



St. Matthew's
United Church of Christ
5289 McKinley Pkwy
Hamburg, NY 14075
716-649-1532
stmattucc@verizon.net
Website: stmattsucc.org



Why Ashes?

So, what's with ashes? Why do we receive ashes on our foreheads to mark the beginning of the observance of Lent? They symbolize more than one thing. Fundamentally, they remind us of our humanity and our propensity to sin. On Ash Wednesday, as I impose ashes on our foreheads (beginning with my own) I will say: "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." The biblical origin for this is Genesis 3:19. God tells Adam that as a result of his sin, he will be expelled from the Garden and he will earn his bread by the sweat of his brow until he returns to the earth from which he was made. So, our ashes are to remind us that we were made from the earth, that we are creatures and of humble origins. ('Humble' has its roots in the same word as 'humus.' The humble person is 'down to earth' and does not forget where he or she came from.) So, we wear ashes to be reminded that we are creatures, and to abandon the myth that we are gods who are in control of our lives or fit to control the lives of others. Remember, you are not God; you were created.

Ashes speak not only to our creatureliness, but also to our mortality. We die. All of us. No exceptions. As Paul says, 'none of us has life in ourselves.' Our mortality can be seen as an implied threat: 'remember, you're going to die and face God's judgement.' It can also be a reminder to make our lives count, to not put off our loving and doing justice and caring for the least among us for a future day which we may not live to see. Because we all will die, it is imperative to live lives that matter today.

In the Old Testament you rarely find a reference to ashes alone. Like 'peanut butter and jelly' or 'bread and butter,' when you read about ashes you are likely to find it as part of that famous duo, 'sackcloth and ashes.' Sackcloth and ashes were a symbolization of grief but also of repentance. To be attired in a burlap bag and to scatter ashes over the top of your head was to present yourself as one humbled and broken. It was the opposite of 'dressing for success' or wearing a 'power suit.' Sackcloth and ashes said, 'my life has fallen apart, mostly due to my own mistakes and sin; I have been brought low and my pride is crushed.' From this admission of fault, a person was able to allow God to heal and forgive them. The sackcloth and ashes were the first step of honest admission of failure and responsibility.

The ashes we use on Ash Wednesday are made from leftover palms from Palm Sunday, burnt and pulverized and mixed with just a bit of olive oil. These are blessed and imposed on our heads. Why do we make them from palms? To be reminded how very shallow are our shouts of praise and Hosanna! We, like the crowds that hailed Jesus as King of the Jews and called for his crucifixion just a few days later, can abandon our love of Christ in favor of earthly pleasure and power all too quickly.

Why ashes? To remember that we are creatures, not gods; that we are mortal and that we have only a limited time to make a difference for Christ; that we are sinners in need of repentance; that our deepest religious fervor can prove to be pretty shallow. We wear ashes to mark ourselves as all of these things, but also to mark ourselves as those who are redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, whose love gives life to us, even though we are but dust and ashes.

See you in church!

-Pastor Lynn



Ash Wednesday

March 6, 2019
7:00pm Service

Wednesday Soup Supper & Service

March 13-April 10
6:00pm Supper
Service to Follow
(see next page for more
information)

March Worship Participants

Altar Guild

Robin Federmann,
Sandy Morgan

Lay Readers

- 3/3 Gail Vara
- 3/10 Kara Corlett
- 3/17 Karen Cuddihy
- 3/24 Alva Looze
- 3/31 Linda Velazquez

Ushers

Chris Goetz
 Bill Hamm
 Steve Jankowski
 Perry Kaupa
 Dave/Pam Kaznica
 Head Usher: David Burger

Coffee Hour Hosts

- 3/3 Choir Reception
- 3/17 Amy Jo Lauber



Regular coffee hours continue on the *first* and *third* Sundays of the month. We can always add additional coffee hours for any other celebration.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for a coffee hour. We now have all dates filled through June.

-LaDonna Painter



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. You are invited to come as you are and receive the imposition of ashes as we start the journey through Lent together.

Wednesdays during Lent, beginning March 13, join us for soup and bread at 6pm.

Committees will take turns setting and cleaning up, providing butter and milk.

If you would like to contribute by making soup for one of the Wednesday nights, please sign up on the landing.

Committee Schedule:

- March 13: Church Council
- March 20: Spiritual Life Committee & Board of Christian Education
- March 27: Choir & Praise Band
- April 3: Ushers
- April 10: Missions Committee



Following dinner, at 7pm, Pastor Lynn will lead us in a time of worship and Lenten reflection in the Sanctuary.



It's time to order your Easter Lilies that will adorn the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Orders will be collected March 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Each plant is \$7.75, and can be taken home after the Easter service.

Order envelopes are available on the windowsill in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call Robin Federmann at 432-7962.

Reminder...



SPRING FORWARD!

