

September Songs

I don't suppose it sounds very pious for your pastor to say that this time of year I frequently have an old Rod Stewart song rattling around my cranium, but I do. Around now, with the Fair ended and the cool temperatures returning overnight, and with all the back-to-school hubbub, my internal jukebox plays:

"Wake up Maggie, I think I've got something to say to you.
It's late September and I really should be back at school..."

Mind you, this is a song I don't particularly like, by a performer who I most definitely do not favor. Nevertheless, *Maggie Mae* will infiltrate my brain, like it or not. One of the reasons it will resonate in my skull is the obvious reference to being back at school. No matter how many years have passed since we walked through a school-room door, the rhythms of the year – the unofficial seasons – are often dictated by the school year that first imposed order on the unmeasured time of childhood. For me, there is also a deep nostalgia for libraries and classrooms that has been aching within me since I left seminary 30 years ago. Should I last another 30 years, I'll be the guy in assisted living who is singing *Maggie Mae* tunelessly every fall, thinking: "I really *should* be back in school..."

As summer draws to a close, I will also be hearing *September Song* (Maxwell Anderson & Kurt Weil, 1938) which is no more sacred than *Maggie Mae*, but at least it is less notorious. It's also more pertinent to the sense we have of time passing – potentially slipping away from us.

"And the days dwindle down
To a precious few
September, November
And these few precious days
I'd spend with you"

September – with end of vacations and our return to the "school year" – is not only a reminder of the change of seasons; it's a reminder that we don't have forever to wait. The calendar urges us to get back to work, but it doesn't tell us why or what is worth working for. We have to decide for ourselves what is precious enough to occupy these "precious few" days.

In the sultry ease of summer we may forget it, but all our days are among the "precious few." Really the only day we have is today. Knowing that may lead us to buckle down and get to work. Or, it may lead us to indulge in sweet rest and idle musings. Either way, the day is precious. Spend it wisely. Pour it out in love for those with whom you share your life. Use it to fulfill your calling as a child of God. Don't waste it in worry or regret, but spend it in trust and hope. Don't let it be stolen by bitterness, but sweeten each moment by being merciful and forgiving. This day is too precious to cocoon in callous indifference to injustice or need; prove the value of today by reaching out in compassion. This day, this season, this life, is God's gift. I leave you with a really golden oldie, a song from Israel's worship:

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." -Psalm 118:24

See you in church!

-Pastor Lynn

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Last 9:00am

Outdoor
Service...



Sunday,
September 2

Return to Regular

10:30am

Worship in
the Sanctuary...



Sunday,
September 9

*beginning a new
church year!*



Ministry Volunteers

Altar Guild

September: Tammy Kruszka

Lay Readers

9/2 Jeff Rich
 9/9 Brenda Carver
 9/16 Cheryl Larson
 9/23 Cindy Rich
 9/30 Bill Hamm

Ushers

Team 2
 Dave/Pamela Kaznica
 Bill Hamm
 Perry Kaupa
 Steve Jankowski
 Chris Goetz

Greeters & Coffee Hour

Hosts

9/9 **Sunday Sundaes!**
Make your own ice cream Sundae
 9/16 LaDonna Painter
 9/23 *No Coffee Hour*
 9/30 Beth & Doug Stormer



Thank you to the Council for being Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts for September & October.

If you would like to be a host, please contact me.

-LaDonna Painter
 (715-7310)

PS You don't have to be on a committee to take a turn hosting or co-hosting.

Fall Worship Schedule

Every Saturday in September, Pastor Lynn will lead a worship service at 4pm in the Parlor. (September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

September 2 - Last 9:00am outdoor service - No Sunday School

September 9 - Worship resumes at 10:30am in the Sanctuary as we begin a new church year. Sunday School begins 9:30-10:15am. Blessings of students and teachers.

September 16 - Following worship, Church Council will have an informational meeting regarding the parsonage sale, our current financial status and grounds improvements.

