



St. Matthew's
United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Parkway
Hamburg, NY 14075
716-649-1532
stmattucc@verizon.net

A note from our Pastor...

The True Memorial

Memorial Day is a time to remember those who have died in our nation's service. Many women and men have fought and died for our freedom. There is also a true memorial; the one person that gave us the ultimate freedom - Jesus Christ. He gave his life on the cross so that all of mankind could be free from sin, judgment, and Hell.

The Bible says,

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from the wrath of God!"
Romans 5:8-9

This alone is the greatest sacrifice that anyone could do for us. We are reminded of this true memorial each and every time we partake of the bread and wine/juice during Holy Communion.

1 Corinthians 11:24-26 "...and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

Spend this Memorial Day giving gratitude for those who gave us our American freedom. I also encourage you to spend time in worship and prayer, thanking Christ for our freedom because he is our true memorial.

Together, let us celebrate our freedom both in our country and in the memorial of Jesus Christ.

~Rev. Bill

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Pentecost Sunday
May 15, 2016



Sunday Mornings at St. Matthew's:	9:00-9:15am: Prayer Circle in the Parlor	9:15 - 10:15am: Sunday School Classes; Youth Confirmation	10:30-11:30am: Worship Service (1st Sunday of every month:	11:30am: Coffee Fellowship, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall
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Special Services in May: *May 8th ~ Mother's Day, Worship led by Rev. Richard Hemann; May 15 ~ Pentecost Sunday, incl. Baptism of Tyler J. Myers; May 22 ~ Stephen Ministry Sunday*

Sunday Morning Participants

Acolytes

May 1 Casey Nistor
May 8 Sydney Capasso
May 15 Sabrina Hoffritz
May 22 Nicole Rich
May 29 Emily Rich

Greeters

May 1 Steve & Nancy Jankowski
May 8 Phillips Family
May 15 Chris & Dawn Goetz
May 22 John & Allyson Mion
May 29 Paul & Sue Rich

Lay Readers

May 1 Bob Velazquez
May 8 Sue Rich
May 15 Lyn Rich
May 22 Shirley Haberman
May 29 Jeff Rich

Coffee Fellowship

May 1 Church Staff
May 8 Chris & Dawn Goetz
May 15 Carl & Brandi Nichols
May 22 Dennis & Margie Phillips
May 29 Dan Barrett

Ushers: Team 2

Don McMillan- Leader
Chris/Ryan Goetz
Bill Hamm
Perry Kaupa
Ken/Kenny Kruszka
Howard Rich
Paul Rich

Altar Guild

Karen Cuddihy

Children's Church

May 1 Ages 2-4yrs: Capasso Family; Nathan
K-2nd Grade: Vanessa Rich; Juliet Hoffritz
May 8 Jeff Rich Family; Blake
K-2nd: Beth, Aydan Stormer
May 15 Hamm Family
K-2nd: Sharon, Gigi Raymond
May 22 Shroul Family; Juliet Hoffritz
K-2nd: Tammy Kruszka; Starr Norton
May 29 Kaznica Family; Nathan Capasso
K-2nd: Margie, Jessi Phillips

Special Needs Sunday



April 17, 2016

Thank you to Chanell McCain, Director of Community Engagement with the Alzheimer's Association for setting up a table with valuable information regarding Alzheimer's. She got a lot of great questions during Fellowship hour. If you have any questions or concerns, you can go to their website: www.alz.org/WNY. The local WNY chapter is located at 2805 Wehrle Drive, Suite 6, Williamsville.

If you are looking to have someone visit your group, please check out their website or call 626-0600 for more information.

Thanks again to everyone who made Chanell feel welcome.

LaDonna Painter

April Worship

Attendance:

Apr. 3	95
Apr. 10	118
Apr. 17	112
Apr. 24	102

Reminder: Please check your mailboxes for your quarterly giving statements.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

Rev. Bill Shrout	2
Dawn Goetz	5
Ken Kruszka	5
Anne Kanaley	7
Shirley Jones	9
Bob Velazquez	11
Bob Miller	12
John Mion	12
Miriam Sheffield	12
Thelma Bowers	24
Betty Pitcher	26
Emily Dobrick	28
Denise Woodruff	29
Damon Phillips	29



LeRoy & Dotty Crossley
May 9, 1953

Rev. Bill & Carla Shrout
May 15, 1999



Proud grandparents Tammy & Ken Kruszka announce the birth of **Tyler Joseph Myers**, born to Starr Norton & Austin Myers on April 1st. Tyler will be baptized on May 15th.

