

# *St Matthew's Community Church*

## *December 2025*



Choir Practice – Tuesdays 6:30PM

Atoned 4 Praise Band Practice, Wednesdays at 5:45 PM except the Wednesday after we sing

**Wednesday Emmaus 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group – 2pm**

**Wednesday Disciple Bible Study**

**at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM led by Pastor Doug.**

**Youth – Sundays 6-7:15 pm**

**Our Mission – To share the love and grace of Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life and conform to the character of Christ.**

# A Special Message from One of our Veterans

## ***Part 2 from Carl Chalk – Mr Bojangles***

While in Vietnam we got fogged in bad and couldn't get extracted out for 4 days. We had very little food, a few cans of fruit cocktail and a candy bar or two. When the fog did lift, we got back to our artillery battery and something that resembled a hot meal. That evening the five of us who had been out were drinking a few warm beers when one of the guys who had been a part-time musician found an old guitar someone in the battery had and started playing this song Mr. Bojangles. Don't know how many times I heard this song that night but when I went to sleep that night I thought to myself, I hope I never hear it again.

After I got home from Vietnam, I managed to shake off that time over there, it was just a bump in the road. I was just raising a family, life was good, but that was about to change. While in a fox hole on our perimeter one night over there a snake crawled in. We had been briefed that there were 60 poisonous snakes in Vietnam. I knew I might die there that night in a hole halfway around the world. Would my mom and dad ever know what happened? If I was going to die it wasn't going to be in that d—m fox hole, and out I went. I made it no bite!

Fast forward to July 1983 in the middle of the night I wake up, I'm back in that d—m fox hole with the snake again only this time I can't get out. I am literally frozen from fear. I am awake but I can't even blink or move my little finger for nearly an hour and then I finally was able to get up, but something was different with me. I started having more nightmares and flashbacks of Vietnam. It was getting really bad, and I finally went to the VA for help, but back then that was a lot of pills, that made things worse. I began to think some pretty dark things. One night after supper I went upstairs, what next, I got on my knees and begged Jesus to take this away. Rita was cleaning up after supper. She was listening to the radio, and I heard a song I had not heard since Vietnam, Mr. Bojangles! My first thought was you were there that night in Vietnam. A few weeks later on my way to work I pulled into a driveway to turn around and go back home, it was a bad day. Just then Mr. Bojangles came on the radio. It was a tough day at work, but I made it. Following this Jesus sent an angel to help me. Her name was Mary Ellen, the wife of minister who helped people with trauma.

A year later my family and I prepared to go to Virginia on vacation to visit my sister. On the way I wanted to visit the new Vietnam Wall. We stayed the first night just outside of D.C. In the morning, we would visit the wall. I didn't sleep much that night and at 3 am I got up and went to an all-night restaurant next to the hotel. I knew the Wall would be the most difficult thing I had done since Vietnam. I began praying to Jesus to help me through the day. When I got up to leave, I heard Mr. Bojangles playing on the radio one of the cooks was listening to in the back. That was the last time I ever heard it on the radio. I guess Jesus thought I could do the rest on my own. I had surely been blessed that year. I learned then as a young church goer He is with us all the time.

Carl

## ***A Word from your Pastor***

This is for the Time Capsule...

This is my message to the future saints who claim St. Matthews as their faith home. My name is Doug Lucker. My wife Angie and I have served your church for four and a half years at this point. Currently I am seventy-seven years old and I have been in ministry for thirteen years. I assume as you are reading this, my current earthly address is the grassy area just south of the church. I don't live there; I am spending eternity with my heavenly Father.

What a blessing St. Matthews has been. I have had a sense of passion and purpose in my life as we worshipped and grew spiritually. There are some awesome saints that attend there. They serve at every opportunity. They love and they show Jesus to Whitley County. The congregation is well known for having a heart for others, especially those in need.

Now it is up to you. Continue the legacy and stay true to the mission. Stay in the word; live out the Good News in your personal lives. Those in the past have set the standard and those in the future depend on you. Always remember Jesus loves you. I have to close now; I have better things to do. May God continue to bless you.

**Pastor Doug**



Emmaus 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group meets  
2:00 – 2:45 on Wednesdays  
This group is strong and growing. Come join us!

