



Nothing to Prove

“You don’t have to prove to me that you’re beautiful to strangers. I’ve got loving eyes of my own.” If you’re a codger of a certain age you might recall these lines from the song written by Michael McDonald and Carly Simon. Leaving aside the wily ways of lust, the song fastened on a plausible motivation behind a fair amount of infidelity: the insecurity of the cheater. The middle-aged person who strays to prove they are still attractive is a cliché precisely because it is so common.

Self-doubts and feelings of inadequacy drive people to form inauthentic relationships of many kinds, not just inappropriate sexual relationships. How much glad-handing and people-pleasing is driven by a deep insecurity about being loved?

In the same way, how many people, lacking a sense of innate worth, seek to demonstrate their value through a pursuit of wealth or by the acquisition of luxury items that can be displayed as proof of ‘success’?

“I don’t have enough,” is closely related to “I am not enough.”

I noticed an interesting juxtaposition in Hebrews 13:5. You might have seen the second half of this verse cross-stitched or emblazoned on a plaque. The second half of

the verse is one of the few “red letter” quotations of Jesus that is not found in one of the four Gospels. It quotes Jesus as saying: “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

That’s a wonderful promise to which we should hold fast.

We might also pay attention to the context in which the author of Hebrews quotes Jesus. This is the whole verse:

“Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for as he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’”

Why is it possible to be content? Why is it unnecessary to heap up wealth? Why don’t we need to prove that we’re beautiful to strangers?

Because we are already loved fully by God Incarnate. Because our value was proved when he laid down his life out of love for us. Because we are held in an eternal embrace and are never alone.

Prayer: *Remind me again of your love. Give me assurance that I have nothing to prove. Amen.*

-Pastor Lynn



Time Out for Trivia Questions: 1. Who was the only bachelor U.S. president? 2. If you were eating du Barry, what would you be eating? 3. What was the first capital of the U.S.? 4. What does a funambulist do? 5. What was Mountain Dew’s original slogan?



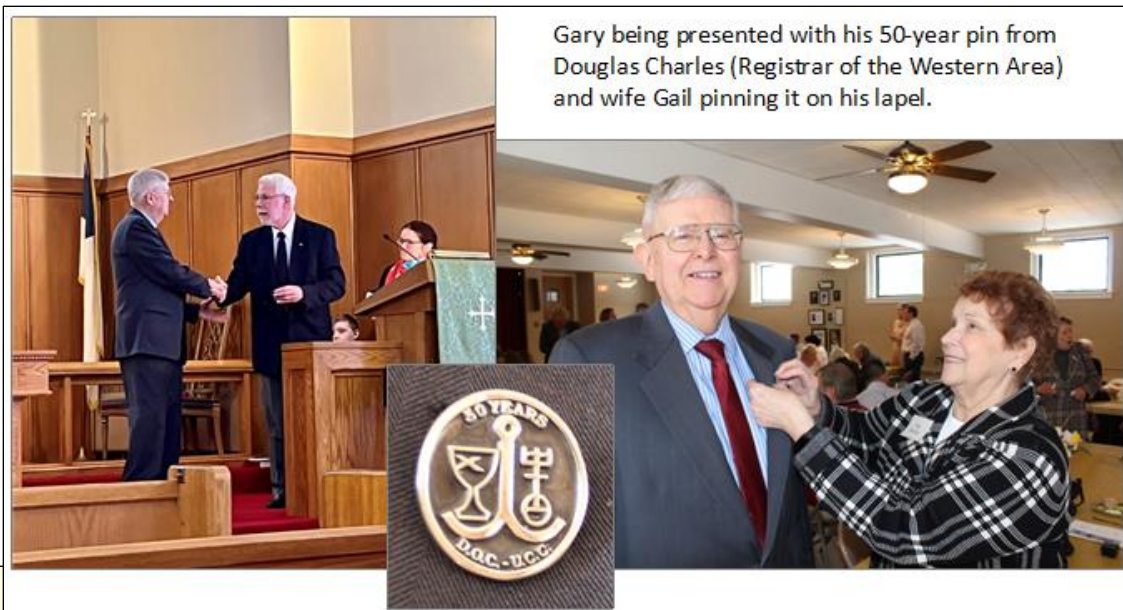
Soup & Soul Food for Lent

One of the great joys in life is gathering for a family dinner. During Lent, the church family is invited to share a soup supper each Wednesday at 6 PM (March 9 through April 6). Because no one lives 'by bread alone,' we will also gather for a brief service each Wednesday at 6:45 in which we will explore the temptation in the wilderness.