September 23 - Pastor Lynn will be preaching at Delaine Waring AME as part of their 10am Worship Service (see below).

The 10:30am service at St. Matthew's on this Sunday will be led by a guest preacher.

Back to School Blessings

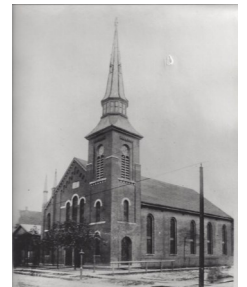
September 9

During worship on the 9th, Pastor Lynn will have a blessing of all students and teachers who have started school and will begin Sunday school.

KIDS ... bring your backpacks! TEACHERS ... bring yourself!
and all be blessed as the new year begins

GOING BACK TO OUR ROOTS

On Sunday, September 23, Pastor Lynn will be preaching at Delaine Waring African Methodist Episcopal Church as part of our 150th anniversary celebration. In July, we enjoyed having the Rev. Tristan Salley, the pastor of Delaine Waring AME, in our pulpit as well as sharing our worship and fellowship with some of the lay people of Delaine Waring.



On September 23, we will be visiting Delaine Waring AME, returning their call and honoring our roots. We will worship in the first building that housed our congregation and which we occupied from its construction in 1869 until 1960. You are invited to share in worship with our sisters and brothers at Delaine Waring on this special Sunday. They are located at 680 Swan Street. Worship is at 10 AM. For directions and contact information, see their website: www.delainewaringamechurch.org

Christian Education

Welcome back to school! Over the summer, BCE sponsored a Summer Sunday School program for our young students. Lessons included The Fruits of the Spirit, The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, Moses, Jesus, Noah's Ark, and The Armor of God. It's been lots of fun and made the summer go by fast. Special thanks to Joann Ertel, Beth Stormer, and Joyce Corlett for volunteering their time.

For the Fall, the teachers are gearing up for another year of Sunday School classes on Sunday mornings. At this time, we will be offering an elementary class for children ages 5 through 5th grade. Class will be held in the F.R.O.G. room, where we all learn to Fully Rely On God! Thank you to Joann Ertel for teaching again this year. Classes begin on September 9th from 9:30-10:15am.



This year, we will have a Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings - while we only have one student, we ask that everyone keep Emily Rich in your prayers as she takes this next step in her faith formation.

There is currently no adult Sunday school class scheduled at this time. However, if you are interested in leading/facilitating a study or book review, please see Rev. Lynn or Tammy Kruszka. All ideas are welcome!

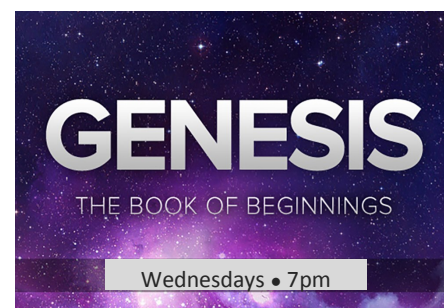
-Tammy Kruszka, BCE President

Adult Bible Study Starts September 12 @ 7pm

In the Beginning...

The first words of the bible are "In the beginning..." and that's where our Adult Bible Study will begin this Fall, with the book of Genesis. Actually, we will begin a little before the beginning. We will learn a bit about how the text of the bible came together and how it was handed down to us as well as some basics about how to read the bible for understanding and as a means of deepening our relationship with God.

As we look at the text, we will have an opportunity to explore together some of the great foundational stories of all the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam). We will study the stories of the Creation and expulsion from the Garden; Cain and Abel; Noah and the Ark; the Tower of Babel; the call of Abraham and his journeys of faith; the narratives about the other Patriarchs and the long saga of Joseph. These are stories you know, but which always yield new treasures no matter how many times you explore them.



