



## From the Pastor

Beloved Family of St. Matthew's,

Even as I write those words - describing you as a "Family" - I am reminded that families are not just created by birth, but families are also created by choice.

Whether you've spent your entire life sitting in one of the pews in this Sanctuary, or you've only been here a few months or years - or if you participate in the life of this Community of Faith via online Worship and from a distance - you've chosen to be part of this Church Family.

And what an amazing Family of Faith it is!

The relationships and connections between all of you are tangible - there is an overwhelming sense of love and care you have for one another. There's no such thing as a "perfect" Family - such an ideal doesn't truly exist. When a family loves and supports one another, accepts each person for who they truly are, works through their differences with respect and care, and where there can be accountability and honesty with one another without fear...That seems to come pretty close to "perfect", at least in my mind!

And those are actions, decisions, and qualities that are uplifted time and time again through Scripture - long before Jesus spoke those words we know as the Golden Rule ("Love your neighbor as you love yourself" - Matthew 7:12), God was affirming God's creation as "good" and sharing wisdom regarding how to live in relationship with one another. God formed a nation from a mix of people from all cultures, ethnicities, and personalities - they became God's People and God led them faithfully in times of both blessing and challenge - through times when they united as a community, as well as times when they bickered or did not agree.

Whether you are part of this Church Family - this Community of Faith - by birth or by choice, I am so glad you are here! And I am so grateful that God has given me the opportunity to get to know you over the past several months - it's truly a joy to be part of your Family here at St. Matthew's!

Blessings,

Pastor Kayti



## Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic!

Sunday, June 29

Immediately following 10am worship,  
come enjoy a

**potluck church picnic!**

The sign-up sheet will be available in June.  
There will be activities for the kids so please sign  
up so organizers know how many to plan for.



## Saturday Night Vesper Services

In July, we will begin offering another weekly worship option. The Saturday Night Vesper Service will be in our Pavilion (weather permitting). It will be a less formal time of Worship, reflection and prayer.

Pastor Kayti and the Spiritual Life Committee (SL) are looking for folks who are willing to share their thoughts on scripture; if you are willing and interested, please let Pastor Kayti or a member of SL Committee know: Debbie Zdrojewski, Tammy Kruszka, Brenda Carver.



In preparation for Summer Worship, we are putting together a

### ***Praise Booklet!***

If there is an easy-to-sing hymn, contemporary song, or a campfire tune that speaks to your spirit, please let us know! There is a sheet on the table in the Narthex to put down your song titles.



A **BIG THANK YOU** to the children of St. Matthew's who made the beautiful garden stakes and gifted them in honor of Mother's Day! Also, for doing so much to host a special Coffee Fellowship Hour.

As we know, behind every child is a parent, guardian or teacher so we also wish to thank the dedicated work of the Sunday School teachers as well as the loving care of parents/grandparents and guardians!



The Board of Christian Education (BCE) is looking for 2 more teachers for Sunday school starting in September. We will be following a story bible curriculum for ages 5-12. Each lesson will incorporate a story, a game, a craft, and a take-home sheet. We all help each other with lesson ideas and crafts. Please see any member of BCE if you are interested: Vanessa Rich, Devon Asboth, Karen Cuddihy, or Dawn Goetz. -Vanessa Rich, BCE Chair

## Spring Cleanup

The spring church cleanup has been completed. We accomplished many things, including weeding and cleaning the gardens, trimming the bushes, mulching, cleaning gutters on the garage and pavilion, picking up sticks and fixing down spouts on the gutter.



Thank you to all of the volunteers for your talents and labor. Thank you to Brenda Carver for feeding us! We have a very beautiful church both inside and outside. -Kurt Rich, Buildings & Grounds Chair



Come for an evening of great music  
at St. Matthew's with

**Robin Grandin**

**Rockin Robin Music**

**Monday, June 9 • 6:30pm**

**Music • Refreshments • Fellowship**

*All are welcome!*

Contact the Church Office by June 1<sup>st</sup> to sign up  
if you are unable to do so at church.

