St Matthew's Community Church

October 2026

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 (no study on 10/18 & 10/28)

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

As human beings, we have been given the gift of life and it is a gift however, we are all destined to die at least once or in the case of those who reject Jesus a second eternal death, which separates them from God forever I have been thinking lately about how we sometimes value pamper and cherish life. I have also been thinking how we can be careless, apathetic and crafts about the physical demise of our brothers and sisters that share the planet. All my thoughts are not accidental recently. I attended another Right To Life event for several years. I have been active in this organization that seeks to end the killing of unborn babies. This is a hot but political issue with dedicated supporters on both sides. My whole life has been spent and protect protecting victims. There's no more vulnerable victim than a helpless child in the womb yet every single day in this country for a variety of reasons 4000 women choose to in the lives they carry some women are emotionally traumatized for the remainder of their lives for other. The decision carries no consequence, some even equate abortion with the state enforcing the death penalty in the case of a convicted murderer the state of Massachusetts recently passed a law, allowing abortion right up to the point of birth medical science has evolved so that some organs can be transplanted replacing one that no longer functions some of these organs are harvested from cadavers, while others come from life donors what an act of merciful charity life is extended, and health restored even this process carries the possibility of injustice some needed organs have been harvested in cases where death has not been substantiated. An organ harvesting industry has sprung up. It is common practice to seek find and purchase organs from people in Third World countries these donors live in conditions of grinding poverty the process is called Oregon colonization for several years now a debate has taken place about the cost of medical care for the elderly one side suggest only palliative care should be provided and medical procedures reserve for younger people who are so productive som. Some states are pushing medical

assisted suicide in Canada state assisted suicide is already effective life actually a effective death mass shootings, resulting in death are so common place unless the number is extraordinary, we hardly take notice anymore. I have often wondered if the lack of courtesy so ramping in our society is an indication of the value we place on others I have read that a civilization‘s greatness is determined by how well it treats its most vulnerable citizens we have a tendency to evaluate people by their physical or mental ability or their wealth, talents or social standing and so we assign their worth however, God created each of us in his image and likeness, and at great cost he sent his son to die for all of us without exception our lives are therefore priceless those born and pre-born.

Pastor Doug

Trustee Report

Thanks to Nancy Austin for replacing our flowers at the doors. We are so happy her surgery worked. Thanks Greg Greaf for spraying the weeds in the parking lot. It sure looks better.

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

Whitley County Veterans Assistance– Thank you for your donations!

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

October 2026

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

Our Ad Board meeting in September brought up some interesting topics. One that I want to share with you is called Trail Life USA. This is an organization dedicated to young men. I went to their website and found this statement.

“Trail Life USA is the leader in adventure-based discipleship and masculine formation. A Church-Based, Christ-Centered, Boy-Focused mentoring and discipleship journey that speaks to the heart of a boy.

Established on timeless values derived from the Bible and set in the context of outdoor adventure, boys from age 5 to 17 are engaged in a Troop setting by male mentors where they are challenged to grow in character, understand their purpose, serve their community, and develop practical leadership skills to carry out the mission for which they were created.”

The board has agreed to pursue the opportunity to start a troop at St. Matthew’s. If anyone would like more information, or would like to get involved, please see Paul Jagger or Pastor Doug.

The other opportunity I’d like to share is for our youth group that gets together on Sunday evening. They are going to have a Halloween adventure at our church on Sunday, October 25. We would like to have some of our church family come and share treats with the youth by setting up a table, or some other way to share. Planning is still in progress so please talk with Julie Riddle for more details. We want this to be a fun event for our youth group. Thanks to all who are willing to help!!

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

Blessings to All!
Your sister in Christ,
Jan Greaf

2026-2027 Youth Fellowship Calendar

St. Matthew's Community Church

1460 E. 500 N. Columbia City, IN

Youth Meets Sunday evenings 6:00- 7:15

Grades: 5th – High School

All dates are subject to change.

Q's contact: Ryan 229-2695 or Julie 229-0738

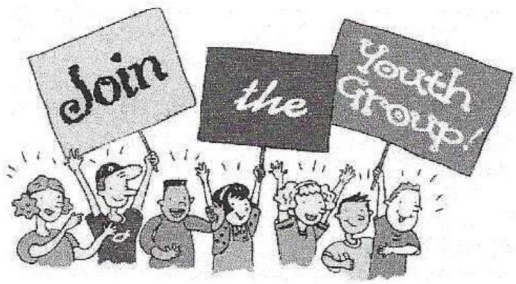
Join Us 4 Sunday Worship 9:00 am – Everyone is Welcome!

