

## Holidays – Holy Days

Several special holidays are fast approaching in the next two months.

If you remember that "holiday" is derived from the words "Holy Days," perhaps the holidays we honor and celebrate in November and December will have more meaning.

So we began with VETERANS DAY---honoring all the men and women who have served or are serving our country in uniform and doing so with commitment and loyalty and dedication and bravery. Let us thank God for their sacred service.

Then there is THANKSGIVING....make it truly a HOLY DAY by raising your prayers of thanksgiving to our generous God for all your blessings.

While ADVENT is not a holiday as such, it does help us prepare our hearts for the holiday season

we call CHRISTMAS....when we remember God became Emmanuel to dwell among us and help us grow closer to God.

I enjoy Christmas, especially because I have 3 grandsons who still enjoy getting presents from Nana and Grandpa and yet Christmas reminds us that we all receive the greatest gift of all...God's love in Jesus Christ. How sacred is that!

So enjoy your holidays, some secular, like the ones in November, and the sacred one in December, but remember, when we give God thanks for all that those holidays mean, they are all sacred and holy.

"Pastor Pat"

The Rev. Patricia Ludwig, supply pastor

## This Sunday, November 19, is THANKS SUNDAY at St. Matthew's!

Bring in your gifts of food, including fresh fruits and vegetables and share the bounty with the residents of The Kathleen Mary House. Baskets will be set up at the back of the Sanctuary.

And...don't forget to bring your Thanks Offering box(es) or cash donations. Look for the basket at the back of the Sanctuary. With the money collected, Nancy & Steve Jankowski will buy necessities for The Kathleen Mary House and then deliver all the items.



*The Kathleen Mary House provides transitional living for domestic abuse victims and their children.*



**This Sunday is the last day to order your poinsettia(s)** which will adorn the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Envelopes with more details are on the windowsill, or call Shirley Haberman (716-649-4919).



**HOLIDAY  
DESSERT  
EXCHANGE**

Saturday, December 9

10:00 am in the  
Fellowship Hall

cookies, muffins, loaves of bread, biscotti, cupcakes, candies

**The Holiday Dessert Exchange is back!**

**Please sign up by Monday, November, 27**

The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex;

We will exchange the desserts at church on **Saturday, December 9 at 10:00am**. It will also be a time of fellowship sharing some of your dessert treats with coffee, hot cocoa and cold beverages.

Example how it will work: If we have 7 people sign up, you will make 3 dozen cookies and package them 6 to a bag or container. If you make loaves of holiday bread, then each loaf packaged. For all others that are individual items like cookies, muffins, candy, etc., the package or container should contain 6 items. Then bring additional cookies (6) or 1 loaf to share with those at the exchange. I will contact everyone to let them know the final dessert count but the most anyone would make for the exchange will be 3 dozen or 6 loaves. Any questions, please call or text me.

*\*Just a note: We can have more than 7 to sign up and I hope we do.\**

We had a great time the last time we had the exchange and the time of fellowship. If you would like to be part of the exchange but can't make it on Saturday, December 9, let me know and we can work something out.

Thanks, LaDonna Painter 716-715-7310

**ADVENT  
WORKSHOP**

Sunday, December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Stay after worship and enjoy a hot bowl of soup  
and make a craft or two... all ages!



Kids crafts: Light the Way jar candle, graham cracker nativity scene, scratch-off ornaments  
Adult crafts: yarn tree, oranges with cloves, gift cards



The organizers of the Workshop are looking for a couple of volunteers to help with a craft. The crafts will be all ready to go, just need help giving directions and helping at each table.

Interested?

Contact Vanessa Rich

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



**During Advent**, beginning December 3, the **Giving Tree** will be set up in the Narthex waiting for your gifts to share. We will be collecting **anything warm (new or gently used) that people can put on during Western New York's cold winter months.**

The collection of new or gently used hats, mittens, winter socks, coats and/or boots, etc. will go to those in need. Update from last week: Instead of giving the collection to CIA (they are all set with winter wear to give to refugees), we will deliver the items to St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church's Outreach Center which is a food pantry and offers clothing for visitors to the Center; they will also deliver to those in need who have no vehicle.



**Christmas is just around the corner!! F.I.R.S.T. Certificates are available** for your giving pleasure or to enjoy yourself. Local restaurants are always a great place to enjoy a delicious meal. This easy way to shop for that Christmas gift (or one for yourself) is available any time of the year.

F.I.R.S.T. Certificates are an ongoing fundraiser for St. Matthew's.

INTERESTED ???

See Nancy Jankowski or call 716-826-0012



Dawn Chmielowiec, Karen & John Kaitanowski, Jimmy Kruszka, Ron & Cheryl Larson, Rev. Marna Pritchard, Kathee & Ed Simon, Corey Wilson, Denise Woodruff; our elderly members & friends in assisted living or homebound: Lola Donner, Marilyn Fenske, Joan Haney, Jewell McFarland, Helen Mellerski, Reta Rauker, Yvonne Shearer, Helen Wilson, those serving in the military: Alex Steinbronner, Aydan Stormer



*In Memory – Seymour (Sy) LaVett* who passed away October 17, 2023. Prayers for his family, especially daughter and son-in-law Kathee and Ed Simon. Sy and his late wife Peggy and their children began going to St. Matthew's back when the church was located at the corner of Swan and Hagerman streets in the city. Sy played in jazz bands, including at the Colored Musicians Club.

*Pastoral Care* If you, or someone you know, is hospitalized, needs pastoral care, or would appreciate a visit or communion at home, you can call Michelle in the church office, or you can contact the Rev. Paula Gustafson directly at 716-476-9261. Pastor Paula will be providing pastoral care while we are without a called pastor.

### Happy Birthday!

**NOV:** Amand Wilson (11/1), Sean Dabney (11/4), Aubrie Muszynski (11/7), Mary Hamm (11/8), Tracy Meyers (11/8), Aydan Stormer (11/8), Corey Wilson (11/17), Cheryl Larson (11/23), Kara Corlett (11/27), Debi Dinkuhn (11/27)

**DEC:** Jeff Rich (12/5), Beth Stormer (12/11), Ron Larson (12/15), Rose Asboth (12/17), Lynne Duewiger (12/19), Chelsea Kanaley (12/28), Ann Marie Leverentz (12/28)

### Happy Anniversary

Andy & Robin Federmann (11/3/1973)

Phil & Gail Vara (12/9/1995)



The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920.

It takes about 15 years to grow the average Christmas tree.

President Teddy Roosevelt, an environmentalist, banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1901.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 am (including December 24)



Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.



Email: [office@stmattsucc.org](mailto:office@stmattsucc.org)  
Website: [www.stmattsucc.org](http://www.stmattsucc.org)

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