



From the Pastor

If you step into my office, you'll see a small frame on my desk with Psalm 46:10 in it: "Be still and know that I am God." I have another frame with the same verse on my desk at home.

The Psalmist who wrote these words wrote them as part of a greater work – a song exalting God as our refuge and strength – "an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea....Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; God lifts God's voice, the earth melts...." And, in the midst of some beautiful but intense language – God's voice giving this instruction: to be still, and know that God is God.

Yet "being still" is not passive – and it's not easy. And it's not about withdrawing or withholding action.

Being still is about being present.

Being fully engaged and noticing details. Investing our time and energy into developing our knowledge, not just filtering information. Sitting in a sense of awe and

wonder of God's creation, of God's work in the world, of God's presence – to know deeply within our hearts and spirits that God is God.

We come to Worship on Sundays to be present with one another and with God. In the summer, we spent time at Saturday Vespers praying and being present with one another and with God. We pause throughout the day to be present with one another and with God. And our actions reflect that presence – that desire to be present and fully engaged: whether we are crafting shawls or preparing food, buying school supplies or mentoring students, praying for others or choosing to act with kindness – it matters.

As the summer shifts to fall, as the world spins on its axis and whatever is happening is happening – God is God. God is present with us.

And we are ...

Blessed

Faithfully,
Pastor Kayti

St. Matthew's



Join us in wrapping our community in love! You can make shawls at home or get together with friends! Shawls will be blessed during worship services and given to people who may need "a wearable hug".

If you know of someone who may like a prayer shawl, feel free to take a bag with a shawl from the back of the Sanctuary, or contact [Joyce Corlett](#) if you prefer it be delivered by someone else.

When you complete a shawl, place it in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary; those will be blessed when a few are collected.

Also, if you need yarn or knitting needles, help yourself to any item(s) in the basket in the Narthex. If knitting or crocheting is out of your bailiwick, a loom is a good option. If you'd like one from the Church, contact Joyce.

September Fun at St. Matthew's!

Saturday, September 6 - 11am-3pm

Come Celebrate!

This Saturday, September 6, from 11am to 3:00pm, enjoy a **post-wedding Celebration Picnic** hosted by newlyweds Pastor Kayti and Christopher Hebert who were married in small family ceremony on August 23. Now they'd like to celebrate with their church family! Hot dogs, burgers and drinks will be provided; you can bring a dish to pass. You can also share a recipe to add to their family cookbook.

Sunday, September 7 - After worship

Memorial Stone Dedication

This Sunday, September 7, following worship, we will have a Dedication Service at the new Memorial Stone to honor and memorialize the recently inscribed names.

Sunday, September 14

Kick off to a New Church Year!

Stay after worship on Sunday, September 14, to celebrate a new church year with *Sunday Sundae!* 

Have fun visiting with folks and making your own ice cream sundae!

Saturday, September 20 - 6pm



Progressive Dinner!

Eat, Drink & Be Merry!

Come enjoy a time of fellowship with old and new friends around the table at the Progressive Dinner on Saturday, September 20!

The evening will begin at 5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall for appetizers and then head to the more intimate setting of a host's home. Please sign up if you'd like to be a host or plan to join in the fun. Contact LaDonna Painter (716-715-7310) if you have any questions; she will reach out to those who sign up to be hosts. Please sign up by September 14.

Saturday September 27 – 6-8pm

St. Matthew's
got Talent
Show

Come enjoy our first-ever Talent Show!

Your talent needs to be "church friendly" and it is open to kids and adults.

Groups are eligible as long as a least 1 member of the group is a St. Matthew's member. You need to supply any props and or instruments for your act. Most acts should be between 1 to 5 minutes. (If you need more time, see LaDonna).

I hope everyone has been working on their act. It's time to showcase your talent which might be singing, dancing, martial arts, poetry reading, yo-yo tricks, jump roping...etc. We might even have some members that do bird calls and some of our members might break out their deer calls and don't be surprised if they are really good and you notice some birds and deer peeking in the Fellowship Hall windows.

Any questions, contact me, LaDonna Painter, at 716-715-7310. Please sign up by Sunday, September 21.



UNDIE SUNDAYS
Churches In Action... A Simple Way to Serve

It is September and that means **UNDIES SUNDAYS!** It is time to purchase undergarments, socks and/or diapers for those in need. St. Matthew's partners with other local churches through Churches In Action (CIA) to collect and deliver needed items to local mission sites. Please bring your items to church by the last Sunday in September. Your gifts of these necessities are always appreciated!

October Events at St. Matthew's

Sunday, October 5 - after worship



Saturday, October 18 – 7-9pm



An up-to-date version of our Church Directory is available by contacting the Church Office. Michelle can email an electronic version or mail you a printed copy.

The Directory includes contact information for family and friends of St. Matthew's, as well as birthdays and wedding anniversaries. If your information has changed, please notify the church office (716-649-1532).

We are a church that prays for one another.

If you would like the church to pray for you, please contact the church office or Pastor Kayti and we can add your name to the **weekly Newsflash** - your request will go out to the church members and friends, who will hold you in prayer for up to 2 weeks (or longer, if you let the office know you'd like to remain on the prayer list!)

We also have a **Prayer Text Chain** of people who are able to offer prayers for immediate or urgent situations; you can contact the church office to ask for the request to be texted to them.

If you would like prayer but you're not ready to share your requests with the church family, that's all right! You can contact Pastor Kayti and she will pray with you and for you. She can also ask the Prayer Chain to pray for an anonymous person and situation.



Please let us know how we can pray for and support you! ♥

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

For those who are seeking peace, comfort & healing:

Gail Burdick – in Autumn View recovering from a fall
Karen and John Kaitanowski - continued health challenges
All 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 Gayle Woodruff Nancy McGee
Joan Haney Yvonne Shearer

For those who are in the military: Alex Steinbroner, Aydan Stormer, Tess Bierl

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

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



"I couldn't remember The Lord's Prayer, so I said the Pledge of Allegiance."



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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www.stmattsucc.org



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

† Worship Service: Sunday mornings at 10:00 am