September 2026	
6	No Youth (Holiday)
13	Kick Off 6:00- 7:15
20	Mega Ice Cream Split 6:00- 7:15
24	No Youth

October	
4	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
11	No Youth
16	Homemade Pizza & Green Center Haunted School House 6:00-8:30
18	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
25	Spooktacular Costume Contest & Trick-or-Treating 6:00- 7:15
30	Bonfire, Stew & Hayride 5:30 @ Ryan & Leah Jagger's bring a snack 2 share & yard chair

November	
1	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
8	Bowling (CC Main Bowl) 5:00- 6:15
15	Pizza trip (Busco Heros) 6:00- 7:15
22	No Youth (Thanksgiving Break)
29	No Youth (Thanksgiving Break)

December	
4	Live Nativity *(Meet Youth Center)* Christmas CC Courthouse Square 6:00-8 Pizza Hut afterwards
6	Christmas Caroling 6:00- 7:30
13	Christmas End of Year Party Basement – Bring a snack 2 share 6:00- 7:15
24	Church Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm Everyone is Welcome!
20	No Youth (Winter Break)
27	No Youth (Winter Break)
?	TBA - Christmas Break Destination Unknown Night Out



youth group SCHEDULE

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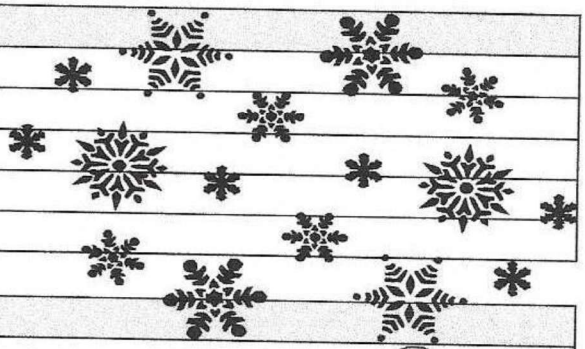
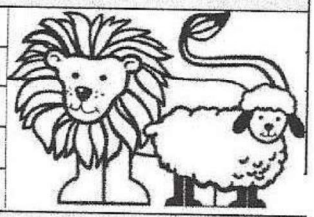
Join Us 4 Sunday Worship 9:00 am – Everyone is Welcome!

January 2027	
3	No Youth (Winter Break)
10	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
17	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
24	Bowling (CC Main Bowl) 5:00- 6:15
31	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15



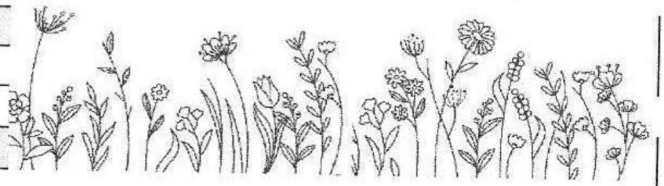
February	
7	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
14	Super Bowl Party 6:00-8:00 @ Ryan & Leah Jagger's bring a snack 2 share
21	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
28	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15

March	
7	Laser Tag
14	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
21	Destination Unknown 6:00- 7:15
28	Easter No Youth



April	
4	Spring Break No Youth
11	
18	Regular Youth 6:00- 7:15
25	Destination Unknown 6:00- 7:15

May	
2	Year End Party – Welcome 2 Summer Break



June	
5	Ice Cream Social 4-7 Volunteers needed
July	
5-9	VBS - Vacation Bible School July 5-9 • 6-8
August	
7	Ice Cream Social 4-7 Volunteers needed

St. Matthew's Community Picture Directory

Reminders PICTURES WILL BE TAKEN OCTOBER 12,13,14. Please call Kathy Ehinger if you have any questions 260-385-3164

Euchre Night at St. Matthew's

Mark your calendar for Thursday, October 22nd, 6:00 pm. We'll have a fun social night with snacks and a progressive euchre tournament - no need for a partner. Invite your friends and family who like to play, the more the merrier! Fun prizes will be awarded to the top scores. Sign up sheet is in the lobby. Contact Candice Yeakle if you have any questions 260-609-3280.

Christmas "Meal in a bag".

We have 10 families selected and 25 children! Within this group are several families from the VFW; local food pantries; and grandparents raising their grandchildren. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin grocery shopping and meeting with local businesses.

Christmas is coming sooner than we realize!

St. Matthew's Christmas Giving Project for 2026 is ready to begin.

a. **Christmas meal in a bag.** We purchase groceries for 10 area families providing a generous traditional holiday meal. Because of the generous donations from St. Matthew's family and area businesses, we are able to provide each family with the following: Ham, potatoes, milk, rolls, butter, eggs, fruit, 4 cans of vegetables, pie and a $50 gift card.

b. **HOW IT ALL WORKS**

    i. Families are submitted by the congregation, local food pantries, and Whitley County VA, until we reach 10 families.

    ii. Names will be kept CONFIDENTIAL (only Kathy or Sue contact families).

c. Children of these families are placed on the St Matthew's Angel tree. A Christmas tree is set up and decorated with paper angels. Each of the angels will represent a child from our Christmas meal family. The tags will contain sizes, age, sex, and ideas for that child's needs. Please choose an Angel and purchase from the list of ideas.

    i. Please wrap the gifts; label it by using the angel tag and return it to the church

        1. Items of clothing can be gently used. Please don't wrap used items.

2. After choosing the angel tag, please let Sue, Deb, or Kathy know the ID number of your angel. That helps us stay organized!

ii. The "Meal" committee contacts area businesses for their participation.

iii. Families come to the church the week before Christmas to pick up their meals and gifts.

iv. Please contact **Sue Williamson 260-213-9787 or Kathy Ehinger 260-385-3164**

1. if you know an area family that would appreciate our small gesture of kindness – please let us know.

v. You may begin providing monetary donations at any time, by placing your donation in the offering tray and add a note on the memo line – "Meal".

d. **ACTIVE MILITARY** – If you know an active military member, please submit their name so we can send a Christmas box to them

i. Please include a mailing address, and some of their likes, i.e., food, reading materials.

e. We can always use a few extra people to help. Call Sue if you'd like to help!

