



St. Matthew's
United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Parkway
Hamburg, NY 14075
716-649-1532
Email: stmattucc@verizon.net
Website: stmattsucc.org



*Scripture Memorization
Challenge for March:*

"The LORD bless you
and keep you;
the LORD make His
face shine upon you,
and be gracious to
you; the LORD lift up
His countenance
upon you, and give
you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

The **MESSENGER**

MARCH 2017 Newsletter

A message from Rev. Bill...

Daily Time for LENT

Lent is our 40-day Christian season when we focus on our personal spiritual journey. We set aside time to repent, pray and reflect in preparation for Christ's resurrection on Easter Day. In our fast paced lives, we often find it difficult to spend time with God. However, if we can incorporate moments of spiritual awareness, we will be able to continue in our traditional Lenten practices. There are 3 basic practices of Lent. They are *prayer, fasting, and giving to others in need.*

Let's begin with prayer. If you are unable to schedule a certain time for prayer, try saying a little prayer when you feel frustrated and when something of joy enters into your day.

The second practice is fasting. There are many different ways to fast. It can be from food in general or a certain type of your favorite food such as chocolate. If this type of fasting is too difficult, try another type of fasting. How about refraining from gossip, criticism, or judging others.

The last practice is giving of yourself. In our daily lives we have countless opportunities to give of ourselves. You can participate in a food drive, make blankets for the homeless, or simply give encouragement and praise to someone who is emotionally struggling.

Use these suggestions to develop a plan for Lent that works for you. In this way you open your heart to God and others. No matter how busy our lives can be, we can create a greater awareness and new perspectives for the 40-day journey ahead.

LET'S BEGIN!

Rev. Bill



March 1, 2017
7:00 pm Service

SUNDAY MORNING PARTICIPANTS

Acolytes

- 3/5 Nicole Rich
- 3/12 Blake Shrout
- 3/19 Ryan Goetz
- 3/26 Brook'Lyn Clausell

Altar Guild

- Robin Federmann

Child Care

- 3/5 Lauren & Jacob Zdrojewski
- 3/12 Jillian Szafranski
- 3/19 Howard & Nicole Rich
- 3/26 Tammy Kruszka

Greeters & Coffee Hour Hosts

Thank you to the Council for organizing coverage for Coffee Hour and Greeters for March. ~La Donna

- 3/5 Joy & Dave Burger
- 3/12 Joyce & Roger Corlett
- 3/19 Nancy & Steve Jankowski
- 3/26 Lyn & Howard Rich

Lay Readers

- 3/5 Dave Burger
- 3/12 Cindy Rich
- 3/19 Judy Schaner
- 3/26 Bill Hamm

Ushers: Team 3

David Kaznica - Leader

Dan Barrett

Steve Jankowski

Pamela Kaznica

Bob Majewski

Bill Nizamoff

Bob Velazquez

LENT



Begins

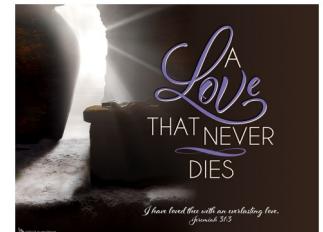


Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. It is a time of self-denial, moderation, fasting and spiritual discipline. We invite you to come as you are and receive the imposition of ashes as we start this walk together; March 1st at 7pm.

Join in the Lenten Journey!

During Lent, we will be having a weekly devotion based on "A Love That Never Dies" Prayer Journal. The journal follows Jesus' journey to the cross from the beginning of Palm Sunday. Not only does it focus on Jesus, it gives insight to the happenings of society during those days. This devotion will encourage you to personalize your Lenten walk and be encouraged by our weekly sessions. The prayer journals are at no cost, and you can pick one up outside the sanctuary doors.

Sessions are each Wednesday at 10 AM starting March 8th through April 5th and are open to everyone. Please join Rev. Bill in the Parlor as we discover how to live fully in Christ's resurrection and love.



Wednesdays during Lent, beginning on February 17th, join us for soup and bread at 6PM. Committees will take turns organizing, setting/cleaning up, and providing butter and milk. (See below for schedule.)

If you would like to contribute by making soup for one of the Wednesday nights, please sign up on the landing.



Following dinner, at 7PM, Rev. Bill will lead us in a time of worship and Lenten reflection in the Sanctuary.

