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**WAY OF THE
 CROSS**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent
 12 noon & 6 pm
 (see page 2 for details)

**SOUP SUPPER &
 VESPER SERVICES**

Wednesdays,
 6:00 pm soup
 supper; service to
 follow in the Parlor
 (Feb. 21-March 21)



Begins March 25

**PALM
 SUNDAY**

March 29

**MAUNDY
 THURSDAY**

March 30

GOOD FRIDAY

April 1

**EASTER
 SUNDAY**

(see next page for
 service times)

The
MESSENGER

MARCH 2018 Newsletter

Message from Pastor Lynn...



*Keep me runnin'
 Keep me movin'
 Keep me always on the go
 Keep me makin' sure my footprints never show
 Keep me runnin'
 Keep me movin'
 Keep me numb from head to toe
 Keep me hiding where my past will never go*

- Randy Stonehill, from *Keep Me Runnin'* (1976)

My encounter with the lyrics of Randy Stonehill above was one of my first intimations that even the most admirable and necessary engagement in the world can be a form of escape. I've come to realize that busy-ness and frantic activity is sometimes the price we pay to be productive and conscientious people, but it is also sometimes the socially acceptable way to run away from home and from the people who need us most. You probably know someone who is so over-committed and hyper-active that they never seem to have a moment's rest. It may even be you.

You know, I think it's natural when you see someone running to wonder what they're afraid of, what they're running away from. It might be a good question to ask yourself when you find yourself so harried that you can barely catch your breath. You might also ask what it is you're pursuing, what you're running toward in such an all-fired hurry. Is the goal worthwhile? Is it one you have chosen or have you adopted it without really thinking about whether it's worth pursuing?

Lent is an invitation to be still, to be quiet, to pay attention to what is going on in our lives. Repentance and renewal, if they are more than just slogans, require a closer look at what we love and what we fear. We need time and space to ask those questions. We need courage, too, to look at the things we know are broken and to accept our share of responsibility for how they came to be that way. We need to make a holy sacrifice of time in our busy schedules to get still and to listen to what God is saying to us.

The Lenten season is in some ways an introvert's dream, a ready-made excuse to retreat from the world and to be attentive to the still small voice that is so hard to hear amid the din of the crowd. But the quiet reflection is not an end in itself either. It is not ultimately about self-knowledge or inner wisdom even though those things are often beneficial. We are called to retreat and to listen so that we might engage the world and serve Christ and do our part to build the Kingdom. The point isn't to be inactive, but to be purposeful and properly directed in our actions. We come away to a quiet place to spend time with God and then we re-enter the world of love and labor and learning. We also encounter God there, often in the guise of the one who needs us most.

See you in church!

-Pastor Lynn



Altar Guild

Robin Federmann

Lay Readers

- 3/4 Dave Burger
- 3/11 Bob Velasquez
- 3/18 Bill Hamm
- 3/25 Beth Stormer

Ushers: Team 3

- David Kaznica—Leader
- Dan Barrett
- Steve Jankowski
- Bob Velazquez

Coffee Hosts & Greeters

- 3/4 Darlene Nistor & LaDonna Painter
- 3/11 Brenda Carver & Michelle Kemp
- 3/18 LaDonna Painter & Darlene Nistor

No Coffee Hour on Palm Sunday, March 25, and Easter Sunday, April 1.

Childcare Volunteers

- 3/4 Pamela Kaznica
- 3/11 Jeff Rich
- 3/18 Lauren Zdrojewski
- 3/25 Joyce Corlett



WAY OF THE CROSS (STATIONS OF THE CROSS)

Fridays during Lent—12 noon & 6 pm

The Way of the Cross, or Stations of the Cross as they are frequently called, are meditations on the crucial events in the life of Christ from the Garden of Gethsemane to his crucifixion and burial. Prayerful meditation on these events has been a devotional practice since the earliest days of Christians who made pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Pilgrimages of heart and imagination have been done in places of worship via Stations of the Cross since the 14th century. During the Fridays of Lent we will be gathering in the sanctuary for about a half hour at noon and 6 PM to spend time in prayer and meditation on Jesus' Passion. We have prepared a booklet with scripture selections and prayers which we use on Fridays and which is also perfectly suitable to use in your home as part of your Lenten devotions. Feel free to join in the observance of the Way of the Cross on Fridays or take a booklet with you to use privately. -Pastor Lynn



Wednesdays at 6:00 pm (Feb. 21- Mar. 21)

Committees of the church will take turns hosting the meal—setting and cleaning up; warming the rolls; providing butter and milk. (Schedule below.)

The soup can be brought by anyone. Please sign up on the landing on the Wednesday that works best for you.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2/21 Church Council | 3/14 Ushers |
| 2/28 Choir & Praise Band | 3/21 Mission Committee |
| 3/7 BCE & Hospitality Committee | |

A short vesper service led by Pastor Lynn follows in the Parlor.



March 25, 2018 — 10:30am Service



March 29, 2018 — 7:00pm Service



March 30, 2018 — 7:00pm Service

The journey through Lent comes to an end Easter morning, as we turn our hearts to celebrate the good news...



Looking for Coffee Hour Host/Greeters!

Please see LaDonna or call her at 715-7310 if you would like to host a coffee hour. We have many dates available.

Thank you,
 LaDonna Painter

Everyone is invited to support and serve others in our many mission opportunities at St. Matthew's.