This is a FREE EVENT thanks to the generosity  
of an anonymous donor.



## Connecting with Pastor Kayti!

Connect with Pastor Kayti in the office, Comfort Zone Cafe, Panera Bread, or your home or hospital.

### New hours/days in the Community and Office:

**Mondays & Wednesday:** Office 9am-2pm    **Tuesdays:** Comfort Zone 9am-12noon; Panera Bread 12:30-3:30

**Thursdays:** Office as needed    **Fridays:** Sabbath day

Hours may vary, so please contact the church office to check Pastor Kayti's availability.  
(There is an option on the church phone to press 2 and go to Pastor Kayti's cell phone.)



Holy Communion is always available to you. If you missed a Communion Sunday for  
any reason and would like the sacraments at home, please contact Pastor Kayti.

**It's a Boy!**

Christian and Shannon Kanaley are happy to share the news that their second  
child Bennett Gene Kanaley was born on April 25, 2025! Everyone is doing well,  
including older brother Leo. They are looking forward to introducing Bennett to  
the St. Matthew's community.



**Condolences to the family of Donesse Lindsay** who passed away May 1, 2025, at Father Baker's  
Manor. Several weeks ago she celebrated her 100th birthday with a big party; family and friends  
are grateful to have had that time with her. Donesse was a member of St. Matthew's since 2006  
and enjoyed the fellowship of the Activity Group. A service was held at St. Matthew's on May 9.





## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### *Happy Birthday!*

MAY: Dawn Goetz (5/5), Anne Kanaley (5/7), Debbie Zdrojewski (5/7), Bob Velazquez (5/11), Denise Woodruff (5/29), Larry Wightman (5/30), Stan Kaznica (5/31)

JUNE: Joann Ertel (6/2), Andy Federmann (6/4), Christian Kanaley (6/4), Sandy McCusker (6/5), Chris Wilson (6/5), Joyce Kaupa (6/6), Steve Jankowski (6/12), Shannon Wood Kanaley (6/13), Joan Haney (6/15), Keith Kanaley (6/16), Mike Meyers (6/17), Gary Burdick (6/18), Roger Corlett (6/27), Tammy Kruszka (6/30)

### *Happy Anniversary!*

Bill & Mary Hamm (5/12/1973) Jeff & Robin Rich (5/18/2002) Carl & Joann Ertel (5/22/1992)

Ken & Tammy Kruszka (6/10/1989) Ken & Shirley Haberman (6/24/1967)



**Would you like the church to pray for you or a loved one?**

**Do you have a prayer concern? Do you have a joy to share?**

We are here for you! There are many ways you can be supported in prayer:

- If you'd like **personal, private prayer with only Pastor Kayti**, please connect with her at 716-473-2606.
- You may also publicize your prayer needs for others to pray for you by contacting Michelle in office at 716-649-1532 or [office@stmattsucc.org](mailto:office@stmattsucc.org) or Pastor Kayti and names will be added to the **bulletin and Newsflash**. (Names will appear in the bulletin and Newsflash for 2 weeks; after which time, if you'd like them to remain on the list, please contact the office. This way, we are lifting up in prayer those with immediate needs at a critical time.)
- Another option is to have your prayer requests be sent to the **confidential prayer text chain** with prayer warriors ready to pray when they receive the text request. Contact Michelle or Pastor Kayti to start the chain.

*If you would like to be a prayer warrior who receives prayer requests through a text message, contact Michelle by calling/texting her at 716-245-1692.*



Please keep the following in your thoughts, prayers and acts of loving kindness:

#### **For those who are seeking peace, comfort and healing:**

David Baltes  
Shirley Haberman  
Gayle & Denise Woodruff  
Karen & John Kaitanowski

**All who are grieving and who are in need of God's healing and wholeness in mind, body & spirit**

#### **For those who are homebound or in assisted living:**

Lola Donner Pam Ingraham  
Joan Haney Yvonne Shearer  
Nancy McGee

**All who participate in the life of our community from their homes**

#### **For those who are in the military:**

Alex Steinbronner Aydan Stormer

**For those who are rebuilding their lives due to natural disasters and wars**



12-28

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"I'm gonna say my prayers, Daddy.  
Do you have any requests?"



