

St Matthew's Community Church

March 2026



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

Sewing Circle 10am-3pm 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

The Emmaus Encounter

This spring, between April 16 and April 19, I will be working as clergy at the men's Walk to Emmaus. This will be my third time acting in that capacity. I am conflicted; it takes me away from my duties at St. Matthews for four days plus four days of training. I am duty bound to provide spiritual guidance for those who consider St. Matthews their spiritual home. On the plus side, I get to play a role and witness the Holy Spirit moving in the lives of men meeting Jesus in a new way.

My own walk took place in Indianapolis in April, 2010. Since then, I have sponsored numerous men and women on their walks. I always leave them with the advice, "Look for Jesus". Upon hearing that, they may be somewhat confused. However, during that weekend they normally gain insight into who they are and who Jesus is to them.

There is a change that takes place. Pastors have told me Emmaus alumni routinely fill leadership roles in their congregations. Pilgrims leave the walk with a desire to put their renewed faith into action. They want to be a part of His kingdom on earth. It led me to the pulpit.

Every relationship waxes and wanes including our relationship with our creator. Hopefully, over time, that process moves us into a closer, stronger, and enduring faith. The Walk to Emmaus is only one opportunity to grow that faith and trust in Our Lord. Where is that on your list of priorities?

The Walk to Emmaus is an investment in your spiritual life. Many people you have never met are giving time and money for your experience with Jesus. You will devote 3 ½ days without interruption. There is a fee involved, \$175. If that keeps you from attending, St. Matthews offers scholarships. If the church runs

out of money, I'll pay for it. It is just that important. If your relationship with Jesus is a priority, please consider this opportunity. Oh, and De Colores.

Pastor Doug



Emmaus 4th Day Group meets 2:00 – 2:45 on Wednesdays

If you are interested in attending the men's walk or the women's walk this April, please ask Pastor Doug for an Emmaus contact from our church. Thank you.

Trustees

A big thank you to Roy Pontzius and Gail Jagger for keeping the sidewalks cleaned off for church. Also, Kevin Jagger for clearing a few snowdrifts when needed.

St. Matthew's Women's sewing room has been put to good use so far. We have made 8 bags for Africa. Come see the sewing room!

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.

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

UMCOR – Disaster Relief

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

March 2026

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

The Lenten season is upon us. Let us continue to work on our relationship with our Lord and remember all he did for us.

Isn't it a wonderful thing to hear little voices in our church? We lost so many young people when we had to shut down during Covid. Those little ones we have now will need guidance and support from their church family. Leah Jagger has stepped up and is willing to help with children's church during our Sunday service. Following the children's sermon, they will be asked if they would like to go downstairs and have a program just for them. We need to have 2 adults during this time. It would be quite helpful if several people would volunteer so that each Sunday they could take turns. When you feel the jab to volunteer, please talk to Leah or me. Let your inner child out for some fun!

The building committee is getting closer to making their recommendation to the Ad Board for the exterior canopy addition. Once that is approved, it will be presented to the Board of Directors. This is the group that has to give the final approval to move forward. We hope to get things moving soon so we can be put on the contractor's calendar. However, remember, this is not something that

can happen in a month or two. This is a major project that includes multiple contractors. We will keep you posted.

Here's your chuckle: A mother was preparing pancakes for her two sons, who were fighting over who would get the first one. The mother said, "Hey, if Jesus were sitting here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" One brother turned to the other and said, "You be Jesus." (The Joyful Noiseletter)

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

Blessings to All!

