



5289 McKinley Pkwy  
 Hamburg, NY 14075  
 716-649-1532  
 smattucc@verizon.net  
 Website: smattsucc.org

# The MESSENGER

MAY 2018 Newsletter

*Message from Pastor Lynn...*

## It's Easy to Over-Eat on Eye Candy

Before we became 'cord-cutters' and did away with our TV service, I thought the Property Brothers were actually part of the family; Sandy and I saw more of them than our grandkids. I've always been a DIY kind of guy. I've done lots of renovation and building projects over the years and I've learned a lot from watching some of the home improvement shows like This Old House, but there's a difference between looking over the shoulder of an experienced craftsman to learn a new technique and simply lusting after the fancy renovated house shown when they do the 'reveal.' I've learned that 'home renovation porn' is the shorthand for the DIY shows and Pinterest pages devoted to pictures of perfectly renovated houses.

Even if you've never picked up a hammer, or shudder at the thought of creating a cottage garden in the backyard, the pictures of perfectly rendered homes catch one's eye. Sometimes these pictures give us ideas to use in our own spaces, but more often they make us look at the places we live in and feel a little dissatisfied with our kitchens and baths and gardens and so forth.

Of course it's not just house and garden shows that inspire envious lust either. We are naturally attracted to the new and shiny things that are dangled in front of us. If you go to a car manufacturer's website to research a new vehicle, from that moment on every ad space you see on every web page will present pictures of new vehicles to lure you back to car shopping. The same holds true for the pair of shoes you browsed for or the handbags you looked at. Advertisers know that repeating the opportunity to look at the new shiny thing increases the odds that you will ultimately purchase the new shiny thing, whether it's a car or a boat or a new kitchen or a pair of sandals.

My purpose is not to complain about advertising or watching HGTV. I just mentioned these things because they came to mind when I was thinking about the sin of covetousness. You don't hear a lot about the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment – maybe because preaching against it is so hypocritical. Think how hard it is to go through a day in our consumer-oriented society without being tempted to covet something you don't have.

There's a reason that it makes one of the 'top 10' sins. Probably the worst thing about covetousness is that it is the enemy of gratitude. When we start comparing what we have with what others have, we are one step closer to undervaluing the blessings we have received. When we compare our achievements with the star performers in our fields, we can easily fall into envious resentment or self-castigating depression. We know the dangers of lust and the effect it can have on our intimate relationships, but we also need to be attuned to the destructive power of lusting after things, and position, and prestige as well.

Let me suggest that we try a scriptural 'home remedy' against the disease of covetousness: include a time of thanksgiving in your prayers every day for the people you love, for the work you have, the home you live in and the food you eat. Concentrate on seeing what's already in your life, not what's missing. Look at what you have, not at what the other guy has. Oh, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for your church family as well.

See you in church,

Pastor Lynn

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WHAT ARE  
 YOU  
 THANKFUL  
 TO GOD  
 FOR TODAY?

## May Worship Participants

### Greeters

5/6 Jay Rich  
5/13 Doug Stormer  
5/20 Don Ruff  
5/27 Barbara Middaugh

### Altar Guild

Karen Cuddihy

### Lay Readers

5/6 Jeff Rich  
5/13 Dave Burger  
5/20 Kara Corlett  
5/27 Alva Looze

### Ushers: Team 2

Chris Goetz  
Bill Hamm  
Steve Jankowski  
Perry Kaupa  
Dave/Pamela Kaznica

### Childcare Volunteers

5/6 Joyce Corlett  
5/13 Beth Stormer  
5/20 Tammy Kruszka  
5/27 Lauren Zdrojewski

### Coffee Hosts

5/7 Dawn Goetz, Devon Rich  
5/13 No coffee hour  
5/20 Amy Jo Lauber  
5/27 Brenda Carver, Barbara Middaugh

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### **Note of thanks from Hospitality Committee...**

I would like to thank Brenda Carver for coordinating coffee hour hosts and greeters for May.

-LaDonna Painter



**Ascension Day**  
Thursday, May 10

The story of Jesus' Ascension is told in Luke 24:49, Mark 16:19 and Acts 1:3, 9. Putting these accounts together, we find that after his resurrection, Jesus appeared several times to his disciples and others. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God and the coming of the Holy Spirit, for whom they were to wait (Acts 1:2-9). After 40 days of these appearances, he was taken up to heaven for the last time (Acts 1:9-11). As the disciples watched him go, two angels appeared and declared to them that, just as he ascended, Jesus would return in glory.



**Pentecost**

Sunday,  
May 20

The Christian holiday of Pentecost, which is celebrated on the seventh Sunday (49 days) after Easter and ten days after Jesus ascended to heaven, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-31).



Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Although the word “trinity” does not appear in Scripture, it is taught in Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 13:14 (and many other biblical passages). The concept of the trinity can never be completely understood or rationalized, but it is clearly taught in Scripture.



June 24<sup>th</sup> Annual **Worship & Church Picnic** at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center!

