

St Matthew's Community Church

January 2026



Choir Practice – Tuesdays 6:30PM – No practice in January

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

Losing Giants

We have lost some giants. Probably a year or so ago, we had a special Eucharist at the Sunday worship service. I remember telling the congregation that we had four former United Methodist pastors in the congregation, three retired, one just tired. Those four pastors served communion, the senior most two seated dispensing the bread while Gary Ford and I served the juice. Those two precious, sainted gentlemen have now graduated to eternal life.

I know it is always a mistake to compare oneself to another. Jesus is our example and our standard of behavior. We must emulate him and grow in our faith. Having said that, as I remember Gene Rohrer and Jack Thompson, I feel lacking. Those fellas were giants in the faith and a blessing to St. Matthews Community Church.

There have been others. People I never met; they passed before I came to St. Matthews four and a half years ago. I have repeatedly heard the names of Mary Catherine Riddle and Dale Barkey spoken in almost a hushed reverence. They did their jobs, they honored God, and they left us a legacy.

I have been a member of several organizations where individuals, due to their exceptional performance, set a high bar, a standard of excellence. It is up to those who follow them to maintain and even raise that bar. In the case of the saints mentioned, we need not follow them; we need to follow whom they followed. We need to be open and responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We serve an awesome God.

I feel humble that I could count Gene Rohrer and Jack Thompson among my friends. I am humbled that the Lord allows me to serve the Christ followers at St. Matthews. Those that preceded us have set a course for us to follow. Their priority and focus were honoring their creator/savior. We dare not dishonor their memory by doing less.

Pastor Doug



Emmaus 4th Day Group meets

2:00 – 2:45 on Wednesdays

This group is strong and growing. Come join us!

Worship Committee Notes

Happy New Year 2026 to all my St. Matthew's Community Church family! I hope your Christmas and New Year celebrations have been filled with abundant blessings, love, comfort, and the joy that passes all understanding.

Plans for worship at St. Matthew's have been in process. At the moment, we are still in the liturgical calendar season of Christmastide. A big visual clue to this season is the continuation of the celebratory white paraments on the altar.

January 4 is the second Sunday of Christmastide and the Sunday before Epiphany. Epiphany always falls on January 6. It marks the first day after the twelve days of Christmastide and commemorates the arrival of the Wisemen who came to worship Baby Jesus. It also begins the season of Epiphany. On January 4 we will have Pre-Service singing. Since January 4 is the first Sunday of 2026, during worship service we will have a recognition of the saints who attended St. Matthew's and who have died and gone on to glory in the past year. We will also celebrate Holy Communion during our morning worship.

The Baptism of Our Lord will be recognized on Sunday, January 11, and we will be remembering our own individual baptisms as well. This is a Sunday when we also celebrate with the presence of white paraments on the altar. This is also the first Sunday in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany's liturgical color is green, but since The Baptism of Our Lord is a more important and celebratory event, the white parament is used instead of the green. Atoned 4 will provide music for the service.

Our parament color will be changed to green on January 18, the second Sunday of Epiphany, indicating we continue in the season of Epiphany. The green paraments will remain on the altar and podiums until the season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18. There will be Pre-service singing January 18.

January 25 is the fourth and last Sunday of the month. The choir usually sings on the fourth Sunday of each month but takes the month of January off each year, so there will be no choir performance. However, choir practice will begin again on Tuesday evening, February 3 at 6:30.

I love the Advent and Christmas seasons we observe each year! Many thanks to everyone who has worked to make this time especially meaningful and beautiful for us all!

With Warm Regards, Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman

Trustees

Happy New Year! The Trustees will have more information in the February newsletter.

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!

January 2026

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas. This can also be a difficult time for people who have lost loved ones. Please keep them in your prayers. As we start a new year, how many people make New Year's resolutions? How many of us start out with good intentions, then the bottom slowly falls out? Guilty. A 2009 study on habit creation reported an average of 66 days to firmly set the habit. Of course, more difficult choices will take longer. The biggest factor for success was consistent daily repetition. My suggestion, start with something simple. One excellent habit we should all have is read your bible daily. It helps to use The Upper Room booklet, or Our Daily Bread booklet. Both of these are available at church. There are so many different books out there you can use for guidance. I have been using the *christianbooks.com* website for many choices. I encourage you to check them out. Another great resource – your brothers and sisters in Christ. Lean on your church family for support. We all have different strong suits and thoughts. One of us may have a suggestion that would benefit you. Talking it out may even help both parties! On that note, enjoy the uniqueness and quirkiness of each person. God made us as individuals. However, he wants us to connect with each other and be supportive. There's another resolution we can work on.

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

Blessings to All!

Your sister in Christ,
Jan Greaf

Mission for this month

BABE

BABE of Whitley County is a non-profit in Columbia City, Indiana, that supports families with children from birth to age six through an incentive program, aiming to improve child health and development. Families earn coupons for participating in preventative care and educational activities, which can be redeemed for essential items like diapers, clothes, and car seats at the BABE store. The organization also builds community through classes, workshops, and a network of over 40 local partners, including healthcare providers and libraries.

The month of January, Saint Matthews community Church will be partnering with BABE. We will be participating in the baby bottle drive. We will provide baby bottles for the congregation. Families will take the bottle home for one month and fill it with loose change, cash or checks. At the end of the month we will collect bottles and share the impact of this generosity.

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

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.

We have pledged to the following missions in 2026.

- Local Missions
 - Lifewise Whitley County
 - Children's First Local Lunches
 - Mission 25
 - BABE
 - Faith Christian Academy
- Global Ministries
 - Lucille Raines Residence
 - Kentucky Methodist Mountain Mission
 - Native American Missions (Specifically Fort Belknap)



The sewing circle here at St. Matthew's will start in January. I still need input on when we will meet. We should meet at least weekly. There are many places that need handmade blankets, bags, wheelchair bags, lap throws, not to mention any

mending or sewing that needs done that people in our church do not have the means to sew things. We will accept any sewing supplies and fabric you would like to donate. **Please contact me if you are interested in becoming part of this ministry.**



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 [here](#)

Email responses to: 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!

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

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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 Families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families; We commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another; 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.



January Birthdays

Gary Williamson – 1/4

Miles Wolfe – 1/15

Cliff Creason – 1/16

Abigail Crowder – 1/21

Barry Yeakle – 1/21

Jeanette Rohrer – 1/23

Mary Trent – 1/27

Martha Vance – 1/31

January Anniversaries



Please update your directory...

Nancy Souers

413 N Wolf Rd

Apt 123

Columbia City, IN 46725

Prayer Concerns		Condolences
Sandy Barkey Ed Kimble Howard Lowen Debbie Miller Bob Johnson Rick Kreps Brenda Leasa Gowen Scott McQueen Amanda Clark Jerry Woodward Marion Pulley Kathy Ehinger Mark Groff Sharon Heaton Sam Foreman Jane and Dale Bunn The Unsaved Youth trip – Ark / Creation	Mike Hyndman Brent Gaff Charlene Harter Travel mercies for Dan and Betty Ormsby trip to Florida Travel for youth and Chaperones Barry Horner	Bob Sefton Family – Pam's Dad Tom Waggoner Family Jack Thompson Family

Joys and Celebrations

Dan Becker's birthday
The Choir's beautiful singing last Sunday
57 great years

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

Bible verse

Lamentations 3:22-23
“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Joke of the Month

What was Boaz like before he got married? He was Ruth-less!

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