## *Worship Committee Notes*

How time has flown! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day! We suddenly are preparing for the holidays. The pianos have been tuned, the decorations are on display, and poinsettias have been ordered! The color of our paraments on the altar have been changed to either purple or dark blue to indicate the observation of Advent. The Advent season began on November 30, so we have already observed the first Sunday of Advent. December 7 will be The Second Sunday in Advent. We will have pre-service singing and will light the Advent Candle of Peace. After the sermon we will celebrate Holy Communion together.

December 14 will be The Third Sunday in Advent, on which we will light the Advent Candle of Joy. There will be a Christmas Pageant following the sermon, so our worship time will be a bit longer than usual, and the order of worship will be a little different. I would like to thank Carmen Bross for writing and directing this presentation and also express my appreciation for everyone involved in it. I'm really looking forward to it!

The next Worship Committee Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 15.

December 21 will be the Fourth Sunday in Advent when we will light the Advent Candle of Love. The choir will be singing during this worship service, and they will present the cantata, "He is Born!" after the sermon. This will be followed by our annual "March to the Manger".

The Christmas Eve Service will take place on Wednesday, December 24 at 9:00 P.M. The paraments will be changed to the celebratory color white, which will indicate the observation of Christmastide, the traditional twelve days of Christmas. We will be lighting the final Advent Candle, The Christ Candle, and will also celebrate with Holy Communion by candlelight. We often have the honor of hosting several friends and neighbors as they join us in worshipping God and His greatest gift to humankind. It is a special joy for me each year as I hear Pastor Doug deliver the Christmas message.

December 28 will be the first Sunday of Christmastide and the last Sunday of 2025. We plan on having a Christmas Sing-along that morning. Please select your favorite Christmas hymn from our red hymnal. We need both the title and hymn number. We ask that on December 21 you write your selection on a piece of paper that will be provided and place it in the offering plates located in the hall by the church office. On December 28 we will select song requests for our Sing-along. We will select 5 songs and will sing the first verse of each one.

As you prepare for Christmas this year, may you experience the hope, peace, joy, and love these holy days bring to us. These things herald the arrival of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior who is the reason for this season. Praise be to God!

With warm regards and wishes for a very Merry Christmas,

Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman

## **Trustees**

Van's Contracting will be here on November 19 to check out and service the furnaces. The committee met with the contractor for the new extension we will have on the West end of the church to get an estimate of what it will cost. It will not be started until the Spring of 2026.

If you see something that needs to be fixed, or if you have any questions, please let one of the trustees know.

**HANDICAPPED PARKING IS EAST OF THE BIG FLAG AND AT THE NORTH END OF THE SIDEWALK.**

Thanks. For being patient with us as things are still being done and need to be done.

Trustee Board members are Dan Becker, Ken and Brenda Boyd, Greg Greaf, Sharon Heaton, Tom Horner and trustee chairman Patty Jagger.

God Bless, Patty Jagger Trustee Chairman

**If you are a greeter, please remember to ask visitors to sign in, provide them with a name tag, and give them a visitor's bag. The bags are by the entry to the front door.**

**Thanks!**

## Mission for this month

This year the members of our church have decided to help ten local families celebrate Christmas by providing them with what we refer to as "A Christmas Dinner in a bag!" We hope to include a ham, potatoes, vegetable, butter, dinner rolls, milk, eggs, fresh fruit and a pie for dessert in the Christmas Meal Bag.

The members of St Matthew's are always very generous with their help in monetary donations and Christmas gifts for the children. We are aware this year will prove to be more challenging due to the changes in the economy. We will begin November 1<sup>st</sup>. and end by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

We have carefully selected the families by contacting the Veterans office in Columbia City, several food pantries, and churches in the area. We have tried to select families that are in need, yet are trying to help themselves, some struggle due to health problems, or age. Kathy also talks to each family personally. If you know of anyone in need of this gift, please let Sue or Kathy know.

A donation of any type (cash, gift card, paper products, cleaning items, etc.) will be put to good use. As we did last year the children's ID numbers will be placed on St. Matthew's Christmas Angel-Tree. Each angel tag will contain information regarding that child. The tree is usually up by Dec. 1. The families will come to church to pick their meals/gifts on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please have all donations to us by Sunday Dec. 14.

If you can help with this mission of giving, we would greatly appreciate that help. Please contact Kathy Ehinger at 260-385-3164 or Sue Williamson at 260-213-9787.