## Ongoing Recycling to Support St. Matthew's Children's Ministry & Ronald McDonald House

Support our children's church programs by collecting and delivering your refundable cans and bottles to the Can Bottle Return Company (CBR) at 4255 Clark Street. Refund goes to St. Matthew's.

\* \* \*

Before you take your cans to CBR, remove the tab and bring your supply to church. The metal tabs are delivered to the Ronald McDonald House and recycled. The money pays for their utility bills. There are 2 plastic containers for your donations on the collection table by the back door.

## Meeting Local Food & Other Needs

We will continue to collect pantry items for SS. Peter & Paul Outreach Center to help those in need throughout Hamburg. A list of suggested items is at the donation site in the downstairs hallway.

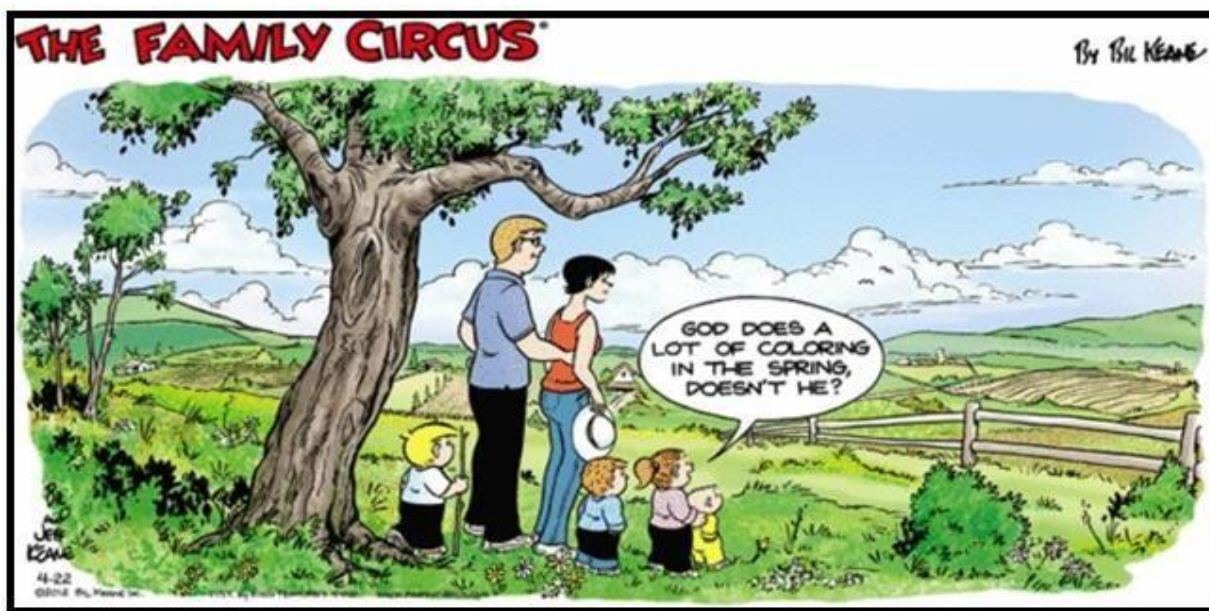


## Pride in the Park

The Rainbow Collective of WNY is excited to host the 5th Annual Pride in the Park event on Sunday, June 8, 2025, from 11:00 am-5:30 pm at the Village of Hamburg Memorial Park! In a time when unity and celebration are more important than ever, this event serves as a vital platform for connection and support within the LGBTQIA+ community.

*Thank You*

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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Hamburg, NY 14075

[www.stmattsucc.org](http://www.stmattsucc.org)



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

† Worship Service: 10:00 am Sunday mornings  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Children's Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship  
Rev. Katie Dean, Pastor