*Congratulations Joy and Dave Burger on the birth of **Kait'Lynn Kathleen** on February 23rd. Big sis, Brook'Lynn, had wanted a sister ever since she was six years old and wanted her name to be Kait'Lynn, so as mom says, "She actually named her!"*



Judy Gates (Robin Federmann's aunt)
 Susie Acanfora (Cheryl Larson's cousin)
 Delaney (Bob Miller's granddaughter)
 Eileen Errington & Dorothy Doty (Clayton's sisters)
 Karen Kaitanowski
 Those in the Military & Veterans
 Stephen Ministers & their Care Receivers
 Those who are Homebound:
 Sy & Peggy LaVett



Those Residing in Assisted Living:
 Maxine Helm
 Lois McMoil
 Jan Poppendeck
 Miriam Sheffield

NEW BIBLE STUDY! Wednesday evenings, 7 PM
 (4 weeks: May 4, 11, 18, 25)

simplify.

Ten Practices to Unclutter Your Soul

"In *Simplify*, bestselling author Bill Hybels identifies core issues that drive this kind of living and offers action steps to help you live a better way.

Your life won't simplify itself, you must act. Isn't it time?"

Those who signed up can pick up your books from the counter in the office. For those who haven't signed up yet, please contact the office so we can order a participant guide for you.



New!

Women's Bible Study Group

Thanks for your feedback from the questionnaires. We received 24 responses in all. There's a lot of interest! In response to your feedback, here's what the Spiritual Life Committee has planned:

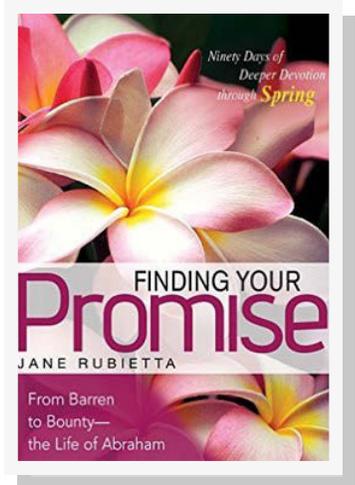
Summer Study Group

3rd Monday of each month (June 20, July 18, August 15)

7:00 – 8:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall

Topic: *Finding Your Promise*, by Jane Rubietta

For our first study, we will journey together through this three-month "deeper" devotional which leads us through Genesis 12-25, in search for the promise of new life...from barren to bounty, studying the life of Abraham, Sarah and their contemporaries. *Finding Your Promise* is an invitation from God to come, gather perspective, and be refreshed, rehydrated, and ready to keep walking through life's seasons. It offers fresh application for our own souls and fresh understandings for our own journey.



Starting in the Fall:

PM Study Group

1st & 3rd Monday of each month (starting September 19th)

7:00 – 8:30 pm –in the church parlor

New topic will be posted.

AM Study Group

Meeting every other Tuesday or Friday (starting September)

9:30 – 11:30 am

Childcare will be provided. We'll select the day as soon as our group of AM participants can discuss preferences.

Have a question or a great idea?

***Please contact Judy Schaner, Mary Hamm, Michelle Kemp or Lyn Rich
from our planning team.***

We'd love your input!

Spring Clean-up at Church

Thank you for all who came out to help spruce up the church property on April 16th.

Approximately 25 members participated in the following projects:

- * Cut lawn
- * Raked grass & flower beds
- * Weeded
- * Cleaned gutters
- * Clean-up and sweeping
- * Oiled & greased the boiler
- * Put up a bulletin board for the Bible study Simplify
- * Moved 5 new (used) file cabinets into BCE Office/classrooms
- * Installed outdoor light
- * Ate donuts from Eileen's



The next get-together will be on Thursday, May 19, at 12 Noon. Please bring a dish to pass. The hosts, Ken & Shirley Haberman, and the committee welcome everyone!

There will be a presentation by Veronica, Southtowns Coordinator for Senior Services. She will talk about services available to seniors without having to go into Buffalo.

We will also honor those loved ones that passed away this past year.



