

St Matthew's Community Church

February 2026



Choir Practice – Tuesdays 6:30PM

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

Wednesday Emmaus 4th 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 Word from your Pastor

Whether you are a product of nature or nurture, your past does not have to dictate your future. We are now in a time of year when many people are making resolutions for the purpose of self-improvement. The failure rate for these promises to self is so high, that it has become a standing joke. Folks are resigned to the conclusion they are helpless to become a better person defined by some criteria.

So many of us are controlled by our past that we are blind to future potential. Maybe you were born to poor uneducated parents, to a single mom, illegitimate or put up for adoption. Were the cards stacked against you from the start? For example, children from a broken home are more likely to experience a failed marriage themselves. Children of one or more alcoholic parents are nine times more likely to suffer that addiction than those of parents who do not drink. A person who has done time is 72% likely to be imprisoned again.

By whose standards have you failed? The world in which you live may have judged you as unworthy or even worthless. Compared to whom? Maybe you compare yourself to others and feel lacking. Are you carrying guilt? It can be positive or negative. Guilt tells you, "I have done a bad thing; but shame tells you, "I am a bad person."

Comparing yourself to someone else is always a mistake. We should always compare with the example of Jesus, and we all fall short. As a pastor I often tell my congregation that we are sinners in need of a savior and I am the sinner they pay. Your past does not dictate your future; and as for society, tell them you are a beloved child of the King. Your life changes the instant you accept that.

So you have done some evil, disgusting things in your life; yeah, me too. Do you feel you are unworthy of being loved? Well, those people who cling to Jesus love you in spite of you. As you are right now, the God that created you loves you beyond any measure. You can be more; you can do better. I don't want you to take my word for it but God's word.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun."

Philippians 4:13 “ For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.”

John 15:5 “ ...apart from me you can do nothing.”

So there it is. Embrace Jesus, live large and conform to the character of Christ with the help of His Holy Spirit.

Pastor Doug



Emmaus 4th Day Group meets

2:00 – 2:45 on Wednesdays

This group is strong and growing. Come join us!

Trustees

Thanks to John and Nancy Austin for trimming the bushes and keeping the weeds down. Hodges Property Management will be doing snow plowing and salting in our parking lot. Thanks to Kevin, Weston and Gail Jagger for cleaning off the parking lot when needed and also at the parsonage drive.

St. Matthew's Women's sewing group has set up shop in the first room in the basement. It has been cleared out and stocked with their items.

When Sally Hull returns, they will be ready to start.

Anyone wishing to donate an item to the church must get approval from the Trustees. We will no longer accept anything dropped off.

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!

Dear ST MATTHEWS COMMUNITY CHURCH (SC601),

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use, The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

October 1 to December 31, 2025

19 Households

\$40.89

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,

Community Rewards Staff

See next page for how to sign up!

TO SIGN UP FOR KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS FOR ST
MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CHURCH ON YOUR PHONE

1. If you don't have the Kroger App, go to the App Store to download
2. Either Log In or create a login
3. Click on the three bars at the top right of the screen
4. Click on Rewards
5. Click on Community Rewards
6. Click on Enroll
7. Search for St Matthew's and click on it

It will automatically give a portion to St Matthew's

Mission for this month
Native American Ministries

If you have any questions, please contact John Austin at 260-402-7417.

February 2026

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

The Ad Board was able to meet on January 19 even though the weather was a little challenging and the IU vs Miami football game was going to be on. Thanks to all who were able to attend.

One of the items on the agenda was to discuss what we will do with the proceeds from the ice cream social and the donations to March to the Manger. The total of the two comes to \$4,691.00. In the past, both of these funds were donated mainly outside of the church. Last year we gave the money to Faith Christiam Academy as they were in desperate need. In previous years, the money has gone to UMCOR for disaster relief and Ukraine. This year it was decided that we need to choose someone different. It was suggested that we look outside our local community, possibly one of the Veteran's programs. There are so many groups that aid different sectors of our world and our country. We would like to ask our church family for suggestions. What aid group would you like to see supported? The funds can be split and sent to multiple groups. Please don't be silent about this; share your thoughts.

