



Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!



We are not just a congregation, we are a community. We come from a rich variety of spiritual and professional backgrounds. We nurture each other and each other's ministries. We laugh! We enjoy brunch together after every Sunday service. There is no litmus test of belief (the Anglican tent is wide). We value good preaching and what we learn from it.

Janet MacKenzie



*Located on the beautiful shoreline of Lake Michigan
in the Diocese of Western Michigan*

www.epiphanychurchsouthhaven.org

Epiphany is...

A Resurrection Community

A Relational Community

To understand who we are TODAY, it is important to understand a bit about our recent past.

In 2007, Epiphany's rector and associate rector (a husband and wife) abruptly left The Episcopal Church and took 60 percent of the parish with them. Citing theological differences with The Episcopal Church (particularly the church's ordination of LGBTQ people and support for same-sex marriage), the couple stayed in town, and with former Epiphany members, started a new church.

The 17 who remained (including four children and youth) were wounded, sad, and yet determined. With help from the diocese, we worked through our grief and focused on maintaining our role as a welcoming community for all of God's children—no exceptions.

We called a new rector and, after a year of listening and healing, we began to commit to significant changes—trusting that God was calling us not to re-create what had been, but to participate in the birth of something new.

Out of grief and loss, emerged a new, vibrant faith community, filled with God's grace and committed to Jesus' Way of Love.

We share this chapter in our journey, not as people who are mired in the past or who want to linger over old narrative, but as a testament to our own resurrection story. We have experienced a rebirth and growth that has been extraordinary!



As we began the work of re-building Epiphany, we modeled ourselves on some of the earliest Christian communities—communities that were woven with the bonds of strong relationships and fueled by a deep commitment to loving the stranger.

Our rector introduced us to a small-circle practice of honest, open sharing that we now call our “knees-to-knees” conversations. In these small circles, we learned to listen, resisted the temptation to fix or give advice, and held each other's confidences as sacred trusts.

Through this authentic, heart-felt sharing, we continue to deepen our connections and build the trustworthy ties that see us through the inevitable challenges and conflicts that arise when people are in relationship.



We know we will disappoint each other. Our community is a school of love, where we learn to remain present when we disagree by listening to each other. We ask for forgiveness when necessary, and we value talking not about each other, but to each other.

Do we believe in the resurrection? Yes, indeed! We have experienced it, and continue to live it.



Epiphany is...

Every Sunday, following the Eucharist, we share another meal in the form of a full sit-down brunch prepared by members of the community. We take turns creating an abundant feast of main courses, sides, salads, and desserts. Much more than a 'stop and sip' coffee hour, we really get to know each other, practice hospitality, and continue the work of strengthening our relational ties.

Our Sunday brunch serves as another opportunity for wider hospitality, as there are several people who attend only the Sunday brunch.



At first I was hesitant about just showing up for brunch, but I realized that when these people invited me, they meant it. I was welcome every week, even if I wasn't comfortable attending a traditional church service.

Chuck Moore

Radical welcome is a core value for our parish. While we have a strong community at Epiphany, we remain open to all. We endeavor to explore intellectually and spiritually with our services, our Searching Spirits book group, our yoga classes, and centering prayer. I have never felt pressured to adopt any doctrine besides love. It is a wonderful place to worship and share community.

Jim Stark



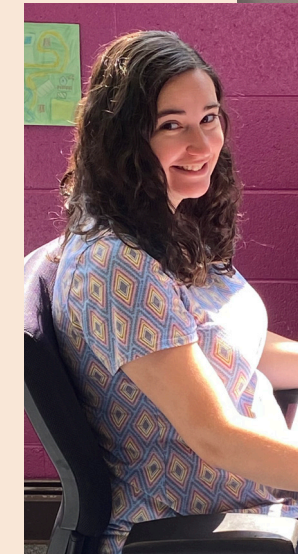
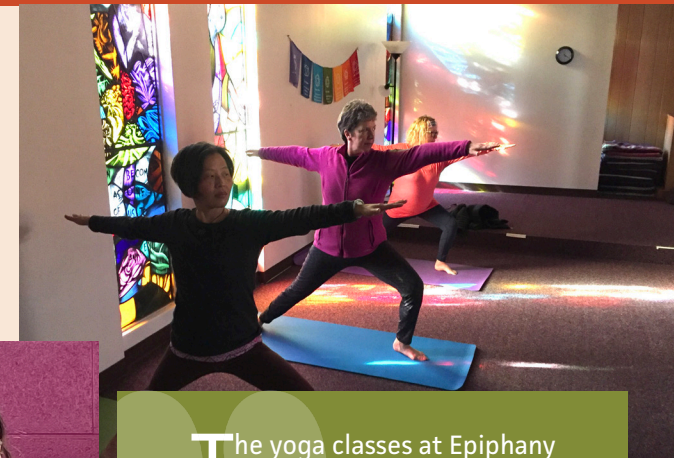
A Welcoming, Inclusive Community