The bible is the only textbook for this class and you don't even have to bring your own; there are plenty available for your use. Pastor Lynn will lead the class which will meet on **Wednesdays at 7pm, beginning September 12**. You are not required to attend every week; there is no long-term commitment. Come when you can and feel free to invite a guest.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this mid-week bible study!



Thy Word is a lamp unto
my feet and a light unto my
path. Psalm 119-105

Rev. Paula Gustafson
 Nancy Jankowski
 Denise Woodruff
 Karen Kaitanowski
 Family of Jason Henshee (Dolly &
 Carter Family (Clayton Errington's friends)



All those in need of healing
 Chronic pain sufferers
 Military personnel & veterans
 Those who are homebound
 St. Matthew's Church
 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, text Michelle Kemp at 245-1692 or call Dolly Errington at 823-6210 to begin the prayer chain.

Happy Birthday!

9/1	David Kaznica	9/17	Tom Koch
9/4	Dick Jones	9/18	Starr Norton
9/8	Kathee Simon	9/20	Rev. Lynn Morgan
9/10	Dave Burger	9/23	Lola Donner
9/14	Brenda Carver	9/26	Jillian Getter
9/17	Jacob Zdrojewski	9/30	Rev. Richard Hemann



Anniversary Blessings

David & Pamela Kaznica
 September 13, 1975

Chris & Dawn Goetz
 September 24, 1994

Jacob & Lauren Zdrojewski
 September 22, 2007



Congratulations and blessings to Joe Schneider and Karen Kazmierczak! They were joined in holy matrimony at St. Matthew's on August 11!

Updates to Directory: An additional page of all the contact information changed or added since the publication of the 2017 directory are on the table in the Narthex.



Activity Group is back!

Gearing up for another great year of fellowship, fun *and* food!

Our first get-together will be **Thursday, September 20**. Come at noon with a dish to share.

All are welcome! Invite a friend!



Postponed...

The Not So Newlywed Game has been postponed. No future date at this time.

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has been working to utilize the information from the surveys and update our St. Matthew's profile. We are in the final stages of validating the profile with the Church Council and committee chairs. Once the profile is completed and approved by the Council, we can proceed to request resumes through the UCC.

-Jay Rich



Alzheimer's Walk – Saturday, September 15

Thank you to everyone who took yard signs.

I am doing an Alzheimer's virtual walk. If you would like to donate, make checks payable to Alzheimer's Association. I will be collecting through Sunday, September 9. Any questions, please contact me, LaDonna Painter (715-7310).

Celebrating
150
 Years
 1868-2018

A look back... 1945 saw the end of WWII and the church was blessed with the return of present members, Sy LaVett, Dr. Harry Petzing, and Don Ruff. As was said before, our present organ was renovated and dedicated to Gordon Brader, William Burden, and Leonard Kohl who gave their lives for our country. Don Ruff remains in the choir today singing with the organ for 70 years. The electrified cross which now hangs in the Narthex was also given in memory of Gordon Brader.

The 1950's saw the celebration of their congregational son, Rev. Fenske, for his 25th anniversary of his ordination and the sudden death of Rev. Lautenschlager in 1955 who had been given our picture of "Jesus walking on the water" painted by the German prisoner at Ft. Dix which now hangs in the mausoleum at St. Matthew's Cemetery.

In 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Churches merged with the Congregational Churches to form the United Church of Christ and St. Matthew's officially became St. Matthew's United Church of Christ.

By the time of the 90th Anniversary in 1958, the congregation realized the impossibility of continuing at their present location and continuing their Christian ministry comparable to the past. A relocation committee was formed and in June 1958, a historic decision was made to relocate to the Southtowns as the neighborhood was changing and the population was moving to the suburbs. Land sites were looked into in Armor where a farm was viewed. After costs were discussed, Jacob and Millie Rich donated land on McKinley Parkway for the future site.

A building fund drive was held and over \$53,000 was pledged. A negotiating committee was formed to sell the old church. Meanwhile, a door-to-door visitation was carried out in the Town of Hamburg inviting the unchurched to become a part of St. Matthew's. Jane Duewiger was one of the persons who joined then.

