



THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lent

AT ST. MATTHEWS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lent is a liturgical season that has been observed for over 1500 years. It is a time when we intentionally prepare ourselves for Easter through prayer, fasting, and other disciplines. While we talk about 40 days of Lent, which connect with the Israelites 40 years of wandering (Joshua 5:6) and Jesus' 40 days being tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4), you will notice that there are actually more than 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. That's because the Sundays aren't counted. Each Sunday is supposed to be like a little Easter. As you prayerfully consider how to "Make Room" for

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ONE THING

LEADS TO ANOTHER

It all started five years ago with plans to fix the sanctuary carpeting, which was beginning to develop “ridges” and show some unusual wear. Following examination by several carpet suppliers and installers, it was determined that the 15-year-old adhesive securing the carpet backing to the floor was disintegrating, and the only solution to the resulting problems was to completely replace the carpeting.

It was also time to replace the worn, outdated tiles beneath the pews.

To help keep costs to a minimum (paid for by designated gifts), we would enlist the help of volunteers to do as much work as possible and practical. Those angels of mercy wound up including Marc Norton, Denny Shaw, Larry Haron, Shane Scover, Max Froelich, Paul Powell, Alan Wild, Charlie Stevens John Stokes, and chronicler of this account - Jerry Keys.

The operation began by unbolting all 34 pews from the floor (10 anchors per pew) and moving them all to the back of the sanctuary - some to the Lower Colonnade - to allow the installer, Norm Reeves, to remove two layers of old tile and the carpeting in the front part of the sanctuary. Following this, new wood grain vinyl tiles were installed where the pews would be replaced.

Then the whole process started all over again to move all the pews in the *back* of the sanctuary to the *FRONT* of the sanctuary so that new vinyl tiles could be installed in the back! In the midst of this mess, many of you had the opportunity to write favorite Scripture passages or other special sentiments on the bare concrete floor - all now forever preserved under new glue, carpet and vinyl!

SERVICE INFORMATION

BROWNS LANE CAMPUS

319 Browns Lane

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30am Traditional

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

<https://www.facebook.com/St.MatthewsUMCLouisville>

Also available Sunday afternoon on
YouTube: St. Matthews UMC Louisville

11:00am Traditional (In-person only)

12:30pm Tabernaculo de Avivamiento
(Gordon Hall)

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

<https://www.facebook.com/tda.church.1>

RIVER CITY CAMPUS

4611 Lowe Rd.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

<https://www.facebook.com/rivercityumc/>

Giving Online:

<https://www.stmatthewsmethodist.com/giving>

or

<https://www.rivercitymethodist.com/give-online/>

IN OUR PRAYERS

SENIOR/ASSISTED LIVING AND REHAB

THE ALTENHEIM
Debbie Brown

BELMONT VILLAGE
Barbara Harding
Barbara Tracy

CHEROKEE PARK REHAB
Grace Hunt

ENCLAVE OF EAST LOUISVILLE
Liz Swindler

THE FORUM AT BROOKSIDE
Geneva Madden

HALLMARK HOUSE
Charlotte Mosley

THE LEGACY (ENGLISH STA.)
Harold Freeman

PARR'S AT SPRINGHURST
Forest Bower

SENECA PLACE
Sara Fredenberger

STORY POINT
Barbara Hamric

PRAYER REQUESTS

Russell Browder

April Bunn

John Bunn

Ray Cashen

The Cox Family

Larry Cox

Pam Cox

Ronnie Dolen

Mark Foster

Chad Graham

Davis Gray

Corky Hall

Mary Lea Kirven

David Lee III

Judy Leonard

Jamie Mercer

The Mitchell Family

Erin Murphy

Tabby Nuckols

Elizabeth Putnam

Nilah Putnam

Tom Roppel

Bob Royer

Eleanor Rupert

Tom Schoeberl

John Sheesley

Bill Sherman

Carol Simpson

Scott Simpson

Orson Smith III

Kim Strong

Cindy Stuart

Don Wagaman

Joy Wells-Collis

Nancy White

Bill Wild

Hans Young

Let us know how we may join in your prayer concerns by filling out a prayer request card, by phoning the church office, by email at prayers@saintmatthewsumc.org, or on the church website: www.stmatthewsmethodist.com.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST. MATTHEWS UMC

