



The Valley Echo

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
May 2014



Contact Information

Supply Pastor
Debra Wilcox
301-471-3200

Council

President: Allen Dutterer
Vice-Pres.: Sharon Chapman
Secretary: Timna Shaw
Treasurer: Dale Geiman

Elders

Angie Bowersox
Sharon Chapman
Ketti Dutterer
Allen Dutterer
Genny Rohrback
(1 elder vacancy)

Ministry Team Leaders

Finance: Dale Geiman
Christian Ed: Susie Gist
Outreach: Timna Shaw
Pastor/Staff: Lynn Walter
Property: Joshua Dutterer
Worship: Betty Cree

Committees/Groups

ABC Singles:
Pat Desautels

Consignment Sale:
Vicki Huber-Geiman

F.A.I.T.H.:
Lynn Walter

Fall Fest :
Betty Cree

Wellness:
Betty Gragg

A letter from our new Supply Pastor, Debra Wilcox

"This is the day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new." We sang that last week, at Faith Church, because we knew that new things were happening for us. It was an especially new day for me, because I was baptized, and blessed for my new beginning here with all of you at St. Matthew's.

I have been a member of Faith UCC in Frederick for 15 years. We began attending there shortly after moving here from Anchorage, Alaska, where my husband Joel had retired from the Air Force and Air National Guard. Previously, we had both been Pennsylvania residents, but the Air Force had taken us to several places around the United States.

I have two children: Jay, 24, and Kyla, 19. Jay is currently working on a master's degree in creative writing. Kyla will be a junior next fall in music therapy at Shenandoah University. We love animals and currently have two cats and a dog.

I also teach kindergarten at Whittier Elementary School, in Frederick. I love spending my days with such young and active minds. Through my teaching, I have learned a lot about patience and humor!

I was called to the ministry in 2009 while at a youth event with my two children and several other youths from the church. I have been taking classes at Lancaster Theological Seminary since then and am now very close to finishing my degree and graduating. During my time as a student, I have been able to participate regularly in worship and Christian education at Faith Church. I have had frequent opportunities to supply preach for different churches in the Catoctin Association; one of my favorite memories from supply preaching was the St. Patrick's Day Sunday I spent with all of you. I will never forget the opportunity I had to bless the children at the close of worship.

I am thrilled to have this new beginning: this chance to serve with you this summer, at St. Matthew's. I look forward to growing and learning together. Please feel free to contact me whenever you need to. My phone is always on, and I especially love to text. If I am at work I will return your call as soon as I can. My number is 301-471-3200. My email address is debra.peterswilcox@gmail.com.

The Valley Echo newsletter is published monthly.

Deadline is 2 p.m. the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Articles may be emailed to: office@saintmatthewsucc.org or placed in the church office "Inbox" Information received after the deadline may not be included. Submissions are subject to editing for space and content. Articles taken from publications (newspapers, magazines, etc.) should include copyright permission.

Summer Music

During the summer months the choir takes a well-deserved break. We are looking for special music during worship. If you or someone you know would share their musical talents with us, we would greatly appreciate their gift. Please contact Betty Cree (410-346-7663) or Donna Geiman(410-848-0010) to schedule the Sunday.