Each week, the meal depends on several people bringing a pot of soup to share. If you would like to help provide soup, you can sign up for in the Narthex. In addition to cooking, there are other chores to share in the family. If you will help set up or clean up, you can also sign up in the Narthex. Thank you.

Celebrating Rev. Gary Burdick's 50 Years of Ordained Ministry

February 13, 2022, at St. Matthew's



Gary being presented with his 50-year pin from Douglas Charles (Registrar of the Western Area) and wife Gail pinning it on his lapel.



Time Out for Trivia Answers:

1. James Buchanan Jr., 2. Something made up of cauliflower,
3. New York City, 4. He is a tightrope walker. 5. Yahoo! Mountain Dew...It'll tickle your innards!!

Dear friends of St. Matthew's:

Words cannot express how thankful I am for the wonderful celebration of the 50th Anniversary of my ordination. I am especially grateful to the Church Council and Pastor Lynn for the planning and hard work that went into making it such a meaningful, joyful and faith-filled worship service. Many thanks also to those who made the reception such a beautiful, delicious, comfortable and warm time together.



I loved the surprise song by the choir and praise band as well as all of the good thoughts expressed by people who have been leaders with me in my ministry. To all who were able to attend, I give heartfelt thanks for being there and supporting me. I doubt that any other pastor in Western NY has ever experienced such an outpouring of love and appreciation for their years of ministry as I received. It was truly a blessing as were my years of serving Christ as a pastor. Thanks to God and to everyone who made it such a special occasion.

With heartfelt appreciation and love,
Gary

Thank you to everyone who helped with Gary's 50th Ordination Anniversary celebration in the Fellowship Hall: the set-up crew, the food servers, the creator of the lovely centerpieces, our roving photographer, and the clean-up crew. It was a great time of fellowship for a truly kind and caring person.

-LaDonna Painter, Hospitality Committee Chair



Coffee Fellowship will begin again on Sunday, March 6, continuing on 1st and 3rd Sundays (with some exceptions). Please take a moment to sign up on the table in the Narthex to serve as a host or contact the church office.

St. Matthew's provides the coffee and beverages: coffee, tea, and a Hawaiian Punch type beverage. You can bring whatever you would like for snacks. Every coffee hour is different so whatever you would like to make, bake and/or bring store-bought items is up to you. You don't have to do it alone; it might be a good time to find a partner. (The average number of people for coffee hour has been around 35, and of course that could change).

If you have any questions, call or text LaDonna at 715-7310. She'll tell you all you need to know to be a host if you haven't done it before... or you don't remember.



Myrna Allen; Jeff Cotton; Jane Duewiger; Robin Federmann; Jack Gertner; Paul Hayes; John & Karen Kaitanowski; Ron Larson; Jewell McFarland; Jean Roth; Helen Wilson

Karen Cuddihy (3/5), Michelle Kemp (3/5), Janet Kromer (3/5), Reta Rauker (3/5), Karen Kaitanowski (3/10), Donna Lee Melberg (3/11), Tim Baker (3/17), Ryan Goetz (3/22)



Council and Church Work Update

January

With a new year, we would like to begin sharing the work of the church through brief updates. Please know it takes many to make this all happen. This includes Council and church members. We are extremely thankful and grateful for all who volunteer their time to complete this work.

At our January Council meeting, we welcomed our newest member Corey Wilson.

