



THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GOD is UP to SOMETHING

Every time we have a baptism or receive a new member, I usually say something to the effect of, "It is always a special day when we receive a new member into our church family!" These are holy moments, celebratory moments, moments for us as the Body of Christ to get excited about the work of God's grace. However, I have to admit that there have been seasons of ministry where it felt like those moments were few and far between.

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VOLUME 62, ISSUE 2

MAY 9, 2024



GOD is UP to Something

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I'm excited to report that we are on the verge of experiencing SIX Sundays in a row where we've either celebrated a baptism, received a new member, or confirmed students! Below you will see the names and pictures of those we've already celebrated in worship over the last couple months, as well as a list of what's to come!

March 31: River City, Received the Laiben family as new members

Left-to-right: Kari, Crystal, Dillon, Sam, and James, (Not pictured: daughter Vix)



April 14: 11 a.m. Traditional, Baptism of Anne Marie Summers, daughter of Hayden Melanie Summers

(pictured with her brother, George)

April 21: 8:30am Traditional, Received Brent Fryrear as new member





April 28: 8:30am Traditional,
Received Bob and Laura Slider as
new members

May 5: 11am Traditional,
Received Patsy Powell as new member



May 12

May 19: Combined service at 11:00 a.m. on
the Browns Lane campus. For Youth and
Confirmation Sunday.

We may be experiencing it weekly instead of daily, but it reminds me of the description of the work of God's Spirit in the Book of Acts: "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (2:46-47 NIV)

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GOD is UP to Something

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If we truly believe God is up to something, then I want to invite you to join us in four specific ways:

- First, be in prayer, especially about the steps forward God is inviting you take in your own faith journey. As we talked about in our Dynamite Prayer series, let's continue to prayer for God's breakthrough possibilities in our lives, our families, our church, and our world!
- Second, if you have never been baptized or officially joined our church as a member, please talk to myself, Pastor Renee, or Pastor Maikel about your next steps.
- Third, join us on Sunday, May 12, for a special sermon on how to continue to grow a culture of invitation in our church. We will focus on how to invite people to our church in relational, natural, and fun ways!
- Finally, join me in welcoming these people to our St. Matthews United Methodist Church family! We are so excited to welcome you in Christian love and partner together to nurture and support each other as we Seek the kingdom of God, Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Serve our neighbor!

Let's join God in what God is already doing in our church and our community!


In Christ, Adam

THANK
— YOU

WOW! St Matthews United Methodist Church sure knows how to throw a party!

What a great time with all my friends and family to celebrate my retirement? Its hard to put into words all the emotions I am feeling... "Overwhelmed" doesn't seem enough.

All the cards, gifts and hugs have made this time so special. Too all who have shared their love and support. THANK YOU!

Blessings 
Kate (aka KaKa)

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEWS UMC

Sunday, May 12—Mother's Day

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
Trocan Piano Studio, Sanctuary	2:00P
AA Group, River City	2:30P
Youth Choir, Music Suite	4:30P
Youth Group Activities	5:00P

Monday, May 13

Quilted Memories, 204	11:30A
Silver Notes, Music Suite	1:00P
AA Group, River City	6:30P
Alanon, River City	6:30P

Tuesday, May 14

Bible Study Fellowship	6:00P
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Wednesday, May 15

Morning Prayers	8:30A
St. Matthews Ringers, Music Suite	4:30P
Wednesday Night Live! Cookout	5:00P
Epworth Bells, Music Suite	6:00P
Children's Choir, 105	6:15P
Small Group Study, 204	6:15P
Confirmation Class, 216	6:30P
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite	7:00P
Youth Group Pixar Shorts	7:00P

Thursday, May 16

St. Matthews Chamber of Commerce, 204	8:00A
Diabetes Support Group, Browns Lane 218	6:15P

Friday, May 17

Men's Prayer Group, Heine Bros. Hikes Pt.	7:30A
Riggs-Salzer Rehearsal, Sanctuary	5:00P