Christian Education News

Summer is such a busy and fun time for everyone but I just wanted to give all of our children the opportunity to participate in a Vacation Bible School if they are interested. There are two churches close to us that are offering VBS. St. Mary's UCC will be holding their VBS the week of July 21 thru 25, from 9:30 until 11:45 a.m., for children 3 years (must be potty trained) through grade 5. Their theme is Weird Animals. There will be a pre-registration ice cream social at the church pavilion on Sunday evening, July 20, from 6:30 -7:30 p.m. If unable to attend the social, you may register on July 21 at the church. To help them prepare, they would like to have an approximate number of those attending by June 15. I will be happy to get the information to the church if anyone would like to have their children participate in this VBS. Another VBS will be held at Frizzellburg Bible Church the week of July 7 thru 11, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m., for pre-K through grade 5. Registration may be done at the church the first evening of the VBS. Anyone interested in helping with the either of these bible schools is invited to do so. For more information about this please contact Susie Gist at 410-848-2187.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Elders have decided to establish a Pastor's Discretionary Fund. With approval of the Elders, will distribute money from the fund to help members of the congregation in financial need. If you are in need, or know of someone who is, you may make a confidential request directly to Sharon Chapman, as the Elder Spokesperson. To contribute to the fund, place your donation in the regular Sunday offering and note "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" on your check or envelope. Donations to the fund will be earmarked in the treasury for future needs.

Father's Day Dedications

Honor or memorialize your Father, Grandfather, or a special man in your life by putting their names in the St. Matthew's Father's Day bulletin! **Just fill out the form below and donate \$1.00 for each name.** Please place your form and money in the "Father's Day Dedication" box located on the table in the entrance hall.

To ensure that your dedication is printed in the bulletin, **please have your money and names in by Sunday, June 8th.** Donations from the Father's Day dedications will be used to help local Missions.

Please Print Legibly

In honor of _____

by: _____

In honor of _____

by: _____

In honor of _____

by: _____

In memory of _____

by: _____

In memory of _____

by: _____

In memory of _____

by: _____

October 11, 2014

Does that ring a bell?

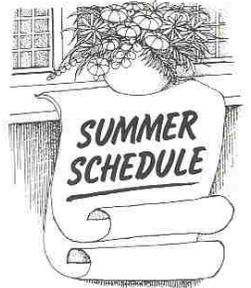
Does October 11, 2014 ring a bell? It is Fall Fest! I know that it is hard to think that far ahead, but it is important that we do so. Put your thinking cap on for ideas! It is always great to get new ideas for entertainment, but we have to book some of that in advance. If you have a craft idea, now is the time to start making crafts, planning what cookies you might bake or what plants and produce you might raise to donate. Get the word out for the Car Show. A Fall Fest meeting will be coming soon.

Prayer Concerns

There is now a prayer concerns book on the table in the entry hallway. You may place someone on the prayer list by writing in the book. Anytime Betty Gragg or the church office receives a prayer request, they will write it in the prayer concern book. People will be listed on the prayer list for 30 days. You may continue to have a person listed by writing their name again in the book, contacting Betty Gragg or the church office.

Come & Visit Our One Room School House!

During the summer we continue to have Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., with a little twist. We do it like a one room school house. All ages, children and adults, come together to sing, pray, make crafts and learn together. This begins on June 8, 2014 until Labor Day. It is lots of fun to share the word of God together with everyone!



God is Every Where

If you are going on vacation or having fun at home, share it with your friends at St. Matthew's. In the front entrance, we have a bulletin board that we are encouraging folks to bring a picture of your summer fun. Help us get the word out that no matter where you go, by plane, by boat or by car GOD IS WITH YOU!

Let's Go Camping!!!

The church's Camping Weekend will be Friday, Sept. 12 through Sunday, Sept. 14 at Drummer Boy Campground in Gettysburg. Campers can stay in their own recreational vehicles, tents or cabins. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table so sites and cabins can be reserved. Saturday evening will feature a pot-luck supper for campers and anyone who wants to come and visit and join in the fellowship.

For more information, contact Angie Bowersox, 410-848-1549 or Sharon Chapman, 410-259-7562. They will tell you how much fun it is and why you should plan to attend!!

Kids' Corner



Wellness Article- Be Prepared

Summer is a great time to get out and have fun, change your routine a little and enjoy God's creation. It is also a time for some potentially severe weather conditions. Do you know what to do when severe weather strikes? Being prepared helps to ease anxiety and helps you react appropriately when time is of importance.

