

St Matthew's Community Church

July 2026



VBS – July 6-10, 6-8PM

Ice Cream Social August 1st 4-7

Choir Practice – Tuesdays 6:30PM

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

Wednesday Disciple Bible Study

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

Sewing Circle 10-1 Fridays

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

I've been thinking about prayer lately; specifically, why do we pray or not and why don't we pray more. Now prayer is not providing God with a newsflash -what is happening. He already knows what is going on in our lives. Prayer is communicating and relationship building. We are communicating our faith, our trust, and our love for God; and in doing so strengthening our creator – creation relationship.

I have had people tell me they pray in case someone out there is listening. Holy cow, is that transient faith or what? I have heard others say, “all I can do is pray for you”. Just a thought, but why isn't that the first idea? Others have but a singular purpose for prayer – telling the Lord what they want. It's like sitting on Santa's lap or putting the coin in a cosmic vending machine.

I once gave a sermon on complete prayer which used the acronym ACTS. A for adoration, C for confession T for thanksgiving and S for supplication or our list of wants and desires. The model of Jesus praying is documented several times in the gospel of Luke.

I believe I can state accurately that God doesn't answer the prayer that is never prayed; you can't hit the ball unless you swing the bat. God answers prayer in His time and in His way. If you pray to win the lottery, He may say no because He is more interested in your character and your soul than He is in your wealth. God answers prayer but it is up to you to make the first move.

I know people who keep a prayer journal, recording what they pray for and the result when God responds. I can't seem to do that. I am a better prayerer than a journaler. I am never surprised when prayers bring results. We are to pray with persistence like the widow in Scripture.

What should we pray for? Everything big and small; if it is important to you, it is important to the God that loves you more than you can comprehend. What about really big things like salvation for the world? Isn't that pointless? I don't know; how big is your God? Oh, and Jesus' life was not pointless any more than yours is. Prayer is the difference between the best we can do and the best God can do.

You say you can't pray like you pastor. It takes practice – that's a hint. I had a senior pastor one time that could bow her head and pray out loud for a half hour never stammering or repeating herself. I cannot do that. My prayers are common language, concise, and to the point. I am not trying to impress anyone, and I can't impress God. I assure you if you pray regularly, irregular things will happen on a regular basis.

There is much power in corporate prayer that takes place in worship. The relationship building and spiritual growth that results from your personal private prayers are equally important. Here is a tip. When you are done praying, stop, listen, and meditate. Praying without meditation is like eating without digesting. I'll have more to say about prayer at a later day. For now – to your knees, St. Matthews, to your knees.

Pastor Doug

Coming UP!

Gary Ford had a great idea – a congregation trip to the veteran’s memorial on O’Day Rd. Initially it was to be a bonding experience for the men. However, when it was announced prematurely, I had too many women with their hands on their hips and their foot tapping the floor saying, “What about us.” Kinda scared me. So, on **Saturday, August 8, at 10:00AM**, brunch will be served in the church basement. Following that we will carpool to O’Day Road and tour the exhibits. I have not been there since before the wall was erected. All are welcome, but I need a head count for food; and since Angie will be ten-day post-op, some help in the kitchen. If you plan on going please tell Rev. Gary Ford. I am volunteering him for that since it was his big fat idea.



Emmaus 4th Day Group has been suspended for the time being.

Trustee Report

Thank you to Greg Greaf for being at the church to help Millers Sewer find the septic tank to be pumped, and to be at the church when they came to inspect the boiler and equipment.

Thanks to John and Nancy Austin for keeping the outside of the church flowers, stones, etc. looking good.

Thanks to Mary Trent for getting greeters each week when people arrive. Let Mary know if you can help.

July 17 and 18 from 9-12 have been set for cleaning of the outside and inside of the church. A list will be made up of what needs to be done., like trimming bushes, pulling weeds, washing windows, inside wash windows, walls, sweeping, etc.

Thanks to Ryan Jagger & Julie Riddle for getting our youth involved in our ice cream social. Thanks. Youth kids.

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

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.

Thank you all for being patient with us as things are still being done and need to be done. It's a big job.