Sincerely, Sue Williamson; Kathy Ehinger

## March to the Manger

St. Matthew's annual March to the Manger has been scheduled for Sunday, December 21. Some of you may not be familiar with this annual event. Each December there is an opportunity to give a special individual Christmas gift to Jesus. On the designated date at the worship service there is a wooden manger set up at the front of the sanctuary. We usually have people representing Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, and shepherds near the manger. Towards the end of our service, we either sing Christmas carols or listen to Christmas music as the congregation members walk forward, much like walking up to communion, and place their gifts of money in the manger, then quietly return to their seats. Most people choose to have their gift sealed in an envelope before placing it in the manger. These gifts to Jesus are collected and later presented at the next Ad Board Meeting where a mission is selected and to whom these particular funds are donated. The missions selected may be international, within the United States, or local. Last year our donation was given to support Faith Academy, the local Christian school. March to the Manger is St. Matthew's special way of honoring our Lord as we recognize Jesus who is our Divine Gift. If you have questions regarding this tradition at St. Matthew's, please feel free to contact me or talk with me about it at church.

With Warm Regards, Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman

1171 E Woods Way  
Columbia City, IN 46725



Dear Pastor:

Help us spread the word about Senior Santa Sacks!

We are collecting items to brighten the days of seniors who receive meal delivery. Please feel free to share the enclosed flyer on your church bulletin board, social media or directly to your parishioners.

If you have questions, please call the Foundation at (260) 244-5224. Thank you for your assistance!

Best Regards,  
Carol Flowers  
Communications Officer

**Please see the next page for Santa Sack  
Information**

Help us Brighten the Holidays  
for Whitley County Senior Citizens  
by donating items for

## Senior Santa Sacks



*The Community Foundation of Whitley County  
is happy to be partnering with our friends at  
Woodlands Senior Activity Center and One Community  
to share the spirit of holiday giving.*

*You can help us bring smiles to the elderly by gathering  
the following NEW items for Senior Santa Sacks:*

**Large Print Books  
100-300 Piece Puzzles  
Lip Balm  
Hand Lotion  
Tissues  
Socks  
Large Print Puzzle Books  
Store Bought Holiday Treats**

*Senior Santa Sacks items can be delivered to the  
Community Foundation at 1171 E. Woods Way, Columbia City  
between 9 am and 3 pm, Monday through Friday.  
Santa Sacks will be delivered to seniors through the  
meal programs with the local non-profit partners.*

**Deadline: Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

## "7 Question Series"

Hello, this is a new newsletter series designed to introduce our church family members to each other. Volunteer featured member will answer one question from each of six categories + a bonus of your choice! Include a photo or two. We hope this series will help everyone feel more connected and comfortable within our church community. We are also seeking nominations for interesting members of our church family to feature in upcoming profiles. Please include your name and phone #. If you have someone in mind, please share your suggestion, for details see [here](#)

Email responses to: [stmatthewscchin@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewscchin@gmail.com)

hello  
MY NAME IS

### 1) Getting to Know You

1. What's your favorite Bible story and why?
2. How long have you been attending this church?
3. What's one thing you love about your hometown?
4. What's the most interesting thing you have learned this week?
5. If you could have dinner with any biblical character, who would it be?
6. What's your favorite worship song and why?
7. What book (other than the Bible) has significantly impacted your life?
8. Share one surprising fact about yourself.
9. What's your favorite family tradition?
10. Describe your perfect day off.

### 2) Fun and Light-Hearted

1. If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?
2. What was your favorite subject in school?
3. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
4. What's your go-to karaoke song?
5. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
6. Do you prefer sunrises or sunsets?
7. What's the last movie you watched and loved?
8. Coffee or tea? And how do you take it?
9. If you were a pizza, what toppings would you have?
10. What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

### **3) Deep and Thoughtful**

1. What's one life lesson you feel everyone should learn?
2. How has your faith changed or grown recently?
3. What's one thing you're currently praying for?
4. Who in your life has been the most influential in your faith journey?
5. What's one scripture that has been on your heart lately?
6. How do you find peace in times of uncertainty?
7. What's a challenge you've overcome that made you stronger?
8. In what ways do you feel called to serve others?
9. What does 'community' mean to you?
10. How do you practice gratitude in your daily life?

