

St Matthew's Community Church

November 2025



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.

No Bible Study on November 19 and 26

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

If we only knew...

On the first Sunday worship service in October, as I watched the congregation come forward to take communion, it occurred to me how much I love those people. My next thought was I will have to bury some of them and some of them will bury me. It is not really a morbid thought, just a logical certainty. I had just officiated at three funerals in three weeks. All were gentlemen that I knew well. The last was Gene Rohrer, a close personal friend and mentor.

During that time, my fifty-year-old niece died suddenly and unexpectedly. She was a single mom and left an eleven-year-old daughter. My seventy-one-year-old sister will be raising the child. When I spoke with my sister, she was experiencing the most gut wrenching, soul sucking grief any person can imagine. I tried to offer consolations, but I failed. I failed as a brother and as a pastor. Her pain was too great. The magnitude of the heartbreak was too recent and too raw. Nothing I had to offer that would assuage her grief.

In the midst of all this, we learned of the murder of Charlie Kirk, a husband and father of two small children, who spoke openly and unashamedly about his love of Jesus Christ. He was one who saw the value in young people and faced much opposition to bring his message of hope to college campuses.

All of these things left me emotionally drained and empty for a few days. Initially I attempted to handle it myself with human logic. That resulted in frustration and depression. Eventually I turned to that sustaining power of the divine and the healing started. I had to get it together or I would be of no help to those in need. Christ followers are not immune to horrific traumas. How do atheists deal with such loss?

The death of a loved one always brings about a sense of loss and separation. It hurts...a lot. And we all die; it is part of the life deal. Time helps heal and eventually there is a new normal. Is there a way to lessen the sting? What if we only knew?

The Bible tells us it is right to grieve, but don't grieve as those who have no hope. It also says that no eye has seen, and no ear

has heard, and no mind can conceive of what the Lord has planned for those who love Him. So, what if we could catch a brief glimpse of our departed loved one in their new life, feeling the love and peace that are not available to us? Would seeing the departed living in forever joy that cannot be measured; would that mitigate our sadness, not to mention every human's fear of death? As much as I would be grieving my personal loss, I could never ask someone I treasured to leave such a wonderful life. If we only knew....

Pastor Doug

I need to take the opportunity to thank all of you for the kindness shown to me and Angie on my birthday and pastor appreciation month. It was much appreciated. I hold affection for each of you. As I stated on Sunday, many at my age have neither purpose nor passion in their lives. You all give me both. **Pastor Doug**

November 2025

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

This year is moving so fast, yet we have had many successes. One of the biggies is the elevator/lift that is finally usable. We still have some finishing touches to do and a few changes that won't affect its use.

The community luncheon/car show was a big success. Thank you John and everyone who worked so hard to accomplish this. I saw so many new people from our community. I hope they decide to make us their church of choice. When you see someone new, please let them know how welcome they are and encourage them to come back.

Our Sunday School classes have been missing since the UMC closed us down for covid. There is some progress being made. Betty is leading a class currently that will run until the end of the year. At the beginning of 2026, I plan to start my book study class during the SS timeframe. If you are interested in joining this group, there are some books available that you can start reading now. I will order more if needed. Please let me know. Also, we hope to start up more choices for our young people. There are some who are working in this area. We will keep you posted.

Gene Rohrer is someone who was a strong supporter of our church family. He is greatly missed. We need to find a male replacement to fill his opening on the Ad Board. This is the male at-large position. If you are interested, please let someone on the board know. It would be wonderful if a person of the younger generation would step up. We like to have a variety of personalities and voices at the meetings. Praise the Lord for all things!!

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

Blessings to All!

Your sister in Christ, Jan Greaf



Emmaus 4th Day Group meets
2:00 – 2:45 on Wednesdays
This group is strong and growing.
Come join us!

Nancy Austin and Denise Bellant (our Bible Study friend from Salem Community Church) attended Emmaus Walk #266 at Epworth Forest in October.

Worship Committee Notes

November is going to be a busy month for St. Matthew's Community Church in regard to worship. We will be celebrating Veterans' Day, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving, will begin our observation of the Advent Season, and will also be decorating the church. Let me fill you in on the plans for all of this in addition to our usual worship activities.