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

Faith Christian Academy – Boomerang Backpack

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

July 2026

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

There are lots of things happening soon at our church. This gives us so many opportunities to share our church family with the community. I encourage everyone to get involved in at least one event, please. We need all of you!!

Each year we give generously to the Kentucky Mountain Mission. This is a great time to share your gently used items with those less fortunate people. Remember that all items you give are items that you would consider buying yourself. If something is broken, don't send. The tentative dates for pickup are July 27-29. Once they establish their pickup schedule, we will be given a specific date.

We also have a children's carnival schedule for August 29. This will be a time to encourage families to come so we can introduce our church and hopefully encourage them to attend services. John Austin is heading this up and he will need plenty of help. I'm not sure of all the activities. The kids will go for prizes at each of the booths. I even thought a pony ride or petting zoo area might be fun. We'll take ideas.

Our first luncheon and car show was a huge success last year, so we have the 2nd annual event scheduled for Oct. 3. From what I observed, all the people enjoyed themselves. Let's get inspired again!
Thank you to all the people who are able to assist with our activities. God surely has blessed our church.

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

Blessings to All!
Your sister in Christ,
Jan Greaf

Worship Committee

Greetings to all at St. Matthew's! The first thing I want to do is to wish you a fun-filled and safe Independence Day as we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary. Let us give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of freedom we enjoy each day and pray for His guidance and protection in its preservation.

The first Sunday of the month is July 5 when we will have Preservice singing. We will also celebrate Holy Communion during the worship service that morning. Atoned4 will provide music for us on the second Sunday, July 12. We also plan for Preservice singing on July 19, the third Sunday of the month. Our choir will be singing during our worship time on July 26, the last Sunday of the month.

Since St. Matthew's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the weeknights of July 6 through July 10, there will be no choir practice Tuesday, July 7.

You may have noticed the paraments on the altar have been green. The green paraments represent Sundays after Pentecost and the color green will be present on the altar until we begin the Christian calendar New Year in November. There

will be two exceptions during that time. You will see white paraments as we celebrate All Saints Day and again when we celebrate Christ the King Sunday.

Please mark Sunday, August 16 on your calendars! The Gideons will be at St. Matthew's to tell us about their mission of sharing the gospel.

May the love and peace of Christ be with you all! With warm regards, Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman.

Update for directory...

Add –

Adam, Kathy, Emily, and Elaina Bottles
1910 W 600 N
Columbia City, In 46725

Karen Campbell
126 W Tidewater Trail
Columbia City, IN 46725

Chuck, Crystal, Cole, True, Thell Shafer
2565 E Beech
Columbia City, IN 46725

Update –

Emily Stanford and Ryan Heffelman
3111 Market Lane, Unit 1101
Kenosha, WI 53144

St. Matthew's Community Church Youth Group

APRIL '26

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		

19- Regular Youth
26- Regular Youth

MAY '26

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						

3- Year End Party -
Summer Break!
17- Paige's Crossing 4:00

JUNE '26

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				

6- Ice Cream Social
4:00-7:00 Volunteers
needed
28- Youth Destination
Unknown
14- Kayaking + Cookout

JULY '26

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	

17-23- HH Fair

July 6-10, 2026- Youth
Vacation Bible Class!
School 6:00 - 8:00
Volunteers needed
12- Swimming Party!

AUGUST '26

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- Ice Cream Social
4:00-7:00 Volunteers
needed
8- Train Ride 4:00 Angola
* 2026-27 Youth
starts 9/13/26

N., C.C., IN • Q's contact: Ryan: 229-2695 or Julie 229-0738

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

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

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.**

Ice Cream Social

August 1st 4:00 to 7:00

St. Matthew's Community Church

1460 E 500 N

Columbia City, IN 46725





St. Matthew's Women

President Sally Hull

Our 2nd Ice Cream Social is coming up soon.
The date for that is August 1st. There will be
a sign-up sheet in the entryway for you to
volunteer food or when you can help serve.