-Shirley Haberman

Church Council Highlights

Cameras have been installed and should be operational this month so Norm will have a view of the sanctuary during services. We reviewed and discussed at length two proposals for audio equipment needed throughout the church. Council voted to accept the proposal from ABG Company. A complete list of equipment to be purchased will be detailed in the next report. Building & Grounds is still working on getting another proposal for repair of the parking lot. Council expects to call a Congregational Meeting soon to highlight the project and its costs. We discussed fundraising for a portion of the cost. Details will be shared at the Meeting. Because petroleum prices are relatively low now, we would like to act soon to keep the costs down.

Reverend Bill shared "Our Belief Statement" that he had prepared for the upcoming website which was briefly discussed. He will be preparing a final draft based upon a few suggestions from Council members.

We also discussed updating our current active membership role, training for lay persons to assist Reverend Bill in serving communion to shut-ins and ways in which we can help support the Activity Group. Howard updated Council on the Mission Committee's plans for a mission trip to Haiti.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Stormer



**St. Matthew's
1st Annual Cookie
Smack Down** *April 10, 2016*

The 1st Annual Cookie Smack Down was a big hit and in a nice way. We had 8 entries in the Kid's Cookie Smack Down decorating

contest. You could see a lot of work went into each cookie and I'm sure there was just as much fun decorating the cookies.

Congratulations to all the winners who received a bag of candy treats and also sidewalk chalk or a kite (age-appropriate prizes) Thank you to our judges: Pam Lach, Dolly Errington and Tracy Majewski, and to Michelle Kemp for making the reward certificates.

Best Decorated Cookie Winners: Christian ShROUT & Caleb ShROUT

Most Original Cookie Winner: Blake ShROUT

Most Unique Cookie Winner: Sean Dabney

Most Creative Cookie Winners: Cierra Schwarz & Skyler Schwarz

Judges' Choice Winners: Cierra Schwarz & Liam Kaznica

Then it was time for the actual cookie tasting part of the Cookie Smack Down....

We had 9 entries and you could see by the judges eyes and their stomachs it was a fun time but very hard to come up with the winners.

Our judges, Rev. Bill, Chris Majewski, and Dan Barrett, enjoyed each bite and didn't even know the winners till the scores were tallied and the winners announced. Thanks again to our judges who received a complimentary Tums to be used later in the day. Thanks to Carl and Jessie who also helped out with the Cookie Smack Down.

Congratulations to all the winners:

- 1st: Trevor Hoffritz – Snickerdoodles
- 2nd: Margie Phillips –M&M's Chocolate Chips
- 3rd: Andrea Capasso – Snowballs

Honorable Mentions:

- Nancy Jankowski – Mint Chocolate Chips
- LaDonna Painter – Lemon Lites
- Trevor Hoffritz – Oatmeal Chocolate Chips
- Margie Phillips – Orange Cranberry
- Sharon Raymond – Lemon Bars
- Sydney Capasso – Chocolate Pinwheels

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners received Wilton Cookie sheets and the Honorable Mention winners received assorted baking items.

After the judging, everyone enjoyed all the cookies and left with a smile on their face.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the cookie decorating and the cookie baking contest and the judges and helpers... it was a big success.

Stay tuned for the next event.....

LaDonna Painter



Spiritual Life Committee Update

Spiritual Life recently met on 4/4/16. Both the Prayer Chain and Sunday Morning Prayer Group are continuing to go very well.

Spiritual Life is looking for care givers to help make meals for those in need. We would also like to keep a few homemade frozen meals at the church for convenience. Please contact Dennis Phillips if you are interested in helping.

Training for Communion Stewards was held on April 20. Two people were trained to serve Eucharist communion to people unable to attend church services.

Spiritual Life's next meeting will be held Monday, May 23, at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brandi Whytas



F.R.O.G. (3 year olds - Kindergarteners)

This group is learning about helping others, including those who may be different from us and some who may be different because of disabilities. And that Jesus loves everyone the same even when we are different!

DISCIPLE ZONE (1st - 4th graders)

In April the students continued to learned about the kindness and miracles of Jesus. Remember to bring your neighbors, friends, grandkids...All are Welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (K - 2nd graders gather following Children's Time with Rev. Bill in worship.)

Children are hearing the basic stories from the Bible. Fun fellowship is had by all!

GOD SQUAD (5th - 8th graders)

Students have reflected on Holy Week, what each day meant and the significant thing which happened on each day. The class watched the acclaimed movie, "Road to Emmaus" which follows the story of Jesus and two companions on the Sunday of the resurrection, as "...he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Great discussions and insight followed! They made "tomb" stones with crosses on them (fridge magnet for locker). Also, learned more about bible stories and where to find them in the bible.