Saturday, February 25

Bible Study Fellowship Leaders, 202, 204 ----- 7:30A

Sunday, February 26

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary ----- 8:30A

Seekers/Dr. Jane Thibaut class, Gordon Hall --- 9:45A

Sunday School (All Ages) ----- 10:00A

River City Worship (4611 Lowe Rd) ----- 10:45A

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary ----- 11:00A

Tabernaculo de Avivamiento, Gordon Hall --- 12:30P

AA Group, River City ----- 2:30P

Youth Choir, Music Suite ----- 4:30P

Youth Group ----- 5:00P

Monday, February 27

Morning Bells, Music Suite ----- 10:00A

Quilted Memories, 204 ----- 11:30A

Dartball, Gordon Hall ----- 6:30P

AA Group, River City ----- 6:30P

Alanon, River City ----- 6:30P

Tuesday, February 28

Bible Study Fellowship, Browns Lane ----- 6:30P

Wednesday, March 1

Morning Prayers, 218 ----- 8:30A

St. Matthews Ringers, Music Suite ----- 4:30P

Wednesday Night Live! Dinner, Gordon Hall --- 5:00P

20-Somethings Community Group, River City 6:00P

Financial Peace University, 204 ----- 6:00P

Youth Handbells, Music Suite ----- 6:00P

Children's Choirs, 202, 105 ----- 6:15P

Intro to Jesus Group, 216 ----- 6:30P

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite ----- 7:00P

Thursday, March 2

St. Matthews Chamber of Commerce, 204 -- 8:00A

Circle of Friends Quilt Guild, 204 ----- 10:00A

Diabetes Support Group, Browns Lane 218 ----- 6:15P

Friday, March 3

Morning Men's Group, Heine Bros Hike Pt ----- 7:30A

Educare Cottage School, River City ----- 8:00A

TDA Praise Team, Browns Lane Gordon Hall ----- 6:00P

Saturday, March 4

Sunday, March 5

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary ----- 8:30A

Sunday School (All Ages) ----- 10:00A

River City Worship (4611 Lowe Rd) ----- 10:45A

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary ----- 11:00A

Tabernaculo de Avivamiento, Gordon Hall --- 12:30P

AA Group, River City ----- 2:30P

Youth Choir, Music Suite ----- 4:30P

Youth Group ----- 5:00P

Monday, March 6

Morning Bells, Music Suite ----- 10:00A

Quilted Memories, 204 ----- 11:30A

Dartball, Gordon Hall ----- 6:30P

AA Group, River City ----- 6:30P

Alanon, River City ----- 6:30P

Tuesday, March 7

Bible Study Fellowship, Browns Lane ----- 6:30P

Wednesday, March 8

Morning Prayers, 218 ----- 8:30A

St. Matthews Ringers, Music Suite ----- 4:30P

Wednesday Night Live! Dinner, Gordon Hall --- 5:00P

20-Somethings Community Group, River City- 6:00P

Financial Peace University, 204 ----- 6:00P

Youth Handbells, Music Suite ----- 6:00P

Children's Choirs, 202, 105 ----- 6:15P

"Connections" Small Group, 106 ----- 6:30P

Intro to Jesus Group, 216 ----- 6:30P

Pulling Threads Small Group, 102 ----- 6:30P

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite ----- 7:00P

Thursday, March 9

Circle of Friends Quilt Guild, 204 ----- 10:00A

Diabetes Support Group, Browns Lane 218 ----- 6:15P

Friday, March 10

Morning Men's Group, Heine Bros Hike Pt ----- 7:30A

Educare Cottage School, River City ----- 8:00A

TDA Praise Team, Browns Lane Gordon Hall ----- 6:00P

Saturday, March 11

Sunday, March 12

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary ----- 8:30A

Sunday School (All Ages) ----- 10:00A

River City Worship (4611 Lowe Rd) ----- 10:45A

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary ----- 11:00A

Tabernaculo de Avivamiento, Gordon Hall --- 12:30P

AA Group, River City ----- 2:30P

Girl Scouts, River City ----- 3:00P

Youth Choir, Music Suite ----- 5:30P

Youth Group ----- 5:00P

Monday, March 13

Morning Bells, Music Suite ----- 10:00A

Quilted Memories, 204 ----- 11:30A

Dartball, Gordon Hall ----- 6:30P

AA Group, River City ----- 6:30P

