



A note from your Pastor...



February 10
7PM Service

LENT begins

What is love and how are we to express this love as men and women of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? I Corinthians 13:4-8:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Love is one of the greatest commandments that we have. Love can be easily given or sometimes hard to show. We know that the Bible tells us that love has several characteristics.

(Love is patient.) How many times have we been in a situation that we needed to show patience and do it with a loving Christian attitude?

(Love is kind.) A kind word can change a situation to the better or make someone feel good about themselves. Are we kind?

(Love does not envy.) Envy is something that is not always seen. But, it occurs towards someone or something that they may have. Doesn't the Bible tell us that God will provide for every need and knows our hearts?

(Love does not boast.) As Christians, we are not to make ourselves out to be better than anyone else. Do we boast?

(Love is not proud.) It is easy to become proud of our emotions and responses of others.

(Love is not rude.) Love should always be done with a heart that is filled with the Holy Spirit. Are we gentle in our words to others?

(Love is not self-seeking.) How many of us would put someone else before ourselves?

(Love does not show anger easily.) Find gentle solutions to problems that arise in our lives.

(Love keeps no record of wrongs.) Love does not remind us of the past, but leads us into the forgiveness of the future.

(Love does not delight in evil.) Love always rejoices in the truth and never looks for ungodly things.

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Sunday Mornings at St. Matthew's

9:00am: Prayer Circle in the Parlor
 9:15 - 10:15am: Sunday School Classes;
 Youth Confirmation Class
 10:30am: Worship Service
 (1st Sunday of every month: Holy Communion)
 11:30am: Coffee Fellowship



February 10th - 7 PM
 (includes disposition of ashes)

Jan. Worship

Attendance:

Jan. 3 90
 Jan. 10 117
 Jan. 17 110
 Jan. 24 87
 Jan. 31

Sunday Morning Participants

Acolytes

Feb. 7 Casey Nistor
 Feb. 14 Sydney Capasso
 Feb. 21 Sabrina Hoffritz
 Feb. 28 Nicole Rich

Greeters

Feb. 7 Cathy Tomkinson
 Feb. 14 Marilyn & Gary Rich
 Feb. 21 Lyn & Howard Rich
 Feb. 28 Mary & Bill Hamm

Lay Readers

Feb. 7 Doug Stormer
 Feb. 14 Ken Kruszka
 Feb. 21 Howard Rich
 Feb. 28 Perry Kaupa

Coffee Fellowship

Feb. 7 Lyn Rich
 Feb. 14 Darlene & Casey Nistor
 Feb. 21 Dawn Goetz
 Feb. 28 Pamela & David Kaznica

Ushers: Team 2

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

Altar Guild

Pamela Kaznica

Children's Church

Feb. 7 Ages 2-4yrs: Kaznica's;
 Brook'Lyn Clausell)
 K-2nd Grade: Vanessa
 Rich & Nicole Rich
 Feb. 14 Lambert Family;
 Juliet Hoffritz
 K-2nd: Tammy Kruszka
 & Starr
 Feb. 21 Shroust Family
 K-2nd: Margie & Jessi
 Phillips
 Feb. 28 Capasso Family
 K-2nd: Beth & Aydan
 Stormer



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/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, in the Sanctuary, Rev. Bill will lead us in a time of worship.

Committee Schedule:

Feb. 17: Church Council
 Feb. 24: Spiritual Life Committee
 Mar. 2: Board of Christian Education
 Mar. 9: Choir/Praise Band
 Mar. 16: Stephen Ministry

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Don McMillan	2
Carl Nichols	6
Tracy Majewski	7
Sabrina Hoffritz	9
Dan Barrett	9
Bill Nizamoff	13
Gary Rich	15
Dave Bell	16
Becky Lesch	20
Bill Hamm	22
Hope Nizamoff	23
Robynn Rich	27



*Steve & Nancy
Jankowski!*
February 1st

*Clayton & Dolly
Errington!*
February 15th



New Address:

Miriam Sheffield
Orchard Heights
5200 Chestnut Ridge Rd
Orchard Park, NY 14127

Ruth Bernhardt
The Poppendeck Family
Karen Kaitanowski
Paul Federmann
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



LENT BEGINS

Wednesday, February 10th with an Ash Wednesday Service.

Every Wednesday thereafter during Lent, we will have a soup/ bread supper followed by a service of worship.