CROSSROADS (9th - 12th graders)

In class, students had pizza and watched the movie, 'Facing the Giants' on April 10. The boys especially enjoyed the movie since it was about HS football. Good message about faith and having a bold prayer life - "Plow and Plant" with the full expectations that God will deliver rain... (easier said than done). But the message of this seed has been planted. Also, the new Youth Group is starting under the leadership of new member John Mion. Students and the BCE are excited to see his vision take place here at St. Matthew's!!! Please join in on this fun fellowship by inviting your friends!

ADULT CLASS

Following Holy Week, they watched the movie "Road to Emmaus", which helped each person understand Jesus' promise and the lesson on being a good disciple! In April, each class learned more about The Apostles Creed. They will be learning about The Lord's Prayer and The Beatitudes. All adults are welcome to come sit in on a weekly class... stop down in the Fellowship Hall for some coffee first. Dennis and Carla want you all to enjoy this experience of adult learning!

The Twelve Steps Of Humility

- * Recognize the presence of God
- * Accept the will of God
- * Accept spiritual direction
- * Persevere
- * Acknowledge faults
- * Live simply
- * Be honest about yourself
- * Be willing to learn from others
- * Listen to people
- * Speak kindly to others
- * Accept others the way they are
- * Be centered and serene

Twelve Steps to Inner Peace, by J. Chittester



Why I Need Church More than It Needs Me

I was going to give a message from the scripture...*"Make a joyful noise, all the earth!"* - Psalm 100. This is one of my favorites! As our country and our churches celebrated Earth Day in April, it reminds us that "all God's critters got a place in your choir."

But as I am grateful for this planet...I felt a need to write about something that has been on my mind and the mind of others.

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths." - Micah 4:2.

As Director of Christian Education, I have weekly communication with members and non-members of St. Matthew's. In the last few months, I have seen some people not in church, whether they decided to take a mini-vacation, were too sick to come, or even wanted to just sleep in on Sunday mornings and wake to pancakes and the *New York Times*, not having to fight their children to get out of bed and get dressed to be on time for worship. By talking with some people once they returned, I've noticed something. They stated that they were more irritated in traffic, judgmental in line at the store, inclined to be imperious and rude on the phone with customer service reps. Without church, they felt themselves crumpling into an innate selfishness and pride, exposed as the narcissistic shrew they could be.

Turns out, we all *need* the structure of religious community to be a better person. It's not that I'm a hypocrite, pretending to be better than I am when I am in my role--I am actually a better person when I have the full weight and positive inertia of other Christians also trying to be better people around me. Church is the scaffolding around the weak structure of all our characters - mine and others. Or maybe a better metaphor is that the church is a splint, straightening a spirit that might otherwise be bent or broken.

Let's pray together...

God, thank you for giving me a way to walk in strength and a people to walk with, despite my weakness. Amen.

Lord, hear our prayers!

If you need to find me, my office is off of the Narthex or text me at 467-1085.

Blessings and good to see you all! Margie Phillips - DCE



**UNITED
IN FAITH**

GOD couldn't be
everywhere, so he
created **MOTHERS.**

Jewish Proverb

...Submitted by Rev. Dick Hemann

Need help paying college expenses?

Applications are available in the church office for a Schueler Scholarship. Any member and active participant of St. Matthew's and also a high school graduate attending college full time this Fall is welcome to submit an application.

Please submit your application to the church office (leave on office desk or email to stmattucc@verizon.net) by May 22. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Committee: Anne Kanaley (Chair), Vanessa Rich, Shirley Jones, Marilyn Rich, Dawn Goetz, and Tom Schaner.



Churches In Action

WORK WEEKEND

Join us in helping



VIVE, Inc.

Friday, May 6 & Saturday, May 7

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Come for an hour or both days!

Here's a chance to roll up your sleeves and help paint, clean, do light carpentry and more!

Sign up on the bulletin board on the landing!



Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center News



Flea Market, Yard Sale, Craft Fair and Farmer's Market

all to take place June 3rd, 4th and 5th

We need your furniture, lawn/garden equipment, appliances and many more items that you want to get rid of. (No TV's, computers, pianos or organs.) *Items can be picked up at your home.*

Any questions, see or call Steve Jankowski.

DCCC Work Weekend

May 13- May 15

It's volunteer power that keeps DCCC running. Our Work Weekends are essential to help us open the camp for the season and close the camp for the winter. Come share in fellowship, friendship, and fun as we get our hands dirty helping out.

