hoping to find a godly individual who wants to be part of our church family and who emulates the Bible's teachings by tying the Gospel into an everyday living experience.

Transfiguration Episcopal Church Congregational Profile:

- Age range 3 - 96 years old (most people in the 50+ ages)

12 and under (3%)

13-25 (2%)

26-40 (4%)

40-65 (12%)

66-96 (79%)



- Many parishioners are retired, widows/widowers
- Diverse in educational and career backgrounds
- Approximately 80% of our parishioners were not raised as Episcopalians.
- Seasonal congregation where many go south for the winter (average attendance in winter: 25, average attendance in summer: 60-75)
- More women than men attend regularly
- 5% of our congregation is non-Caucasian.



TRANSFIGURATION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<u>Operating Budget</u>	2019	2020	2021
Actual	116,720	120,714	109,340
<u>Total Assets</u>		1,723,058	1,722,658
<u>Total Liabilities</u>		191,314	104,660
<u>Endowment Fund</u>			411,082

