

St Matthew's Community Church

October 2025



Choir Practice – Tuesdays 6:30PM

Atoned 4 Praise Band Practice, Wednesdays at 6 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

St. Matthews Community Church is a building. St Matthews Community Church is a family and a community of faithful believers. St. Matthews Community Church is a tool that is used by the Lord to demonstrate His love and broadcast the Good News to a world in which many people live in darkness. In order to achieve all these roles St. Matthews must remain healthy. That health is determined by a number of factors.

While a number of churches are experiencing financial crisis to the point of reducing ministry or even closing, St. Matthews is well funded and operating in the black. Many are faithfully honoring their Biblical mandate for tithing. Even the unplanned surprise of the elevator replacement did not spell disaster.

The congregation continually demonstrates its care and compassion when others are experiencing physical or emotional setbacks. We are showing the love of Christ to the community in many ways. Our commitment to missions has experienced new life with the appointment of John Austin to the position of Mission Chair.

Nowhere does the congregation of St. Matthews demonstrate its depth of commitment like it does when there is work to be done. Several parishioners serve on committees, making decisions and ensuring the wheels keep turning. When an event calls for person power (I am so politically correct), whether it is the ice cream socials, funeral dinners, clean up days, or community meals, there is little doubt St. Matthews people will show up to lend a hand wherever it is needed. Holes in the parking lot or letters on the bricks, folks see the need and take action; and I never worry that the elements will not be set up on communion Sunday; Jesy sees to that.

So where are we lacking? Well, there are some gaps in our ministry as it relates to involving everyone. Let me explain. I

provide service of word and sacrament on Sunday. I hold a Sunday school gathering based on the sermon after worship and I teach two Bible study classes on Wednesday. The preparation for those plus some home and hospital visits pretty much take up my week. I am not complaining; I love my job. How many people at seventy-seven can still say they have passion and purpose in their lives? The problem is the old man is doing all he can and more needs to be done.

What I am talking about is providing opportunities for spiritual growth. Our youth have a Sunday school class and youth group. We have a women's group. Recently a Walk to Emmaus fourth day group began meeting on Wednesday afternoon. There are no other Sunday school classes, no book studies, host home studies and accountability groups. We have no men's group, and nothing to involve young adults in the life of the church other than worship service. Who shares your special interest? Who plays golf or fishes or scrapbooks or tinkers with cars or rides motorcycles or enjoys mystery novels.

Is the Holy Spirit urging you to join or start a ministry? The pastor is really like a player-coach. He or she has no more hours in the day than anyone else. Success for St. Matthews Community Church, making a difference in the world for Christ depends largely on the people in the pews. So listen for that still small voice and respond in faith. May God add His power and blessing.

Pastor Doug

October 2025

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

Throughout my life, I have had times that I felt compelled to do something. Other times, I felt like I needed to do something even though I wasn't too excited to accomplish that task. Then there were the bosses who pushed no matter what. Sound familiar to anyone? I recently finished reading a book that has been screaming at me to share with others. Actually, I think God has put it on my heart and is pushing me out of my comfort zone. I feel that he wants me to start a book review class with others in our church family. All of you have to understand that I have never done anything like this before. I'm comfortable running meetings and directing people to get things done. Now it's on me. God wants me to invite others to join in a book discussion group and discuss this book. It was written by Jonathan Cahn who has authored many books. These are nonfiction and are based on the bible. The book I would like share is titled, "The Dragon's Prophecy". It has to do with what is currently happening in Israel and how it ties back to the Old Testament. What a book!! How many of you would like to join me in reading and discussing this book? Understand, this is not a time that I will read the book to you. We will discuss the writings and look at the bible references so each of you must be prepared. I am only leading the discussion, not teaching a class. Once I see how many people are interested, we will discuss a time and day to meet. Please keep me in your prayers regarding this. Thank you.

*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

Worship Committee Notes

Greetings to everyone at St. Matthew's Community Church! This warm weather has caused me to be in denial of the fact Fall is here. However, the fields and trees are turning to gold, and September 22 is behind us, so the change in season can't be denied. How blessed we are to have the beauty of October to enjoy! It's time to let you all know about the worship schedule for this month, and also a few events scheduled through the end of the year.

We are planning to have Pre-service singing on October 5 and will also celebrate Holy Communion after the sermon that morning. Atoned4 will lead us in music on October 12. Pre-service singing is also scheduled for the morning of October 19. The choir will perform during worship service on October 26.

You may have noticed an additional person lending her talents to Atoned4. Praise the Lord! We are so pleased to welcome Emily Bottles to the Atoned4 worship team! Emily is a senior in high school and is playing the drums. If you get an opportunity, please introduce yourself to Emily, and thank her for her willingness to help us out and join us in worship!

The next Worship Committee meeting will be on Monday, October 20 at 5:30 p.m., prior to the Ad Board meeting.

Please be aware we will be honoring our Veterans on the morning of November 9 at the beginning of our church service. Our choir has been invited to sing at the Community Thanksgiving Service to be held at the Church of the Nazarene in Columbia City on Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. This is not only a community Thanksgiving celebration, but it also gives the community an opportunity to provide energy assistance to local people in need. Please come support the choir as we perform and also consider how you might want to help

this worthy cause. We will be having our annual March to the Manger during the worship service on December 21. There will be more information regarding March to the Manger in the November newsletter. St. Matthew's will be observing Christmas Eve with a special candlelight service on December 24 at 9:00 p.m. All are welcome!

