

### ***We're Having an Epiphany***

I don't think I've ever met anyone who actually said, "I've had an epiphany." Your average person doesn't talk like that – even in church – for which I suppose we should all be grateful. Nevertheless, if someone did say it, we'd know what they meant. They would mean that they had a breakthrough, that things which were foggy and obscure had become clear. We would know that they had a fresh insight into something, that they had seen the light, come to a more profound understanding. Epiphany means an unveiling – a manifestation or revelation of something. When we speak of Epiphany with a capital "E" we mean the unveiling or open manifestation of God in Jesus.

The season of Epiphany began on January 6 (The Feast of the Epiphany) when we recall that Jesus was revealed as the gift to the nations, even as representatives of the nations brought gifts to him. When Jesus received baptism at the hands of John, he was revealed as the beloved Son of God as he was simultaneously revealed to be united with us in our humanity. Jesus is revealed as Lord of creation and as the source of joy as he changes water to wine at a wedding in Cana. Jesus reveals himself as the fulfillment of the messianic hope of Israel's prophets at his first sermon in Nazareth. Jesus' acts of healing and liberating people from the bondage to evil will continue throughout the season of Epiphany. The last Sunday of Epiphany is the Feast of the Transfiguration in which Jesus is revealed to his most intimate disciples as the culmination of the Law and the Prophets – as God's authoritative Word to the world.

We should go through the season of Epiphany with our eyes open to the nature and character of God revealed in Jesus. We can remember his love for all nations and people; his human nature that experienced life in exactly the same way we do; his teaching and preaching that call us to right living and acting justly. We see God's sovereignty over nature and God's loving purposes for humanity in Jesus' miracles and acts of healing. Every time Jesus casts out demons we are reassured that evil cannot conquer the saving will of God.

All this is proper for our spiritual growth throughout Epiphany, but we cannot forget *our* role in God's continuing self-manifestation to the whole world. As you walk through this season of Epiphany, ask yourself: "What am I doing to show that God's love extends to all people?" With nationalism and tribalism on the rise everywhere, what will you say and do to demonstrate the universal love of God that recognizes no tribe or nation? Does your contentment with life demonstrate that in Jesus you have found the answer for human longing? How is our church a manifestation of the welcoming, gracious, forgiving, and transforming love of God? If you're like me, when you think of these questions you know you could do better. We shouldn't use this self-examination to condemn ourselves or others, but to crack open our hard shells so we can grow.

As you walk through these days of Epiphany, you might begin your day with a simple prayer: "Light of the world, shine through me today and reveal your love to those I encounter. Amen."

See you in church! -Pastor Lynn

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## February

### Sunday's Participants

#### Altar Guild

Pamela Kaznica

#### Lay Readers

2/3 Joyce Corlett  
2/10 TBD  
2/17 Larry Wightman  
2/24 Perry Kaupa

#### Ushers

Team 1

Andy Federmann  
Don Mergenhausen  
Clayton Errington  
Jeff Rich  
Kurt Rich  
Don McMillan  
Chris Goetz  
Head Usher: David Burger

#### Coffee Hour Hosts

2/3 Joann Ertel  
2/17 Karen Cuddihy



Effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have regular coffee hours on the *first* and *third* Sunday of the month. We can always add additional coffee hours for any other celebrations.

If you would like to host a coffee hour, please see LaDonna Painter or call 715-7310.

## WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT ST. MATTHEW'S

### Saturday Service of Word & Sacrament - 4:00pm

Hear the Word of God and a homily from the pastor, share in prayer, and have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion.

### Sunday morning worship service - 10:30am

Children's Sunday School begins after Children's Time

### Adult Bible Study—Wednesday, 7:00pm

## World Day of Prayer

*World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.*

*It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration and worship observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome. (wdp-usa.org)*

*It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. This year, the service being used was from last year because the event had to be cancelled due to bad weather. It was written by the women of Suriname with the theme "All God's Creation is Very Good!"*

\* \* \*

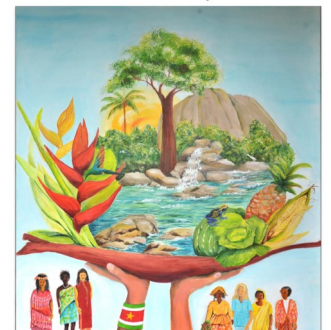
Churches in the Southtowns have taken turns hosting this special service, and this year, it's the Orchard Park United Methodist Church (OPUMC). All local churches are invited to help plan and participate in the event. Pastor Lynn would like to see St. Matthew's once again be part of this ecumenical day set aside for worship and celebration of faith around the world.

The first planning meeting is being held at OPUMC on Wednesday, January 30, at 1:30pm. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate.

## Friday, March 1

### SURINAME

All God's Creation is Very Good!



