

St Matthew's Community Church

September 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

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

There was a popular song several years ago entitled “Love Hurts”. I remember another song “Love is a Hurtin’ Thing”. I have heard love makes the world go around and love is the very essence of God. The Lord distills all of the 613 laws of Moses and all of his teaching into two commandments, love the Lord and love your neighbor. Your neighbor is any of the rest of the 8 1/2 billion humans that share our planet.

The New Testament was written in Greek and the Greeks have 13 words that we translate as love. For example, the agape love that God has for us is unlike the fraternal feeling you have for your golfing buddy or the erotic feelings lovers share or a fondness for chocolate.

However is something so wonderful supposed to hurt? I believe at times the answer is yes. It is a positive emotion called empathy. Additionally, the deeper the relationship, the greater the pain. Whenever I watch my congregation coming forward to receive communion, I realize how much I love them. At times that causes me anguish.

I feel more than a responsibility whenever one of my flock is suffering a job loss, relationship troubles, financial difficulty or illness or injury it hurts. I can’t help it; to some degree, I am along on the journey. I think that is good. We were never meant to go it alone. Our lives are defined by relationships.

This caring can lead to frustration. Something is wrong, someone I care about is hurting, and I need to fix it; and I can’t. When I was a police officer there were times we had to contend with inability to make the situation right. The consensus was, “We can’t save all the puppies in the pound”. That urge to want to help to fix it, is why people say dumb things to relative standing near the casket. They have love and the best intentions. Only sociopaths have no feelings regarding the pain of others. The gospels show us that Jesus is filled with empathy and compassion. We cannot match the degree of love of our savior or His healing ability. Continue to love, especially when it hurts. It shows you are human, you are obedient, and you are in good company.

Pastor Doug

Trustee Report

Thank you to Greg Greaf for fixing the leaking pipe under the sink in the women's restroom.

Thanks to Pat Stanford for getting our big electronic back on August the 8th.

Thanks to Julie Riddle for changing the big sign. She always has such good things on it all the time.

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 Energy Assistance – Thank you for your donations!

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

September 2026

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

This newsletter will be coming out after our kid's carnival. I'm sure it was a great success, and everyone had a good time. I would really like to see and meet some of the families who attended. I was unable to attend as my sister was having a luncheon to celebrate my mom's 96th birthday. It would be wonderful to hear our church family share stories from the events that were going on. Please don't be shy! Pictures would be great also.

With our multiple events this summer, the ad board decided to cancel the car show for this year. We felt that it was getting to be too much for the volunteers. If you were unable to help this year, or weren't sure what you could offer, give it a try. Even small steps will help. Are you good at coming up with ideas? Tell us. Do you prefer to be in the background? There is always plenty to do there. Whatever capacity, whatever the event, we will gladly accept all the help. This is a portion of the mission work that our church does. Be involved so you can laugh with everyone when something goofy happens. That we can count on!

Now to add to that laughter:

Why did the chicken join the gym? He wanted to work on his pecks.

Why was the little ant confused? Because all of his uncles were ants.

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 Community Picture Directory

If you have not scheduled your photo for the new directory, please call Kathy Ehinger at 260-385-3164.

Once again, thank you for the TLC shown to us after my second knee replacement. The prayers, cards, visits, meals, and transportation help is so appreciated. You folks are such a blessing.

Angie Lucker

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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](tel:260-609-3280).

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

September is always a month of big weather changes. We go from high temperatures in the 90's at the beginning of the month to the need for wearing jeans and jackets by month's end. The changes of our seasons in northern Indiana has always revealed our God's creativity to me. As the seasonal beauty around me gradually changes, I am inspired to worship Him. As I worship Him, I remember the gifts of this seasonal beauty pales in comparison with the gift of salvation He has provided for us all. He is worthy of our praise and adoration!

The first Sunday of the month will be September 6 when we will have pre-service singing led by Dayla and Paul Jagger. After the sermon we will celebrate Holy Communion. Atoned4 will provide worship music for us on September 13, the second Sunday of the month. Jeanette Rorher will also provide special music for us that morning. We will have Pre-service singing led by the quartet the morning of the third Sunday, which is September 20. Our choir will be singing on the last Sunday of the month, September 27.

The choir is beginning to practice music for Thanksgiving and the holiday season. I invite anyone interested to join our choir as we prepare for this special time of year. It's great fun and fellowship, and is a great opportunity to sing God's praises. Choir practice is every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Several members of the Worship Team will be attending a music seminar in Nashville, Tennessee at the end of the month. Please keep us in your prayers as we learn more about selecting and performing music and leading worship.

Our next Worship Committee meeting will be Monday, September 28 at 5:30 pm.