Worship Committee

The October worship schedule for St. Matthew's Community Church begins on Sunday, October 4 when Dayla and Paul will lead the congregation in Pre-Service Singing. We will also celebrate Holy Communion after the sermon. Atoned4 will be providing music during the service on Sunday, October 11. Our quartet will lead Pre-Service Singing on October 18, and the choir will perform during the service on October 25.

On Sunday, November 8 there will be a Veterans Day recognition at the beginning of our worship service when pictures of veterans from St. Matthew's congregation will be displayed on the overhead screen. If you have recently started attending St. Matthew's and served in the armed forces, please provide us with a picture of yourself in uniform, information of your name and rank, as well as where and when you served. Please give this information to Micci Becker no later than Nov. 1 so she has time to include your picture and information in this presentation. Thank you!

The Church of the Nazarene, located on North Main Street in Columbia City, will host a Community Thanksgiving Service at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 24. They have invited several local churches to provide special music, so St. Matthew's Community Church choir will be performing. There will also be an offering collected in order to provide financial support for the Whitley County Energy Assistance Program. Please mark this event on your calendar to come celebrate Thanksgiving with other churches in our community and to help provide warmth and energy relief for the family, friends, and neighbors who are experiencing difficult financial times.

I would like to thank St. Matthew's Community Church for the monetary support that was given in order for several Worship Committee members, technicians, and musicians to attend Fusion2026, a worship music seminar that was held in Nashville, TN on September 24, 25, and 26. Those attending from St.

Matthew's Community Church were Leah and Ryan Jagger, Julie Riddle, Emily Bottles, Micci Becker, Jeff Heaton, and Dana Jagger. This seminar focused on Intergenerational Worship, and Bridging Traditional and Contemporary Worship, with workshops on how to write music and liturgy, how to read music charts, Copyright Overviews, Worship Technology, Wesleyan Theology for Worship, the use of AI for Worship Ministry, Leading Through Changes, and many more topics. We all received lots of useful information we can incorporate into our various roles as we prepare and organize worship at St. Matthew's. We are grateful for the opportunity to attend this seminar that was educational, useful, and worshipful. Thank you!

With Warm Regards,

Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman

March to the Manger

St. Matthew's annual March to the Manger has been scheduled for Sunday, December 20. 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 receive 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 mission selected may be international, within the United States, or local. Last year our donation was given to fund training a therapy dog for a

veteran in northeastern Indiana suffering from PTSD. In 2024 the money 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.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

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*

Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Socks will be collected for area youth.
There will be a box in the foyer for collections. Thank you.

President Sally Hull

Our next meeting will be held on November 2nd, at 2:00 in the afternoon at the church in the lower-level meeting room.
This meeting will focus on our missions for next year. For our global ministry we will continue to support Fort Belknap.

We have elected to only support local food pantries next year instead of any other non-profit agency as we feel there is a direct need there. We will be deciding on which pantries to support and to what extent at this November meeting.

All women of the church are welcome.

Our sewing circle is doing great! We can always use more people to help sew, cut, and iron, or to just come and visit and help snip loose threads.

I will be taking the Riley Children's bags to my contact on the 8th of October. We will continue to make these bags for Riley as my contact accepts them In April as well. We will also continue to make bags for the kids in Africa for Christa Baine.

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.**

October Birthdays

Fay Nichols – 10/5
Sue Williamson – 10/6
Dave Nicolet – 10/9
Bob Ewing – 10/10
Matt Vance – 10/18
Collin Bross – 10/19
Sandy Barkey – 10/21
Doug Lucker – 10/22
Sally Grisson – 10/26

October Anniversaries

Collin & Carmen Bross - 10/1
Barry & Candace Yeakle - 10/8
Ryan & Leah Jagger - 10/9
Gail & Patty Jagger 10/20

Prayer Concerns

DeVier Weicht
Kay Weicht
Olivia in CA
Alice Pontzius
Ron Thompson – heart
Esther Thompson
Sandy
Ed
Howard
Rick
Nan Morris
Phyllis
Sally Hull
Jim and Linda Bayman
Floyd Murphy – surgery

Jeff Blake
Kayla Pearson
Steve Shrock
Micci and the horse trail riders
Nancy Souers
Mallory Kathy's granddaughter and her family
Fran Hartman
Andy Zelt
Bob Goodwin
Landon Jagger – problems at School (Dana's Grandson)

Condolences

Joys and Celebrations

Don't Forget!

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

Bible verse

Proverbs 3:5-6 – *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

Joke of the Month

Q: Why did the pastor bring a pumpkin to the pulpit?
A: To remind everyone that even when life gets messy inside, God can still light you up.

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