

St Matthew's Community Church

September 2025



Choir Practice – Tuesdays 6:30PM

Atoned 4 Praise Band Practice, Wednesdays at 6 PM except the Wednesday
after we sing

Wednesday Disciple Bible Study

at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM led by Pastor Doug.

**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

Faith beyond Sunday.

I look forward to Sundays. I know for me it is a work day. However I am going to be in the company of people that I love and for the most part think the way I do. I am going to get to praise the God who has done so much in my life; and I just might learn something. Normally I get some positive strokes, and I hope I am enlightening and encouraging those in attendance. We are a church family and a community of faith. Oh, and there are cookies.

What really counts, what really gives our Sundays meaning is how we conduct our lives beyond Sunday. Once you are identified as a Christ follower, you will be watched. People who you interact with throughout the week will take notice of your actions, your speech, and your attitudes. If you are generally positive and reflect on the joy in your life, it shows; just as it shows if you are a gloomy Gus. That perspective alone will either draw people to you or repel them.

How do you treat others you encounter, those who are delightful and those who are difficult? Do you offer them love, patience, and compassion? Put another way, do you show them Jesus? They may be in the midst of personal turmoil or recently encountered very negative behavior. Your Jesus driven behavior can be the reason someone has a better day. I have found that quite often extending courtesy results in receiving courtesy.

Now what is the goal in treating people the way you want to be treated, the old golden rule? You may be liked and that is OK. However, more important is the reflection you radiate of the savior that lives inside you. Your contacts could desire to be more like you, to have what you have, not the empty material blessings, but the sense of joy, peace, and

serenity. They are the characteristics of someone who has Christ at their center. Christ following is not what they do; it is what they are. Honesty is easy, but spiritual integrity, living in a manner consistent with what you say you are-that is the real measure of Christian faith.

The body and blood of Christ to go.

I would like to bring back a ministry that was lost as a result of Covid. On communion Sunday each month, there were bags on the altar steps. The bags contained the bread and juice elements of the Eucharist, blessed by the pastor during worship. Also included was the Scripture for that Sunday and a church bulletin. On each bag was a card with the name and address of a congregation shut in. After the worship service, willing members would take one or more of the bags and have communion with the shut in, either later that day or during the week. This maintains the congregational connection with those unable to attend worship and gives the member an opportunity to extend and receive grace.

How will this fail? It is for the benefit of those unable to attend worship, not for those who want the convenience of home delivery. It is not another job for your pastor although I will participate. I don't want to show up on Monday morning with another twenty bags to deliver. It is a little intimidating the first time; then you discover that you are a blessing, and you are being blessed as well. I would be open to starting this with October. What do you think?

WHEN YOUR HAPPINESS IS SOMEONE ELSE'S HAPPINESS, THAT IS LOVE.

Pastor Doug

September 2025

Words From Your Ad Board Chair

I mentioned this in last month's newsletter. We are planning a luncheon with a car/tractor/motorcycle show on Saturday, October 4. We need bodies to help get this planned out and accomplished.

Please, please see John Austin or me for details. This is a mission outreach to our community with hopes that more people will find us and want to become part of our family.

And the big news is.....we have a new elevator that we can actually use!! What a blessing. Thank you to everyone for your patience. I know mine was starting to get challenged. I am so thankful to have a God who helps me stay focused and "inline".

Another big event, we now have a church website, thanks to Sally Hull. If you haven't had a chance to look at it, I encourage you to go to stmatthewscc.org and check it out. Within the next couple of weeks, we should also have the option to accept online giving. I have been working on this and was told we will also have a QR code that people can scan and give through that option. I will keep everyone posted on this.

There are many things happening now. I encourage everyone to get involved in one of our events. You never know, you just might have a fun time with your church family!! Keep us in your prayers.

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 will meet
2:00 – 2:45 on Wednesdays starting
September 11th

Worship Committee Notes

Happy Labor Day to everyone at St. Matthew's Community Church! Whether this finds you with a busy schedule for the holiday weekend or with an opportunity to relax, I hope everyone enjoys this celebration.