Saturday, May 18

Riggs-Salzer Wedding, Sanctuary	5:30P
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Sunday, May 19—Youth/Senior Sunday

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
Kinman Piano Studio, Sanctuary	3:00P

Monday, May 20

Quilted Memories, 204	11:30A
Silver Notes, Music Suite	1:00P
AA Group, River City	6:30P
Alanon, River City	6:30P

Tuesday, May 21

Bible Study Fellowship	6:00P
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Wednesday, May 22

Morning Prayers, 218	8:30A
St. Matthews Ringers, Music Suite	4:30P
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite	6:30P

Thursday, May 23

Diabetes Support Group, Browns Lane 218	6:15P
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Friday, May 24

Men's Prayer Group, Heine Bros. Hikes Pt.	7:30A
Active Imaginations, Sanctuary	10:30A

Saturday, May 25

Kinman Piano Studio, Sanctuary	10:30A
Shannon Seidt, Wesley Café	3:00P

Sunday, May 26

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

Monday, May 27- Memorial Day

Church Offices Closed, No Events

Tuesday, May 28

Bible Study Fellowship	6:00P
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Wednesday, May 29

Morning Prayers, 218	8:30A
St. Matthews Ringers, Music Suite	4:30P
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite	6:30P

Thursday, May 30

Diabetes Support Group, Browns Lane 218	6:15P
Kinman Piano Studio, Sanctuary	7:00P

Friday, May 31

Men's Prayer Group, Heine Bros. Hikes Pt.	7:30A
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Saturday, June 1

Men's Prayer Group, Heine Bros. Hikes Pt.	7:30A
Boiney Piano Studio, Sanctuary	2:00P

Sunday, June 2

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



SERVICE INFORMATION

BROWNS LANE CAMPUS
319 Browns Lane
Sunday Morning Worship

8:30am Traditional

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

[https://www.facebook.com/
St.MatthewsUMCLouisville](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](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/](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 Tracy

THE FORUM AT BROOKSIDE
Geneva Madden

HALLMARK HOUSE
Charlotte Mosley

THE SPRINGS/STONY BROOK
Harold Freeman

STORYPOINT PROSPECT
Barbara Hamric

WESTPORT PLACE
Davis Gray

PRAYER REQUESTS

Charlie Boyette
Russell Browder
Jeff Buechlein
Rochelle Burdine
Ray Cashen
Cammie Cox
Pam Cox
The Cox Family
Ronnie Dolen
Corky Hall
Kristie Jones
Prayer Blanket Recipients
Madison Seiferid
John Sheesley
Scott Simpson
Dwayne Tracy
Don Wagaman
Bill Wild
Debbie Wilkerson
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@saintmatthewsmethodist.com, or on the
church website:
www.stmatthewsmethodist.com.



ALL DROP-OFFS the week of July 8 ONLY

We cannot accept donations prior to that date.



It's time to start the party!

How does it feel when you get really good news?

It makes you want to dance, tell your friends, and celebrate! Join us this summer, as we celebrate Jesus and his love!

During VBS, we'll not only learn about all the celebrations in the Bible, but we'll be having a party throughout the whole week. We can't wait for you to join us for fun games, amazing music, incredible stories, and a fantastic time as we GET THE PARTY STARTED!

To register, visit: <http://your.verybestsummer.com/smumcvbs24>

A Tranquility Tea for Caregivers

The Tranquility Tea Ministry held a “Run for the Roses Tea” on Sunday, April 14. Thanks to all who helped decorate, set up, prepare food, serve, and clean up. It truly was a blessing for the caregivers in attendance.

The next tea will be in July. If you would like to volunteer, contact Eileen James (food items) or Jena Hilliker (other areas). If you are a caregiver or know of one who would like an invitation, call church to be added to the list.



United
Women
in Faith

Update

Our current mission project is a collection of items on the wish list of the Ky Methodist Children's Home in Nicholasville.

