



Pastor's Welcome Fund

St. John's Church & Woods Hall

July 2023

Nathan Holst, his wife Sarah, and two young children (ages 5 and 2) arrive in mid-August to begin their new life on Madeline Island. After a 6-month search, Nathan was recommended by the Search Committee and unanimously called as the next pastor for St. John's Church.

Nathan has been a faith formation minister at Peace UCC in Duluth, an activist/organizer, and a musician. With a background in social work (both undergraduate and master's program) and many years' experience in church ministry, he is passionate about learning from and guiding communities in understanding the economic, social, and environmental crises of our time, focusing on the wisdom and life at the center of Christianity. Originally from Duluth, Nathan spent time building community in Washington DC and Portland, Oregon. After marrying his partner Sarah in 2014, the two explored their own callings by seeking out mentors in the form of internships from California to New York, adventuring along the way.

Nathan is fully committed to our mission as a church *for the entire island* including Woods Hall, the food shelf, and the use of our building for community gatherings such as AA, Al Anon, and Wednesday Night Soup Suppers in the winter. He believes that "seminary, sanctuary, and streets must be connected." As one of his mentors told us, "Nathan will help St. John's be what it wants to be."

Church Council has identified the need for \$20,000 to \$25,000 in transition funds to support Nathan and his family during their move to the parsonage and Madeline Island. These expenses include:

Moving from Duluth	\$2,000 to \$3,000
Renovations to the Parsonage	\$5,000 to \$7,000
New Pastor's Office	\$13,000 to \$15,000

The Parsonage was extensively renovated in 2018 prior to Rachel Bauman's arrival. Current planned modifications are intended to make the home more family friendly, including changing the former Pastor's office into a children's bedroom and making bathroom modifications.

During the interview process, Nathan asked that we relocate the office so the Parsonage could truly be a family home. Church Council investigated several options and landed on an approach that is both cost effective and exciting. The breeze way between the church and Woods Hall will be demolished and a "tiny house" installed as the Pastor's Office. This option is exciting for several reasons:

- This brings visibility to the entire community of our Pastor and our mission as a place for the entire island.
- This further unifies our vision as a “campus” which extends from the labyrinth and memorial garden to the parsonage.
- The existing breeze way posts are rotted, and the structure has to be replaced.
- The unfinished, and partially insulated “tiny house”, made by Old Hickory Buildings, will be delivered to our site by approximately August 1st. We were able to purchase the building at a 20% discount. Our church maintenance contractor, Joe Abbott, will be managing the work to insulate the building, install electricity and heat, and finish interior details.

Finally, as noted in other communications, both Woods Hall and St. John’s Church were slightly behind in our annual fund goals going into the summer. Donations to the Pastor’s Welcome Fund will be designated to the work outlined in this memo; the needs are above and beyond what has been budgeted in the 2023 Annual Fund. If you are able to support the Pastor’s Welcome Fund, please make sure your donation clearly designates this special fund. Checks can be dropped off at the church, or please see the “Ways to Give” page at stjohnsmadelineisland.org.

We thank you and hope you will join in welcoming Nathan and Sarah to their new home on Madeline Island.

With gratitude,

Debbie Knopf, Chair, St. John's Church Council (715-209-5664)

Sarah Caruso, Chair, Stewardship Committee (612-990-5081)

Lee Baker, Member, St John's Church Council & Woods Hall Board (651-470-1317)

John Apitz, Member, St. John's Church Council & Pastoral Search Committee (651-260-0885)

Rev. Drew Filkins: Interim Pastor, St. John's Church (517-899-3408)