On September 7 we will have Pre-service Singing and will also celebrate Holy Communion. Atoned 4 will provide music for the worship service on September 14. We will again have Pre-Service Singing the morning of September 21. The choir will be singing during our church service on September 28.

Our much loved Atoned 4 ensemble has recently experienced the "retirement" of some of their musicians. If you play a musical instrument or know of someone in the congregation or community who may be interested in joining Atoned 4 to help out, please contact either Leah Jagger or myself. Leah's phone number is 260-503-9707. My phone number is 260-609-1461. We also continue to have a need for another person to be willing to learn about our multimedia system and lend a helping hand during our worship services. This person would only be asked to help out occasionally, unless they would desire to be scheduled more often. If you are interested, please contact Ryan Jagger at 260-229-2695, or you may speak with Micci Becker.

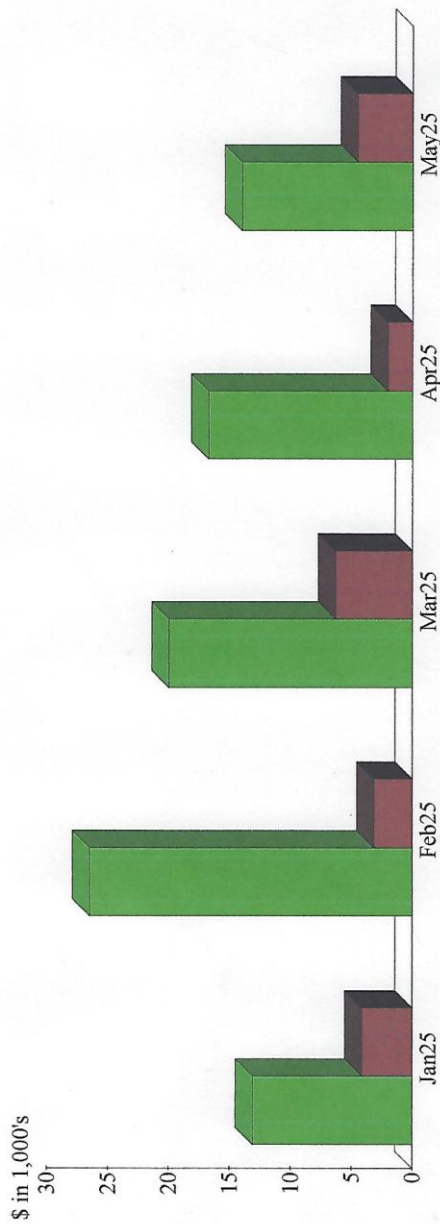
At this time, I would like to thank the many people who participate in making our worship at St. Matthew's Community Church inspirational and enjoyable. There are many people involved that are visible to the congregation every week or every month. There are many more people who faithfully participate in helping with worship services from "behind the scenes". Have you ever thought about the people who develop our weekly bulletins or the people who prepare communion elements for us? And someone else makes sure our services are made available on various computer sites. Our altar always has a beautiful floral arrangement on it that someone places each Sunday morning. I am identifying only a few people who provide their services to us all. If I were to

try to name each task and each person involved, there would be a long list. I extend to each and every person who helps with our Worship Services my very heart-felt "Thank You" along with my deepest appreciation for all you do for us at St. Matthew's!

With Warm Regards, Dana Jagger, Worship Committee Chairman

Income
Expense

Income and Expense by Month
January through May 2025



Administrative expenses	59.08%
Utilities - Church	18.67
Insurance coverage	11.27
Worship	5.24
Congregational Care expenses	1.88
Education	1.45
Taxes	1.09
Office General Expenses	0.83
Repairs/Maintenance - Church	0.50
Total	\$20,171.58

Expense Summary
January through May 2025



Trustees

A big thank you to Greg Greaf for putting in so much time on the elevator to get it done, inspected, etc.

A big thank you to John Austin for getting the east wall that was damaged, put back together and the ST back on.

Someone is needed to buy salt and put it in the softener. Ken Boyd has health issues with his back. Please let Patty Jagger know if you can do this. The church pays for the salt.

Thank you to Jack and Esther Thompson for donating a Noah's Ark set for the nursery.