Your sister in Christ,
Jan Greaf

Sharing Thoughts

I want to share a topic that has been brought to my attention. There have been multiple people talk to me about the tone of our sanctuary prior to the Sunday service. It seems that when we start our preservice singing or the prelude playing, there are many people who just start talking louder. This time is supposed to be a time of preparing for our morning worship. If you don't want to participate in this, then is it possible to take your conversation out in the hallway? Or maybe continue the conversation after the service. Some people are struggling with what they consider disrespectful behavior. I don't know when all of this changed. It used to be when you entered the sanctuary on Sunday morning, everyone whispered or didn't talk until after the service. I know it's wonderful to see and talk with other members of our church family. We just need to be thoughtful of everyone in attendance. I love my church family dearly, and don't want this to cause any friction. Please pray about this and I ask God for his guidance. Thank you. Jan Greaf

Worship Committee

Here we are, already more than a week into the Christian season of Lent. This year, March will be a time of worship, prayer, study, self-evaluation, self-denial, and growth as we continue to observe Lent both at home and at church. We will also be anticipating Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week at the end of the month. Good Friday and Easter will follow closely at the beginning of April.

The color of purple will continue to be present on our altar paraments throughout March as a reminder that we are in the season of Lent. Purple is the color of Preparation and Repentance. March 1 is the second Sunday in Lent. There will be Pre-Service Singing and we will celebrate Holy Communion after the sermon. Sunday, March 8 will be the third Sunday in Lent, and worship music will be provided by Atoned4. March 15 will be the fourth Sunday in Lent. A quartet of choir members will lead Pre-Service Singing and worship music. We will also have the pleasure of hearing one of our missionaries, Christa Baine, speak to us at the beginning of the service about her work in Kenya. I'm certainly looking forward to that! The fifth Sunday in Lent will be March 22, and the choir will be presenting two of our worship songs. March 29 will be both the sixth Sunday in Lent and also Palm Sunday. It marks the beginning of Holy Week. We will have a special Good Friday Service at 7:00 in the evening on April 3. There will be no colored paraments on the altar at that service, reminding us Lent is over and of the humiliation and barrenness of the cross. We will celebrate Easter Sunday on April 5. The white or gold paraments will be present on our altar signifying the triumphant and joyous celebration of Easter as Christ has risen from the dead.

St. Matthew's Community Church traditionally provides congregation members the opportunity to purchase flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter morning worship service. These flowers are usually purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones or special events. Order forms will be available to the congregation with information about the types of flowers available and their purchase price, as well as the name of the persons or events being remembered, and the people honoring them. At this time we do not have all the information from the florist we need. We expect to share all this information with you in early March and will make an announcement at church very soon.

There a few pieces of information about upcoming events I would like to share with you. All our congregational music on April 12 will be music videos. Pastor Doug will be serving as the pastor at the men's Walk to Emmaus in April, and as a result of that commitment, will be unable to give the sermon April 19. Gary Ford has graciously agreed to deliver the sermon in Pastor Doug's absence. Thank you so much, Gary! The Blessing of the Bikes has been scheduled for the morning of Sunday, April 26. If you have a motorcycle to be blessed, or if you know of someone else who may be interested in this blessing, please bring your motorcycles to church April 26. They will be blessed following worship service and fellowship/refreshment time. Spread the word!

Is anyone interested in helping out during church at St. Matthew's? There are many opportunities for serving the Lord and others during worship . Some opportunities are: Greeters, helping with the multi-media, singing in the choir, providing special music by singing, playing an instrument, or giving a reading, being an acolyte, giving a Children's Sermon, serving Holy Communion to the congregation, or serving Holy Communion to someone in our church family at their

home. I know I have overlooked opportunities. If you want to help in other ways, please let us know. You may contact me personally or call me at 260-609-1461. You may also speak with Pastor Doug, Jan Greaf, Micci Becker, Jeannette Rohrer, Jeff Heaton, or Pat Stanford. It's a great way to get involved!

With Warm Regards to my brothers and sisters In Christ,

Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman

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.

Our new sewing group at St. Matthew's will be working on making bags for the next bible distribution in Kenya through Christa Baine and her ministry, to the 7th graders. Such a worthy project!!

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.