### **4) Reflective and Personal**

1. What's one goal you have for this year?
2. What's something God has been teaching you lately?
3. How do you recharge when you feel drained?
4. What's one way your faith has been tested?
5. Share a moment when you felt God's presence vividly.
6. What's a personal tradition you have for Christmas/Easter?
7. How do you incorporate your faith into your daily routine?
8. What's a favorite childhood memory?
9. When do you feel most at peace?
10. What aspect of your faith are you currently focusing on?

### **5) Relationship Building**

1. Who in this church do you know the least and what's one question you'd like to ask them?
2. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?
3. How can we pray for each other in this group?
4. What's one thing you appreciate about the person sitting next to you?
5. How do you think we can foster a stronger sense of community in our church?
6. What's one way someone has shown you kindness recently?
7. What does fellowship mean to you?
8. Share a time when a small act made a big difference in your life.
9. What's one way you'd like to contribute to the church?
10. How do you think our church can make newcomers feel more welcome?

## 6) Just for Fun

1. If you could invent a holiday, what would it be?
2. What's the most unusual food you've ever eaten?
3. Would you rather have a rewind button or a pause button on your life?
4. What's your favorite board game?
5. If you could live in any historical era, which would it be and why?
6. What's your favorite joke?
7. If you were an Olympic athlete, what sport would you compete in?
8. What's the best costume you've ever worn?
9. If you could speak another language fluently, which would it be?
10. What's something that's on your bucket list?

## Youth

1. What's your favorite app on your phone?
2. Who's your favorite Christian artist or band?
3. What subject are you studying that you find most interesting?
4. What's your favorite viral video?
5. If you could be any character in a book, who would you be?
6. What's your dream job?
7. If you could meet any living person, who would it be?
8. What's the last good book you read?
9. What's something you're really good at?
10. What's one talent you wish you

## 7) Bonus Question

1. -You pick a question from ANY Category!

From Dana Jagger

## Everything you would like to know about Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving

Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday occur or at least within a week of each other. Often on the same day. It's hard to celebrate Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday on the same day. We separated them this year in order to more fully explore each topic. There is so much to be said about Christ the King Sunday as was discussed at our worship service on November 16. There's so much to be said on Thanksgiving Sunday as we express our appreciation for the abundant goodness of the gifts God has bestowed on us.

Susan Hayhurst, from Terre Haute, Indiana is a journalist who routinely writes opinion articles for the monthly publication, "Indiana Prairie Farmer", a publication filled with practical and timely information for farmers. Topics range from data collection and interpretation to safety to crop production, grain management, machinery use and repairs, land stewardship and conservation – the list goes on and on. But in the November 2025 issue, Susan Hayhurst wrote about something different. At the bottom of Susan's article on the following page is a picture of a Thanksgiving table filled with all the traditional foods, Beneath the picture is a caption that read: Time Thanksgiving: Make sure your Thanksgiving meal is about more than great food this year. Give thanks to your Creator as well.

Please read the following page as Susan expresses her thought of the celebration of Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving.

"Thanksgiving Meal Fit for a King", by Susan Hayhurst. Happy Thanksgiving!

## Thanksgiving meal fit for king

BY SUSAN HAYHURST



Take a moment to consider the most amazing banquet we could ever have. My late friend Jan Whitecotten shared this with our small group Bible study:

"The Thanksgiving table is set with your best china and silver. This meal and time together has always been one of great joy and happiness. Your family is all assembling at one table, and the laughter has already started as they arrive.

"There is another table set by the King of Kings, the Lord of Creation. He has set before us the greatest offerings ever given. Being served are heaping bowls of grace, kindness and joy, with patience mixed in for perfect flavor. Along with these will be creamy contentment, seasoned just right with wisdom. And there on the side is courage and strength sauteed in understanding and generously blended with prayer.

"Then we notice a wonderful aroma unlike any other! Peace and faith have just come from the oven and been doused in love. As we are sitting down, the Father rises and invites us to give praise and song to the living water he has poured out to all who would drink.

"What a glorious day we will have, both this Thanksgiving Day and the day the Lord brings us into His dining hall for the greatest of all banquets."