November 2 is the first Sunday in November. By the way, remember we will "fall back" this day, so please set your clocks accordingly. There will be Pre-Service Singing, and we will also celebrate Holy Communion together after the sermon.

Before our worship service on November 9, we will have our annual Veterans' Day Recognition. Pictures of veterans both in our congregation and our close relatives will be presented on the overhead screen along with some basic information about when, where, and in which branch of the Armed Forces they served. We deeply appreciate their service to our country and to us. Atoned 4 will be providing and leading music this particular morning.

On the morning of November 16, we will observe Christ the King Sunday which is the end of the church year. It is a day of adoration, celebration, and declaration that Christ is the King of all creation and the Lord of our lives. Our choir will provide special music.

We will have Pre-Service Singing prior to worship on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23.

The Whitley County Community Thanksgiving Service is planned for Tuesday evening, November 25 at the Church of the Nazarene in Columbia City. It is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. St. Matthew's choir will be one of the groups performing during this evening of community worship. There will also be a special focus on our county's Energy Assistance Program. We will have the opportunity to help our friends and neighbors in Whitley County who may be struggling financially to keep their homes warm this winter. I hope you will plan to attend, join in community worship, support the Energy Assistance Program, and the efforts of our choir.

Micci Becker and Pam Groff will be in charge of decorating St. Matthew's sanctuary and church for the holiday season. Decorating is scheduled for Saturday, November 29 at 10:00 a.m. If you are willing and available to help, please let Micci know. We would be very appreciative of some additional helping hands. We hope to see you there!

The last Sunday of the month will be November 30. It will be the First Sunday in Advent, and also the first Sunday of the Christian calendar year. During the Advent season we will take a few minutes during each Sunday morning service for a short Advent meditation and to light each Advent wreath candle. The final Advent wreath candle to be lit will be the Christ Candle that will be lit at our Christmas Eve Service.

Did you know our worship services are now streaming live? Many thanks to everyone involved in making that happen!

Each Christmas season we offer the opportunity for people to order a poinsettia used to decorate the church. These poinsettias are purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones, or in celebration of a special event. Micci Becker is awaiting information from the florist regarding availability and purchase price for these flowers and will make the ordering information known to us as soon as possible. These poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas.

There will be a Christmas program during our Sunday morning worship service on December 14.

Our choir will be presenting special Christmas music on Sunday, December 21, and we will also be having our annual March to the Manger offering.

St. Matthew's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Wednesday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m. We are fortunate to enjoy the company of many

neighbors and friends who join us in celebrating the birth of Christ Jesus at this special worship service.

As the holidays come upon us, I encourage each of you to set aside time for worship and prayer during the busy days ahead. These holidays are holy days for those who believe in Christ Jesus. During the weeks ahead, may we all remember taking time to worship and adore our Lord and Savior who is the reason for this season!

With Warm Regards,
Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman

Trustees

Thanks to Greg Greaf for keeping on our elevator people to get it to work right, and for making it look good inside.

The West end designs by Sally Hull have been sent to a couple of contractors to bid on.

New cement was poured to put our North sidewalk back together. Looks good. Water problems have also been fixed.

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!

Mission for this month

This year the members of our church have decided to help ten local families celebrate Christmas by providing them with what we refer to as "A Christmas Dinner in a bag!" We hope to include a ham, potatoes, vegetable, butter, dinner rolls, milk, eggs, fresh fruit and a pie for dessert in the Christmas Meal Bag.

The members of St Matthew's are always very generous with their help in monetary donations and Christmas gifts for the children. We are aware this year will prove to be more challenging due to the changes in the economy. We will begin November 1st. and end by Dec. 14th.

We have carefully selected the families by contacting the Veterans office in Columbia City, several food pantries, and churches in the area. We have tried to select families that are in need, yet are trying to help themselves, some struggle due to health problems, or age. Kathy also talks to each family personally. If you know of anyone in need of this gift, please let Sue or Kathy know.

A donation of any type (cash, gift card, paper products, cleaning items, etc.) will be put to good use. As we did last year the children's ID numbers will be placed on St. Matthew's Christmas Angel-Tree. Each angel tag will contain information regarding that child. The tree is usually up by Dec.1. The families will come to church to pick their meals/gifts on December 15th. Please have all donations to us by Sunday Dec. 14.

