



From the Pastor

To the Beloved People of God at St. Matthew's UCC,
I hope you know God's grace and peace, even as the leaves rustle and the seasons change.

Autumn is filled with it's own kind of noise and activity - no matter where I turn, something's happening. Squirrels are scavenging. Leaves are blowing. People are working on their homes and yards, preparing for winter. It feels like a restless season to me - a moment "in between" the warmth of summer and the cold of winter. It's hard to sit still - to be present and enjoy the moment - without feeling like there's something I should get done before the snow flies.

I know I'm not alone in that struggle; when I ask people how they're doing, a common answer I receive is something along the lines of, "I've been busy" followed by a list of activities or events. I give the same answer when someone asks me that question. And then I hear the Spirit's gentle reminder that there are times when I should "be still and know that God is God" (Psalm 46:10). That I need to be present in the moment instead of caught up in the "honey-do lists" or whatever plans need to be made. It's easier said than done, though.

"Being still" sounds like a lack of action. Passive. But it takes discipline to sit still. It takes practice and intentionality - focus. It's a skill, just like walking or running is. The more we choose to "be still" the easier it becomes.

As the Autumn shifts into winter, those "honey-do lists" and plans won't just disappear - in fact, I always find that they're likely to feel longer or more urgent as we start preparing for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and the New Year...

But taking a moment to pause and be still might keep you from being swept away by it all. Breathe in the smells of the season. Listen to the rustle of noise around you. Notice the beauty of those leaves or the feistiness of the squirrels. Be still. Know that God is with you, even in moments we are distracted or overwhelmed by the noise and activity around us.

Be still and know that God is God. Always.

Blessings,
Pastor Kayti

Be Still

St. Matthew's

Wrapped in Love
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who has been working on Prayer Shawls and helping the kids make shawls and cards. So far we've blessed 28 shawls and we've delivered several to individuals from our congregation and community. If you know someone who would be blessed by a shawl, please take one that is in a bag (found on the pew across from church office); those have been blessed and are ready to go out into the world!

If you have a shawl that is ready to be blessed, please place it in one of the metal baskets at the back of the Sanctuary. Every second Sunday, we will bless the shawls collected.



Schedule of Events

Sunday, November 2 – Daylight Savings Time Ends! Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour!
Last day to sign up for Friendsgiving...

Sunday, November 9



Join us for another year of giving thanks, visiting with old and new friends, and enjoying a Thanksgiving feast and our **Second Annual Friendsgiving!** The Hospitality Committee will provide the turkeys, rolls, and beverages. Please sign up today and note what you'd like to bring and if you are able to help set up or clean up. Family & friends are welcome!!

November 2nd & 9th

Time to Order Your Christmas Poinsettias!

For the next two Sundays, there will be special envelopes on the windowsill in the Narthex. The cost is \$8.50 per plant. You can memorialize or honor someone or write out a message to be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Plants can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.



Sunday, November 23 –

Annual Congregational Meeting – immediately following worship

Thanks Sunday!

We will collect donations of cash, including Thank Offering Boxes* and/or fresh fruit and harvest veggies, as well as nonperishable food products.

*If you haven't been collecting coins in a Thank Offering Box and would like to start, take one from the wall rack in the Narthex! Bring it to church on the 23rd.



Sunday, November 30 – **Advent Workshop** (1st Sunday of Advent) 

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

Saturday, December 13 – **Holiday Dessert Exchange** – 10am-12noon

Come enjoy a time of fellowship and sharing some of your dessert treats!

Wednesday, December 24 –
(office closed 24th & 25th)



Candlelight Service – 7pm
(office closed 24th & 25th)



**STAYING
CONNECTED**

Pastor Kayti has office hours Monday through Wednesday and available Thursdays as needed. If you'd like to see Kayti, please contact her first to confirm her whereabouts (call/text 716-473-2606). 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).

Bible Studies⁺

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Have you ever wondered why Jesus was instructing his disciples (and us) to "hate your father and mother..." and "sell everything you own..." to become His followers? In this study, internationally renowned New Testament scholar and teacher Amy-Jill Levine takes us through several of the real doozies in her book, "The Difficult Words of Jesus...a Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings." Come watch the short video about each new topic as we wrestle with it together. The class meets in the Library starting at 11:15. You don't have to read the book to attend. **A few dates remain in this 6-week study: November 2, 16; December dates TBD.**

Life & Lectionary Bible Study

This Bible Study continues every Wednesday at 11am in the Parlor. Each week, discussions will focus on the Scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday service which is usually chosen from the Revised Common Lectionary.

Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays December 3, 10, 17 – two times: 11:00 am or 6:30 pm.

Come learn more about the history and context of the prophecies of Isaiah.



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

For those who are seeking peace, comfort & healing wholeness in mind, body & spirit

For those who are homebound or in assisted living: Lola Donner, 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

For our nation and world; leaders and people of the world

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! ♥



Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving
and a
Merry, Joy-filled Christmas!



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

5289 McKinley Parkway

Hamburg, NY 14075

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