“

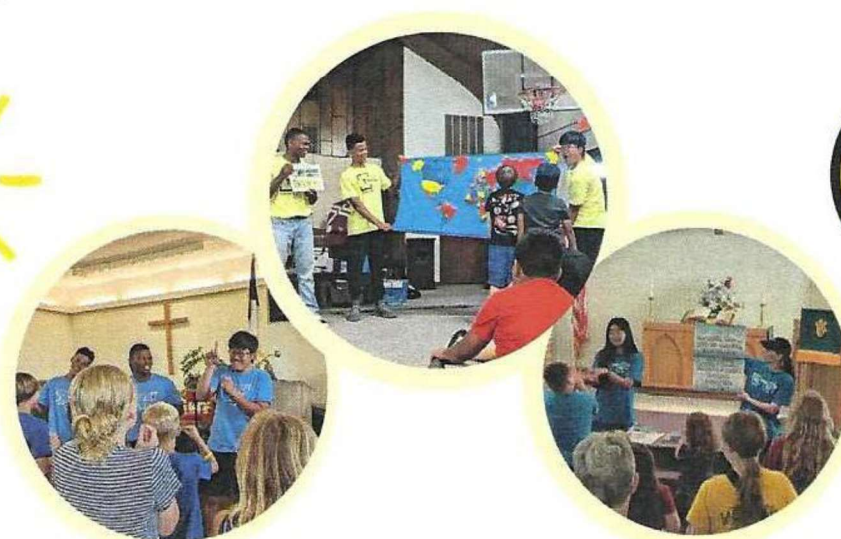
**May we think of freedom,
not as the right to do as we please,
but as the opportunity to do
what is right.**

—PETER MARSHALL



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Bible School



Grades
K-12

FREE

When?

July 6 – July 10
6pm – 8pm

Where?

St. Matthews Community Church
1460 E 500 N
Colombia City, IN 46725

Point of contact:

Dayla Jagger

(260) 258-3231

Activities :

- Games
- Memory Verses
- Songs
- Bible Lessons
- Missionary Story
- Crafts

Note to parents: Your child is invited to attend a fun Vacation Bible School (VBS)! VBS meets for 2 hours each day for five days. **Please arrive 5-10 minutes early the first day to get checked in.** It is sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship, a Bible-centered worldwide ministry. All teachers and helpers have been trained and screened to ensure your child's protection. Parents are welcome to attend.



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP™
Reaching children worldwide

www.cefneastindiana.com

This is from Christa Baine, our Missionary in Africa I apologize the video would not come through the newsletter. Please check out our website for the video

This month's video covers time in Siaya County (based at the Learning Center in Ugenya) from the school training week (the 2nd to 4th) to the first couple days of village evangelism on the 17th and 18th:

Something from the video that I'd love to expound upon is the door-to-door encouragement and evangelism in the villages surrounding the Light Mission Africa Learning Center. In June, we spent three days devoted to this and have visited 15 homes. The first two days were myself, Kennedy, and leaders from the weekly Bible study at the center. The third day (yesterday) was Kennedy, Sam (my driver from Kisumu who I claim as family), and myself. As much as I love teaching, evangelism and encouragement have been a passion of mine since I first came to Kenya. I used to spend a lot of time in the Nyalenda Slum doing door-to-door visits with people living with HIV-AIDs, and it's one reason why Nyalenda has remained such a special place to me. When Kennedy approached me in April and said, "I've been thinking...Can we do some evangelism around here?", he didn't know that I had been praying that God would open a door for something just like that. With the nearby structure of the Learning Center as our base and the Bible study there as our "umbrella" ministry, and with our respective local churches in Ugunja as reputable places of referral to those who want to know more of the Word, and with God as our Protector and Christ as our Purpose, we set out. We went to homes of people who had visited the Bible study at the learning center in the past but who have since struggled with their health and needed encouragement. We visited a home with a man who admitted he was "still fighting with the Devil." Doctors have been unable to diagnose him with anything, but he has habits of chaos and self-harm that make his confession interesting in the least, and prayer-worthy for sure. In one home, a woman admitted that her "heart is softening" and hopes to "one day get saved." She did not have a Bible, but we were later able to provide her with one (thanks to a friend from Oklahoma). Another woman came to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, and when Kennedy called me from her home several days after her salvation during a follow up where he delivered her Bible, the joy in her voice was overwhelming: "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" If we each had such excitement at owning a Bible in light of the salvation it teaches us, think of how contagious that could be, and how bright of a light we could shine. We visited the area's well-known witchdoctor and two of his six or seven wives. We weren't sure whether he would welcome us, but he sat silently while one of his wives listened intently and wide-eyed on the edge of her seat. God can soften even the hardest of hearts, so his is not a lost cause, but I am interested in following up with this woman at some point in the future. Some homes offered us wisdom and encouragement from their own walks with the Lord (like Colossians 2:6-15, Philippians 3:7-11, and Matthew 11:28-30) and others admitted to having "backslid" into alcoholism and other habits.