Now for a couple tidbits. If you rearrange the letters in depression, you'll get 'I Pressed On'. Your current situation is not your final destination.

Healing takes time. There is a reason the Lord waited 22 years to reunite Joseph and his brothers. (Courtesy of The Joyful Noiseletter)

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3

Blessings to All!

Your sister in Christ,

Jan Greaf

St. Matthew's Women

President Sally Hull

Our next meeting will be March 2nd at 2pm in St. Matthew's basement meeting room.

We welcome all women of the church to join us in fellowship at our meetings.

Our new sewing group at St. Matthew's will be working on making bags for the next bible distribution in Kenya through Christa Baine and her ministry, to the 7th graders. Such a worthy project!!



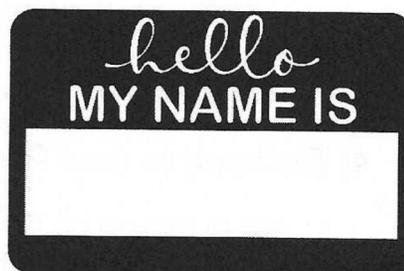
Our Women's Group Purpose:

St. Matthews Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

"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 [www.stmatthewsccin.com](#)

Email responses to: stmatthewsccin@gmail.com



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!

Gene Rohrer, the Youth Group & Bowling

For the past several years, Gene held a special place in his heart for bowling. Years ago, during one of our cabin-fever youth outings to Main Bowl, he asked if he could tag along. Of course, we said yes.

It didn't take long for us to discover just how good he was—Gene bowled circles around all of us (even with a cane) and almost always walked away with the highest score. But what made those nights truly meaningful wasn't just the strikes. Between turns, Gene would talk with the kids about life and about Jesus. He loved chatting with Ryan about the latest news on the Indiana Hoosiers, and before long he became a regular part of our bowling crew.

Now, we simply miss him—his mentorship, his friendship, and for one young person, the presence of a great-grandfather figure.

If you've ever been interested in supporting the youth, joining us for an event, sharing an idea, or even becoming our next bowling partner, we'd love to hear from you.

In Christ's Love,

Ryan Jagger & Julie Riddle

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

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

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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

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 Those We Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to Thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that Thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.



February Birthdays

Marcus Groff – 2/1
Jody Lowen – 2/2
Travis Wright 2/2
Susan Bauman 2/3
Alice Pontius – 2/6
Barb Huth – 2/6
Joe Becker 2/9
Betty Ormsby 2/10
Michael Grisson – 2/12
Emily Stanford – 2/13
Nan Morris 2/14
Nancy Austin – 2/18
Barbara Sickafoose – 2/23
Nancy Souers – 2/23
Jim Ayres – 2/24
Sally Willson 2/24
Tom Horner 2/25
Weston Jagger – 2/25

February Anniversaries



Roy and Alice Pontius – 2/24
Dan and Micci Becker – 2/29

Prayer Concerns

Micci and her cousin
Mischelle
Jan and Karen Miller
Sandy Barkey
Ed Kimble
Howard Lowen
Bob Johnson
Rick Kreps
Scott McQueen - cancer
Brenda - cancer
Mark Groff
Debbie Miller
Jeff Howey
Cason Britt
Chuck Notter
Jane and Dale Bunn
Miranda Kenya



Gary Williamson
Brent Gaff
Mike Hyndman
Baby Bohdie Hoffman
Wendy Hubbard
Barry Horner
Charlene Harter
The Unsaved
Sam Foreman
Alice Nicolet

Condolences

Family of Accident
Victims

Joys and Celebrations

Parker Jo Nicodemus

Don't Forget!

Sign up for Sunday morning cookies. The sign-up sheet is by the front entry door.

Bible verse

1 Corinthians 13:4-7
"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Joke of the Month

What's a dentist's favorite hymn?...Crown him with many crowns.

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 March 2026 newsletter will be

February 19. No this is not a typo. I will be without computer access

the week of the 22nd. If you have an article and/or pictures for the newsletter, email it to Betty at: bettyormsby@gmail.com. Thank you!