Officers were elected and include:

Tracy Meyers – Council President
Doug Stormer – Council Vice President
Linda Velazquez - Council Secretary

- We also finalized plans and signed a contract to install the hardwiring for our streaming technology.
 - Steve J. cleaned out a third floor closet to make room for the technology wiring.
 - Carpeting has been ordered and will be scheduled for installation in the Sanctuary and Parlor.
 - New smoke detectors were installed throughout the church.
 - We will be planning a celebration of The Reverend Gary Burdick on February 13th, as he has been Ordained 50+ years.
 - We continue to look for a church custodian. We give thanks for Tammy Kruszka who continues to take this on while we search for a replacement.
 - Hymnal ribbons were donated to the church by members Kerry Shearer and Chrissy Mellerski.
 - The boiler was inspected and passed.
 - We reviewed our monthly reports as they relate to finances and committees.
- Our next Council meeting will be held February 8th.

February saw continued progress.

- Work was begun on the organ. It is being done in stages. We are still waiting to have the leather stops replaced. This most likely will be completed in April.
- The wiring for our streaming capabilities has begun and should be up and running very soon.
- We have ordered the replacement carpet, it is in. Once the streaming wiring is complete, an appointment for installation will be made.
- We purchased a new 12' aluminum ladder to replace our very old wooden one which was no longer deemed safe.
- The UCC Annual Data was completed and submitted by our church secretary, Michelle.
- A fire resistant safe was donated and will hold papers such as our church deed as well as other important church documents.
- The council sent a letter of thanks to Marilyn Rich for her many years as our Memorial Account Treasurer. Beth Stormer has been appointed as the new Account Treasurer.
- The council sent a letter of thanks to Tammy Kruszka for her work as our church custodian these past several years. We are very appreciative for her willingness to stay on as we worked to hire a new custodian.
- We have interviewed for a church custodian. We believe we have a candidate. Once all paperwork and clearances are complete, he will officially begin.
- The church council has moved to begin church services at 10:00AM beginning March 6th.
- At council it was also determined we need to revise our Constitution and By-Laws to better meet our needs and reflect our current church membership. It was last revised in 2010.
- We have begun work on strengthening participation on church committees and updating our organizational chart. If you would like to know more about serving on a committee, please feel free to talk with Tracy Meyers, Council President or Beth Stormer or Perry Kaupa, who are on the Nominating Committee.
- We are thankful to be able to begin Fellowship and choir once again.
- Our next Church Council Meeting will be held March 8th.



Senior Wishes celebrated Peggy Scales' 95th birthday (January 30th) with her daughters Brenda Carver and Wendy Scales with a lovely cake from Haak's Cakes. Then it was time to give her gifts. Peggy loves dark chocolate and Crunch 'n Munch and she now has enough to celebrate her birthday well into February. She loves the songs from the WW II era and we found her a nice 3 CD set to enjoy, maybe while snacking on her treats. When the weather is a little (a lot!) warmer, she will be going to Kohl's to pick out her new couch pillows and maybe even a new bedspread with the gift card from Senior Wishes. Happy Birthday Peggy!!!!

I enjoyed celebrating Peggy's birthday with her and her family. I am a Senior Wishes volunteer and I am on the wish granting committee. Every wish is different and we try to make all wishes special. If you have a friend or family member that meets the qualifications for a wish, check out the website (seniorwishes.org) or talk to me and we'll see if we can make that wish come true. If you have a family or friend in a facility, you can talk to the social worker and they can submit an application.

If you have any questions, call me.
LaDonna Painter (716) 715-7310

Thank you to my St. Matthew's family for all the cards I received for my 95th birthday! I miss you all.
God bless you,
Peggy Scales

Craft Day at St. Matthew's

Thank you to Vanessa and Devon for sharing their creativity and helping the group create their own beautiful necklaces. The snack of freshly baked blueberry scones were appreciated and enjoyed! Everyone is looking forward to the next one.



Next Craft Day!

The next craft day will be Saturday, April 2, from 10am-noon. We'll be creating string Easter eggs AND will have an Easter egg hunt for the children! Invite all the children/ grandchildren in your life!

Watch for more information and the sign-up sheet as we get closer to the date.

If you want to attend and need a ride, please call the office 649-1532. It is always a fun time that you don't want to miss! No matter how old!



St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

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*Journey through
Lent with Jesus*