If you can help with this mission of giving, we would greatly appreciate that help. Please contact Kathy Ehinger at 260-385-3164 or Sue Williamson at 260-213-9787.

Sincerely, Sue Williamson; Kathy Ehinger

March to the Manger

St. Matthew's annual March to the Manger has been scheduled for Sunday, December 21. 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 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 missions selected may be international, within the United States, or local. Last year our donation 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

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 © calendariabs.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

A Special Message from One of our Veterans

Home Coming, Veteran's Day 1969

On November 8th, 1969, I left Vietnam and landed the next day at Fort Lewis Washington where after 6 hours I was officially out of active duty, a civilian again. The next morning, I arrived in Fort Wayne where my mother and dad were waiting. That night my mother made a large supper for me. She thought the army had not fed me enough since I had lost 40 lbs. Later that evening my dad and I shared a couple of beers. It was the first cold beer I had had since before going to Vietnam. The next day, Veterans Day, my dad took me to a VFW post where people were buying me more beer than I could drink. Later we stopped by the American Legion close to where I grew up and again it was pretty overwhelming from where I had just come from a few days ago. The following week I pretty much stayed inebriated until on a Saturday my 8-year-old brother snuck upstairs where I was sleeping to show me a butterfly. That was a mistake, a turning point for me. I had brought the war home. I quit drinking, got a job, and when I was done with my day job I would work in my dad's shop at night. He was a mechanic and always had plenty of work. One night I worked till 3 am, got up at 6 for my day job. It was working, I was too tired to think about Vietnam. Then I started thinking about girls. A friend I knew before I went overseas had a girlfriend Rita, and she worked at Marsh Supermarket in Huntington. So I took a chance she might still be working there. One evening I went over, and she was working at one of the registers. I picked up a pack of gum. The rest is history. Rita and I saw each other several times the next few weeks and then Rita asked me to go to church with her. This seemed pretty scary to

me, you see I had never been to church. The pocket testament you see here was given to my dad by a catholic nun when he was boarding ship during WW2. When I was leaving for Vietnam, my dad gave me the testament. He said the nun had told him to keep it close to your heart. It has a very heavy steel back, gold plated with a picture of Jesus. I wrapped it in plastic and tape and carried it every day. Back to going to church with Rita. When I gave the testament back to dad when I got home, I told him someday I was going to find out who this fellow Jesus was. So, I told Rita I would go to church with her. Maybe I would see Jesus there? One thing I found out was those church goers were pretty nice people. I often think that first year home from Vietnam was one of the best. Unlike many veterans who struggled so much. For me, I started going to church, found this fellow Jesus and got baptized. Rita and I got engaged and a few months later were married, fifty-five years now. We had two children, and I was staying very busy, Vietnam was far away. I never told Rita much about it, but in 1983 she was about to find out what happened there. I am out of space, but in a future newsletter I will share how Jesus came to me one night in an unusual way and perhaps saved my life.

God bless all the veterans reading this and have a great Veterans Day!

Carl Chalk



2025 Whitley County Christmas at the Courthouse

December 5 and 6 from 6-8 pm

at the Whitley County Courthouse Downtown Columbia City, IN

Live Nativity - Join us to celebrate Christmas with a live nativity, local Christmas music, hot cocoa, and cookies!

Walk or drive through the seven-scene live nativity on the Whitley County Courthouse lawn and then enjoy live local Christmas music performances, storytelling, coffee, hot cocoa, and cookies inside the courthouse. If you can volunteer for an hour or two to be in the nativity cast (no speaking or acting required), help with costuming, join the community choir or help with other needs. Contact Leigh at (260)248-0889 or Lynnzie 260-213-6816 to join the nativity cast, costumes, food, volunteer, or get more information. Check out our Facebook page at Whitley County Christmas at the Courthouse. This is a free community event.

* Note: Our Youth will be volunteering on Friday evening as various characters in the Nativity!

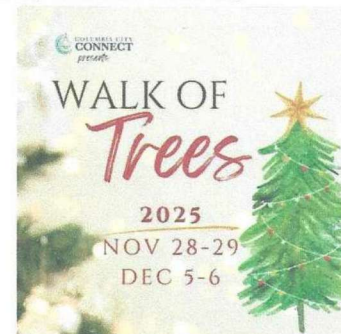
Interested in joining the Choir inside the courthouse? Show up, get a songbook, wear a red top and sing Christmas carols with the choir!



