



Renovations

You just never know what you will find when you clean out an attic or a basement. According to scripture (2 Kings 22:8-11) while renovations were being done on the Temple in Jerusalem, the workers found a copy of the Law of Moses that had been long forgotten. When the text was read for King Josiah, he was grieved because he realized how far Israel had wandered from following God's ways. The first thing Josiah did, after hearing the law for himself, was to have the scroll read aloud to the people. What came next was a nation-wide house-cleaning and demolition. All the altars and idols to false gods were found and destroyed.

While I was on vacation, I moved our washer and dryer from the basement to a closet up on the main floor of the house. (How's that for a romantic anniversary gift?) Before I could move the plumbing or route the new gas line and dryer vent, I had to do some demo. I had to take the plaster and sheetrock off the lower half of the wall in the closet I was converting into a laundry. On HGTV, this always looks like great fun, with everyone swinging sledgehammers with abandon and reveling in the chaos.

Needless to say, I took a more careful and measured approach. But still, the house was filled with dust and grime. The first stage of the project didn't look like an improvement, but if I hadn't done it, I would never have completed the job.

Sometimes, the first step towards new growth is demolition. Often we have to tear out old ways of looking at ourselves and others before we can see the truth that will set us free. Sometimes we have to demolish our mental images of God before we can see the divine mystery more fully. We have to deconstruct long-standing habits if we hope to cultivate new ways of living and relating.

The churchy word for this kind of demolition is repentance.

What do you need to tear down in order to be built up? Are you willing to see the old ways of life broken up and carried to the dumpster? Do you want a new life bad enough to let go of the one you already have?

Here's the real issue: it's God who gets to decide how to do the renovation. When you let God in the door for the reno there's no telling where the hammer will swing. Having faith in the carpenter from Nazareth means trusting him to do the job his way. There will be some messiness!

Prayer: *Lord, you may as well take it back to the studs. Help me to cope with the mess while the work is underway. Amen.*



Bringing Communion to You

Now that Pastor Lynn is vaccinated, he is able to visit and bring Communion to all those who are unable to attend worship. If you (or a loved one) are interested, please speak with the pastor. He is looking forward to being with you and offering the sacrament.



Roger Corlett; Jeff Cotton; Jane DUEWIGER; Robin Federmann;
Ken Haberman*; Paul Hayes; John & Karen Kaitanowski; Ron Larson; Jean Roth;
Peggy Scales; Helen Wise

*Ken is in Autumnview for rehab after a fall.

Prayers of Christ's comfort for the following families who lost loved ones in October:

Family of David Roberts ~ his partner Desiree Dentico, son Cole, his sister and brother-in-law Dawn & Chris Goetz and his niece and nephew Jessica and Ryan Goetz.

Family of Marvin Wilson ~ Helen (Bunny) his wife, for Chris & Corey Wilson his son and daughter-in-law and for his grandchildren Ryan, Conner and Amanda & Martin.

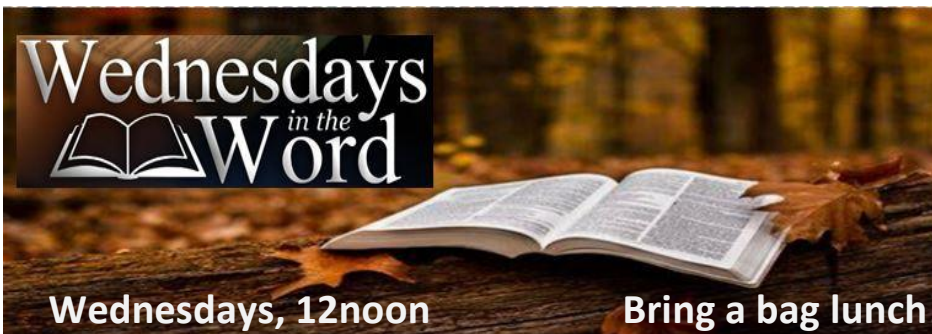
Annual Meeting – Sunday, November 14

Immediately after worship on the 14th, we will hold our Annual Meeting. Members will vote on the following: 1) 2022 budget, 2) approve the committee nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee, 3) live streaming proposal (\$25,000), 3) using funds from our Cemetery Trust Fund to pay for replacement of the carpet in the Sanctuary and Parlor (\$16,800).

All members will receive a special email with the annual report and absentee ballot (those without email, will receive them via US mail). The report and absentee ballot will also be available to pick up next Sunday morning, the 7th. If you do not receive this email next week, please contact the church office.

Note: The church office must receive your Absentee Ballot no later than Friday, November 12, 2021.

Thank you to the Live-Streaming Committee - Bob Velasquez, Jacob Zdrojewski, LaDonna Painter, and Tracy Meyers.



Come share a time of fellowship and discovery as we continue to delve into the book of Romans. Each Wednesday at noon you can bring your lunch and your curiosity about Paul's most intriguing letter. Feel free to drop in whenever your schedule allows.

Pastor Appreciates Pastor's Appreciation Month

I would like to thank the Council and congregation of St. Matthew's for your gifts to Sandy and me in observance of pastor appreciation month. Special thanks to LaDonna who manages to make note of my tastes, my habits and my quirks and finds gifts that bring them to mind with a smile. I have already ordered books with the gift card: one to use for worship planning (hymns, prayers, etc.); another serious theological book by a scholar who taught a Zoom class I took earlier this year; and a book I will steal from for inspiration for sermons. Thank you for kindness and thoughtfulness which I feel 12 months a year.