Alanon, River City ----- 6:30P

March BIRTHDAYS

March 1 ----- Sara Brighty

March 2 ----- Tracie Kiefer

March 4 ----- Emily Faulhaber

March 5 ----- Olivia Leonard
Sarah Jenkins
Jacob McCarthy

March 7 ----- Larry Cox
Coraline Eastes

March 8 ----- Levi Fulner
Johnathan Koprowski

March 9 ----- Barbara Tracey
Zoe McLaughlin
Chris Brandt

March 10 ----- Monte Cheathman
Avery Blair
Declan Mix

March 11 ----- Katelyn Ventners

March 12 ----- Lisa Warren
Margaret Dennis

March 13 ----- Carolbeth Kelly

March 14 ----- Brady Davis
Tori Gidcumb

March 15 ----- Shawn Davis
Amanda Benitez

March 16 ----- Abbey Hale

March 17 ----- David Satterfield

March 18 ----- Martha Miller

March 19 ----- Ellen Jenkins
Max Froelich
Diana Grissom
Janet Essig
Bill Stratton
Noah Sparks

March 20 ----- Hobie Valladares
Lexie Chapman

March 21 ----- Mallory Murry

March 22 ----- James Bartels
Tyler Martin

March 23 ----- June Stephens
Frank Payne
Claudia Espinoza Cano

March 24 ----- Savannah Setzer

March 25 ----- Pat Rankin
Janna Mathews
George Connors

March 26 ----- Serena Zielberg

March 27 ----- Doug Howell
David O'Bryan

March 28 ----- Olivia Shannon

THANK
YOU

Dear Church Family,

Again I thank you for the outpouring of caring - Harrison's prompt phone call, Adam's visit, and many notes sent. I was starting to thank God for welcoming my son into heaven, when I learned of my sister's unexpected death. I am blessed with being a part of a compassionate congregation.

Marilyn Keys

Dear Church Members,

My family and I want to thank you for the prayers, thoughts, cards, notes, calls, and food provided during Jim's illness, at the time of his death, and during my present situation with a broken hip. Having joined the church when I was a freshman in high school, I have certainly benefitted from many kindnesses of the church and expect to be around awhile in the future. Our children grew up in this church and have many great memories, too. Again, thanks for everything!

Carol S. Simpson and family

Dear St. Matthews UMC,

Thank you very much for hosting our youth group this past weekend for Winter Blitz. You saved the families of our church a lot of money, and more importantly provided a place for our group to connect and bond with each other AND Jesus. Prayers for many blessings on your congregation, and especially Harrison!

Pastor Anna Merlo

Florence United Methodist Church

**HELP
WANTED**

The SMUMC Board of Trustees needs your help for a grounds clean-up day at our River City campus on Saturday, March 18, from 9 AM - 3 PM in preparation for The Great Egg Hunt the following weekend. Contact Sandy Hottell for more information/to volunteer: shottell@stmumc.org.



In addition to ongoing small groups, we have two new Wednesday night groups beginning March 1:

“Connections: A 4 week Opportunity to get Connected or Re-Connected with St. Matthews UMC” led by Pastor Adam

Beginning on March 1, we will be hosting a 4 week small group focused on helping people connect with our church. It will meet after the Wednesday Night Live! Dinner, from 6:30-7:30pm, in room 106. Whether you are a new guest looking to connect for the first time or a long-time attendee wanting a refresher, this is a perfect opportunity to learn more about our church, our United Methodist beliefs, and next steps that you can take to get connected. Here’s a preview of what this journey will look like:

- March 1: Welcome to St. Matthews! Introduction to our staff, our ministries, and our facilities
- March 8: Q&A about United Methodist Beliefs and Practices, Session I
- March 15: Q&A about United Methodist Beliefs and Practices, Session II
- March 22: Our Vision: Where are we going and how can you connect?