Items needed by June 9 are:

- Feminine Hygiene products
- sweat pants and leggings (new, adult sizes)
- Kleenex
- Laundry detergent pods
- Underwear (new, adult sizes)
- Playing cards (regular decks)
- Chapstick
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Crossword puzzle books
- Composition notebooks (without spiral binding)

Save the date, buy a ticket, and support the mission projects of St. Matthews' United Women in Faith.

Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

Tickets are available in the Upper Colonnade following Sunday's early service, between Sunday School and the 11:00 service, and at Wednesday Night Live!

Proceeds benefit the Kentucky Refugee Ministries Stitch Program and United Women in Faith Mission Projects.

**FOR THE LOVE OF
APRONS**

**SALAD LUNCHEON AND
APRON STYLE SHOW**



SATURDAY, JUNE 8

12:00-2:00

GORDON HALL

TICKETS

ADVANCED:
ADULTS: \$15
CHILDREN \$5

AT THE DOOR:
ADULTS: \$20
CHILDREN \$5

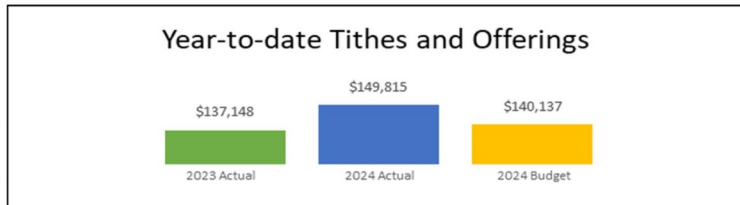
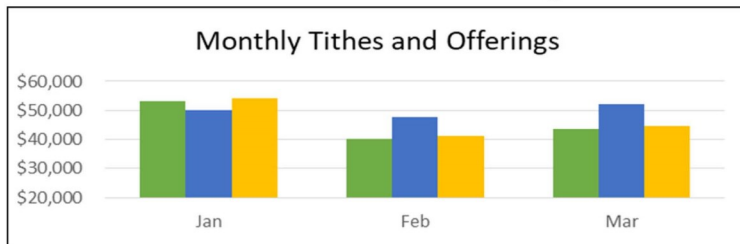


St. Matthews United Methodist Church

March 2024 Financial Snapshot

Description	Budget Annual	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	YTD Budget Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	YTD Budget Variance %
Income					
Tithes & Offerings (Budget)	\$550,000	\$140,137	\$149,815	\$9,677	107.%
Other Offerings	\$20,300	\$5,990	\$3,785	(\$2,205)	63.%
Building Use/Rents	\$92,840	\$23,210	\$22,710	(\$500)	98.%
Other Income	\$11,895	\$4,123	\$4,283	\$160	104.%
Total Income	\$675,035	\$173,461	\$180,593	\$7,132	104.%
Total Transfers	\$90,955	\$22,739	\$3,333	(\$19,405)	15.%
Total Income & Transfers	\$765,990	\$196,200	\$183,926	(\$12,273)	94.%
Expenses					
Our Mission Covenant	\$28,515	\$7,103	\$4,882	\$2,221	69.%
District and Community Ministries	\$5,703	\$1,421	\$976	\$444	69.%
Program	\$32,000	\$8,000	\$7,749	\$251	97.%
Office Expense	\$25,770	\$6,088	\$6,407	(\$319)	105.%
Building & Maintenance	\$168,603	\$50,613	\$35,641	\$14,972	70.%
Staff	\$486,243	\$121,395	\$121,466	(\$71)	100.%
Rawls Disbursement	\$6,750	\$1,341	\$429	\$912	32.%
Total Expenses	\$753,584	\$195,961	\$177,549	\$18,412	91.%
Over/(Under)	\$12,406	\$239	\$6,378	\$6,139	

● 2023 Actual ● 2024 Actual ● 2024 Budget



3 Ways to Give

Mail



You may send your offering to:
319 Browns Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

Text



Text the amount to 502-200-1424.
Tap the link on the response text
to finish the transaction.

Online



Go to:
stmatthewsmethodist.com/giving,
click on online giving and follow
instructions on screen.

