

One Thing

But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:41-42)

One of my all-time favorite movies is *City Slickers*. Themes of forgiveness, renewal, and the power of loving relationships are threaded through the movie. In *City Slickers*, Billy Crystal plays a man turning 40 and going through a crisis of meaning.

He receives a piece of enigmatic advice from the character played by Jack Palance, who acts as a grizzled spiritual guide to Crystal. He says the meaning of life is “one thing,” the one thing that centers everything else. The one thing that demands everything else takes second place.

In the movie, Billy Crystal’s character asks what the “one thing” is, only to be told that’s just what he needs to figure out.

In Luke’s story, Jesus visits two sisters, Martha and Mary. Martha is consumed with doing her duty as a host. She cooks and serves and fusses. She wants things to be just so for Jesus. The more she cooks and prepares, the more she misses the help of her sister who is sitting at the feet of Jesus, leaving her with all the work.

Prayer: *O God, save me by subtraction. Strip away all the things that get in the way of the one thing that truly matters – finding my life in you. Amen.*

Martha urges Jesus to send Mary back to the kitchen, but Jesus tells her that Mary has chosen the one needful thing.

When we have visitors, we strive and fuss and prepare; we clean, we fluff pillows, we drive ourselves to distraction to do our best for our guests just like Martha did. And just like Martha, we risk missing out on the best part of the visit – just being together.

The one needful thing is to share our whole self in relationship.

That’s the most important thing in our relationship with our friends, our spouses, and our children.

It is the most important thing in our relationship with God.

Our anxious striving, our desire to make everything (especially ourselves) perfect, can get in the way of the one thing God has wanted from us since God came calling for Adam, who started the long tradition of hiding from God back in the garden.

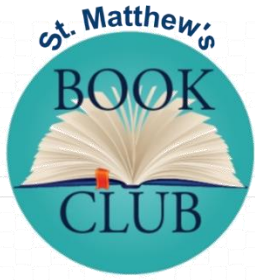
God wants us.

That’s the one thing God has set above everything else – to be with us. And God wants to be the one thing that stands at the center of our lives.



Time to plan ahead and order a poinsettia(s) in honor/memory of loved ones to adorn the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Order envelopes are on the windowsill in the Narthex along with box to place them in.

Place your poinsettia orders by Sunday, November 20.
(\$8.25 ea.)



Just in time for the holidays, the St. Matthew's Book Club is back with the selected reading for our December gathering. We will be reading "A Christmas Memory" and two other seasonal short stories by Truman Capote.

The book is available for \$9.99 on Kindle and \$11.89 in hardcover on Amazon. Michelle can order for you.

We will be discussing this short story collection on **Wednesday, December 14**. All St. Matthew bookworms are welcome. (If you would like a ride, please call Michelle in the office. 716-649-1532.)



Wednesday's Brown Bag BIBLE STUDY

Come with your lunch and bible to the Council room as we visit with each other and learn and grow in the Word with Pastor Lynn.

All are welcome ... bring a friend!

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, kids ages 3-12 are invited to go to Sunday School after Pastor Lynn's children's message during worship. The teachers will meet them at the back of the sanctuary and escort them to their classes. If you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Rich (716) 648-7683.

Welcoming New Member

Karen Kuhaneck

November 27

Come meet and welcome Karen at the New Member Reception after worship.

Church Directory

If anyone would like a copy of the newest church directory, please contact Michelle in the office (716-649-1532).

Remnants from Old Church Carpet Available

There are a few remnants available to anyone who wants a piece of St. Matthew's. These are left from our old carpet taken from the sanctuary and parlor, bounded in 3' x 6' pieces.

If you are interested in having one or two, please contact LaDonna Painter at 716-715-7310. You may make a donation to the church which will go towards the out-of-pocket expenses associated with the vandalism.



1. Which state has the longest cave system in the world?
2. What was the name of the high school in "Grease"?
3. What was the name of the first Space Shuttle to go into space?
4. Who was the first woman ever inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
5. Finish the next line: "Splish, splash, I was taking a bath".

Bonus points if you know who sang the song?

answer last page



Opportunities to GIVE on November 20th

We will collect the year-long "Thank "offerings. Boxes are available in the Narthex if needed. Donations may also be made by check or cash in envelope with "Thank Offering" noted. You may place your donation in basket at back of the Sanctuary.

This year's collection will be donated to "Kathleen Mary House" which is a safe haven for women and children in the Blasdell area.