Go online to register: <http://www.dunkirkcc.com/workweekend/index.html> or call Anne (ext. 12) or Jorge (ext. 10) @ 716-366-1900.

St. Matthew's UCC

5289 McKinley Parkway
Hamburg New York 14075
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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. William B. Shrouf, Jr.
1-336-596-1868
revdrbillshrouf@yahoo.com
In office: Mon. 9am-2pm &
Wed. 9-11am
Parsonage: 4388 Richwood Drive

Director of Music:

Norman D. Wahl
716-440-5176
normwahl@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education:

Margie Phillips
716-467-1085
bcestmatt@verizon.net
In office: Wednesday 9-11am

Administrative Assistant:

Michelle Kemp
Office: 649-1532
In office: Mon. & Wed. 9am-2pm,
Thurs. 9-12, & Fri. 12:30-3:30pm

Custodians:

Pamela & David Kaznica
716-823-2568
716-913-7504 (c)

Church Council President:

Howard Rich
716-863-8636
hrich@rich.com

AED Machine

St. Matthew's has an AED machine in the building. For your safety, if you have a pacemaker or health issues that prevent you from receiving emergency treatment using the AED machine, please call the office. We'd like to list your name on the inside of the AED machine. Thank You. Spiritual Life Committee



**Friends of
Night People**

Our next outreach will be Wednesday, May 4. Please sign up to volunteer!

If you have questions, contact Tom Schaner (646-0368).

Your donations of clothes, toiletries, and children's books will be delivered on the day we serve.

Monthly Food Drive

On the first Sunday of the month, we welcome you to bring in nonperishable food items for the UPC Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. If you'd like to take a turn delivering the food during the week, please sign up on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.

*Caring for you ...*

Stephen Ministers: Stephen Ministers provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people. Questions? Contact Lyn Rich or Cheryl Larson.

Caregivers: Do you or someone you know need a Caregiver service—a ride to a doctor's appointment? a home cooked meal? house or yard work? Call Karen Kaitanowski or the church office. If you are interested in being a caregiver, please fill out a form found on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall or call Karen (649-7824).

*Support Through Prayer*

Circle Prayer - Join in the circle of prayer at 9am in the Parlor. (Sunday School classes follow at 9:15.)

Prayer Chain - Call Rev. Bill (336-596-1868), Dolly Errington (823-6210), Jane Duewiger (649-2085) or text Lyn Rich (863-8636) to begin the chain of texts/phone calls to those committed to pray when they receive the request. Text/call Lyn if you'd like to be a link in the prayer chain.

May 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM Western Area Spring Mtg (Arcade UCC)	2	3 BCE 7 PM	4 AA 10:30 AM Friends of Night People Bible Study 7 PM (Parlor) Folk Group 7 PM	5 Praise Band 6:15 PM Choir 7:00 PM OA 7:30 PM <i>Michelle's days off</i>	6 Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM CIA Work Weekend - VIVE	7 <i>Pastor's Days Off</i>
8 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM 	9 Council 7 PM <i>Michelle's day off</i>	10 Stephen Ministry 4PM	11 AA 10:30 AM Bible Study 7 PM (Parlor) Folk Group 7 PM	12 Praise Band 6:15 PM Choir 7:00 PM OA 7:30 PM	13 Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM DCCC Work Weekend Scrapbooking 5-11 PM (FH)	14
<i>Rev. Bill's out of town - Call Rev. Hemann for pastoral care (821-9526)</i>						
15  Sunday School 9:15-10:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM 	16	17	18 AA 10:30AM Bible Study 7 PM (Parlor) Folk Group 7 PM	19 Activity Group 12 Noon Praise Band 6:15 PM Choir 7:00 PM OA 7:30 PM	20 Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM Messenger Deadline <i>Pastor's Days Off</i>	21
22  Sunday School 9:15-10:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 Stephen Ministry Sunday	23 Spiritual Life 6:30 PM	24 Stephen Ministry 4PM Quilters 7 PM (FH)	25 AA 10:30AM Bible Study 7 PM (Parlor) Folk Group 7 PM	26 Praise Band 6:15 PM Choir 7:00 PM OA 7:30 PM	27 Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM <i>Pastor's Days Off</i>	28
29 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM DCC Mission Moment	30 	31				

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Email: officestmattucc@verizon.net

Website: stmattsucc.org

Our church building is fully accessible.

No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here!