In September of 1959, church services began at the Armor Fire Hall and the old church was sold to the Delaine Waring African Methodist Episcopal Church for \$50,000. The final service at the old church was on September 1, 1960.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 29, 1960, and construction started on July 16, 1960. The church would hold 252 people with 23 in the choir loft, and the parlor was planned for a two-fold purpose for meetings and overflow congregation.

The first service was held in the Fellowship Hall on August 6, 1961, as the Sanctuary was not completed. The dedication service for the new church was held on Sunday, October 22, 1961.

-Marilyn Rich



150th Anniversary Luncheon

Sunday, October 28, 2018, following worship

Tickets go on sale from September 9 through October 14 (presale only). The Anniversary Committee will be selling the \$15 tickets before and after church on those Sundays. Make checks payable to St. Matthew's UCC.

Catered meal menu: Roast beef/chicken entrees, chef salad, mashed potatoes, veggie medley, rolls & butter, dessert

Any questions, contact: LaDonna Painter, Marilyn Rich, Brenda Carver, Perry Kaupa, Steve Jankowski or Darlene Nistor.



Anniversary Quilt

On Sundays, September 9th & 16th, stop by the Fellowship Hall to sign your name on one of the fabric squares on the wall hanging. This special quilt has been made by Gail Vara in honor of our 150th Anniversary and will hang on the wall in the hallway.



July 6, 2018

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
55289 McKinley Parkway
Hamburg, NY 14075

Dear St. Matthew's Mission Committee,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP), I want to thank you all for generously creating a scholarship for an ABE (AmeriCorps Builds Lives Through Education) Team Leader this summer, in the amount of \$1,200.00. Your support allows MAP to provide healthy food, social enterprise training and youth leadership skills to disadvantaged youth, while improving healthy food access to thousands of Buffalo residents.

We believe that the path to revitalizing Buffalo will come from investing in our young people, creating healthy neighborhoods and building economic opportunities. We thank you for your generous support and commitment to the community.

With much gratitude,

Diane Picard
Executive Director

Thanks so much for your kind support & generosity! We have a great team of young leaders to peer teach our summer program and couldn't do it without you! Thank you!

Massachusetts Avenue Project
271 Grant St. Buffalo, New York 14213
ph. 716.882.5327 fx. 716.882.5338



Through your generous donations, we were able to help MAP purchase this tent with their logo.

Another "thank you" is posted on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.



A.B.L.E. team leaders

On August 16th, Bob Velazquez and Michelle Kemp accepted MAP's invitation to the end-of-summer celebration. Many of the 20 youth involved in their summer program made presentations, letting the attendees know what they did and what they learned. The young chefs made us delicious ethnic food.

We came away impressed with the well-run program, and it was good to see the youth happy and proud of the work they did during the summer.

Youth and leaders of summer program



Friends of Night People

Our next outreach date is **Wednesday, September 5.**

Please sign up to volunteer in any or all these ways...

- bake cupcakes, brownies, cookies
- help prep the food Wednesday afternoon
- serve at the mission site downtown (starting around 4pm)

Wrapped in Love

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Churches In Action's



Undies Sunday

The prayer shawl ministry resumes its monthly gathering of people who like to knit or crochet (or want to learn). We come together for a short devotion, prayer and fellowship as we work on our prayer shawls.

The group meets on the first Saturday of the month (except this month), 9:30am, in the Parlor. Our first get-together is October 6.

The 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 a worship service and then gifted. Our hope is that they would be comforted by the shawls, as they remember St. Matthew's is praying for them.

If you have any questions or know of anyone who would benefit from receiving the gift of a prayer shawl, please contact Alva Looze (866-5121) or Pastor Lynn.

Back-to-school sales are a great time to stock up on underwear for men, women and children for CIA's annual mission to supply the area's shelters with these important essential items.