Let me add one more thought from Psalm 95:2. "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Hayhurst writes from Terre Haute.*



**TIME OF THANKSGIVING:** Make sure your Thanksgiving meal is about more than great food this year. Give thanks to your Creator as well. BHOPACK2/GETTY IMAGES

From Leah Jagger

Satan is not against good morals... he's just against Jesus Christ.

Read that again... because most church folks miss it completely.

Satan doesn't care if you're polite, charitable, or "a good person." He doesn't lose a minute of sleep if you hand out food, donate your time, or pick up trash on the side of the road. He doesn't care how kind, gentle, or neighborly you are.

He cares about one thing... that you never bow your knee to Jesus.

That's it. That's the game.

The great deception damning millions right now is simple... Satan convinced people that morality equals salvation. That being "a good person" equals being right with God. That if you just do right, treat people right, and avoid the "big sins," you're heaven-bound.

That lie was birthed in hell.

The Pharisees had better morals than anyone you know. They followed the Law like clockwork. They tithed, they prayed, they fasted. They were respected, disciplined, religious to the core.

And Jesus looked them in the eyes and called them children of the devil.

Not because they were immoral... but because their morals replaced Him.

Satan's greatest trick isn't turning bad people worse... it's making good people believe they don't need a Savior.

Look around...

The atheist who feeds the homeless thinks he's good without God.

The Buddhist who meditates and practices compassion thinks she's enlightened without

Christ.

The Muslim who prays five times a day thinks he's righteous without Jesus.

And the moral churchgoer who sings the songs, pays tithes, and avoids scandal... thinks he's saved without surrender.

All of them end up in the same place... eternal separation from God.

Because morality doesn't save.

Jesus does.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God... not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Satan loves moral people who reject Jesus. They're his favorite kind. They make the world believe you can earn Heaven through good behavior.

You can be kind without Christ.

You can be generous without God.

You can be disciplined without the Holy Spirit.

You can be respected without redemption.

And still be completely lost.

The most dangerous souls in hell aren't the murderers or the rapists... they're the "good" people who thought their goodness made them safe. Their morals became their idol. Their goodness became their god.

And Satan smiled... because that's all he ever wanted.

Understand this... Satan doesn't have to make you wicked. He just has to keep you comfortable. He doesn't need you to curse God... he just needs you to never call on Him.

If he can get you to trust your goodness instead of God's grace... he's already won.

You can live clean and still die lost.

You can live moral and still face judgment.

You can live disciplined and still end up condemned.

Because the only unforgivable sin... is rejecting Jesus Christ.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36)

It's not the murderer who repented that's lost.

It's not the thief who looked at Jesus on the cross that's lost.

It's not the prostitute who wept at His feet that's lost.

It's the moral man or woman who said, “I'm good enough without Him.”

That's the soul Satan claps for.

That's the one hell welcomes politely.

So stop trusting your morals.

Start trusting Jesus.

Your goodness can't save you.

Your works can't redeem you.

Your reputation can't justify you.

Only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash you clean and make you right before a holy God.

Everything else... is just Satan's way of keeping you \*religious\*... but lost.

## St. Matthew's Community Church Youth Fellowship Calendar for 2025-2026

Youth Meets: Sundays 6:30-7:15 • Grades: 5th - High School | Join Us 4 Sunday Church @ 9:00 am

<b>SEPTEMBER '25</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					01- Labor Day 14 - Kick off Mega Splits 21 - Regular Youth 28 - Youth & Pumpkins 4 - FREE Community Cook-Out/ Car Show/ Time Capsule 11-2 5 - Regular Youth	<b>MARCH '26</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1- Regular Youth 8- Laser Tag 15- Destination Unknown 22 - Regular Youth 29 - No Youth/ Spring Break														
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Calendar Template © calendarlabs.com

All dates are subject to change • Located: 1460 E. 500 N., C.C., IN • Q's contact: Ryan: 229-2695 or Julie 229-0738

## 2025 Whitley County Christmas at the Courthouse

*December 5 and 6 from 6-8 pm*

*at the Whitley County Courthouse Downtown Columbia City, IN*

**Live Nativity** - Join us to celebrate Christmas with a live nativity, local Christmas music, hot cocoa, and cookies!

Walk or drive through the seven-scene live nativity on the Whitley County Courthouse lawn and then enjoy live local Christmas music performances, storytelling, coffee, hot cocoa, and cookies inside the



courthouse. If you can volunteer for an hour or two to be in the nativity cast (no speaking or acting required), help with costuming, join the community choir or help with other needs. Contact Leigh at (260)248-0889 or Lynnzie 260-213-6816 to join the nativity cast, costumes, food, volunteer, or get more information. Check out our Facebook page at Whitley County Christmas at the Courthouse. This is a free community event.