Looking ahead... we will be taking orders for Easter lilies again this year. Watch for more information.

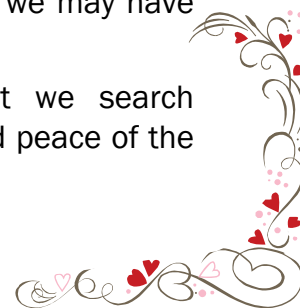
From the Pastor... (continued)

Love is truly a gift of the Father. The ability through the Spirit of God to love our enemies and to put those around us first, refers to the ultimate sacrifice paid by the sacrifice of Christ. Jesus loved his people so much that he gave of himself on the cross that we may have the true fulfillment of eternal love.

So let February be the month that we search ourselves and find love in the comfort and peace of the one who loved us first!

In Love ~

Rev. Bill





The Easter Experience brings the passion and resurrection of Jesus to life through dramatic storytelling and challenging teaching done in a highly cinematic style. Themes include: suffering, Jesus crucified, atonement, resurrection, redemption, purpose & meaning.

Join us as we experience Easter like never before.

Other Adult Christian Education Opportunities

Wednesday Night: 'WAR ROOM' at Howard & Lyn Rich's Home - 7:00pm (study will wrap up before Lent.)

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study: Book of Romans – 7:30am in Fellowship Hall



Youth Sunday School Classes Updates

-submitted by Margie Phillips, DCE

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

Students learned about Jesus growing up from a baby – to a boy – to a man; Jesus' baptism; and how he was tempted; ending the month with 'Jesus Began His Work'. Thanks to Andrea Capasso for her dedication to these young children!

DISCIPLE ZONE (1st - 4th graders)

This is a fun class of learning God's love through activities, games, videos and reading the Bible.

GOD SQUAD (5th - 8th graders)

Students have been learning the Beatitudes and The Apostle's Creed. They listen to Bible on CD or relevant video clips. Teacher's have challenged their students to bring home their student bibles and read from them daily. I'm excited to hear the updates on their faith journey through this challenge. – Thank you both, Michelle Kemp & Joann Ertel for challenging your students' minds and spirits!

CROSSROADS (9th - 12th graders)

Student discussed what's going on in their week, most had mid-terms, how prayer and applying oneself is a winning combination. They explored Biblical verses on some of their challenges. Upcoming plan is to get together for a 'Movie Night', in their classroom. What FUN! – Thank you, Joe Capasso & Holly Dobrick

During Worship
(following Children's
message)...



Children 2-4 years old may go to the F.R.O.G. room (across from the church offices) for structured playtime.

Children in Kindergarten thru 2nd grade will be in the high school room (downstairs) learning about the Armor of God.



BCE invites all 2 years old through 8th graders *and* friends to

St. Matthew's Bowling Party!

Date: Monday, "Presidents Day" – February 15, 2016

Location: Braymiller's Bowling Lanes - 39 Buffalo St., Hamburg

Each bowler will also receive a pass to return for 1 free game of bowling and the opportunity to win a prize for the top score or best effort. Please see teacher or director for a permission slip. We must have 1 permission slip per youth.

Please return signed slips & cash payment of \$6 to Margie by Sunday, February 7th. Call or see Margie if you have any questions (467-1085).

Church Council Highlights

At December's meeting, we welcomed new members Howard Rich and Andy Federmann and thanked outgoing members Bill Hamm and Council President Cindy Rich for their dedicated years of service. Also at the December meeting, we welcomed Kurt Rich, who chairs the Cemetery Trust Fund. Kurt gave us an update on the current funds, as well as the status of Forest Lawn's endowment fund. We discussed contacting a financial advisor for suggestions on investing a portion of the cemetery funds as well as other long-term funds. The Stewardship drive resulted in a return of 21 pledge cards. We had expected about twice that many. Another announcement was made which brought a few more cards in.

Newly elected President Howard Rich presided at our January meeting. Treasurer Joyce Corlett reported that we covered our budget in 2015 and finished in the black. Bob Velazquez reported that Chris Goetz is working on purchasing and having cameras installed so Norm can see the service. Bob also reported on a meeting he participated in with other members and an outside website specialist to get the St. Matthew's site updated. Also addressed for topics of discussion and action in 2016 was an investment strategy, a capital plan and a vision for the future. In addition to those mentioned previously, the remaining Council members are David Burger, Nancy Jankowski, Robynn Rich, Diane Whytas and Beth Stormer. All members welcome your questions, comments and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Stormer



The Unseen Battle Over Your Prayers

Here is a devotional I came across written by Rick Warren.