We will have collection bins set up for your donations during the month of September!

Thank you for your participation in supplying this basic need for others.



A Simple Way to Serve

Would you like to represent our church at Churches In Action (CIA)? There are only a couple of meetings during the year and you'd help plan the mission projects and then communicate them to our church so we can be involved.

Contact Dawn Goetz or Alva Looze if interested. For more information about CIA, go to their website: churchesinaction.com.



There are many behind-the-scenes volunteers at St. Matthew's called "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.

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 are used to improve medical care in developing countries and help 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.



5289 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY
 716-649-1532; office@stmattsucc.org
 Website: stmattsucc.org

Transitional Pastor:
 Rev. Lynn R. Morgan
 716-866-3085
 pastor@stmattsucc.org

Director of Music:
 Norman D. Wahl
 716-440-5176
 normwahl@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
 Michelle Kemp
 716-245-1692 (h)
 716-649-1532 (o)
 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)

St. Matthew's fundraiser for



A ministry of the
 United Church
 Home Society.

Monday, September 17, from 5-8pm, at Wendy's
 (only at location by McKinley Mall, beside Mongolian Buffet)

* * *

We will be receiving 15% of all food sales from 5-8pm (only) with a coupon from Wendy's. We will be handing out coupons at church and will attach a copy of the coupon to the newsflash. You have to have a paper copy of the coupon for Wendy's to attach it to your receipt.

Stop by Wendy's at 3153 McKinley Parkway location and make our fundraiser for Senior Wishes a success!

Please give or forward it to all family and friends. Thank you for your support.

Any questions, contact LaDonna Painter at 715-7310.

*Senior Wishes was founded by United Church Home Society. Their mission is to foster respect and appreciation for seniors by granting life wishes. We will be raising money to help them meet their goal of granting 100 wishes for Christmas.

<https://www.seniorwishes.org/>



The September & October issue is now available on the table in the Narthex.

Average Attendance for July (including Saturday Services): 60

Giving Month of July :

	General/Building	Mission
Total Received:	\$ 7,720	\$260
Monthly Goal:	\$12,900	\$918


Note: August figures will be in next month's Messenger.



Coming in October... Special UCC Offering will be collected on October 7th for Neighbors in Need, a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

September 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Saturday Worship 4pm (parlor)
2 (no SS) <i>Last</i> OUTDOOR SERVICE 9am 	3 <i>labor day</i>	4 BCE 7pm	5 AA 10:30am Friends of Night People Outreach	6 Praise Band 6:15 Choir 7:00 pm OA 7:30pm	7	8 Saturday Worship 4pm (parlor)
9 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:30am in Sanctuary	10	11 Church Council 7pm	12 AA 10:30am Adult Bible Study 7pm	13 Praise Band 6:15 Choir 7:00 pm OA 7:30pm <i>Michelle's vacation (13-17)</i>	14	15 Saturday Worship 4pm (parlor)
16 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:30am <i>Info Mtg</i>	17 Wendy's Fundraiser 5-8pm (3513 McKinley Pkwy) <i>Michelle's vac.</i>	18 Mission Com. 7pm	19 AA 10:30am Adult Bible Study 7pm	20 Activity Group 12noon Praise Band 6:15 Choir 7:00 pm OA 7:30pm	21	22 Saturday Worship 4pm (parlor)
23 Worship 10:30am Worship at Delaine Waring 10am	24	25 Quilter Group 7pm	26 AA 10:30am Adult Bible Study 7pm <i>David & Pamela Kaznica's vacation (26-28)</i>	27 Praise Band 6:15 Choir 7:00 pm OA 7:30pm	28	29 Saturday Worship 4pm (parlor)
30 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:30am						

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

SEPTEMBER

newsletter



5289 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY 14075
Phone: 649-1532
Emails: office@stmattsucc.org
pastor@stmattsucc.org
Website: stmattsucc.org
Our church building is fully accessible.

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