\* Note: Our Youth will be volunteering on Friday evening as various characters in the Nativity!



**Interested in joining the Choir inside the courthouse?** Show up, get a songbook, wear a red top and sing Christmas carols with the choir!



**The Cruiser Campaign Toys for Tots Stuff** - Taking place at the same time is on the north side of the courthouse. They will be accepting new unwrapped toys appropriate for newborn to 18 years old ages. This Christmas help TFT deliver hope to less fortunate children in Whitley County.

**Walk of Trees @ The Clugston** Nov 28-29 & Dec 5-6 from 5:00 – 9:00 pm experience the holiday magic at Columbia City Connects Walk of Trees, a beloved community tradition featuring beautifully decorated trees, festive events, and a chance to win your favorite tree this season!

With thousands of attendees, Columbia City Connects Walk of Trees continues to grow and has become a holiday tradition for many community members and families. This holiday season, the lobby of the beautifully renovated Clugston on the Square will be filled with decorated trees in an array of sizes and themes. Attendees are encouraged to purchase tickets and vote for their favorite trees. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for 6. Tickets are drawn for the trees on the final day, and the winner takes home the fully decorated tree! Make sure to watch our Facebook live at 9 PM to see if you're a lucky winner!



## Communication Information

### **PLEASE READ**

St. Matthew's communication system-Tel a Home-is a notification system to inform members of items of importance. If you want a text sent out notify Pastor Doug or Sue Williamson. If you want to be included or removed contact Sue Williamson 260-213-9787. **If you want to respond to the text do so by calling, texting, or sending a card to the person mentioned in the text, please do not respond to the text as it goes out to the 16 people in your group not to the person who needs the support.**

### *For the Care of Children*

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ.

*Amen*

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

**If you ordered T-shirts with the St Matthew's logo, they have arrived. The church is providing a T-shirt for everyone. Please see John and Nancy Austin if you have questions.**



## December Birthdays

Gary Ford – 12/7  
Anne Shearer – 12/11  
Peg Horner – 12/12  
Peggy Kunkle – 12/12  
Rita Chalk – 12/13  
Lenna Traylor – 12/13  
John Toole – 12/16  
Isis Coney – 12/16  
Tonya Stanford – 12/18  
Jean Heller – 12/22  
Dan Becker – 12/22  
Jason Coney – 12/26  
Ken Boyd – 12/27  
Areda Rieder 12/28  
Gail Jagger – 12/30  
Ed Kimble – 12/31

## December Anniversaries



*Adam and April Felger – 12/2  
Tom and Peggy Horner – 12/5  
Gary and Sue Williamson – 12/18*

## Prayer Concerns

Mark Groff  
Pam Groff  
Bob Sefton - cancer  
Sandy Barkey  
Ed Kimble  
Howard Lowen  
Rick Kreps  
Peggy Horner  
April Felger  
Leasa Gowen  
Brenda  
Scott and Tammy  
McQueen  
Marion Pulley  
Debbie Miller  
Amanda Clark Migraine  
headaches since April  
Jane Bunn  
Barb Howe – cancer  
(Peggy's cousin)



## Condolences

Sally Craft family  
Linda Jewett family

## Joys and Celebrations

Pam went back to work  
Cece's Birthday!  
Elijah is well and back home!

**Don't Forget!**  
**Sign up for Sunday morning cookies.**  
**The sign-up sheet is by the front entry door.**

## Bible verse

1. **Isaiah 9:6:** "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

## Joke of the Month

**Why did the snowman go to church? To chill out and cool down!**

Please send notes of support and encouragement to:

Sandy Barkey  
413 N Wolf Rd, Room 210  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
Phone 260-609-0856

Delores Claxton  
616 Opportunity Dr, Apt 404  
Autumn Trace  
Columbia City, IN 46725

**The deadline for the January 2026 newsletter will be December 29. If you have an article and/or pictures for the newsletter, email it to Betty at: [bettyormsby@gmail.com](mailto:bettyormsby@gmail.com). Thank you!**