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Full-Time Christian Service

As soon as the weather turns from dismal to delightful, all God’s children fire up their lawnmowers and put on their gloves to dig up weeds, to rake out the debris of the winter’s sleep and to restore our lawns and gardens to some semblance of order. Naturally, just when you have a day to tackle your yard work, you are accosted in church to surrender a good chunk of that precious Spring weather to yard cleanup at church. I get it. I have a yard (or two) myself.

On my way to church, I think how I really need to be working at home. Once I get there and see everyone happily pitching in, I forget about the work that waits at home and I celebrate again the way God’s people use their talent and time, their treasure and strength, to give glory to God and to accomplish God’s purposes.

Enumerating the work people do is fraught with the danger of forgetting some precious gift of love offered by a willing heart, so I won’t name names. We know that we couldn’t accomplish the mission and ministry of the church without many willing hands and hearts: those who teach our children and tend our babies; those who keep the building and grounds in good repair; those whose voices sing praise and whose hands are skilled to make music; those who administer our office and finances and who organize our fellowship; those who cook and serve the bereaved and the homeless poor; those who visit and comfort and counsel the ones who are lonely and in need. When Paul speaks of the church as a body, with every part an essential contributor to the whole, this is the sort of thing he means. No one is extraneous. All are necessary. Each gift of time and love is crucial and indispensable.

When I felt God’s call to ministry and switched my major to religious studies in college, I learned a term I had never heard before: ‘full-time Christian service.’ It was a polite churchy way of saying that some church or religious organization paid your salary. It always had a nails-on-the-chalkboard sort of feeling to me. It implied that ‘church professionals’ were in ‘full-time Christian service’ while the rest of God’s people were what, part-timers? I don’t think so.

The ministry of God’s people is not part time and it is not confined to the volunteer service to the church or to mission agencies either. The ministry of God’s people is not a job to help the church function, even though the church would collapse without its volunteer ministries. Your ministry and mine is 24/7/365 if we really follow our vocation as Christians, and most of it is not done at church. You are doing full-time Christian service when you keep the books, or take vitals, or frame up a wall. You do full-time Christian service when you answer phones and book appointments, when you calm customers and make sales. You are serving Christ when you are cramped into a coach seat on a red-eye flight, when you order supplies or write code, when you set up a firewall or bake a cake. You are doing full time Christian service after hours too. When you pay attention to your spouse or guide a child. When you take a moment for a neighbor who needs to talk. When you laugh, and eat, and drink, and make love, this is your full-time Christian service.

This vocation – this calling – of being a child of God is not a Sunday thing or a church thing. It is not so much what we do, but how we do it. It is not where we are but always remembering whose we are. As disciples of Christ, we are all called to full-time Christian service.

See you in Church,
Pastor Lynn

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May Worship Participants

Altar Guild

Karen Cuddihy

Lay Readers

5/5 Bill Hamm

5/12 Brenda Carver

5/19 Joyce Corlett

5/26 Doug Stormer

Ushers

Chris Goetz

Bill Hamm

Steve Jankowski

Perry Kaupa

David & Pamela Kaznica

Coffee Hour Hosts

5/5 Joyce Corlett

5/19 Dawn Goetz



2019 Church Directory

Copies of the updated directory are on the table in the Narthex. Help yourself.

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

Coffee Fellowship follows worship on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month (excluding June, July & August)

You are invited to the

Installation of Rev. Lynn R. Morgan

as Pastor and Teacher of

St. Matthew's

United Church of Christ

June 2nd, 2:00pm

A special reception will follow.

Please sign up on the landing if you plan to attend.

Dorothy Doty
Tenley Errington
Nancy Jankowski
Karen Kaitanowski
Roger Lund
Marilyn Mergenhagen
Nick Nowak



Rachel & Sara
Family of Rev. Hal Schoonover
Dan Steinbruner
Barbara Tschopp
Marvin Wilson
Gary Wolf
Shirley Z.

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!

Bob Velazquez 5/11
Robert Miller 5/12
Denise Woodruff 5/29



Happy Anniversary!

Bill & Mary Hamm
May 12, 1973

Jeff & Robynn Rich
May 18, 2002

Carl & Joann Ertel
May 22, 1992



Dear Church Family;

It is with deep appreciation that I extend my thanks to all for prayers, cards, meals and all around support you have shown Steve and myself.

Special thanks to Pastor Lynn for his numerous visits to lift my spirits.

I am looking forward to getting back to church, however, my healing is still a process that cannot be rushed.

My prayers are with all of you until we meet again.

God's Blessings,

Nancy Jankowski

Activity Group

The April spring luncheon was another great event. Over 20 people enjoyed the lunch, visiting with old and new friends, and singing along with Gary Burdick!



Join us for the next potluck lunch on the third Thursday of the month, May 16, at 12noon.

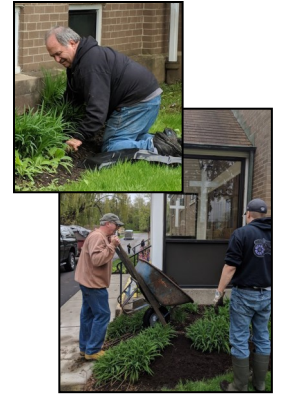




Spring May 4 CLEAN UP

Time to roll up our sleeves and spruce up the church property. Bring your favorite gardening tools and gloves. Come any time between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, May 4.

Rain date: May 11



Spring Concert - May 5, 2pm

Churches In Action is hosting a concert at Windom Community Church (3766 Abbott Rd). Our praise band will join music groups from 4 other local churches..