With Warm Regards, Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman
Chairman

Trustees

Please do not use the elevator unless you have had instructions.

Thanks, Peggy Kunkle, for the flower arrangements at the West entrance of the church.

Thanks to John and Nancy Austin for the yellow mums on the North side of the church and by the sign. The north side water problems will be getting fixed on 9/18/25.

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 is Midwest Distribution Center

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

We're excited to invite our entire congregation to take part in something truly special—A New Time Capsule that bridges our present to the future. This capsule will be opened in the year 2050, 25 years from now, by the future members of our church congregation.

How You Can Participate:

We encourage everyone to contribute a message to the future. You can include:

- Letters: Write to the future congregation. Share your thoughts, prayers, stories, or reflections on faith and life today.
- Photos: Include snapshots of our church events, services, or community gatherings.
- Small Artifacts: Add items that represent our current church culture, ministries, or traditions.

Deadline for Submissions:

Please bring your contributions to the church by Saturday, October 4. This will be buried that same day.

It's a joy to imagine our words and memories being rediscovered by future generations. Let's leave a legacy of faith, love, and community that will inspire those who come after us.

May God's blessings be upon you all.



Emmaus Walks are coming up!

Men's Walk is October 9-12- **The deadline is asap!**

Women's Walk is October 16-19 – **Deadline is Oct 9.**

Please contact Betty Ormsby at 678-521-9413 or email

bettyormsby@gmail.com for more information.

The Walk to **EMMAUS**

seeks to inspire, challenge, and equip leaders for Christian action in their homes, places of work, and communities.

On an Emmaus Weekend, you will:

Sing, reflect, pray, worship, learn, share Holy Communion, participate in small groups, experience God's grace in community and in the world, and understand Christian love in action.

After an Emmaus Weekend...

you are invited to have a closer walk with Christ through worship, study, and active participation in your local church and by becoming active in service to the world.

To nurture Christian discipleship, the Emmaus movement offers:

- small groups of four to six people that meet weekly to reflect on their spiritual journey and encourage one another in Christian discipleship
- monthly community gatherings where Emmaus participants meet for fellowship, worship, and instruction
- ongoing communication about community events, support needs for upcoming Walks to Emmaus, and other opportunities for servant leadership

*They asked each other,
"Were not our hearts
burning within us
while he talked with us on the road
and opened the Scriptures
to us?" (Luke 24:32)*

Emmaus empowers leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ.

St. Matthew's Women

President Sally Hull

Our next meeting will be November 3rd at St. Matthew's at 2pm in the church entryway.

We welcome all women of the church to join us in fellowship at this meeting.

I would like to start a women's sewing circle here at St. Matthew's. 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 do not have the means to sew things. We could meet whenever people are able, either in the morning, afternoon, or evening, or maybe a couple of these times if there is an interest. Please contact me if you are interested.



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 the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Father, who opens thine hand and fills all things living with plenty: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let the Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou gives, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

From The Book of Common Prayer

CHRISTMAS GROCERIES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Please let Sue Williamson or Kathy Ehinger know if you are aware of any family that can use our help. We are planning delivery for Dec 16. More details are coming next month.

Kathy Ehinger



October Birthdays

Fay Nichols – 10/5
Sue Williamson – 10/6
Dave Nicholet – 10/9
Bob Ewing – 10/10
Chasity Thompson – 10/14
Tyler Traylor – 10/14
Matt Vance – 10/18
Collin Bross – 10/19
Len Zeller – 10/20
Sandy Barkey – 10/21
Doug Luckner – 10/22
Sally Grissom 10/26

October Anniversaries



Collin and Carmen Bross – 10/1
Ryan and Leah Jagger – 10/9
Gail and Patty Jagger – 10/20
Jack and Esther Thompson – 10/26
Bob and Diane Johnson – 10/31

Prayer Concerns

Our Nation and Country
Our Military
Craig and Allison and First Responders
Chris Watkins
Chad and Gina Johnson
Middle east and Ukraine
Pastor Doug
Our World to be less violent
Sandy Barkey
Ed Kimble
Howard Lowen
Rick Kreps
Phyllis Swick
Barry Horner
Scott McQueen - cancer
Brenda Caibaiaci – Cancer
Alice Pontzius
Jane Bunn
Jeannie Blinstrub
Amanda Clark
Heather Rutledge - cancer



Mark Born
Jen Bailey
Mike Hyndman
Karen Stewart
Emily Stanford
Dave Longworth – cancer
Kayla Pearson
Doug Pearson
Jan and Karen Miller
Micci's camping trail ride
Karen Stewarts Son
Tracey fell
Peggy Horner - Surgery on 7th
Ken Boyd – surgery on 8th

Condolences

The family of Gene Rohrer

Joys and Celebrations

Reg Smith – Good reports from cancer doctors

Don't Forget!

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

Bible verse

Psalm 46:1

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

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 November 2026 newsletter will be
October 29. If you have an article and/or pictures for the
newsletter, email it to Betty at:
bettyormsby@gmail.com. Thank you!**