The Cruiser Campaign Toys for Tots Stuff - Taking place at the same time is on the north side of the courthouse. They will be accepting new unwrapped toys appropriate for newborn to 18 years old ages. This Christmas help TFT deliver hope to less fortunate children in Whitley County.

Walk of Trees @ The Clugston Nov 28-29 & Dec 5-6 from 5:00 – 9:00 pm experience the holiday magic at Columbia City Connects Walk of Trees, a beloved community tradition featuring beautifully decorated trees, festive events, and a chance to win your favorite tree this season!

With thousands of attendees, Columbia City Connects Walk of Trees continues to grow and has become a holiday tradition for many community members and families. This holiday season, the lobby of the beautifully renovated Clugston on the Square will be filled with decorated trees in an array of sizes and themes. Attendees are encouraged to purchase tickets and vote for their favorite trees. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for 6. Tickets are drawn for the trees on the final day, and the winner takes home the fully decorated tree! Make sure to watch our Facebook live at 9 PM to see if you're a lucky winner!





St. Matthew's Women

President Sally Hull



**Our next meeting will be November
3rd at 2pm in St. Matthew's
basement meeting room.**

We welcome all women of the church to join us in fellowship at this meeting. We will be discussing and voting on our missions for 2026.

The sewing circle here at St. Matthew's will start in January. I need input on when you would like to meet. There are so 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. **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.

Communication Information

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 in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

From The Book of Common Prayer

Grey T-shirts with the St Matthew's logo will be ordered soon. The church is providing a T-shirt for everyone. Please sign up in the foyer. If you also want a polo shirt, there is a sign-up sheet for that. Please see John and Austin if you have questions.

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!

July 1 to September 30, 2025

21 Households

\$42.52

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
8. It will automatically give a portion to St Matthew's



November Birthdays

Jim (Doc) Farber – 11/4
Denny Conrad – 11/12
Mark Born – 11/12
Sally Hull – 11/13
Leah Jagger – 11/15
Ann Linvill – 11/15
Diane Johnson – 11/17
Coleson Myers – 11/18
Nancy Kline – 11/18
Cecilia Becker – 11/21
Travis Bradford – 11/21
Marion Pulley – 11/27

November Anniversaries



*Dan and Betty Ormsby - 11/2
40 Years*

Prayer Concerns

Ryan and Hanna Vance
Craig and Allison &
1st Responders
The Middle East
Our Nation and Military
Richard and Chris Watkins
Chad and Lena Johnson
Pastor Doug
Our world to be less
violent
Devier Weicht
Jan and Karen Miller
Heather Rutledge – had
cancer surgery
Michael Schoenherr
Jack and Esther Thompson
Sandy Barkey
Ed Kimble
Howard Lowen
Peggy Horner
Scott and Tammy
Brenda
Cheryl
Leisa Gowen



Matthew Henney –
pneumonia
Rick Kreps – more
heart trouble
Jack and Esther
Thompson
Mark Groff – truck
accident
Barb Howe – cancer
(Peggy's cousin)
Jeannie Blinstrub
Dave Longworth –
cancer
Karen Stewart
Mike Hyndman
Kent Tardy - heart
Terry Harmon
Ivan Snyder
April Felger

Condolences

Joys and Celebrations

Friends with tractors who gives
rides!

Don't Forget!

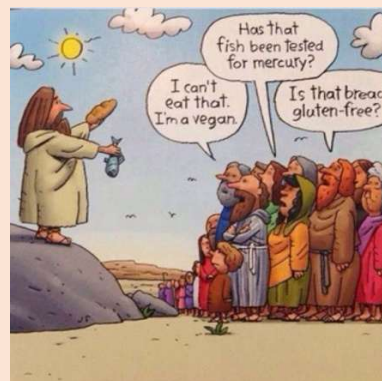
**Sign up for Sunday
morning cookies. The
sign-up sheet is by the
front entry door.**

Bible verse

***"Give thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus
for you."***

**[1 Thessalonians](#)
[5:18](#)**

Joke of the Month



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 December 2025 newsletter will be
November 26.** If you have an article and/or pictures for
the newsletter, email it to Betty at:
bettyormsby@gmail.com. Thank you!