St. Matthew's Community Church

PO Box 699

1460 E 500 N

Columbia City, IN 46725

260-691-2800

Free Seminar Invitation

WHAT: Presentation on Fraud/Scams and
Budgeting Tips and ideas

WHEN: Saturday, March 21, 2026
9:30am - 11am

WHERE: At our church, 1460 E 500 N

Extra: Childcare provided

PRESENTED BY: 1st Source Bank, Columbia City

Fraud/Scams is something that is running rampant. We can all use more ideas to help protect ourselves.

Budgeting in this day and time is important. The best use of your money can help you in many ways.

Come join us for lots of info!

Please R.S.V.P. by March 12 to secure your seat.

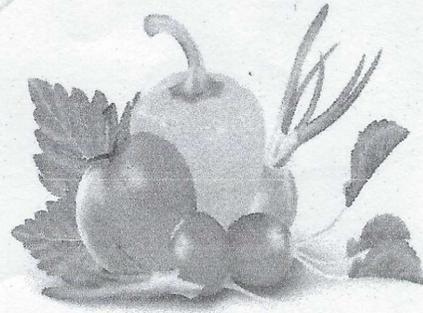
Call 260-691-2800 (church) or 260-609-5026 (Jan)

PLANTING A LENTEN GARDEN PLANTING A LENTEN GARDEN

Here's what you need to plant in your garden.

3 Rows of Squash

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash Criticism
3. Squash Indifference



7 Rows of Peas

1. Prayer
2. Penance
3. Perseverance
4. Politeness
5. Preparedness
6. Purity
7. Patience

7 Heads of Lettuce

1. Let Us Be Unselfish
2. Let Us Be Charitable
3. Let Us Search the Scriptures
4. Let Us Not Be Weary in Well Doing
5. Let Us Be Obedient
6. Let Us Be Truthful
7. Let Us Love One Another

No Garden Is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turn Up for Worship
2. Turn Up for Prayer and Bible Study
3. Turn Up with a Smile
4. Let us Be Determined to our Best in God's Service

Conclude with Thyme

1. Thyme with God
2. Thyme for fun
3. Thyme for Rest

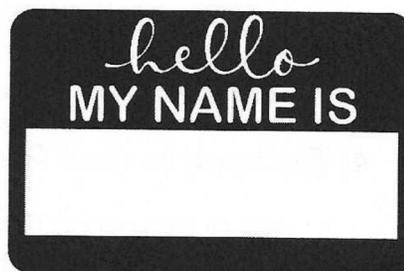
Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There will be much fruit in your garden because you reap **what** you sow.

"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 [www.stmatthewsccin.com](#)

Email responses to: stmatthewsccin@gmail.com



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:~7:15 • Grades: 5th - High School | Join Us 4 Sunday Church @ 9:00 am

SEPTEMBER '25 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					01- Labor Day 14 - Kick off Mega Splits 21 - Regular Youth 28 - Youth & Pumpkins 4 - FREE Community Cook-Out/ Car Show/ Time Capsule 11-2 5 - Regular Youth	MARCH '26 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1- Regular Youth 8- Laser Tag 15- Destination Unknown 22 - Regular Youth 29 - No Youth/ Spring Break														
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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 The Future of the Human Race

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life, and give us new insight into your purpose for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

From *The Book of Common Prayer*



March Birthdays

Dana Jagger – 3/1
Peyton Wigent – 3/9
Millie Myers – 3/11
Adam Felger – 3/12
Alice Nicolet – 3/15
Angie Bradford – 3/17
Cindy Hippensteel – 3/22
Oliver Whetstone – 3/26
Mariann Riddle – 3/27
Roy Pontzius – 3/27
Gary Jagger – 3/28
Diana Ayres – 3/28
Jessica Becker – 3/31

March Anniversaries



Jim & Diana Ayres - 3/7

Prayer Concerns

Please check last week's bulletin for prayer concerns, condolences, and Joys and Celebrations



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

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." – 2 Corinthians 5:17

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 April 2026 newsletter will be

March 27. If you have an article and/or pictures for the newsletter,
email it to Betty at: bettyormsby@gmail.com. Thank you!