



# The Valley Echo



St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

September 2017

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**Secretary:** Betty Cree  
**Treasurer:** Carolyn Smith

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Donna Geiman  
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**Christian Ed:**  
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**Pastor/Staff:**  
**Property:**  
**Worship:** Betty Cree

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**ABC Singles:**  
Pat Desautels

**Book Club:**  
Vicki Huber-Geiman

**Fall Fest:**  
Donna Geiman

**Wellness:**  
Donna Geiman

## Pastor's Column

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*

*-Jeremiah 29:11*

Great words, for this time of year, as so many of us head back to our "regular" lives, those that include school, or school children, or school traffic, or school-based schedules... Isn't it funny how even those of us who are no longer in school are still influenced by school? Supermarkets are no longer full of children on a Tuesday morning, once school starts. Doctors' offices only hold sick children on weekdays, once school starts. Before and after school traffic is tempered by bus stops and crossing guards for all of us. School is a big part of all our lives.

This includes the obvious fact that schools are important because we hope that all children are able to learn many things and benefit from their educations. After all, those children are our future leaders and caregivers. We want the next generation to be capable and responsible!

That said, school can be a scary prospect. For children, of course, it's the fear of the unknown. "What if I don't like my teacher? What if she doesn't like me?" children may be thinking. "What if my kid isn't ready for this? What if he fails?" parents might worry. "What if I can't get through to all the kids? What if some kids fail?" teachers will be thinking.

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*The Valley Echo* newsletter is published monthly.

**Deadline is 2 p.m. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.**

Articles may be emailed to: [office@saintmatthewsucc.org](mailto: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.

**Pastor's Column (cont.)**

We all need to take a breath to realize and remember that God is with us, in this educational adventure. Jeremiah reminds us that God has plans for us; whatever God's plans, they will lead to a future, and hope.

When we blessed our children's backpacks, we wanted them to remember that just as they are always in our hearts, God is always with them, too. We gave each student a "message heart" to keep in their bookbags. In the heart, we included a message of love— a reminder that the list of people who love and lift them is a pretty mighty list, including parents, friends, family, church family, and God.

As we send our children off in love, to a new year of learning and growing, as we remember our own days of school, may we remember that those around us are also experiencing many of the same things we are. That kid sitting next to you at lunch might be worried about making friends, too. That dad behind you in the checkout line might also be wondering how he's going to get home in time to pick up the kids from school and make dinner. That mom who just cut in front of you in traffic might also be worrying about how she is going to afford to see the dentist about the tooth that's been hurting all summer.

So let's remember that along with God's love and presence in our own lives comes the invitation to be there for others, too. Let's not give in to the incivility that seems to be growing in society lately. Let's instead reach out in love and kindness to those around us who have the same joys and concerns as we do. We can be examples for our children, just as they are so often examples for us. Let's make this a fresh beginning for spreading God's love in the world!

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**Special Sunday Worship Services**

**Rally Day-** On September 10, 2017 we will have a special service to welcome folks back to Sunday School and Church, after the busy summer. On that Sunday, our individual Sunday school classes will resume and children will be promoted in their classes.

**Blessing and dedication of our new hymnals** – September 17, 2017. Purchased to honor the memory of Dolores Yingling, by her family. Dolores loved music and was a lively member of the choir for many years. We would love for many to be present to share in this day! We will end worship with an ice cream celebration!

**Homecoming Sunday-** October 29, 2017. Plans are underway to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the reformation, 60<sup>th</sup> year of United Church of Christ and St. Matthew's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a United Church of Christ.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR:

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> - Rally Day & 4-H Sunday

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> - Blessing & Dedication of our new hymnals

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – Pleasant Valley Fall Fest

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – Homecoming Sunday

## **Rally Day and 4-H Sunday all rolled into one!**

On September 10, 2017, we will celebrate the return of traditional Sunday School classes and the promotion of students during worship. This is exciting to welcome folks back to worship, who have had a very busy summer. One of the events that kept many of our students busy, was the 4-H fair. So on this Sunday, we are asking any of our 4-H friends to bring some of the items that they entered in the county or state fair. It is a great way to share our talents with the congregation. Spread the word and invite any 4-H ers that you know.