Committee Schedule:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| March 8: Church Council | Mar. 29: Choir |
| March 15: Board of Christian Education | April 5: Ushers |
| March 22: Spiritual Life Committee | |



Skyler Schwarz	2
Norman Wahl	2
Joy Burger	5
Karen Cuddihy	5
Michelle Kemp	5
Tim Baker	7
Sue Rich	9
Karen Kaitanowski	10
Nathan Knisely	13
Kyle Kaitanowski	20
Ryan Goetz	22
Jane Cotton	26

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

February

5	74
12	90
19	118
26	



Family & friends of Ralph Fenske

John Fogle (Denise Woodruff's father)

Jessi Gillette

Those in the Military & Veterans

Stephen Ministers & their
Care Receivers

Those Residing in Assisted Living:

Maxine Helm

Lois McMoil

Jan Poppendeck

Miriam Sheffield

Happy Anniversary!

Howard & Lyn Rich

March 6, 1982

* \$7.50 each

* Order envelopes will be on the windowsill in the Narthex (by stairs as you come in or leave) on March 5.

* Order by: Sunday, April 9.

* Pick up your plant(s) after the Easter Sunday service.



Monthly Scripture Memorization Challenge

The Spiritual Life Committee challenges everyone to memorize a scripture verse each month. If you haven't started yet, it's not too late...just sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Each month's verses are also posted there. Learn a verse or two, and recite it to one of the listeners: Lyn Rich, Mary Hamm, Brandi Whytas, Tracy Meyers, Joy Burger or Rev. Bill. Collect a beautiful pin to celebrate your accomplishment each month.

As Max Lucado, best-selling Christian author and preacher, says "It's an adventure to hide God's Word deep in our hearts."

March verse and blessing from Numbers 6:24-26: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."



2nd Annual

Cookie Smack Down!

Mark your calendars and stop by the Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, March 12!

Trevor Hoffritz is coming back to defend his Cookie Smack Down title...*Can he repeat??*

Pull out your special homemade recipe. You only need to bring a dozen of your special cookies for the contest and then let the "chips fall" where they may.

We will again have a **Cookie Decorating Contest for the kids!** The cookies to decorate will be handed out on Sunday, March 5, and judged on Sunday, March 12. Please sign up for the kids by Sunday, February 26.



The kids who decorated the cookies and the adults who made cookies had a great time last year.

I'm looking for 3 judges with a "sweet tooth" and not related to anyone in the contest.

Final date to sign up for the Cookie Smack Down is Sunday, March 5.

~LaDonna Painter (715-7310)

Sign up today!



High School Class

The high school Sunday schoolers enjoyed a belated Christmas treat this week - bowling and pizza! Everyone had a fun time - the boys got a little over-competitive in their pursuit of the trophy as the "adults" watched the lead shift back and forth. Despite all the taunting, Nate walked away with the trophy and bragging rights. Thank you to all who participated, to the parents for chauffeuring their kids and to BCE and Council for making the event possible.

-Joe
Capasso



Youth (young children through Middle Schoolers)



The children of our church met on President's Day for a fun afternoon of bowling, pizza and sweet snacks!



We look forward to our next adventure together!



Valentine treats and wreaths delivered to shut-ins of St. Matthew's



A group from the Women's Bible Study met on February 4th to make wreaths and assemble Valentine treats for our shut-ins. It was an enjoyable morning together. Throughout the following week, we made visits and delivered Valentines to 18 of our loved ones. We want our shut-ins to know they are loved, and thought of often!



St. Pauly Textile Inc.

585-924-7941

www.StPaulyTextile.com

F.I.R.ST. Certificates

are an ongoing parking lot/driveway fundraiser.

See Nancy Jankowski before church, or after the service in the Counting Room, or call 826-0012.

GREAT GIFT IDEA or SELF USE!!!

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

Dear Friends,

We are focusing this year on diverting more clothing items and textiles away from landfills and sending them to people who can use them around the US and World.

Thank you for continuing to collaborate with us on the St. Pauly Textile clothing drop off shed project! In 2016 roughly 13,612 garments of clothing were donated to your shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 1,650 people. This clothing is being used right now by people in one or more of 44 different countries (including the US) to which our clothing is likely to have been distributed this past year.