Sunday, March 10

Jay Cogdill
 John Fogley
 Mel & Ona Hamann
 Family of Jeff Heitman



Sandy Hoffmann
 Nancy Jankowski
 Karen Kaitanowski
 Marilyn Mergenhagen
 Bob Miller

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.

Prayer Requests During Worship

You may write a prayer request to be spoken aloud by Pastor Lynn during that day's worship service. It will also be put in the bulletin the following week. You can find the prayer cards in the pew. Put your request in the offering plate.

Happy Birthday!

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



Sunday, March 3, our Choir will sing a special anthem, *How Great Thou Art*, in thanksgiving for the life and service of Don Ruff. Don sang with the Choir for an incredible 70 years, and went home to be with the Lord on January 14.

A special reception hosted by the Choir will follow the service.

Lent 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.

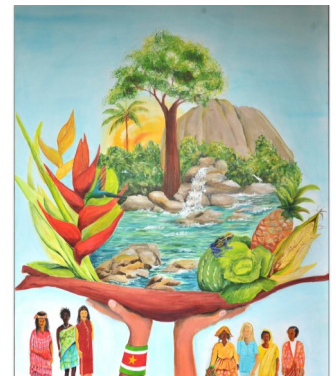
—Charles Colson

World Day of Prayer

Everyone is invited to this year's World Day of Prayer service* on **Friday, March 1**, 1:00pm, at the Orchard Park United Methodist Church. Barbara Middaugh is representing our church in planning and participating in this worldwide, ecumenical service. The program, "All God's Creation Is Very Good" was written by the women of Suriname.

**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.*

Friday, March 1 – 1:00pm



One Great Hour of Sharing

Special Mission Offering

March 31, 2019

When you give to OGHS through this offering of the United Church of Christ, you become involved in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Envelopes will be available to take home on March 17 and return for the collection on March 31.



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

Pastor:

Rev. Lynn R. Morgan
 716-866-3085
 pastorlynn@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)



Meals on Wheels

Anyone interested in helping deliver meals during the month of April, please contact Gail Vara at 649-4910.

Friends of Night People

Wednesday, March 6

Many visitors who dine at FoNP are in need of winter outerwear. If you'd like to donate, please bring them to the church before Wednesday.

Night of Music at St. Matthew's!

Tuesday, March 5, 6:30pm

The community folk group called "The Ridge Ramblers" will entertain us with bluegrass/folk music. Refreshments will follow.

Please sign up on the landing.



Activity Group 

Come celebrate St. Patty's Day on March 21, 2019
 Potluck lunch at 12noon. All are welcome! Invite a friend!

Supporting Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center

Gail Vara, representing the DCCC Auxiliary, will be collecting yearly dues throughout the month of March. If you'd like to contribute and help support the camp, dues are \$5.00 per person or per family.

Monthly Money Minutes

-by Amy Jo Lauber, CFP®

March

"For I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances may be. I know now how to live when things are difficult and I know how to live when things are prosperous. In general and in particular I have learned the secret of eating well or going hungry, of facing either plenty or poverty." Philippians 4:11-12

The true secret to financial peace is having peace within yourself, regardless of your financial circumstances. Surely we may enjoy financially flush times more than financially lean times, but there is peace and wisdom in both. Try not to curse those lean times; bless them for what they teach you.

January Stats

Average Attendance: 69 (3 Saturdays, 3 Sundays)









Giving:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| | General/Building | Mission |
| Total Received: | \$ 7,806 | \$344 |
| Monthly Goal: | \$12,646 | \$562 |

March 2019



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 World Day of Prayer Service 1:00pm (OPUMC) | 2 Word & Sacrament 4:00pm |
| 3 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:30 | 4 | 5 Ridge Ramblers Concert 7:00pm BCE 7:00pm | 6 AA 10:30am Friends of Night People outreach  7:00pm Service | 7 OA 7:30pm | 8 | 9 Word & Sacrament 4:00pm |
|  10 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am  | 11 | 12 Healthy Alliance 10am-2pm Church Council 7:00pm Folk Grp 6:30pm | 13 AA 10:30am Praise Band 5:15pm  6:00pm; service follows Choir 7:30pm | 14 OA 7:30pm | 15 | 16 Word & Sacrament 4:00pm |
| 17 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:30  | 18 | 19 Mission Com. 7:00pm Folk Grp 6:30pm | 20 AA 10:30am Praise Band 5:15pm  6:00pm; service follows Choir 7:30pm | 21 Activity Group 12noon | 22 | 23 Word & Sacrament 4:00pm |
| 24 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am  | 25 | 26 Folk Grp 6:30pm Quilters 7:00pm | 27 AA 10:30am Praise Band 5:15pm  6:00pm; service follows Choir 7:30pm | 28 OA 7:30pm | 29 | 30 Word & Sacrament 4:00pm |
| 31 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am OGHS Special Offering  | | | | | | |

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Our church building is fully accessible.

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