Some take-aways and observations we had from these days: 1) There's nothing Satan hates more than the Gospel being shared, making prayer vital. Warfare is occurring all around us all the time whether we see it or not, and we need to be prepared. 2) No home is a mistake. Whether believers, non-believers, or people of other faiths, everyone needs encouragement. Everyone needs a chance at hearing the Truth of God's Love. Everyone deserves the dignity of notice. Our expectations do not dictate God's intentions, and sometimes we receive more than we give, strengthening us for the next encounter. 3) Church-goers are often more willing to open up about their struggles or "backsliding" and receive instruction and advice from a stranger than from their own church. The fear of confrontation or the gossip-wheel is real, and we noticed how genuinely several people presented their weaknesses to us and received Biblical advice and prayer with eagerness. 4) The good ole dilemma of my skin tone...It is often a double-edged sword here when considering expectations, but thankfully, God prepared us for that. When I visit people, I genuinely like to ask them questions. I want to know about them, their family, their culture, etc. I don't preach at people, I converse with people and share my passions with them. Going into the evangelism, I really wanted to let the others lead and see how they wanted to do things, which ended up being "you'll share, then you'll share, then you'll pray." That's not bad, it's just not exactly my "style." After the first day, which thankfully was mostly people known by the Bible study leaders in our group, the Kenyans I was with presented me with this request: "Christa, sometimes people around here may be suspicious or afraid if we ask them the more personal questions since we are also from their area. They may think we are going to spread their business around to others. But if you ask, they will be more open." It's like they'd read my mind. Funny how "God-things" happen more often when you're sharing God, isn't it? We plan to continue these visits in July, on the 8th and/or 9th.

From the 22nd to the 26th I had the opportunity to visit a friend's ministry in Nakuru and Moi's Bridge. Streams of Life has a clinic and a partner church in Nakuru, and a church and children's ministry in Moi's Bridge. I had visited the clinic before, so focused on visiting the churches. The pastor of the Nakuru church that meets in a tiny store-front has a passion for medical ministry. He spends every Friday in the area's hospital, visiting and praying for the sick. Then Tuesdays he goes to the Streams clinic and prays for the staff there. Somehow we got onto the topic of corruption within ministries, which is unfortunately something I have been hurt by in past experiences, and he said something that I think I will always remember: "You must be a person of integrity, otherwise you are giving the Devil legal grounds into your life." The moment you decide to keep most of that child's sponsorship money for yourself, or submit a budget request that you know is twice the amount actually needed, or lie about your personal life to garnish sympathy, Satan is in, and he doesn't leave easily. It's been a disappointment to witness in other ministries, and I'm thankful I haven't seen it any of my current connections. The church in Moi's Bridge was a place full of joy. Directly linked to that is the fact that the majority of the church is made up of children and youth. I was invited to speak with children, youth, and adults. The pastor used to be a "street boy," homeless and abandoned. Now he has a passion for ministering to street children, who he told me are often not even treated like real people, but God loves them. And there was a lot of love in this church. One of the two days I was there, a man (a drunkard) came up to the front of the church and knelt down, saying he wanted to be saved. No kind of altar call had been done or salvation message shared yet. All that had happened to that point was praise and worship, led by children and youth singing to their Creator. How powerful is the truth when shared through the mouths of babes. I was able to give this man one of the Bibles I carried with me that was donated by my church, as well as another Bible to a teenage girl who had previously got saved after attending the church and had then brought her father, who also got saved. Please pray for this ministry, their leaders, and their board back in the states.