GIVING THANKS

Also on the 20th, stay after worship for coffee fellowship where we'll show appreciation for the hard work of the retiring Fundraising Committee members: LaDonna Painter, Marilyn Rich, Steve & Nancy Jankowski (and Gail Burdick for help with Craft Fair/Quilt Raffle). Their efforts have not only benefited St. Matthew's but also our community.



More to GIVE

Bring nonperishable food items to church on the 20th and place in the chancel in front of Communion table. There will be helping hands at back door and in the sanctuary to carry your bag(s) if you need help.

Church Council Update & GIVING THANKS

November is here and it gives me an extra nudge to be thankful for so much. This past Sunday, we held our Annual Meeting. Our budget and slate of officers were passed unanimously. Thank you to our financial team that worked to put our budget together and to Michelle for compiling our Annual Report. Thank you to each of you for your ongoing dedication and support to St. Matthew's. It is because of your support we can continue our ministry.

-Tracy Meyers, Council President



*To our friends at St. Matthews,
The enclosed funds we hope will help with healing and a return to normal!
Your sister congregation,
First Congregational UCC
Angola*

On October 29, at First Congregational UCC's Fall Festival, representatives from their Board of Trustees presented Gail & Gary Burdick (on behalf of St. Matthew's) with a generous donation from their Chicken BBQ, along with the note above. The gift (\$1,000) was given to help us with the out-of-pocket expenses associated with the vandalism to our church building.



Local policemen were said to be "giving them the 23 Skidoo" when they tried to disperse these groups of oglers.



Sandie Davison; Eugene; Paul Hayes; John & Karen Kaitanowski; Jewell McFarland; Molly; Pat Nagle; Jean Roth; Lisa S.; Scott; Kelly Thien; Helen Wilson; Alex Steinbronner, Aydan Stormer and those deployed to serve



Happy Birthday!

Amanda Rosewicz (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)

Happy Anniversary! Andy & Robin Federmann (11/3/1973)



Jean Roth enjoyed her 90th birthday celebrations, including the tea party with granddaughter Andrea and great granddaughters Corrina and Charlie. Jean loved all the cards. We read each card to her. She fondly remembers you all and sends love to her church family.

-Cheryl Larson



Theodore "Theo" Marvin Rosewicz was born to parents Amanda & Martin Rosewicz on October 14 at 3:20am. He weighed 8lbs, 5ozs. Everyone is settling in well at home.

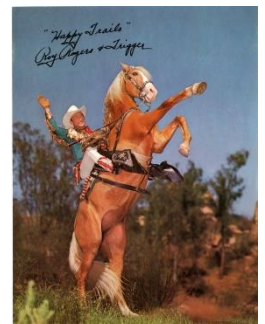
Grandparents Corey & Chris Wilson, as well as Great Grandparents Mary and Bill Hamm gratefully welcome their first grandchild/great grandchild.

Congratulations on your beautiful bundle of joy!



The first nail polish, the kind we use today, was launched by Revlon in the 1920's. It was actually made of car paint. Due to the higher pigmentation today, dark nail polish peels faster. Use light strokes to make them last longer.

Roy Rogers horse Trigger had backup horses for stunts. Trigger's famous backups included Little Trigger and Allen's Golden Zephyr. Trigger appeared in 88 movies and 100 episodes on TV. Rogers would often park his horse trailer with Trigger outside event arenas so even kids without tickets would get the chance to see the legendary stallion. He was so famous at the time he even got his own comic books.





Christmas WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Following Worship

Whether you're young or old, come for the fellowship and fun!

SOUP! CRAFTS!

DECORATING COOKIES AND CHURCH!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." -John 1:5

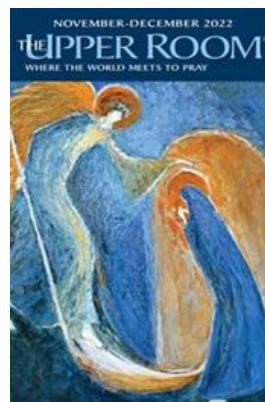
If you'd like to give to the **UCC Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**, special giving envelopes are on the table in the Narthex. Your donation can be put in the offering plate this Sunday or mailed to the church by December 17.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.



Saturday, December 24, 2022

7:00pm Candlelight Communion Service



November-December issue of The Upper Room devotional can be found in the magazine rack in Narthex and on the small table in the Fellowship Hall.

Help yourself and take one for a friend!



Trivia Answers

1. Kentucky
2. Rydell High
3. Space Shuttle Columbia
4. Aretha Franklin
5. "Long about a Saturday night. Yeah."
Bobby Darin released the song in 1958.

Also in the magazine rack are Thank Offering boxes. They are available to you all year long so you can collect coins to give on Thanks Sunday to support a local mission.



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

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
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