Blessings to you all! Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

For Young Persons

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you and keep alive their joy in your creation: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Communication Information

PLEASE READ

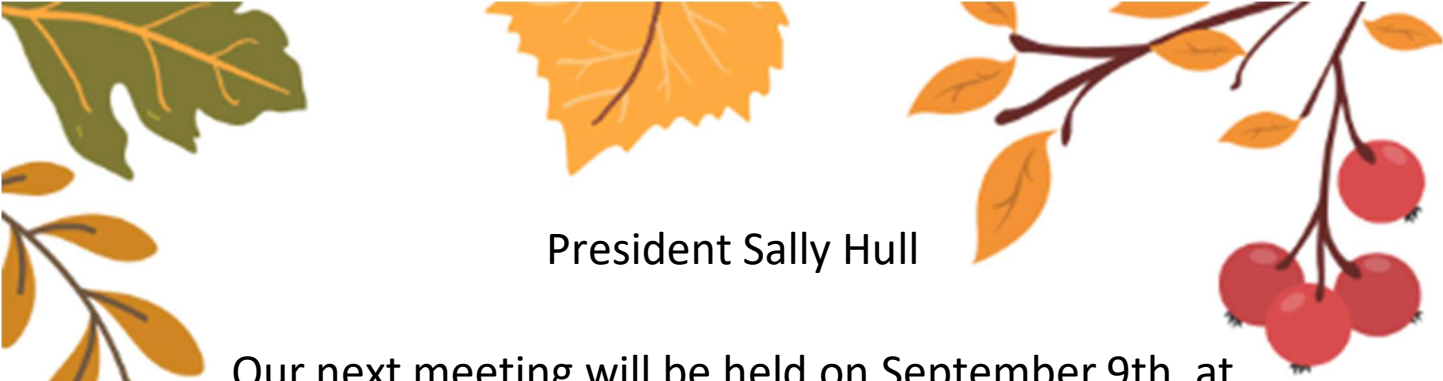
St. Matthew's communication system-Tel a Home-is a notification system to inform members of items of importance. If you want a text sent out notify Pastor Doug or Sue Williamson. If you want to be included or removed contact Sue Williamson 260-213-

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.**



Our Kids Carnival on August 28th was a wonderful time for everyone. We had 127 children and over 100

adults. Thanks to everyone who participated by helping with set up and take down, prizes for the children, grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, serving food, running the games, providing the magic show, the petting zoo, and pony rides!



President Sally Hull

Our next meeting will be held on September 9th, at 2:00 in the afternoon at the church in the lower-level meeting room. This is a change due to Sally having her 2nd knee replacement on the 14th.

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.

If anyone has or sees any children's fabric or brightly colored, we can use it. (And I mean fluorescent bright, as the children in Africa like bags that are colorful.) Also, if you have or see thread of any color, we could use that as well.

“Happy September the world shall now transform into pumpkin everything”





September Birthdays

Jim Bayman - 9/1
 Shirley Radke - 9/1
 April Felger - 9/3
 Patty Jagger - 9/4
 Amy Rieder - 9/6
 Sharon Geiger - 9/7
 Angie Lucker - 9/9
 Paul Jagger 9/11
 Jerry Woodward - 9/12
 Kevin Kline - 9/14
 Deb Miller - 9/19
 Hannah Coney - 9/20
 Sharon Heaton - 9/22
 April Whetstone - 9/23
 Drew Bradford - 9/23
 Natalie Wright - 9/24
 Pam Groff - 9/26
 Embree Myers - 9/27
 Rosey Fox - 9/28
 Julie Riddle - 9/29

September Anniversaries



Glen and Ann Linvill - 9/7
Drew and Maykaela Bradford - 9/7
Dave and Alice Nicolet - 9/9
Michael and Susan Grissom - 9/18
John and Nancy Austin - 9/20
Bob and Cindy Hippensteel - 9/22
Matt and Martha Vance - 9/23
Howard and Jody Lowen - 9/24
Travis and Natalie Wright - 9/25

Prayer Concerns

Craig and Allison – all first responders
Ryan and Hanna
Pastor Doug and Angie DeVier Weicht
Kay Weicht
Middle East
President Trump
Martin and Pam Brady
Duane Shipley family
Roy and Alice Pontzius
Nancy Austin
Esther
Jim and Linda Bayman
Steve and Cassie Lisle
Angie Lucker
Mark Groff
Steve Fry
Nan Morris



Marianne Riddle
Logan Redgate
Sandy
Ed
Phyllis
Amanda Clark
Howard
Indy car drivers and pit crews
Joyce Heuer
Jasse Hegree
Ada McMullen
Dan Ormsby
Ann Kincade
Dearborn MI

Condolences

Joys and Celebrations

Children's Carnival!

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

Why didn't Jonah trust the ocean?

There was something fishy about it!

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