

THE MESSENGER

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

April 2016 Newsletter

A note from our Pastor...

In the Word?



“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But delights in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruits in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” -Psalm 1:1-3

The Bible is a book that is not merely for reading. It is a book for studying so that it can be applied. Reading and studying the Bible is easy for some people and hard for others. I can't emphasize to you enough about the importance of the Bible in your life. Studying the Bible can be compared to mining for gold.

The Bible, whose books were written thousands of years ago, can be challenging to read. Some of us growing up had bibles everywhere you looked. They were read and used often. But some of us didn't get to experience the blessings of what the Bible means in the life of a Christian. God knows that we are all on different places along the road in our spiritual growth.

There are a few questions that we need to ask ourselves: What place does the Bible have in my life? What am I hoping to get from reading the Bible? Where will it lead me? Will you allow God's word to guide you on your journey?

The Bible is our tool for the most enriching and rewarding experiences in our Christian walk. Psalm 1 tells us that if we spend time in the Word, we will have a blessed, successful and prosperous life.

With the blessings of Christ!

Rev. Bill



Inside this Issue:

Pastor's Message	Pg 1
Worship	
Participant List	Pg 2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Pg 3
Prayer List	Pg 3
NEW Bible Studies	Pg 3
Sunday School	Pg 5
Dir. Christian Ed	Pg 6
Spiritual Life	Pg 7
Dunkirk CCC	Pg 7
Caring Ministries	Pg 8
Church and Staff Information	Pg 8
Calendar	Pg 9

**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:
Holy Communion)

11:30am:
Coffee Fellowship,
downstairs in the
Fellowship Hall

Sunday Morning Participants

Acolytes

April 3 Sabrina Hoffritz
April 10 Nicole Rich
April 17 Emily Rich
April 24 Gigi Raymond

Greeters

April 3
April 10
April 17
April 24

Lay Readers

April 3 Linda Velazquez
April 10 Tracy Meyers
April 17 Bill Hamm
April 24 Dave Burger

Coffee Fellowship

April 3 Dan Barrett
April 10
April 17
April 24

Ushers: Team 1

Andy Federmann- Leader
Clayton Errington
Keith Kanaley
Christian Kanaley
Donn Mergenhagen
Jeff Rich
Kurt Rich

Altar Guild

Robin Federmann

Children's Church

April 3 Ages 2-4yrs: Lambert
Family; Juliet Hoffritz
K-2nd Grade: Margie,
Jessi Phillips
April 10 Shroul Family
K-2nd: Beth, Aydan
Stormer
April 17 Ages 2-4yrs: Dawn,
Ryan Goetz
K-2nd: Sue Rich;
Brook'Lynn Clausell
April 24 Kaznica Family; Trevor
Hoffritz
K-2nd: Tammy Kruszka;
Starr Norton

Mar. Worship

Attendance:

Mar. 6 119
Mar. 13 95
Mar. 20 106
Mar. 27 163

AED Machine

St. Matthew's has an AED machine in the building. For your safety, if you have a pacemaker or health issues that will *not* allow an AED machine to be used on your person, please call the office. We'd like to list your name on the inside of the AED machine. In case of an emergency, we would like to know ahead of time. Thank You. Spiritual Life Committee



All are Welcome!

Located on the 3rd floor.

The room is set up to
hear and see the
worship service.

Donations are welcomed.

See Dennis Phillips.

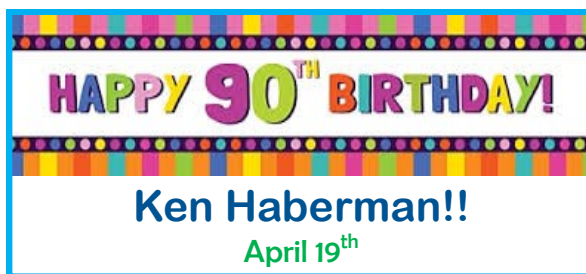
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Ben Hamm	2
Nancy Williams	5
Debi Baltes	7
Christine Kluckhohn	7
Carol Rich	8
Vanessa Rich	8
Noah Schaner	8
Holly Dobrick	11
Diane Whytas	14
Donesse Lindsay	15
Robin Federmann	16
Elise Rich	18
Ken Haberman	19
Margie Phillips	21
Marge Hutten	29

Perry & Joyce Kaupa and Family
 Paul Federmann
 Karen Kaitanowski
 Those in the Military & Veterans
 Stephen Ministers &
 Care Receivers
 Those who are Homebound:
 Ralph & Marilyn Fenske
 Sy & Peggy LaVett



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



New Address:

Miriam Sheffield
 Orchard Heights, #107
 5200 Chestnut Ridge,
 Orchard Park NY 14127
 Main #: 662-0651

NEW BIBLE STUDY!

Wednesday evenings at 7pm
 (start date TBD)

simplify.