The banner outside our church proclaims, "Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!"

These are not just words for us; they represent a core value and a spiritual practice. We offer a "wide-tent" welcome to any and all who cross our paths, for we believe in meeting people where they are.

For us, the Epiphany Community includes...

- The monthly participants in our Searching Spirits book group. Some are Epiphany members, others belong to different churches and faith traditions, or no religious tradition at all.
- Those who teach and practice at the regular yoga classes in our building.
- Those who participate in our centering prayer/meditation group.
- The handful of souls who do not attend Sunday service but join us every week for the brunch that follows.
- The young man with an unstable living situation who sometimes uses our building as a place of safety, refuge, and quiet.
- The friends and neighbors who tell us they aren't 'church people' but love to come to the annual blessing of the animals.
- The neighbors and seasonal visitors who walk by our inviting Memorial Garden on their way downtown—and take seriously our welcome to stop in, let the dog run around, or sit quietly on a bench under the trees.
- The massage therapist and the nurse practitioners who work out of offices in our building.
- Our parish administrator, who came to us from another church and still worships there, adores Epiphany and exudes Christ's Light and Love to all who call and visit the church.
- The retired Methodist minister who leads our ecumenical healing service on Wednesday, and all those who attend.
- The unclaimed souls whose remains had once languished on the shelf of the local funeral home and now have a final resting place in our Memorial Garden.



The yoga classes at Epiphany nurture the mind-body-spirit connection for me. Classes are held in the sacred space of our chapel. The vaulted ceiling and the light coming in through stained glass helps transport me away from the tension of daily life, into self-reflection, and then to connection with God.

Lisa Rostar



When we moved here from Oak Park, Illinois, I decided I wanted to come to Epiphany when I saw a flyer in a coffee shop about the Centering Prayer group, and the Searching Spirits book club. The first time we came, I felt welcomed and accepted by a group of very open-hearted people. We have been coming here for the past 10 years, and we call this our 'Beloved Community.'

Diana Wright

Epiphany is...

A Worshiping & Prayerful Community



The way we worship at Epiphany reflects our commitment to strengthen our relationships and to continue being formed as a community.

One of the striking illustrations of this is seen in the physical space of our nave. We moved the altar closer to the people and reconfigured the pews to form a U-shape around the altar.

Now, every Sunday, we look into each other's faces as we share the Eucharist—demonstrating that how we worship and how we grow together in community are inextricably linked.

We know that the word "liturgy" means the work of the people. Our Eucharist, which is planned by a team every week, utilizes traditional and contemporary forms, and always includes congregants in various liturgical roles; on occasion, a lay person even offers the homily. In addition to the Sunday Eucharist, we offer a mid-week ecumenical service with a focus on healing.



When we first attended The Church of the Epiphany, we were amazed by the warm welcome we received. Although we were strangers, we were greeted with cheerful friendship and kindness at a level we had never experienced at other churches. It felt like home. This wasn't just one good day. The Epiphany community truly seeks to share the joy and fellowship of God's grace with all who walk through the door.

Diane Ferrari and Sharon Harmsworth

Epiphany is so vital that I felt called to come out of retirement to serve as Interim Rector. Epiphany is one of the healthiest churches I have encountered in my many years of ministry. Any priest would be very fortunate to serve this extraordinary community.

*The Reverend Jim Steen
former Director of Ministries in the Diocese of Chicago*



Epiphany is...