July will be another busy month. I just checked in to an Airbnb where I will spend a few days—two of them being “complete rest”—for my 34th birthday. July will see me in Kisumu, Ugenya, Asembo, and Nairobi. I will get to meet up with a family traveling to Kenya from the states for the first time after many years, and I’m excited for them to get to visit and see Jerry and Joash and their families. I will be part of another Light Mission Africa training, and I’ll continue leading Bible studies in Kisumu. We will do more evangelism in Ugenya, and I will meet with several self-help and Bible study groups in Asembo (Lord willing). And then finally, on the 26th my husband Dylan will arrive for a two-week visit! Among other things, he will be bringing with him over 100 bags made by amazing women in Indiana and Oklahoma for the LiMA student Bible distribution which will take place in September. When I traveled to Kenya in April, the “unknown” factor with air-travel was the war and unrest in the Middle East. It seems like now the factor is Ebola and its current and potential spread. My heart goes out to those affected in DR Congo especially. Please keep these people in your prayers, and that this awful disease and its spread will be eradicated. As of right now, there are no confirmed cases in Kenya.

Lastly, if you are a fan of salsa, and would like to help stock the Learning Center with updated grades 7-9 textbooks, I have a good friend in Oklahoma currently running a fundraiser! It would be a birthday blessing to see us reach our goal and get new textbooks to the learning center by the time we are there for July’s training (the week of the 20th). Bobby is selling her amazing homemade salsa for \$10 a pint. If you live in Oklahoma and are interested, she is willing to meet up or drop-off in certain areas (my parents’ home in Guthrie is one drop-off location). Let me know if you’re interested and I can help you from there! With pledges, gifts, and orders, we are almost 1/3 of the way to our \$3,000 goal!

God has been providing for other needs in amazing ways! There will always be something, but thankfully there will also always be God. His plans and His ways are best. Please continue to pray for my neck, back, and hips. Otherwise, if and when you think of me, thank God for all His blessings!

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

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July Birthdays

Linda Bayman – 7/5
 Addison Felger – 7/6
 Jan Greaf – 7/7
 Melba Personett – 7/7
 Howard Lowen – 7/12
 Brenda Boyd – 7/15
 Kathy Bottles – 7/15
 Micci Becker – 7/18
 Phyllis Swick – 7/18
 Dan Ormsby – 7/18
 Collin Myers – 7/24
 Karen Stewart – 7/27

July Anniversaries



Jeff & Sharon Heaton - 7/13
Jim & Linda Bayman - 7/19
Kevin & Nancy Kline
Jim (Doc) & Brook Farber - 7/28

Prayer Concerns

Christa Baine
 Jane Bunn
 Jerilyn Ransom
 Devier Weicht
 Ralph Weicht
 Donna Fair – CA
 Middle East
 Nation and Military
 President Trump
 Pastor Doug and Angie
 Ryan and Hanna
 Craig and Allison and all First
 Responders
 Martin and Pam Brady
 Duane Shipley
 Sandy
 Ed
 Howard
 Rick Kreps
 Esther



Brenda
 Scott
 Phyllis
 Karen Stewart
 Micci and her cousins Michelle
 and Bill
 People of Venezuela
 Mike Hyndman
 Carl Chalk
 Kayla Pearson
 Jeff Blake

Condolences

Family of Donna Toole
 Ivan and Scott Snyder
 Families
 Karen Gaerte Family
 George LeFever Sheets

Joys and Celebrations

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

Bible verse

Jeremiah 29:11
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Joke of the Month

A reporter was interviewing a woman on her 100th birthday at the church social. "What is the secret to your long life and your faith?" She said, "I go to every service, I eat my greens, and I never, ever argue with the preacher." "That's incredible," the reporter said. "You agree with everything he says?" She winked and said, "No, I just turn off my hearing aid as soon as he says 'In conclusion' for the third time."

Please send notes of support and encouragement to:

Sandy Barkey
411 N Wolf Rd, Room 111
Columbia City, IN 46725
Phone 260-609-0856

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

Fran Hartman
5833 S Woodstrail Dr-57
Columbia City, IN 46725

The deadline for the August 2026 newsletter will be July 28. If you have an article and/or pictures for the newsletter, email it to Betty at: bettyormsby@gmail.com. Thank you!