*"...and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing..."*

Those are some beautiful words from a hymn loved by so many: "In the Garden." It was a favorite of Dolores Yingling's, and we invite you to sing it with us on Sunday, September 17, as we honor Dolores' memory in a musical worship service. Dolores' family gave us the generous gift of New Century Hymnals for our church, given in her honor and memory; and we will be blessing and dedicating those hymnals that day. Please join us in celebrating this musical gift! There will be extra music that day, including vocals by Phyllis and Elsie McKenzie. There will be a chance to share memories with some of Dolores' family, who will be traveling here for the service. There will be Dolores' favorite ice cream, Carman's, served up after the service. Please join us in musical celebration!



### Spaghetti Dinner

On August 11, our three confirmands served up a delicious dinner of gratitude to the congregation, whose contributions of time, care, and money made our trip to *General Synod* possible. Elena, Elsie, and Naomi helped to serve spaghetti and all the trimmings to a small group of interested family and friends. They followed up the meal with a power point presentation about their experiences at Synod. The meal was free, but donations were welcomed and went towards paying some of the costs of the Synod trip. We appreciated their enthusiasm and their memories. They represented St. Matthew's well!

### Synod Service

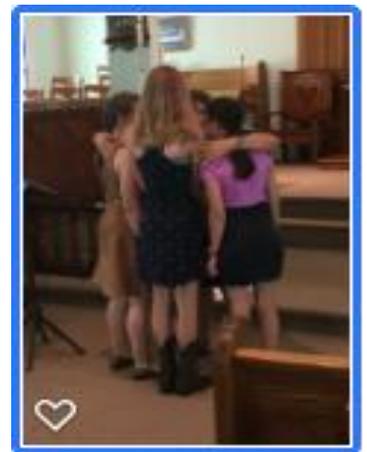
On August 13, our confirmands helped to lead worship, in remembrance of our experiences at *General Synod*. And although nobody offered to preach, Elena, Elsie, and Naomi participated fully in all the other aspects of worship: reading scripture, leading prayers, and the children's time. I was impressed with their level of comfort in inspiring others with their worship. We are blessed to have active youth who are willing to participate in church. We should invite them to speak out more often!



Praying for guidance before worship



Remembering our baptisms as we did at Synod. Adam was a willing participant!



Blessings at the end of worship

## Pleasant Valley Fall Fest and Car Show- October 14, 2017 from 9am to 3:00pm

The planning group met to discuss various ideas to make Fall Fest and the Car Show as successful as we can. Next Fall Fest Planning Meeting August 24, 2017 at 7pm. Join us and see how you can help.

Some of our ideas are:

**Advertisement:** This is an area, we never have too much of. It is so important to get the word out. We could have a great Fall Fest and Car Show planned, but if no one comes it would be sad. Invite as many friends and family as you can and put fliers out.

**Sponsorships:** Our largest expense for Fall Fest is the cost of using the fire hall and the grounds. The cost went up from last year and will gradually be going up. We will offer sponsorships for the Fall Fest as well as the Car Show to help offset the rental expense. Be looking for those forms as church in the near future. Any businesses that you deal with that may be willing to be a sponsor, please share a form with them and follow up.

**Entertainment:** We are happy that we have secured Tim the Magician to entertain us at 10:00. He has joined us in the past and has always been lots of fun for older and young attendees.

We are still attempting to secure an afternoon feature.

**Missions: Carroll County Food Sunday** will benefit from our cookie sales. There are so many hungry folks in our community and this is a wonderful cause.

Once again we will be a collection point for **Call for Coats**. So when you are cleaning your closets please put gently used coats aside for the Fallfest.

**Let's Read-** encouraging the love of reading has been important for our St. Matthew's Book Club. Once again, we are sponsoring our free book table. Any unwanted books may be brought to church, there will be an area marked in the fellowship area.

**Trades of Hope** will be joining us again.

We will have a display for **Church World Services** Cleanup buckets.

**Activities: Craft and Flea Market stands-** Susie Gist has agreed to organize craft vendors and flea market stands. If you know anyone interested in being a participant, please let Susie know. We really hope to sell all the stands. The fees the vendors pay help to pay the rent for the use of the fire house, so lets fill the social hall and engine bay.h