Ten Practices to Unclutter Your Soul

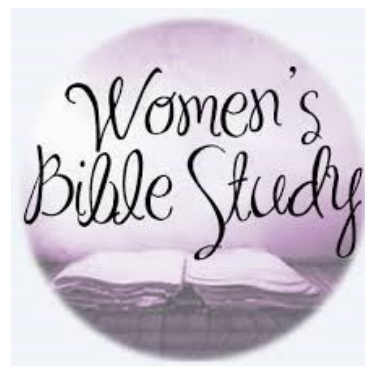
overscheduled.
exhausted.
overwhelmed.

sound familiar? *too familiar?*

“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?"

Please sign up on the landing if plan on attending, and check if you'd like a copy of the participant's guide.



Be part of a new WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY group at St. Matthew's!

Are you interested in participating in a new bible study group for women? If so, we'd like your feedback!

Please fill out a pink questionnaire located on the table in the Narthex so we can find out what topics interest you, and when and how often you'd like to meet.

(Please return your completed questionnaire to the black and white box on the Narthex table.)

Thank you! Spiritual Life Committee



1st Annual Cookie Smack Down!

Sunday, April 10th (after church during Coffee Fellowship)

**This is a cookie contest for adults so
pull out those secret recipes!!!!!!**



Please make a dozen cookies for each of your entries (ex., if you have 2 entries, you will make a dozen of each cookie for a total of 24 cookies.) That will be a cookie for each judge and the extra cookies for "your fans" to sample. Drop off cookies for both contests in the Fellowship Hall by 10 AM, on April 10th.

There will also be a cookie decorating contest for the kids the same day. (Cookies will be distributed to the kids on April 3rd so they can decorate the cookie and bring in their decorated cookie on April 10th for judging.)

Please sign up on the landing by Sunday, April 3rd...with your name and your total number of entries. (You don't have to put your type of cookie.)

***Kids don't have to sign up...we will have their information when the cookies are handed out on Sunday, April 3rd.



**If you have any
questions or would
like to be a judge,
please contact
LaDonna Painter
(715-7310).**

Church Council Highlights

The Church Council's main focus over the past 2 months has been investing in St. Matthew's future. Specifically, improving the sound system in the sanctuary, repair of the parking lot, forming a Strategic Planning Committee for a 1, 3 & 5 year plan and determining an investment strategy for the church, cemetery and memorial funds are what we are working toward. Estimates for purchasing new microphones, repair of wiring, a new mixer and relocating antennas are underway. Cameras for the choir loft have been purchased so our Director of Music can have a view of the Sanctuary during services and will be installed soon. We have

reviewed an estimate to repair the parking lot and Buildings & Grounds Chair, Andy Federmann, is working on procuring another for comparison sake. Church clean up of the grounds and indoors will be Saturday, April 16th. The Council also appointed Paul Rich to replace Howard Rich on the Mission Committee through the 2016 term. Tom Schaner was voted as Chair by the Mission Committee.

Please contact any of the Council members with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Stormer



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

Students learned ways to pray. They have a weekly bible story.

They learned about helping people, as Jesus did! Talking about calling someone when they are sick and helping when they can. On Palm Sunday, the children joined the older youth in passing out palms to all in the congregation.

DISCIPLE ZONE (1st - 4th graders)

In March, the students learned about putting their trust in God, and Jesus calming the sea; ending the month with a lesson of the palms. We had a few visitors this month. Remember to bring your neighbors, friends, grandkids...All are Welcome!

For April – we look forward to learning more about miracles performed by Jesus.

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

Older children are hearing the basic stories from the Bible. We had a lesson on The Lord's Prayer and a lesson on God's promise to Abraham. Trying to familiarize the students with basic bible stories.

GOD SQUAD (5th - 8th graders)

Students have been making unique bible bags to carry their bibles back and forth to church. In class they have also been focusing on knowing the books of the bible and The Beatitudes. Students talked about Lent and listened to The Easter Story on CD, which makes you feel you are right there with Jesus!

CROSSROADS (9th - 12th graders)

In class, students focus on prayer... having good weekly discussions about their daily teenage lives, in a safe setting.

This high school class is having a Movie Day, viewing 'Facing the Giants', after church on Sunday April 10th, which includes a pizza lunch. Please sign up in the Crossroads classroom for an accurate head count.

ADULT CLASS

"The Easter Experience" series & Movie was completed in March. April's classes start up again on Sun. April 3rd. Please join in on a 30 min. movie of 'The Road to Emmaus'. Each week in April this class will dive into learning more about the topics of, 'The Lord's Prayer', "The Apostles Creed" & 'The Beatitudes'. All adults are welcome to come sit in on a weekly class... stop down in fellowship hall, for some coffee first. Dennis & Carla want you all to enjoy this experience of adult learning!





Another month has passed us by, giving people opportunities for Christian Education.

Well, we're **raising St. Matthew's expectations** for one another...

"Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." - 1 Peter 2:10

Recently, I went to a Women of Faith Conference with a group of women from church. The speakers had a lot to say... but even more to show. You see, this was the end of their tour, the last tour for this awesome team of Christian women who for 20 years have come together, in the name of Christ, for you and I to learn from. They offered spiritual guidance, thoughts to ponder over, music and singing... combined with emotional gifts of their testimonies. I was so happy to have had this opportunity once again to see them; as well as bring my daughter and her fiancé along on this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

As I returned home with a bag of goodies: books, CD's, DVD's and notes I took over the 2 days, I thought about what are my "Christian expectations... as a Director of Christian Education, as a woman of faith and as a fellow church member"? We have all heard sometime in our lives that "knowledge is power." But have you been told what to do with it? I love this question. I love it because it reminds me that I am a people. **Today, we as a church need to raise our expectations!**

They were stating how important we are together, everyone: ministers, fellow theologians and churchgoers, people in general. We are thought of ... like a people. Showing LOVE to one another! And that it is important that we begin, uncomfortably at times, with expectations. Being a people means others make claims on me; on my time, my resources, my heart. They expect me to pray for their father who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. They expect me to be gracious when their kids act up in worship or Sunday school class. They expect me to bake cupcakes and/or volunteer for FoNP, or make soup for our Lent potluck and place my hard-earned cash in the collection plate. They expect me, most terrifyingly, to expect things of them; to need their care, concern, and casseroles. Us, as a people...this is what the Lord wants and expects as well!

Our Lord has died on the cross, taking away all our sins...He has risen! Now it's our time to rise. Rise up and be accountable. Let our people, His people, hold us to our expectations. God has given the right to each of us to expect us to join together as Disciples... Followers... Teachers... Leaders... Christians!

So start questioning yourselves... "What can I do more?" ... "What are my gifts and talents?" ... "Where is Jesus leading me?" ... "And am I listening?" **Because YOU are worth it! Right where you are on your journey. You are more than good enough! You are His People!!** Yes! These are just the kinds of questions a people would ask!

Please join me in prayer, my church family, in gratitude to all God has done for us...

God, you have called us to be a people, your people. Help us figure out how.



Spring Clean Up

**Saturday,
April 16th**

All people ...
All ages...
Come help spruce
up the church
property!

Mark your calendar...

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!



A Simple Way to Serve



Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center News

Dunkirk Auxiliary yearly dues will be collected before church on Sundays in April. Nancy Jankowski will be available to collect these dues which are now \$5 for single and family. Please join the Auxiliary (all are welcome) and support Dunkirk.

The **Dunkirk Auxiliary**

Annual Spring Meeting

will be on Saturday, April 9, at Kenmore UCC, at 12 noon. Reservations must be made by this Friday, APRIL 1!

Please see the notice on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall for more details, or contact Nancy Jankowski (826-0012).

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.

Mark your calendar!

DCCC Work Weekend: May 13-15, 2016

St. Matthew's UCC

5289 McKinley Parkway
 Hamburg New York 14075
 716-649-1532
 stmattucc@verizon.net

Minister:

The Rev. Dr. William B. ShROUT, Jr.
 1-336-596-1868
 revdrbillshROUT@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



**Friends of
 Night People**

Our next outreach will be Wednesday, April 6. 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.



Below is one of many letters we receive from the Pantry:

*Dear friends,
 You are such a blessing to our Food Pantry. You have been so faithful in donating to our Pantry and we are grateful to you.
 Thank you again.
 God Bless you.
 Sincerely,
 Darlyne Cebulski, Food Ministry at UPC*



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

St. Matthew's volunteers with Meals on Wheels during the month of April. We help serve noontime meals to people in need throughout Hamburg. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Andrea Capasso for more information or to be put on the schedule (648-5893).




Activity Group

Mark your calendars for Activity Group on Thursday, April 21st, at 12 Noon. Come join us for fun and fellowship!

April 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Quilter's Sew Day 10am-4pm (FH)
						Pastor's Days off
3 <i>Food Drive</i> Sunday School 9:15-10:15am WORSHIP 10:30am 	4 Spiritual Life 7pm	5 BCE 7pm	6 AA 10:30am Friends of Night People outreach Web Redesign 7pm	7 Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7pm Website 7pm OA 7:30pm	8	9 DCCC Auxiliary Spring Meeting 12n (Kenmore)
						Pastor's Days off
10 Sunday School 9:15-10:15am WORSHIP 10:30am COOKIE SMACK DOWN! HS Movie Day	11 Church Council 7pm	12 Stephen Ministry 4pm	13 AA 10:30am	14 Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7pm OA 7:30pm	15	16 SPRING Clean-up!
						Pastor's Days off
17 Sunday School 9:15-10:15am WORSHIP 10:30am <i>Special Needs Sunday</i>	18	19	20 AA 10:30am	21 ACTIVITY GROUP 12n Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7pm OA 7:30pm	22	23
						Pastor's Days off
24 Sunday School 9:15-10:15am WORSHIP 10:30am	25	26 Stephen Ministry 4pm Quilters 7pm	27 AA 10:30am	28 Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7pm OA 7:30pm	29	30
						Pastor's Days off

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



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5289 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, NY 14075

Phone: 649-1532

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!