There is an unseen battle going on in a realm that we don't even understand. We don't see it. We don't feel it. But there is a spiritual war in other dimensions between good and evil, between God and Satan, between angels and demons.

And the fact is, you're caught right in the middle. If you're a child of God, Satan hates you. And he wants to mess you up.

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:12, "We are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age" (TEV).

When you send up a prayer, there's often a battle over how it's going to be answered. While you're in the waiting room, Satan starts throwing darts at you — the dart of doubt, the dart of discouragement, the dart of disappointment, the dart of delay, the dart of depression. The Bible says to be aware that he's going to try to get you down.

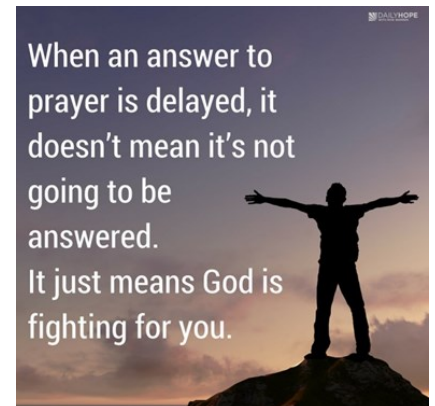
The truth is, the Bible doesn't tell us much about the spiritual warfare that's going on behind your prayers. But we do get a glimpse of it in the book of Daniel.

Daniel had a vision of an angel, who said, "Daniel, don't be afraid. God has heard your prayers ever since the first day you decided to humble yourself in order to gain understanding. I have come in answer to your prayer. The [evil] angel prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief angels, came to help me, because I had been left there alone in Persia" (Daniel 10:12-13).

Are those the wildest verses you've ever seen? It says that Daniel had a prayer that wasn't answered for a while, and he was starting to get discouraged. The angel showed up and said, "I'm here to give you the answer. We heard it from day one, but we've been in a battle over this, and it was such an intense battle that Michael the archangel had to come down and help me with this battle so I could come and tell you that the answer is on its way."

The same thing is sometimes happening when you are waiting on your answer from God. You can't know what kind of intense battle is going on over your prayer, but you can remember this: A delay is not a denial. When an answer to prayer is delayed, it doesn't mean it's not going to be answered. It just means God is fighting for you.

Don't be discouraged. Keep praying!



St. Matthew's has set up Christian education for adults and youth. Join a Sunday school class or a bible study. These are things you could bring up when fellowshiping with others. Talk It Over...

Why is it important that Daniel humbled himself "in order to gain understanding"?

What kind of prayer can you pray while you are waiting on God to answer?

While you are waiting, how does it help you to know that an answer to your prayer is on its way?

You are not alone, even when it might feel that way! By God's Grace He is with YOU, with All of US!

May you find your Spiritual Direction...to be 'Christ Centered'.

submitted by Margie Phillips - DCE

The life of Henry Poppendeck

Obituary shared by his son, Mark

"Henry A. Poppendeck, 93, Getzville, formerly of West Seneca, passed peacefully on Tuesday, January 12 next to Janice, his wife of 72 years.

Henry was born in Buffalo on August 13, 1922, graduated from South Park High School and served in the US Air Force 1943-45. Henry and Janice were united in marriage on September 4, 1943. After an honorable discharge, Henry went to work for Bethlehem Steel in 1945. While working full time, he took advantage of the GI bill and attended the University of Buffalo (private university at that time) in the evenings. Henry took one course per semester for 15 years, obtaining his Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from UB in 1961. This accomplishment was always a source of pride for him as well as an inspiration to his children. Ultimately, all six of his children and one grandchild graduated from UB. Henry continued to work as an engineering supervisor at Bethlehem, where he was instrumental in the building of a number of Bethlehem's mills during the 1960's and 1970's. He retired in 1979.