- We continue to cook, deliver and serve a meal at Friends of Night People on the first Wednesday of the month, see the sign-up sheet on the landing to see how you can help!
- A new opportunity for our crafty church family members ...Prayer Shawl Ministry, under the leadership of Alva Looze (see below for more information).
- We support the many projects of Churches In Action (CIA) as well as Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center.

Stop by our Mission Collection room and see how you can contribute to on-going mission collections - just across from the stairs on the 1st floor. (See next page for more information on items we currently collect.)



Prayer Shawl Ministry

First Saturday of the month, 9:30am, Parlor
beginning March 3

*Come be part of this new ministry at St. Matthew's!
For those who are experienced in knitting or
crocheting or those who have never used knitting
needles or a crochet hook, you are welcome.*

*We'll gather the first Saturday of the month to knit/
crochet (learn how, if necessary), fellowship and pray
for those who will receive a comforting shawl.*



Friends of Night People

Sign up and be part of St. Matthew's monthly outreach on the first Wednesday of every month.

Volunteers from St. Matthew's prepare a meal at the church, then deliver and serve it to the visitors at the mission site.

**Join us on February 7 and/or March 7.
The sign-up sheet is on the landing.**



Activity Group is back!!

Come join us for food (potluck lunch), fun and fellowship on the third Thursday of every month.

Come celebrate St. Patty's Day on March 15, at 12noon.

All are welcome! Invite a friend!

One Great Hour of Sharing

UCC Special Offering—March 11

*Through our sharing, we get a taste of
the generosity of God, who does
"immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)*

<http://www.ucc.org/oghs>

"F.I.R.S.T. Certificates" are always available to purchase. These \$10.00 certificates never expire and are used at many Southtowns restaurants.

See Nancy Jankowski at church or call 826-0012 to purchase as a nice gift for others or yourself!

April MESSENGER Deadline

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Looking ahead...The deadline for May MESSENGER will be very early due to Michelle's vacation. Please submit articles by Wednesday, April 11.



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Transitional Pastor:

Rev. Lynn R. Morgan
716-866-3085
lrmorgan@live.com

Director of Music:

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

Administrative Assistant:

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

Custodians:

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



DCCC News

Gail Vara, representing the DCCC Auxiliary, will begin collecting yearly dues. If you'd like to contribute and help support the camp, it is \$5.00 per person or per family.

When you give your address, you'll receive "The Spirit" newsletter three times a year to keep abreast of camp news. Copies of the newsletter can also be found on the shelf in the hallway by the Fellowship Hall.

Those in the Military & Veterans
St. Matthew's Church
Those Residing in Assisted Living:
Jane Duewiger, Maxine Helm



If you would like prayers publicized here, and/or prayers communicated through the text/phone chain, please contact the church office or text Michelle Kemp at 245-1692 to begin the chain.

Happy Birthday!

3/2	Norm Wahl	3/7	Tim Baker
3/5	Joy Burger	3/10	Karen Kaitanowski
3/5	Karen Cuddihy	3/22	Ryan Goetz
3/5	Michelle Kemp	3/26	Jane Cotton



There are behind-the-scenes volunteers — "Caregivers" — who give of their time to help friends in the congregation by making/delivering a meal; driving to a doctor's appointment; cleaning house/yard and other ways. The Volunteer Form lists ways we support those in need. (Look for forms in the red folder posted on the "Missions" bulletin board.)

If you'd like to be one of those volunteers, please fill out the form and give to LaDonna Painter (or put in mailbox 67).

Also, if you or someone you know could use help by receiving a meal or ride, etc., please contact LaDonna, Pastor Lynn or the church office.

We are here to serve one another in love.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OTHER MINISTRIES

(Blasdell Food Pantry, Matthew 25: Ministry, Shriner's Children's Hospital, ministry to local senior care facilities)

Collection bins in classroom near Fellowship Hall.

***Plastic bill bottles** go to Matthew 25: Ministries.

They meet the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

***Canned/nonperishable food items** go to 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 once a month. Please sign up on the bulletin board to take a turn delivering the food to the pantry in 2018.

***2018 calendars, current magazines or Guidepost magazines** for shut-ins and senior care facilities.

***Can tabs for Shriner's Hospital** to help with the costs of transferring children to the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Erie.

March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 OA 7:30pm	2 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> The Way of the Cross (Stations) 12noon & 6:00pm	3 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30am
4 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday School 9:30am WORSHIP 10:30am	5	6 BCE 7:00PM Folk Group 6:30pm	7 AA 10:30am Praise 5:15pm Praise 5:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6:30pm Service 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm	8 OA 7:30pm	9 The Way of the Cross (Stations) 12noon & 6:00pm	10
11 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday School 9:30am WORSHIP 10:30am	12	13 Church Council 7:00 PM Folk Group 6:30pm	14 AA 10:30am Praise 5:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6:30pm Service 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm	15 OA 7:30pm	16 The Way of the Cross (Stations) 12noon & 6:00pm	17
18 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday School 9:30am WORSHIP 10:30am Mission Moment	19	20 Missions Com. 7:00 PM Folk Group 6:30pm	21 AA 10:30am Praise 5:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6:30pm Service 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm <i>Messenger</i> Deadline	22 OA 7:30pm	23 The Way of the Cross (Stations) 12noon & 6:00pm	24
25 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30am WORSHIP 10:30am	26	27 Folk Group 6:30pm Quilter's Group 7:00pm	28 AA 10:30am	29 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Service	30 Good Friday 7:00pm Service	31

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
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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!