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The MESSENGER



NOVEMBER 2017 Newsletter

Saying Hello

Written by the supply pastor for November: The Rev. Lynn R. Morgan

One of the things no one looks forward to is getting a new doctor or dentist. Almost all of us have had to do this because of a move or because the insurance network changed and left us stranded. I've changed doctors a couple times when I've moved and in each case I've been fortunate to end up with a doctor whom I really liked and appreciated. Just the same, I hated making the change.

Looking at it from a purely rational standpoint, I don't know why it should bother me. I mean, provided the doctor or dentist is reasonably competent and caring, what difference should their particular personality make? But it does make a difference, because the doctor or dentist is not just the function he or she performs. In the same way, none of us is merely an interchangeable functionary in the work we do. There is no such thing as a generic teacher or fork lift operator or accountant. We do our work as individuals who are unique in our gifts and graces, with our own histories and our own loves and fears. We have an impact on what we do and how we relate to the folks with whom we work.

Seeing a different face in the pulpit can be just as unsettling as sitting in the examination room awaiting the arrival of your new doctor. We wonder whether we will feel safe with this person, whether we will like her or him and if they will like us. Will the new things in this situation be a change for the better or will I only feel more acutely what is lost? What kind of person is this going to be?

Over the past couple months, you've welcomed some new folks to the pulpit of St. Matthew's and starting in November you will see yet another new face there. I can't take the anxiety out of this situation, but I can at least tell you a little about me, since it is my face you'll be seeing there for the next little while.

My name is Lynn Morgan and I was ordained here in the Western Association in 1988. My wife Sandy and I have five children and six grandchildren between us, all of whom live in Western New York. I have served congregations in Eden, Tonawanda and Arcade and been an adjunct professor at Niagara University. I have also worked at Christ the King Seminary, teaching and doing academic administration. For the last 10 years, Sandy and I have been driving trucks all over the continental US and Canada. It wasn't a glamorous job, but the view from the office window was pretty terrific. After a long hiatus, I am putting my toes back into the waters of parish ministry by doing pulpit supply, and so far the water feels fine. I love to read and ride my bike when the weather is agreeable. Speaking of which, I'm perfectly suited to WNY weather: I complain fluently about both the summer humidity and the snow!

However long our time together may be, I hope we can come to know each other as more than the roles we play. After all, we are part of the same family, having been made brothers and sisters in Christ. See you in church!

-Pastor Lynn



Don't forget to set your clocks back for worship on Sunday, November 5.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever.

Psalms 107:1



Sunday Morning Participants in Oct.

Altar Guild

Tammy Kruszka

Lay Readers

11/5 Cheryl Larson
 11/12 Gail Vara
 11/19 Kara Corlett
 11/26 Jeff Rich

Childcare

11/5 Jeff Rich
 11/12 Pamela Kaznica
 11/19 Lauren Zdrojewski
 11/26 Beth Stormer

Ushers: Team 2

Don McMillan—Leader
 Chris/Ryan Goetz
 Bill Hamm
 Perry Kaupa
 Ken/Kenny Kruszka

Coffee Hour Hosts

11/5 Cheryl Larson
 11/12 LaDonna Painter
 11/19 Mary & Bill Hamm
 11/26 Nancy & Steve Jankowski

If you would like to host a coffee hour, please see LaDonna Painter or call 715-7310.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

October

1 70
 8 48
 15 76
 22 64
 29

Sy LaVett
 Jane Duewiger
 Karen Kaitanowski

Those in the Military & Veterans

Those affected by fire/hurricanes
 St. Matthew's Church



Those Residing in Assisted Living:
 Maxine Helm

Happy Birthday!

11/3	Jean Roth**	11/8	Aydan Stormer
	<i>Come help celebrate Jean's 85th birthday with a special cake during coffee hour on November 5!</i>	11/13	Gigi Raymond
		11/15	Joyce Schmitt
		11/20	Nicole Rich
		11/21	Don Ruff
11/4	Sean Dabney	11/23	Cheryl Larson
11/6	Sandie Davison	11/27	Nathan Capasso
11/8	Mary Hamm	11/27	Kara Corlett
11/8	Tracy Meyers	11/29	Brian Snyder
		11/30	Judy Schaner

♥ Anniversary Blessings ♥

Andy & Robin Federmann (November 3 1973)
 Richard & Shirley Jones (November 10, 1951)

Looking for a few good men to join the Ushers. Contact Dave Burger (903-0384).



The Holidays are fast approaching! Get ready by ordering a red or white poinsettia to add to the beauty of the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve and the Sunday after.

Plants can be ordered from Sunday, November 5, through Sunday, November 19. They cost \$7.00 each. Envelopes for ordering will be in the Narthex.