– Pastor Lynn

Pierce My Ear

“You’re not the boss of me!” As the little brother of two older sisters, you can be sure I was plenty prickly about being bossed around. You don’t have to be the youngest sibling to know the feeling. I think every little kid frequently feels oppressed by all the many people (grown-ups especially) who seek to exert control over their little lives.

Granted, most of the bosses are benevolent and most of the rules are for the protection and benefit of the child, but that doesn’t make being bossed around any easier to take.

When I was young and chafing under the burden of the controls imposed by parents and teachers, I used to console myself, “When I grow up, no one’s going to be the boss of me.”

How little did I know.

None of us escapes entirely from external controls or from bosses and others who place demands and expectations on us that we are obliged to satisfy.

But that doesn’t mean that the impulse to be autonomous – to answer to no one – doesn’t still appeal to us throughout life.

That’s why I have always been struck by the practice in ancient Israel that provided for a slave who declined to accept his freedom.

By Israelite law, a male slave must be released after six years of service. But if he got married while he was a slave, his wife and any children born to them would not be freed with him. They would remain slaves of his master. So, a slave could decline to take his emancipation if he could not bear leaving behind his family or if he was devoted to his master. In such a case, the slave can declare to his master that he will willingly remain a slave forever. Then the master is to pierce the ear of the slave with an awl, to mark him perpetually as a slave. (Exodus 21:2-6)

Although it runs counter to the natural desire to be one’s own boss, Christians are ‘slaves of God.’ (Romans 6:22) To proclaim “Jesus is Lord,” is to surrender control over our lives to God in Christ.

We are servants who are free to go, but out of love we say, “Pierce my ear; mark me as forever belonging to you.”

Prayer: *To whom could I go in search of a love like that which binds me to you? I'm yours.*



Happy Birthday!

Amanda Rozewicz (11/1), Jean Roth (11/3), Sean Dabney (11/4), Sandie Davison (11/6), Mary Hamm (11/8), Tracy Meyers (11/8), Aydan Stormer (11/8), Corey Wilson (11/17), Cheryl Larson (11/23), Kara Corlett (11/27), Brian Snyder II (11/29)

Happy Anniversary!

Andy & Robin Federmann ~ November 3, 1973

Congratulations and blessings to Amanda (Wilson) and Martin Rozewicz who were united in marriage on October 8th!



FUN FACT:

There's a flower in the rainforests of Central and South America that resembles a puckering mouth covered in lipstick. It is called Psychotria Elata.

Pumpkin Craft Day

Thank you to Devon and Vanessa for making our Craft Day another fun time.

Everyone went home with some beautiful pumpkins.

Stay tuned for our next Craft Day.



Help children who face long-term hospitalizations and their families. We will deliver your donations of pull can tabs to the Ronald McDonald house where they will be recycled and turned into cash. Container is in the room near Fellowship Hall.

Support those experiencing food insecurities and/or in need of essential items. We will deliver your donations to #FeedHamburg (Iris Housing Complex, Sowles Road). Suggested items: applesauce, peanut butter, muffin mix, hot cereal, jelly, syrup, juice, jello, paper towels, napkins, tissues. Collection bins are in the room near the Fellowship Hall.



Give thanks - and \$ - to local missions.

Fill your Thanks Offering boxes and bring them to church on Thanks Sunday, November 21. Your coins (and dollars and checks marked 'Thanks offering') are appreciated and will be given to a local mission like the Kathleen Mary House. Boxes are in the wall rack (next to the table) in the Narthex. *If you have any of these things but cannot bring them to church, call the office; we'll arrange a pick-up.*

Thank you note from Senior Wishes to St. Matthew's family and friends and our Hospitality Committee. The donation was made from the proceeds of our last chicken BBQ...

Thank you for your recent donation of \$50.00 to the Senior Wishes program, made in honor of St. Matthew's grandparents. It was very thoughtful of you to support the seniors in Western NY and honor your seniors at the same time! With much appreciation, Wendy Bachman



On behalf of Church Council and St. Matthew's members, a big thank you to Tammy Kruszka for her time as church custodian. We appreciate the time and energy spent keeping our church clean and inviting, including the extra attention to what was needed during the pandemic.

We welcome Don Hoag as he joins our staff as new church custodian. He is a retiree from the Highway Department (31-year career). Don has two adult sons and lives in Lakeview.



Thank you for your continued generous support of the day-to-day operations and ministries of St. Matthew's.



Dear Friends in Christ:

On behalf of our family of residents, please extend a sincere thank you to your congregation for their support of our efforts to provide safe and affordable housing to our senior and disabled population in Western New York.

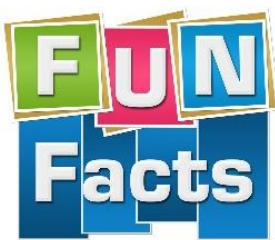
Your generosity will assist us in providing a variety of programs for our residents that are not supported by our Federal funding. These programs include transportation to and from shopping centers, volunteer recognition programs, and monthly resident functions.

Your donation is especially appreciated as we had to cancel our annual Theme Basket Fundraiser in November due to Covid-19.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your church family.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Zmich, Property Manager



Benjamin Franklin invented swim fins when he was 11 years old to help move through the water more efficiently. They were a pair of oval pieces of wood with holes in the center that he grasped in his hands that provided the extra thrust through the water.

All humans have an automatic dive reflex. When your face is submerged in cold water or when you hold your breath, your heart slows and your blood vessels narrow to conserve oxygen.



Sea lions have rhythm. They are the only animal able to clap to a beat...and all this time you thought the trainers were working their magic with the sea lions.



St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

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