A Loving, Engaged Community

We are driven by a belief that God is actively up to good things in our neighborhood and the world and that we are being called regularly to participate in this good work. In fact, we know that our lives and our future are inextricably bound with that of our neighbors.

We love and serve our neighbors in a variety of ways, but here we share just a few examples, particularly the way we approach loving our neighbors by entering into relationship with them.

BRIDGING RACIAL DIVIDES

Though members of our core church community come from a variety of life experiences, social classes, and backgrounds, we are a predominantly white community, as is the region in which we live.

While many members of South Haven's African-American community live in a neighborhood adjacent to Epiphany's, historically our lives have remained quite separate. Our aspiration as a congregation is to reach out across this racial divide—by doing what we do best: entering into authentic relationship with our neighbors.

Several Epiphany members choose to do this through South Haven's Ward One Action Committee. We help raise enough money to fund a scholarship for a high school graduate, and we share the work of putting on several community events.

We have, in fact, gotten to know our neighbors better. We continue to join a weekly prayer group to support the predominantly African-American neighborhood around nearby Elkenburg Park, and Epiphany also participates in a springtime clean-up of the park and environs.

SUPPORTING OUR IMMIGRANT AND MIGRANT NEIGHBORS

We are fortunate to count among our wider Epiphany family a well-respected immigration rights attorney in Grand Rapids. In recent years, as we watched our immigrant neighbors grow fearful about their place in our nation, we hosted "Know Your Rights" talks, particularly for our Spanish-speaking neighbors.

PULLMAN FOOD PANTRY

Several Epiphany members serve as critical, weekly volunteers at the Pullman Food Pantry.



We are a community of people who try, each day, to faithfully live out Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY DINNERS

The local Methodist church hosts a weekly dinner for anyone in need of a hot meal, and Epiphany members joyfully prepare and serve food, and share fellowship with neighbors there once a month.

WE CARE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Epiphany is active with the We Care Community Resource Center, a local organization helping our area's most vulnerable. We donate funds and volunteer time to help provide heating assistance and emergency shelter, and stock pantry shelves with food, baby supplies, and personal care items. We prepare meal baskets and collect toys and gifts for families at Christmas.



INTERFAITH ACTION

Epiphany is active in this interfaith social justice organization that serves southwest Michigan.



THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Epiphany Church is a beacon for our community.

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Mark 16:15.

The people of Epiphany answer this call to faithfulness by DOING. They are out in the community ministering to others as servants. They embody the Good News. Example: a local organization sponsors a community picnic each summer to foster relationship-building. We can count on Epiphany's loaning out of tables and chairs. We can count on food that they lovingly make, serve, and clean up afterwards. Some use their trucks. Some give money. Some stand at the ready all day to do whatever is needed. They go out of their way to ask, "How can we help?" Some members are prominent on committees or in organizations that serve here in South Haven. Most are just happy to quietly be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Beverly Brown

Secretary of Ward One Action Committee

Epiphany is...

A Resilient, Life-Giving Community



When our rector was called elsewhere in early 2020, we were sad, but ready. What we weren't prepared for, of course, was the global pandemic that began just a few weeks after his departure. For the balance of the pandemic, we were without a priest, but our bonds were strong, our laity was prepared, and we responded creatively and successfully.

Because our relationships as a community are paramount, our Parish Care Team helped keep us connected, first through projects like mask-making and then by creating a pandemic buddy system.

The team also continued to address the needs of our congregation and that of the greater community. Epiphany was there when our local food pantries and service organizations asked for extra help with safely collecting and distributing food or helping other neighbors in need.

It speaks to our resilience, too, that we even managed to tackle the unexpected financial challenge—or two. Thanks to our stewardship practice of focusing on abundance rather than scarcity, we did not lose energy when issues of building maintenance emerged. Instead, we sought an engineer's assessment and began the task of keeping the building sound, replacing our roof with assistance from a grant and capital pledges.

We are in a position to call a full-time rector, confident that we can fund the position well into the future. We fixed our building's roof, worshipped in new ways, kept our bonds intact, and continued to care for our neighbors. We have gratefully received our interim rector, and together we are preparing Epiphany for its next chapter.

We look forward to the moment when our new rector joins us in the beautiful dance of worship, faith, and love that is The Church of the Epiphany South Haven. A place where we ask regularly, "I wonder what the Holy Spirit has planned for us to do next?"