This journey will culminate in a Baptism and Membership Sunday, if you choose to take that step. Date TBD. Please be in prayer about what your next step will be in connecting or reconnecting to our church.

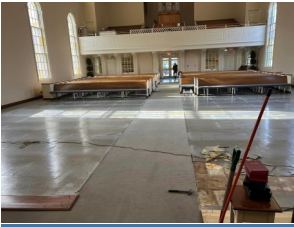
“Pulling Threads: A Deep Dive of the Lectionary Readings from the Gospels” led by Pastor Renee

This 5-week small group will follow along with our Lenten sermon series, “Making Room.” It will use the weekly lectionary readings from the Gospels, but pursue parts of each passage that we weren’t able to cover in the Sunday morning sermons. Come prepared to go deeper, ask questions, and dig into the details of each passage. This group will also begin on March 1, at 6:30 and will meet in Room 102.

- March 1: Matthew 4:1-11
- March 8: Matthew 17:1-9
- March 15: John 4:5-42
- March 22: John 9:1-41
- March 29: John 12:1-8



One Thing Leads to Another (Continued from page 2)



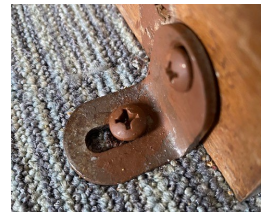
Pews in back of the room

After all the new tile was in place and things seemed to be coming together, we moved the pews **ONE MORE TIME**, back to their appropriate places - which meant 340 new anchors, 340 new holes for those anchors, and about 20 hours worth of drilling and tightening everything down.

Oh yes, and then the new carpet was installed. Finally. The board of trustees opted to use carpet planks rather than rolled goods so that a damaged area could be easily replaced if necessary.

But that wasn't the end.

All those new anchors - all 340 of them - needed a touch of paint on their little silver heads in order to match the brackets to which they were affixed (thank you, Steve Allison!). The dark wood at the base of each pew support needed to be touched up with paint and stain.



Brackets and anchors



Writing on the floor

And then there were the cushions. All the pew cushions. All the 20+ year-old never-been-cleaned pew cushions. The extracted water was as black as strong coffee. Once cleaned, however, those cushions revealed a wealth of wax drippings from the candles of Christmases Past, the tedious removal of which took over six hours of tender loving care from Cherry Stevens. (It also explains why we now use battery operated candles for Christmas Present and

Christmas Future.)

The **BACKS** of the pews, scratched and worn from years of use, needed to be scrubbed, stain-waxed, and polished. Estelle Sullivan and Marilyn Keys took on the challenge of emptying all the pew racks, vacuuming and cleaning each one, and replacing the hymnals and Bibles. Judy Norton cleaned and waxed all the chairs in the choir and polished the brass in the chancel.

Window sashes and mullions were scraped, primed, and repainted, along with nicks in doors and woodwork in the sanctuary and narthex. A few touch-ups along the walls finished the project: the one that started out five years ago to fix “a few problems” with the carpeting!

But, then one thing led to another...

seeking God during this time and try to decide how to fill this season with things that will draw you closer to God and others, we invite you to the wonderful opportunities below. In Christ, Adam

“Making Room” sermon series Begins Sunday, February 26

Just like we declutter our homes to make room for something new, you are invited to declutter spiritually to make more room for God. This series will combine weekly practices to make room for God, like humility, solitude, and reconciliation, with an outward focus aimed at making room for new people in the life of our church.