So what's the difference between a watch and a warning? A severe weather watch means the conditions are right for that type of weather to occur. A severe weather warning indicates that the weather is occurring now. It is important to plan what you would do in the event of a severe thunderstorm or a tornado.

In the event of a tornado, seconds count, so knowing in advance what to do can save lives. Seek shelter in the interior part of a basement, under something sturdy. If you do not have a basement, seek shelter in the interior of your house, again under something sturdy. If you are outside, lay down in a gully or ditch.

Have a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher at home and know how to use them.

Know where the utility switches are in your home, if time permits turn off electricity/gas and water.

Have a fire/water safe and keep the following documents in it; birth certificates, ownership certificates (cars, boats, etc) Social security cards, insurance policies, wills and a household inventory.

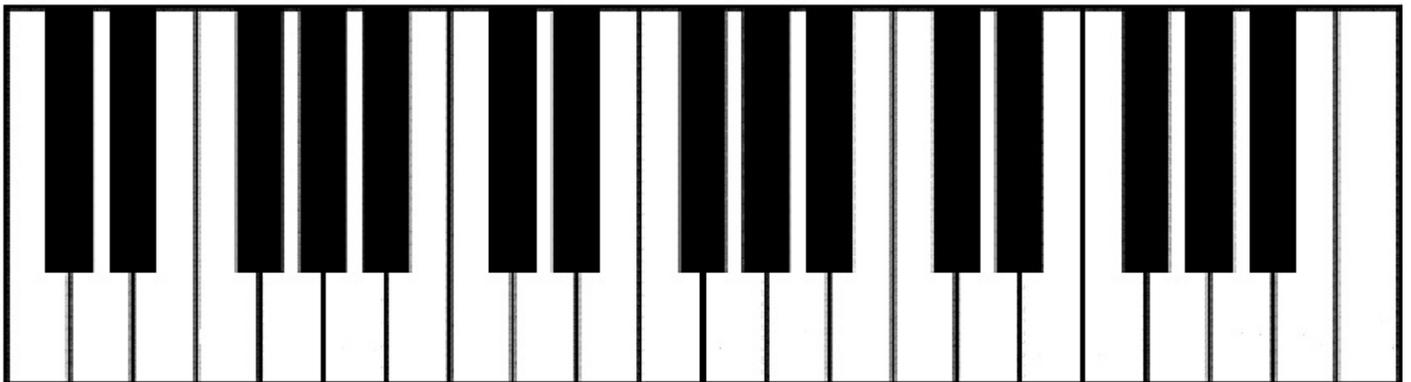
Being prepared for severe weather helps to keep us safe and healthy!

Donna Geiman

Help us to pay for our new Yamaha Keyboard!

We are selling keys. They will be \$15 each.

**If anyone would like to help, please make sure that your donation is marked
"Keyboard Donation"**



There will be a poster board to show our progress.

Sorry you can't take your Key with you.

You'll just have to come to services to hear it.

Invest in the Vision- Strengthen The Church Offering

About Strengthen the Church-

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking”

Still a Church- “The building isn’t the church” Easy to say until you’ve experienced the devastating loss of your church building, as the members of Lazarus UCC in Lineboro, Maryland did . Early on Dec. 3, fire destroyed the century-old structure almost entirely. “The church is our home, and we’ve lost that. But there’s a congregation here that still loves God and wants to worship,” said Lazarus’ pastor the Rev. Sam Chamelin.

They also want to serve. Lazarus’ Re:Deem Food Pantry began serving the community a year ago on the third Saturday each month. There were concerns in the community this holiday season about what would happen on Dec. 21, because of the fire. But on the pantry’s one year anniversary, its temporary place was stocked and open.

The outpouring of support from the surrounding Carroll County was a confirmation of the church’s impact in the community. Calls came in from every church within a 20 mile radius offering space for worship, donations and food to stock the pantry.