LOVE IN THE TIME OF COVID

At a time of tremendous isolation, our relational bonds stayed strong, particularly through a buddy system created by our Parish Care Team. Everyone in the Epiphany community was assigned a buddy to stay in touch with—to share a phone call, take a walk outside, or invite to our next outdoor service.

Mary Moore



Unlike many churches that experienced a decline in membership during COVID and have not seen their numbers return, Epiphany remains strong—we even have attracted new members! As a community, we are thriving, both spiritually and financially.



Located on the Beautiful Lake Michigan Shoreline

Part of what makes our Epiphany community rather magical, is the setting in which we live, work, and worship.

South Haven, Michigan

South Haven is located at the point where the Black River flows into Lake Michigan. It is a picturesque small town where you can stroll down the main street past the local art center, library, summer farmer's market/winter skating rink, specialty shops, restaurants, and museums. The walk continues down to a bustling, boat-filled harbor, a lush park and bandstand, a magnificent public beach, and our iconic lighthouse. **The Church of the Epiphany is nestled just a few blocks from all of this!**

Beyond South Haven's downtown, there are nature preserves, hiking and wooded trails, golf courses, fishing, sailing, kayaking, bike trails, rolling farmlands, horseback riding, and winter sports like cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

If you love connecting with nature and playing outdoors, you will love living here!



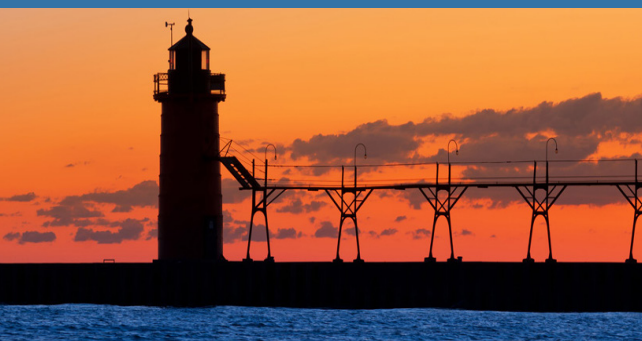
Small Town Living with Easy Access to City Life

Just a two-hour drive from Chicago, South Haven is a destination summer resort town on the shores of Lake Michigan.

South Haven proper is comprised of 4,400 year-round residents, though adjoining communities bring the population of Epiphany's worship area closer to 12,000. South Haven's population more than doubles during the summer months—up to 50,000 on a festival weekend.

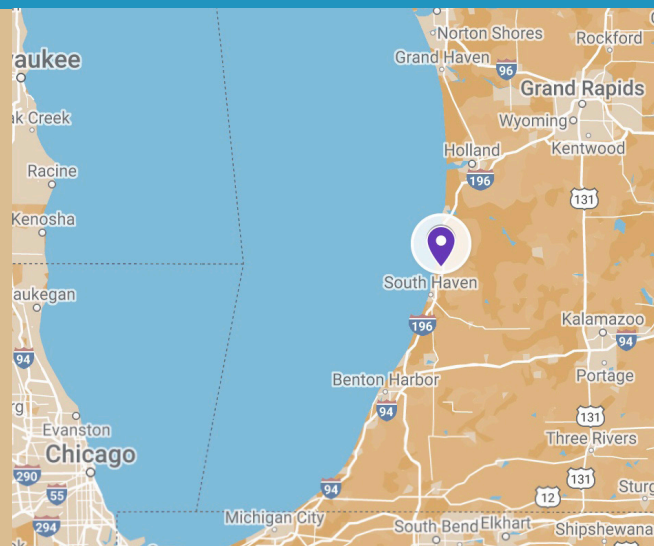
While our community offers the best of small-town living, South Haven's location also provides easy access to all that the cities of Chicago and Detroit have to offer—and everything in between, including the university cities of Kalamazoo, East Lansing, and Ann Arbor.

Learn more at southhaven.org



Our temperate climate along the lakeshore is well suited for growing strawberries, blueberries, peaches, grapes, apples, and an abundance of fresh produce. In fact, South Haven hosts the National Blueberry

Festival while the region boasts 20+ wineries.



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