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

Phil and Kathy Ehinger would like to thank the St. Matthews congregation, Pat Stanford and the AD-Board for the Children's Summer Camp Program!

This sponsorship program helped us to send two of our grandchildren to weeklong Christian camps.

As you read their thank-you notes you can see their thoughts. Each experience leaves our grandchildren with new impressions and values they will have for their lives.

Sophia Menzie Age 15 High School Freshman

Thank you to my grandparents' church for sending me to church camp this year. Camp was a wonderful experience, with girls my age, sharing ideas of God and how He works in our life. It was a wonderful experience that I will never forget; it helps me see Jesus in my everyday life.

Dylan Franks Ag 16, Highschool Sophomore

I was very excited to go on the trip. I had been on this trip last year, and grew so close to God, I wanted to have the chance again. It was amazing to feel his presence, as others were also feeling the same.

It really helped me grow in my faith. Before going on here I never read my Bible, not even once a week. Hearing what God had to say to me was amazing. Now I read my BIBLE almost every day. Rafting, playing paintball, swimming and just walking help me grow my faith so much.

I am so grateful for this chance, thank you for funding my trip.

As I learned from our youngest several years ago; as she explained her Sunday school lesson to me: "Well... Jesus went for a walk ...on some famous road; his disciples saw him and said WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD! Then Jesus answered" NOT TODAY MY FRIENDS; NOT TODAY!"

There is no wrong age to begin exploring and meeting God's big, beautiful world and His Word. We just have to help present them the opportunity to participate. Thank you all for presenting the opportunity!

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 Whitley County Energy Assistance

Whitley County, Indiana, offers various energy assistance programs to help residents manage their heating and electric bills.

Emmaus Walks are coming up!

Men's Walk is October 9-12

Women's Walk is October 16-19

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 September 8th 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. We will be setting our goals and our budget for 2026.



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 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 purposes 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*



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
 Pam Groff – 9/26
 Rosey Fox – 9/28
 Julie Riddle – 9/29
 Hazel Traylor – 9/30

September Anniversaries



Glen & Ann Linvill – 9/7
Drew & Maykaela Bradford – 9/7
Dave & Alice Nicolet – 9/9
Len & Tammy Zeller – 9/16
Michael & Susan Grissom – 9/18
Bob & Cindy Hippensteel – 9/22
Matt & Martha Vance – 9/23
Howard & Jody Lowen – 9/24

Prayer Concerns

Our Nation and Military
Middle East
Craig & Allison and First
Responders
Ryan and Hanna Vance
Richard and Chris Watkins
Chad and Gina Johnson
Hurricane victims
Fire, flood Victims
Earthquake Victims
Pastor Doug
Craig Moog
Our President
Jason Morris
Reg Smith
Heather Rutledge – cancer
Rich Bradford – Travis’s dad –
cancer
Barry and Sadie Reacher
Gene Rohrer
Charleen Carter – Peggy and
Alice’s sister
Pam Groff
Mark Groff – legs



Robert Sefton - memory
Barry Horner – cancer
Sandy Barkey - memory
Ed Kimble
Scott McQueen
Danny Dahms
Howard Lowen
Ann Shearer
Brenda Caibaiosi
Ed Couch
Rick Kreps
Jane Bunn
John Toole
Teah Akers
Kayla Pearson
Ryan Heffelman
Devier and Kay Weicht
Mike Hyndman
Ron, Chasity and Layden
Thompson

Condolences

Duane Shipley family
Dan Diffenbacher family
Jerry Wigent family
Mike Johnson family

Joys and Celebrations

Pastor Doug and Pastors column

Don't Forget!
Sign up for Sunday
morning cookies.
The sign-up sheet
is by the front
entry door.

Bible verse

Ecclesiastes 3:1
“To everything,
there is a season,
and a time for every
matter under
heaven.”

Joke of the Month

**I sit in the back so I can make
a fast Exodus.**

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 October 2025 newsletter will be
September 29.** If you have an article and/or pictures for
the newsletter, email it to Betty at:
bettyormsby@gmail.com. Thank you!