Robin Kester (Gail Vara's sister)  
 Jeanette Haberer (Joann Ertel's sister)  
 Mickie Chenoweth,  
 Lena & Vera (Andy Federmann's sisters)  
 Donna Newman  
 Cece  
 Phyllis Porter (Dolly Errington's friend)



All those in need of healing  
 Chronic pain sufferers  
 Military personnel & veterans,  
 Those who are homebound  
 St. Matthew's Church and the Search  
 Committee

*If you would like prayers publicized here, please contact the church office or fill out a Prayer Request Form. If you have a more immediate prayer concern, contact Michelle Kemp at 245-1692 to begin the prayer chain.*



### Activity Group

Join us for a **Memorial Day**  
 potluck lunch on

**Thursday,**

**May 17, at 12noon.**

It's Memorial Day celebration,  
 so don't forget your red, white  
 & blue.

*Come for a time of Chat &  
 Chew!*

### Happy Birthday!

5/5	Dawn Goetz	5/12	Bob Miller
5/5	Kenny Kruszka	5/24	Thelma Bowers
5/9	Shirley Jones	5/29	Denise Woodruff
5/11	Bob Velazquez	5/30	Larry Wightman

### Anniversary Blessings

<i>45 years!</i>			
<i>Bill &amp; Mary Hamm</i>	<i>Jeff &amp; Robynn Rich</i>	<i>Carl &amp; Joann Ertel</i>	
May 12, 1973	May 18, 2002	May 22, 1992	



Dear St. Matthew's Hospitality,  
 Thank you so much for your kindness and  
 generosity in assisting our family with our  
 father's reception. It is so comforting to know  
 that we are surrounded by such a loving church  
 family. Having been raised here at St. Matthew's  
 made it all the more special. We truly appreciate  
 the time you've all given to help us so that we  
 can be with our family and friends.

Thank you and God bless!

The family of Ken Myers ~ Tammy (Kruszka),  
 Kenny, Shelly

Dear St. Matthew's UCC,

We, the members of the Tuesday evening Folk Music  
 Class who meet at St. Matthew's, are appreciative of  
 the church's permission to use the site for our music  
 gathering.

We took up a "good faith" offering at our last meeting  
 and collected \$140.00 for St. Matthew's to use.

Please accept the money with our thanks and  
 blessings.

Sincerely,

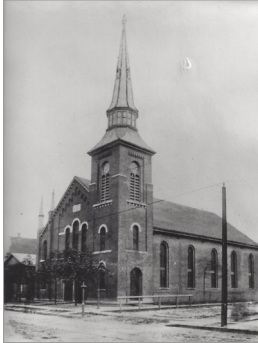
The Folk Music Gang

Church liasons: Gary Burdick, Ken Kruszka, Barb  
 Middaugh

**A look back...**

**WHERE IT ALL BEGAN**

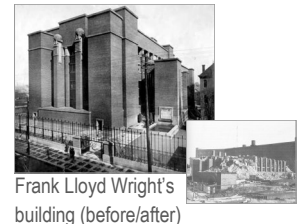
The time line is the 1860's. The Civil War was going on and ended in 1865. Three years later on January 12, 1868, a group of German immigrants met to discuss the founding of St. Mathias Evangelical Church at 680 Swan Street in the "Hydraulic Section" of Buffalo.



St. Matthew's original church in Buffalo; began as St. Mathias Evangelical Church

What was the Hydraulic Section? The word hydraulic comes from a Greek word "hudon" meaning water and "aulos" meaning water pipe. It was a pumping device in which a column of water ran by gravity through a straight pipe, attained speed and as the pipe narrowed forced water through a valve to a higher level allowing water power. This water power, for industry, was in the original location of St. Matthew's Evangelical Church and secured from the Hydraulic Canal after the Civil War.

Fast forward to the 2000's. The Hydraulic section is now the infamous "Larkinville" where the Larkin Company and their Frank Lloyd Wright office building was directly across the street from St. Matthew's. Parishioners of the church were able to watch the wrecking ball destroy that unique Frank Lloyd Wright building in the 1950's.



Frank Lloyd Wright's building (before/after)

So drive down to "Food Truck Tuesdays" at Larkinville and see our original church. It is still in use by the congregation we sold it to--the Delaine Waring AME Church. A neat diner is next door to the church and there are many activities weekly at Larkinville.



Current view of the church building

See where our forefathers attended church 150 years ago!

-Marilyn Rich

*To be continued next month!*

Mark your calendars for a special anniversary luncheon :  
 Sunday,  
 October 28!

**If you have any pictures or memories to share, please contact one of the committee members:**

LaDonna Painter, Chairperson

Marilyn Rich and Steve Jankowski, Co-Chairs

Brenda Carver

Darlene Nistor

Darlene Nistor

Perry Kaupa

Pastor Lynn

**mother's**  
 DAY  
 May 13  
 A special gift awaits all women!

**Spring**  
 CLEAN UP

**Morning of Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

Join the fun of sprucing up the church property after the winter months. Bring your favorite gardening tools and work gloves. Outdoor and indoor projects!