Henry was a Past Master of Buffalo Masonic Lodge #846, a thirty second degree Mason, Scottish Rite, a member of Ismalia Shrine, and a member of St. Matthew's United Church of Christ, Hamburg. Through St. Matthew's he helped with renovations and upkeep of the youth church camp in Dunkirk. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, taking numerous fishing trips to Ontario and Quebec. Henry also had a keen interest in all things mechanical, especially cars. He raised roses in his West Seneca yard and regularly brought blooms to the senior center.

He is survived by his loving wife Janice of 72 years; six children: Diane Fusco, Buffalo; Nancy (Bill) Sabo, Jericho, VT; Neil (Mary), Hamilton, OH; Mark (Sharon), Plymouth, MN; Carole, Albuquerque, NM; and Keith, West Seneca. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Marion (Riter) Poppendeck, sister Ruth Poppendeck (Mader) and son-in-law Anthony Fusco.

(continued on next page)



Activity Group

No meeting in January and February.

We hope all of you will join us on Thursday, March 17th!



PLAN AHEAD...

Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center (DCCC) is once again having their annual **Flea Market, Yard Sale, Craft Fair and Famer'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 homes starting in March.

Any questions, see or call Steve Jankowski.



"Think Summer"

Dunkirk Winter Reunion

Picnic Fun Food & Dunkirk Memories

Sunday, February 28, 2016

(RSVP requested by February 21)

3:00 - 5:30pm

Ebenezer UCC

More information is on the bulletin board
(near the Fellowship Hall).



is a Time for Repentance

Repentance is the process by which we see ourselves, day by day, as we really are: sinful, needy, dependent people. It is the process by which we see God as He is: awesome, majestic and holy.

—Charles Colson; Christian founder of 'Breakpoint'

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

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: Wednesday 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, and
Fri. 12:30-3:30pm

Custodians:

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



**Friends of
Night People**

Our next outreach will be Wednesday, February 3. Please sign up to volunteer! If you have questions, contact Tom Schaner (646-0368).

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

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.

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—anytime; anywhere. Text/call Lyn if you'd like to be a link in the prayer chain.

Family Emergency Fund

St. Matthew's has established a special fund to provide financial assistance to members and friends of our congregation. Please contact the minister if there is a need.

The Life of Henry Poppendeck *(continued)*

Henry donated his earthly remains to the State University at Buffalo Anatomical Gift Program for the education and training of medical students. He specified that no memorial services be held. Instead, donations and memorials may be made to: Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center. Cards of condolence may be sent to his wife Janice at: Rosa Coplan, Weinberg Campus, 2700 N. Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068.

The family thanks the staff at Weinberg Campus for their loving devotion to Henry these past few years.

Well done, good and faithful servant."

They are not dead who live in hearts they leave behind, in those whom they have blessed. They live a life again, and shall live through the years; eternal life, and grow each day more beautiful as time declares their good, forgets the rest, and proves their immortality. - Hugh Robert Orr

February 2016



LENT begins Feb. 10th

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 BCE 7pm	3 AA 10:30am Staff 9am <i>Friends of Night People</i> <i>Bible Study 7pm (Rich's)</i> Band 7pm (Parlor)	4 Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7pm Website 7pm OA 7:30pm	5 Men's Bible Study 7:30am	6 Teacher Training 9:30am
7 Sunday School 9:15-10:15am WORSHIP 10:30am <i>Installation of Church Leaders</i> <i>Communion</i>	8 Spiritual Life 7:00pm	9 Stephen Ministry 4:00-6:30pm Council 7:00pm	10 AA 10:30am Staff 9:00am  7:00pm	11 Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7pm OA 7:30pm	12 Men's Bible Study 7:30am	13
14 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday School 9:15-10:15am WORSHIP 10:30am	15 YOUTH  BOWLING 12noon-2pm Braymiller's Lanes	16	17 AA 10:30am Staff 9:00am  6pm dinner 7pm worship	18	19 Men's Bible Study 7:30am	20
21 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday School 9:15-10:15am WORSHIP 10:30am	22	23 Stephen Ministry 4:00-6:30pm Quilters 7:00pm	24 AA 10:30am Staff 9:00am  6pm dinner 7pm worship	25	26 Men's Bible Study 7:30am	27 WNYACIC Winter Area Meeting 8:30am-3:00pm (Kenilworth UCC)
28 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday School 9:15-10:15am WORSHIP 10:30am	29					

'Women of Faith' Conference

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Parkway

Hamburg NY 14075



St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Parkway, 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!