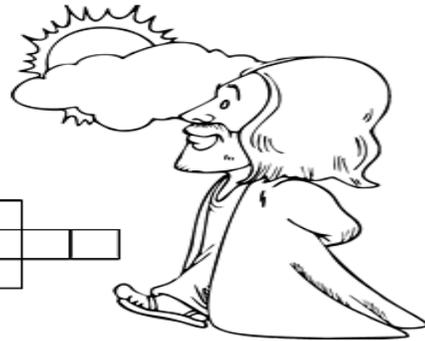
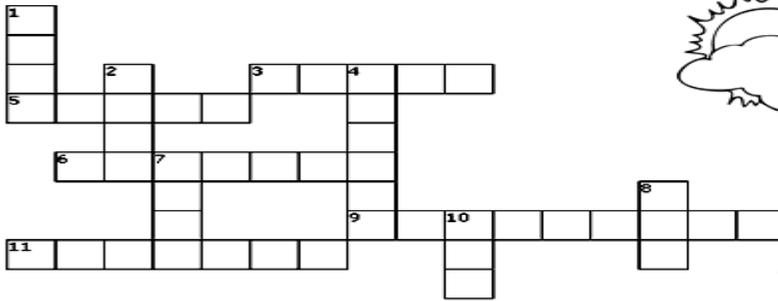
**Silent Auction-** Our silent auction stand is a big hit. We will be getting some sports items from Great Moments, but are hoping to do some interesting items ourselves. One idea we will be trying, is to create several themed baskets. Some ideas are sports basket, a pet basket, movie night basket- the sky is the limit. So put on your thinking cap. We thought if folks donated several items, then we could put the baskets together. Some great Colts ideas have already been donated. Timna Shaw and Becky Wagner will be organizing the area.

**Bake Table-** What would Fall Fest be without the wonderful baked items? So be thinking what you can make. Remember that we need to attach a list of ingredients for each item that you donate.

The **Petting Zoo** is returning! Angie and Wendy Bowersox are organizing this popular area, if you have any animals that they could borrow for the day, let them know.

# Kid's Korner

## Got Jesus?



### ACROSS

3. The organ in the body that pumps the blood
5. To make letters and words with a pen or pencil
6. To accept as true, genuine, or real
9. Evidence given by witness in court
11. Something that continues forever

### DOWN

1. To understand something
2. The period from birth to death
4. To receive something willingly, such as a gift
7. Someone who doesn't tell the truth
8. The creator and ruler of the universe
10. A male child

Check your answers

accept	believe	eternal	write
testimony	heart	life	know
God	liar	son	

## Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)  
The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).



S R E X T B S D W O R L D W T  
R B P N H D E I A M B I R T H  
I P R C E V R W G V X V S O L  
L O P N I T D B R H V L R D Q  
B K N E H U P O O L T I G E U  
E I C G B A K M V X P G M L Z  
S E I S L F A E P K A H W H E  
R N I G I Q I O W A R T Y M V  
F C Q D N D H Z S X E O O L P  
X O U H D D G T I A N H T T K  
L M P Z E Q K R L E T C R G C  
P I W E W A S H O Z S S P I T  
C C F E N W K J A U Q R O R Y  
P Q D E U E K E M Q N B S H O  
T N E Y E S D S E L A D M Z Z

BLIND	EYES	SPIT	POOL	WASH
WORLD	SINNED	SIGHT	NIGHT	BORN
HOME	MUD	LIFE	OPENED	LIGHT
SILOAM	PARENTS	RECEIVED	BIRTH	GROUND

# SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Key – A – Acolyte L – Liturgist G – Greeter U – Usher O - Organist					1  Mavis Starner	2
3 A – Elsie McKenzie L – Sharon Chapman G – Jean Means U – Sharon Chapman, Bob Smith O – TBD  Grant Shaw	4  John Means, Jr.	5	6  Julia Beach	7	8	9  Summer Miles Susan Bowersox- Blizzard
10 Rally Day & 4-H Sunday A – Elena Geiman L – Hayden Shaw G – Pat Desautels U – Timna Shaw, Susie Gist O – TBD  Rachael Keeney	11	12  Justin Geiman Jeff Means	13	14  Elsie McKenzie	15  Gary Myers	16
17 Blessing & Dedication of Hymnals A - Naomi Smith L – Betty Cree G – Terri Smith U – Betty Cree, Genny Rohrback O –TBD	18	19	20  Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 A – Elsie McKenzie L – Lynn Walter G – Dan Smith U – Terri Smith, Dan Smith O - TBD	25	26	27  Mary Emma Bowen	28  Vicki Huber-Geiman	29	30

## 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 to your household.

To join, please send an email to [office@saintmatthewsucc.org](mailto: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. \_\_\_\_\_



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*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  
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