Your congregation raised \$658 in 2016 through hosting this shed.

We ask that you continue to spread the word about the clothing shed to other community members. Thank you for all your support, and please feel free to reach out to us at any time!

Sincerely,

The Team at St. Pauly Textile Inc.



DUNKIRK AUXILIARY DUES will be collected during the month of March by Gail Vara. Dues are \$5.00 (same for single and family).

The money collected goes to Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center to help maintain the grounds and contribute to the purchase of larger priced items the camp needs.

(Watch for more information about this great outdoor ministry.)

Reminder:

We collect empty ink cartridges. A bin is located under the coat rack downstairs.

The St. Pauly's shed is available for your donations of clothing, bedding, etc.

We get a percentage back from both of these fundraisers and use the money to support local missions.



St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY
716-649-1532; stmattucc@verizon.net
Website: stmatucc.org

Pastor:

The Rev. Dr. William B. Shroud, Jr.
1-336-596-1868
revdrbillshroud@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Wed. & Thurs. 8:30am-12:00 pm
Parsonage: 4388 Richwood Drive

Director of Music:

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

Administrative Assistant:

Michelle Kemp
716-649-1532, (cell) 245-1692
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9am-2pm,
Thurs. 9-12, & Fri. 12:30-3:30pm

Custodians:

Pamela & David Kaznica
716-913-6927 (David)
716-913-7504 (Pamela)

Church Council President:

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

Count Your Blessings...

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

author unknown



Friends of Night People - Monthly Outreach

Come serve others in the heart of Buffalo at Friends of Night People. Volunteers are needed for Wednesday, **March 1**. There are many ways to serve. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Tom Schaner at 998-3138.

Collection bins are in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall for children's books, winter clothing, and toiletries.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers provide confidential one-on-one Christian care to people who are experiencing a crisis who are going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers listen, empathize, encourage, pray and provide emotional and spiritual support to hurting people on a weekly basis. If you, or someone you know, can benefit from this ministry, please contact Lyn Rich (863-8635).

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? visit shut-ins? Call Sue Rich (text 574-5865) or the church office.

If you are interested in being a caregiver, please talk with LaDonna Painter (715-7310).

Support Through Prayer

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

Prayer Chain - Call Rev. Bill (336-596-1868), Dolly Errington (823-6210) or text Lyn Rich (863-8635) 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 chain.

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 in Blasdell. If you'd like to take a turn delivering the food during the week, sign up on the bulletin board.

March 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 AA 10:30am <i>Friends of Night People outreach</i>  Praise 6:15; Choir 8pm	2 OA 7:30pm	3 Men's Bible Study  7:30am Michelle-vacation	4
5 First Sunday in Lent Sunday School 9:15am WORSHIP 10:30am	6 Michelle-vac	7 BCE 7:00pm	8 AA 10:30am Lent Bible Study 10am Praise 5:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6pm Service 7pm Choir 8:00pm	9 OA 7:30pm	10 Men's Bible Study  7:30am Women's Bible Study 10:00am	11
12 Second Sunday in Lent Sunday School 9:15am WORSHIP 10:30am Cookie Smack Down	13 Church Council 7 PM	14 Stephen Ministries 4:00-6:30pm	15 AA 10:30am Lent Bible Study 10am Praise 5:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6pm Service 7pm Choir 8pm	16 ACTIVITY GRP 12:00pm OA 7:30pm	17 Men's Bible Study  7:30am Michelle— vacation	18
19 Third Sunday in Lent Sunday School 9:15am WORSHIP 10:30am	20 Michelle-vac	21	22 AA 10:30am Lent Bible Study 10am Praise 5:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6pm Service 7pm Choir 8pm	23 OA 7:30pm	24 Men's Bible Study  7:30am Women's Bible Study 10:00am	25
26 Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday School 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	27	28 Stephen Ministries 4:00-6:30pm	29 AA 10:30am Lent Bible Study 10am Praise 5:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6pm Service 7pm Choir 8pm	30 OA 7:30pm	Men's Bible Study  7:30 AM	

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
5289 McKinley Parkway
Hamburg, NY 14075



5289 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY 14075
Phone: 649-1532

Email: officestmattucc@verizon.net
Website: stmattsucc.org

Our church building is fully accessible.

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