Desert Day at the Abbey of Gethsemani Saturday, April 1, 10:30AM

Join us for a day away at the Abbey of Gethsemane near Bardstown, KY (<https://monks.org/>). You will have opportunities to pray and reflect as you walk the grounds, hike the nature trails, and attend prayer services. Transportation, meal arrangements, and cost to be announced. Please contact Pastor Renee to RSVP (rjennings@stmumc.org).

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil April 6, 7:00PM, Gordon Hall

On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples (Mark 14:12-31). The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin phrase Mandatum Novum, which means “new commandment.” This refers to the command Jesus gave his disciples in John 13:34 to love one another. This interactive prayer vigil will begin with Holy Communion and then invite you to participate in various prayer stations and a labyrinth. This is a great worship experience for all ages!

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Good Friday Tenebrae

April 7, 7:00PM, Browns Lane Sanctuary

Good Friday is the time that we remember Jesus' death on the cross (Mark 15). At our Browns Lane campus, we will host a Tenebrae service in the sanctuary at 7pm.

"Tenebrae" is Latin for darkness because the service involves extinguishing candles after a series of readings about the crucifixion, and musical responses. Join us in-person or on Facebook Live!

and...

THE MOST TOTALLY SPENDIFEROUS EGG HUNT

SATURDAY | MARCH 25 | 11:00am - 1:00pm

River City Campus
4611 LOWE ROAD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40220

AGE-DIVIDED EGG HUNTS - PETTING ZOO - FREE LUNCH
and MORE! (Maybe even the Easter Bunny)

Rain or Shine

The Easter event nobody wants to miss! This outreach event attracts hundreds of youngsters and their families, and from its beginning has been an opportunity for SMUMC to share our hospitality and the love of Christ with our community. There are so many ways to be involved; contact Director of Children's Ministries, Shannon Seidt, for more information: sseidt@stmumc.org.

UMYF News



We have had so many amazing things happening in the life of our youth ministries this year! We invited the Christ Church UMC youth group to our Sunday night group. We had over 25 youth all together at our Browns Lane campus! It was a magnificent sight to see all these amazing youth

gathered for food, fun, and fellowship! If you know a youth that would like to join in the fun, below are some opportunities we provide in our youth program.

We meet every Sunday morning from 10-10:45 for Sunday School. On Sunday nights we have Youth Group 5-7:00, where we share a meal together, play some games, and discuss our faith. Below is a schedule for the nights that we meet through March

2/26- Youth 5-7

3/05- Youth 5-7

3/12- Youth 5-7

3/19- Youth 5-7

3/26- Youth 5-7

4/02- No Youth (Spring Break)



**ALL DROP-OFFS IN COKESBURY ROOM
MONDAY, MAR 13 - FRIDAY, MAR 17, 9:00am-4:00pm**

The Evangel for February 24, 2023
 St. Matthews United Methodist Church
 319 Browns Lane at Norbourne Boulevard
 Louisville, Kentucky 40207

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
 Organization
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 Louisville, KY
 Permit No. 127



Traditional Worship - 8:30 & 11 AM;
 Sunday School - 10:00 AM
 River City Campus - 10:45 AM
 Hispanic Worship - 12:30PM
 ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 319 Browns Lane at Norbourne Boulevard • Louisville, KY 40207
 502-897-6449
 www.stmatthewsmethodist.com

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Adam Sparks.....Senior Pastor
 Rev. Renee Jennings.....Associate Pastor
 Rev. Maikel Rojas.....Associate Pastor
 Kate Shaffer.....Care Coordinator
 Harrison Zoercher.....Director of Discipleship & Missions; Organist
 Shannon Seidt.....Director of Children's Ministries
 Noel Weaver.....Director of Music Ministries
 Raiko Ruz.....Music Associate, TDA
 Aaron Weaver.....Music Associate, Youth
 Mark Benz.....Music Associate, Children's Choirs
 Amber Jenkins.....St. Matthews Campus Youth Minister
 Sandy Hottell.....Administrator/Financial Secretary
 Allyson McCormick.....Nursery Coordinator
 Frank Krause.....Sexton

SEEKING
the Kingdom of God
 SHARING
the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 SERVING
our neighbors