You can take your plants home after Christmas Eve service or after the following Sunday's service.

Please see me with any questions. Thank you for your support.

~Shirley Haberman, Altar Guild

We have many choices of ways you can reach out and improve a person's life through donations. Baskets are set up in the classroom closest to the Fellowship Hall.

Here is a list of things we currently collect and who they support:

- * **Seasonal clothing, toiletries, children's books** for *Friends of Night People*.
- * **Empty plastic pill bottles** for *Matthew 25: Ministries*. These bottles will be included in shipments of medical supplies and recycling. Their pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

Please prepare your bottles as follows:

- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.
- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
- Rinse and dry thoroughly.
- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.

You may donate your pill bottles that cannot be thoroughly cleaned as they can be recycled.

- * **Canned/nonperishable food items** for *Blasdell Food Pantry*. Food items can be brought to the church on the first Sunday of the month (to be delivered that week).

Volunteers are needed to deliver the food to the pantry once a month. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Details are on the sheet.

- * **Can tabs** for the *Shriner's Children's Hospital*—helps with the transportation costs of getting sick children to Shriner's Children's Hospital in Erie, PA for treatments.
- * **2018 calendars, current magazines or Guideposts** for *shut-ins and senior care facilities*.

Friends of Night People

Please sign up for the first Wednesday of the month. **More volunteers are needed on November 1.** The sign-up sheet is on the landing.



Our tradition continues...we will be collecting new gift items for the **Cornerstone Manor Giving Tree**. The tree and tags will be up after Thanksgiving. If you have any questions, please contact Joann Ertel, 684-6808.

HOLIDAY GIFT

REMINDER



Holiday shopping has started!!! One great gift idea comes to mind — “F.I.R.ST. Certificates”. These are wonderful, easy gifts to give and receive. Everyone enjoys dinner out ... what a better way to make this event more enjoyable.

These \$10.00 certificates never expire and are used at many Southtowns restaurants.

See Nancy Jankowski at church or call 826-0012 to ease your holiday shopping experience!



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Thurs. 9-12, & Fri. 12:30-3:30pm

Custodians:

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

Update from St. Matthew's Library



Monthly Book Review

TITLE: "LIFE WITH GOD" **AUTHOR:** Richard J. Foster

Too often, our study of the Bible focuses on searching for specific information or some formula that will solve our pressing needs of the moment. As we read Scripture, consider how exactly God is with us in each story and allow ourselves to be spiritually transformed.

Life With God is a guide to approaching the Bible through the lens of Christian spiritual formation, in order to live our lives with a living God.

As I read this book, it became clear to me that the Bible is not a book of "quick answers" but a guide on how to live a life *with* God. After reading this book, I approached the scriptures with a new perspective on the stories in the scriptures and how it gives the information needed for us to live a *Life With God*.

Richard J. Foster is the founder of RENOVARE, an intrachurch movement committed to the renewal of the Church.

~Brenda Carver



Copies of the November-December issue of "The Upper Room" are on the table in the Narthex. Included in this publication are special Advent devotions. Advent begins on the first Sunday in December.



In the event of a winter storm, please check Channels 2 or 7 for the latest news of closings or delays.

CIA Upcoming Events —

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY fundraiser - Volunteers are still needed to sell shopping bags at the entrance to the artisan fair which runs from Thursday, November 2, to Sunday, November 5. There are many 3-hour shifts available. Please contact Susan Rich at 648-5785 or email goat2rich@verizon.net to volunteer your time. The money raised will go towards next year's mission projects.




CHRISTMAS CAROLING! Sunday, December 10, starting at the Hamburg Presbyterian Church at 6:30 pm. After a warm-up song or two and a prayer, groups of 10-15 people will go to local group homes for the intellectually disabled to sing and share in fellowship and refreshments with the residents.

Please call Susan Rich (648-5785/goat2rich@verizon.net) if you would like to carol or if you can make cookies.



November 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 AA 10:30am Friends of Night People Outreach	2 Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	3 Men's Bible Study 7:30am	4
5  Remember! Time Changes this Sunday! Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am	6	7 BCE 7pm Folk Group 6:30	8 AA 10:30am	9 Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	10 Men's Bible Study 7:30am	11
12 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am	13 Church Council 7:00 PM	14 Folk Group 6:30	15 AA 10:30am	16 ACTIVITY GROUP 12 noon Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	17 Men's Bible Study 7:30am	18
19 <i>Thanks Sunday</i>  Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Potluck 11:30	20	21 Folk Group 6:30	22 AA 10:30am	23 	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am	27	28 Folk Group 6:30	29 AA 10:30am	30 Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm		

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
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November



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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!