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

We love because  
He first loved us.  
1 John 4:19

Pat Florence  
 Mel & Ona Hamann  
 Sandy Hoffmann  
 Nancy Jankowski



Karen Kaitanowski  
 Marilyn Mergenhagen  
 Family & friends of Don Ruff  
 Family & friends of James Walsh

*We remember with thanksgiving the life of: Don Ruff and Jim Florence*

*If you would like prayers publicized here, please contact Pastor Lynn, 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!*

Don McMillan 2/2  
 Lauren Zdrojewski 2/10  
 Sandy Morgan 2/17  
 Becky Lesch 2/20  
 Rebecca Wightman 2/20  
 Bill Hamm 2/22  
 Kait'Lynn Burger 2/23  
 Jacob Getter 2/27  
 Robynn Rich 2/27

*Happy Anniversary*



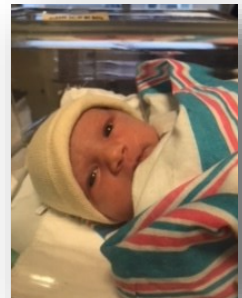
*Steve & Nancy Jankowski*  
 February 1, 1969

*Clayton & Dolly Errington*  
 February 15, 1955

*Ken & Sharon Mooney*  
 February 18, 1965



Grandparents Beth & Doug Stormer proudly announce the birth of their first grandchild, Josephine Ruth McArdle born to Natalie & Colin McArdle on January 23rd (7 lbs 6 oz, 21 inches).



**Monthly Money Minutes**

-by Amy Jo Lauber, CFP®

**February**

***“Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it.” Ecclesiastes 7:12***

Most people, when asked, believe money means “security” and many people use money to shelter them; shelter from need, from criticism, from feeling alone, from pity. But using money from a place of wisdom, promote a false pride and leave you feeling empty. Consider using money from a place of wisdom, which will help you feel abundant and content. Using money with prudence (not miserliness), a kind heart and wisdom helps you to know that true shelter is within God’s love.



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 Rev. Lynn R. Morgan  
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 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)



**Friends of  
 Night People**

The next opportunity to serve those in need in Buffalo is Wednesday, February 6.

It's a good time to volunteer to serve at the mission site; with more people, they are able to open up the clothing room. The sign-up sheet is on the landing.

## Donations wanted for Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center June 8th Auction

DCCC is looking for donations for an auction being held there on Saturday, June 8. Examples of items they are looking for are:

- |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Antiques                  | Used cars & Trucks                |
| Household items           | Hunting and fishing gear          |
| Garden tools—lawn mowers  | Shop tools—table saws             |
| Tractors—utility trailers | Drill presses—sanders—power tools |
| Boats—camper trailers     | Furniture—appliances              |

*Please NO clothes, tv's, pianos or organs*

*For information on how or where to donate, please call their business office at 716-366-1900, ext. 12.*

The church is looking for a garment steamer to keep on the premises. If you have one you'd like to donate, please contact the church office.

### In response to our Mission giving...

Excerpt from letters of appreciation the church received:

- from Property Manager at United Church Manor, Karen J. Zmich:  
*On behalf of the residents of the United Church Manor, thank you for your generous and continued financial support. We will, once again, place your donation into our resident activity fund. This fund will assist us in providing activities and other social programs to our residents. ...*
- from Churches In Action:  
*Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$2,000 to Churches in Action. Your donation will go a long way in assisting with the missions of CIA. It is through the generosity of our sister churches that we collectively are able to accomplish great works. .... We sincerely appreciate your continued support!*
- From St. Luke's Mission of Mercy (our donations through CIA)  
*We sincerely appreciate your generosity and kindness to us, as well as to those whose lives are touched by God's unfailing love and mercy through us!*

### December Stats

**Average Attendance:** 80 (5 Saturdays, Sundays + Christmas Eve)

**Giving:**

	General/Building	Mission
Total Received:	\$26,712	\$ 324
Monthly Goal:	<b>\$16,125</b>	<b>\$1,147</b>

# February 2019



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

					1	2 Worship of Word & Sacrament 4pm
3 Worship & Children's Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hr 11:30	4	5  Folk Group 6:30pm	6 AA 10:30am Friends of Night People	7 Praise Band Practice 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm OA 7:00pm	8	9 Worship of Word & Sacrament 4pm
10 Worship & Children's Sunday School 10:30am	11	12 Church Council 7:00pm Folk Group 6:30pm	13 AA 10:30am	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i> Praise Band Practice 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	15	16 Worship of Word & Sacrament 4pm
17 Worship & Children's Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hr 11:30	18	19  Folk Group 6:30pm	20 AA 10:30am	21 Praise Band Practice 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm OA 7:00pm	22	23 Worship of Word & Sacrament 4pm
24 Worship & Children's Sunday School 10:30am	25	26 Folk Group 6:30pm Quilters Group 7:00pm	27 AA 10:30am	28 Praise Band Practice 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm OA 7:00pm		

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



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Website: [stmattsucc.org](http://stmattsucc.org)  
Our church building is fully accessible.

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