Come for an hour or all morning.



## Friends of Night People

Sign up and be part of St. Matthew's monthly outreach to FoNP 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. We also deliver your donations of brownies/cupcakes.

*Join us in June! The sign-up sheet is on the landing.*



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

**First Saturday of the month, 9:30am, Parlor**  
**Join us May 5<sup>th</sup>!**

*Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is a way of showing our church's concern for people going through crises or at a place in life when a warm shawl may bring them comfort. Shawls are knitted/crocheted, blessed in worship service and then given out. Our hope is that they would be comforted by the shawls, as they remember St. Matthew's is praying for them.*

*Come be part of this new ministry. All skill levels are welcome! If you have any questions or know of anyone in need, please contact Alva Looze (866-5121).*

A huge thank you for all who joined the Dunkirk Auxiliary in March. Come see what good things happen there!

Gail Vara



Thank you also for all the volunteers who served Meals on Wheels.

We do it again in July!

Gail Vara



## St. Matthew's Caregivers

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 Caregiver Volunteer Form lists ways we support those in need. (Look for forms in the red folder posted on the Missions & Outreach bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.)

If you'd like to volunteer to do any of the above, 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

(Friends of Night People, Blasdell Food Pantry, Matthew 25: Ministry)

**\*Seasonal clothing, children's books, toiletries** for FoNP.

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 to deliver the items once a month. Please sign up on the bulletin board.



*Hands-on mission opportunities supported by our church... All are welcome to join the fun!*

## CIA Work Weekend

**MAY 18 & 19, 9am-3pm**

Your help is needed at **VIVE\*** (50 Wyoming Street, Buffalo 14215)

There are jobs for skilled and unskilled, youth and adults.

Come ready to work. Materials and lunch are provided.

\* In 2015, Jericho Road Community Health Center assumed operations of Vive La Casa, later known as Vive, a program of Jericho Road. They are committed to carrying the 30-year legacy of providing legal aid and safe refuge to persons seeking asylum in the United States and Canada.



In preparation for Work Weekend, we are building new wooden radiator covers for VIVE. They are assembled and now need painting.

Volunteers are needed on **Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am.**

We will be meeting in the basement of the Orchard Park Presbyterian Church for this painting project. Join us for a few hours or for several. We need all the help we can get.

Thank you.



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716-649-1532; [stmattucc@verizon.net](mailto:stmattucc@verizon.net)  
Website: [stmattsucc.org](http://stmattsucc.org)

*Transitional Pastor:*

Rev. Lynn R. Morgan  
716-866-3085  
[irmorgan@live.com](mailto:irmorgan@live.com)

*Director of Music:*

Norman D. Wahl  
716-440-5176  
[normwahl@gmail.com](mailto: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)

## Dunkirk Camp & Conf. Center Work Weekend

**Saturday, May 19**

(meals provided all day)

**Sunday, May 20**

(breakfast provided, followed by worship service at Vesper point and finishing up Saturday projects)

Come join us for the weekend or for a few hours!

DCC needs help getting ready for the Summer 2018 season.

Plumbers, roofers, carpenters, electricians, landscapers—If you are skilled in any of these and able to volunteer some of your time, please let them know for now and future projects.

Also needed are people to clean cabins, clean up the woods and the beach from our rough winters, rake leaves, ready the flower beds and numerous other tasks.

**Reminder: DCC Flea Market & Craft Sale**

June 1-2; 8am-4pm  
(rain or shine)



# May 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Search Committee 7:00pm  Folk Group 6:30	2 AA 10:30am Friends of Night People outreach  Adult Study Class 7:00pm	3 Choir Practice 7:00pm  OA 7:30pm	4	5 Prayer Shawl Min. 9:30am  Quilt Group Sew Day 9am-4pm  CIA work day (OP Presby. Church)
6 Sunday School & Adult Study 9:30am WORSHIP 10:30am 	7	8 Church Council 7:00pm	9 AA 10:30am Adult Study Class 7:00pm	10  Ascension Day Search Com. 6:00pm Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm OA 7:30pm	11	12 Spring Clean-up 9am-12noon 
13 Sunday School & Adult Study 9:30am WORSHIP 10:30am 	14	15 Mission Com. 7:00pm	16 AA 10:30am Adult Study Class 7:00pm	17 Activity Group 12noon Praise Band 6:15pm OA 7:30pm	18 CIA Work Wkend 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> 	19 DCC Work Wkend 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> 
20  Pentecost Sunday Sunday School & Adult Study 9:30am WORSHIP 10:30am	21	22 Spiritual Life 7:00pm  Quilters 7:00pm	23 AA 10:30am Adult Study Class 7:00pm	24 Search Com. 6:00pm Praise Band 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm OA 7:30pm	25	26
27  TRINITY SUNDAY Sunday School & Adult Study 9:30am WORSHIP 10:30am	28 	29	30 AA 10:30am Adult Study Class 7:00pm	31		

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ  
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Our church building is fully accessible.

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