While the 200 members of Lazarus worship in the Lineboro Fire hall, they envision a new building which could incorporate Lazarus’ still standing exterior brick walls and a soup kitchen to expand the soup pantry. “The building now looks like a sign of death,” said Pastor Chamelin. “But (the food pantry) reminds us that we’re alive and well and can still be a church.”

That’s the vision of the Strengthen the Church offering.... Growing churches that offer a continuing testament to our still speaking God.

The offering is taken on Pentecost, June 8, 2014

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 22, 2014

Plan to bring family and friends and join us after worship on June 22nd for our Annual Church Picnic!

The main dish, drinks and paper products will be provided.

Bring a covered dish and enjoy an afternoon of food, fun & fellowship!

There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway for number of people attending and what dish you are bringing.

June 2014

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 7 th Sunday of Easter A - Grant Shaw L - Hayden Shaw G - Betty Gragg U - Timna Shaw, Richard Smith, Mel Starner, Mike Smith N - Vicki Huber O - Deanna Lui <div style="text-align: right;">Christina Beach Joyce Davis</div>	2 Elders Zach Rohrback Justin & Vicki Huber-Geiman	3	4	5 Cards Mtg. Noon Wilbur Haines	6 Travis & Jolene Wagner	7 Carl Davis
8 Pentecost Sunday A - Naomi Smith L - Sharon Chapman G - Betty Cree U - Sharon Chapman, Lynn Walter, Allen Dutterer, Ketti Dutterer N - Justin Geiman O - Lydia Bandy	9 Church Council Meeting	10	11	12 Elena Geiman	13	14
15 Trinity Sunday A - Elsie McKenzie L - Betty Cree G - Pat Desautels U - Betty Cree, Dale Geiman, Susie Gist, Linda Fausnet N - Linda Fausnet O - Lydia Bandy	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline 2 pm	19 Cary & Joan Gawel	20	21
22 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost A - Elena Geiman L - Mike Smith G - Mike Smith, Andie Luchini U - Mike Smith, Marybell Wood, Justin Geiman, Timna Shaw N - Susan Bowersox-Blizzard O - Lydia Bandy <div style="text-align: right;">Garrett Fogle Church Picnic</div>	23	24	25	26 Ryleigh Geiman John & Patricia Bankert t	27 Betty Cree	28 Genny Rohrback Donald & Shirley Stair
29 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost A - Taylor Blizzard L - Donna Geiman G - Betty Gragg U - Donna Geiman, Bob Smith, Betty Gragg, Mel Starner N - Vicki Huber O - Deanna Lui	30	31	1	2	3 <i>Please list your upcoming meeting dates & times on the master calendar located on the bulletin board in the entrance hallway.</i>	4 Key: Acolyte Liturgist Greeter Usher Nursery Organist

Go Green

Help save resources by joining St. Matthew's email list, you'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted to our website, and a paper copy will no longer be printed and mailed for your household.

To join, please send an email to office@saintmatthewsucc.org requesting the electronic newsletter or complete the form below and place in the offering plate.

Attention: Church Office

My family wishes to receive the newsletter electronically and not have a paper copy.

Family Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check if you would also like to receive the weekly announcements electronically. ____



Church Office: 410-848-5163

FAX: 410-848-1192

Website: www.saintmatthewsucc.org

Pastor Email: pastor@saintmatthewsucc.org

Office Email: office@saintmatthewsucc.org

Purpose: To echo and reflect the love of God in the life of the Christian Community as a ministry of the church, and to serve our members.

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
1427 Pleasant Valley Road
Westminster, MD 21158-2715

June - In This Issue

A Letter from our new Supply Pastor	1
Summer Music	2
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	2
Christian Education News	2
Father's Day Dedications	2
Fall Fest	3
Summer Sunday School	3
God is Everywhere	3
Church Camping Trip	3
Kid's Corner	4
Wellness Article	5
Keyboard Donations	5
Strengthen The Church	6
Annual Church Picnic	6
Calendar	7