Following the program, refreshments will be served. A free-will offering will help to raise funds for future CIA mission projects.



St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

To learn more about St. Luke's on Buffalo's east side, go to their website: www.stlukesmissionofmercy.org

CIA Work Weekend

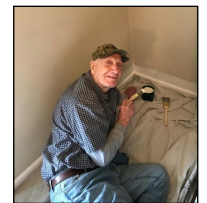
Friday & Saturday
May 17 & 18
9am-3pm

St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
(325 Walden Ave, Buffalo)

There are jobs for skilled and unskilled, youth and adults

Materials and lunch will be provided.

Come when you can and be ready to work.



DCCC Work Weekend

May 24-26, Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center

Volunteers needed to clean cabins, the woods and the beach, rake leaves, remove downed tree limbs, uncover the pool, clean buildings, move picnic tables, paint and various others jobs to get ready for summer. Meals are included all day Saturday and Sunday breakfast. PLEASE fill out the registration form online at www.dunkirkcc.com if you are planning to attend and indicate how many will be attending and when.





Stay tune for more information on the outdoor

Movie Night

at St. Matthew's this summer!

The Hospitality Committee will be working on the details for a fun night.

****Just a note... there will be no Tractor Pulls that night !**

(Our last movie night happened to be during the noisy Tractor Pull at the fair.)

Coming this fall...



St. Matthew's will be having a Craft Show on **Saturday, September 21**, from 10:00am- 3:00pm.

I have a list of some outside crafters who are interested in tables. I would first like to extend an invite to any members and friends of St. Matthew's who are crafters and would like to reserve a table. The cost will be \$25.00 for an 8-foot table and 2 chairs in the Fellowship Hall, the counting room and the classroom by the Fellowship Hall. If you need electricity for your set-up, we have limited outlets for electrical hook-ups. It will be an additional \$5.00 per plug and you will need to bring your own extension cords.

I already have several church members who would like a table for the craft show. If you would like a table, please see me. It's never too early to reserve a table.

-LaDonna Painter (715-7310)

Hospitality Committee

More details to follow...

Ridge Ramblers Folk Group

In appreciation for the use of the building for their rehearsals during the cold months, they gave the church a generous donation of \$203 from a collection taken at one of their Tuesday night rehearsals.

They will move rehearsals to Chestnut Ridge Park when the weather gets warmer. Anyone can go enjoy the beauty of the Ridge and listen to the music of the Ridge Ramblers...Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

We thank the Ridge Ramblers for their concert on March 5. It was attended by 42 church members who enjoyed the music, refreshments and fellowship. A good time was had by all.



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 716-649-1532; office@stmattsucc.org
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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)



The Upper Room devotionals for May and June are available on the table in the Narthex.

March Stats (5 weeks)

Average Attendance: 72

Giving:	General	Mission
Total Received:	\$12,335	\$695
Monthly Goal:	\$15,808	\$702



Friends of Night People

May 1 ... June 5

During the summer months, there will be more help needed to prep the salads Wednesday afternoons.

We also collect travel size toiletries and seasonal clothing.

On the first Wednesday of every month, you can volunteer to bake desserts at home or serve the hot meal cooked at St. Matthew's and delivered to the mission site in the city.

The sign-up sheet is on the landing. Car pooling is available.



Pull-Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Please save your pull-tabs from aluminum beverage containers, and harvest them from your friends and family. They greatly benefit the good work of the Ronald McDonald house. There is a jar in the Mission Room to receive them or hand them to Tom Chmielowiec.

Monthly Money Minutes

-by Amy Jo Lauber, CFP®

-May-

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided to give in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7

I invite you to ponder this insight from St. Paul during the month of May, when many of us are planting. I've yet to meet a gardener who is anything less than cheerful. It seems planting something—be it a zinnia or a tomato – plants a seed of hope within the gardener.

Stinginess comes from a place of fear; fear that there will not be enough. This fear insults God who can and will provide, and do so abundantly. Like spoiled children who always want more and more and more, our focus on ourselves and lack of giving to others only serves to perpetuate our unhappiness. Instead, plant generously; give freely and cheerfully, which opens our hearts and lives to God's abundant blessings.



May 2019



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 AA 10:30am Friends of Night People outreach	2 Praise Band Practice 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm OA 7:30pm	3	4 Spring Clean-up 9am-1pm Service of Word & Sacrament 4:00pm Progressive Dinner 6:00pm
5 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:30 CIA Spring Concert 2pm	6	7 BCE 7:00pm Folk Group 6:30pm	8 AA 10:30am	9 OA 7:30pm	10	11 Rain date: Spring Clean-up Service of Word & Sacrament 4:00pm
			Norm Wahl vacation			
			Michelle Kemp vacation			
12 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am <i>Mothers Day</i>	13 Michelle Kemp vacation	14 Church Council 7:00pm Folk Group 6:30pm	15 AA 10:30am	16 Activity Group 12noon Praise Band 6pm Choir 7pm OA 7:30pm	17	18 Service of Word & Sacrament 4:00pm (Pastor Alva Looze)
					CIA Work Weekend	
					UCC Annual Meeting	
19 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am (Pastor Alva Looze) Coffee Hour 11:30	20	21 Folk Group 6:30pm	22 AA 10:30am	23 Praise Band Practice 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm OA 7:30pm	24	25 Service of Word & Sacrament 4:00pm
					DCCC Work Weekend (24-26)	
26 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am	27 Memorial Day Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives	28 Folk Group 6:30pm Quilters 7:00pm	29 AA 10:30am	30 Praise Band Practice 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm OA 7:30pm	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!