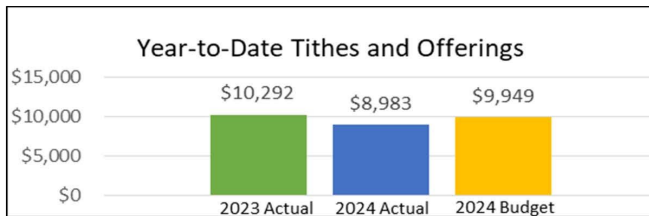
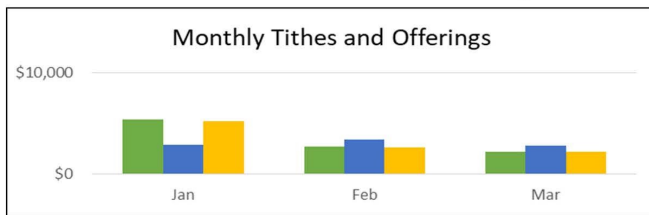
2023 vs. 2024 Monthly Tithes & Offerings												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2023 Actual	\$53,187	\$40,250	\$43,711	\$46,649	\$32,804	\$60,619	\$36,440	\$34,432	\$37,532	\$56,370	\$41,087	\$55,187
2024 Actual	\$50,033	\$47,676	\$52,107	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2024 Budget	\$54,346	\$41,127	\$44,664	\$47,665	\$33,519	\$61,940	\$37,235	\$35,182	\$38,350	\$57,599	\$41,983	\$56,390



River City Campus March 2024 Financial Snapshot

<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget Annual</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>YTD Budget Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>	<u>YTD Budget Variance %</u>
Income					
Tithes & Offerings (Budget)	\$40,000	\$9,949	\$8,983	(\$966)	90. %
Other Offerings	\$250	\$91	\$0	(\$91)	0. %
Building Use/Rents	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$3,990	(\$1,010)	80. %
Fundraising Income	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$0	(\$2,000)	0. %
Youth Support from SMUMC	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	100. %
Total Income	\$88,250	\$22,040	\$17,973	(\$4,067)	82. %
Investment Transfers	\$31,043	\$7,761	\$0	(\$7,761)	0. %
Total Income & Transfers	\$119,293	\$29,801	\$17,973	(\$11,828)	60. %
Expenses					
Our Mission Covenant	\$2,013	\$655	\$307	\$348	47. %
District Ministries	\$403	\$131	\$61	\$70	47. %
Program	\$950	\$237	\$293	(\$56)	124. %
Office Expense	\$1,600	\$400	\$292	\$108	73. %
Building & Maintenance	\$58,968	\$18,125	\$12,012	\$6,113	66. %
Staff	\$111,983	\$27,995	\$27,293	\$703	97. %
Total Expenses	\$175,917	\$47,544	\$40,259	\$7,286	85. %
Over/(Under)	(\$56,624)	(\$17,743)	(\$22,286)	(\$4,542)	

● 2023 Actual ● 2024 Actual ● 2024 Budget



How can I Give?

Text to Give: Text the amount and "River City UMC Budget" to (502) 200-1424 to donate.

Through our App: Download our App (River City UMC) to give in an easier way!

Sunday Offering: Our baskets are available before, after, and during the service.

Online Giving: Go to www.rivercitymethodist.com/give-online/ and follow the prompts (can be recurring)

Snail Mail: Send checks to St. Matthews UMC designated for "River City UMC Budget" (319 Browns Lane, 40207)

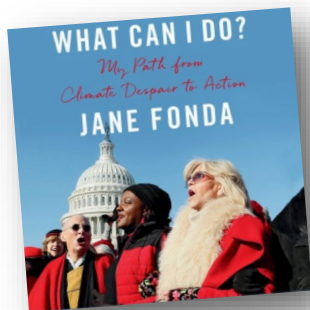
**All gifts are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.*

	2023 vs. 2024 Monthly Tithes & Offerings											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2023 Actual	\$5,381	\$2,686	\$2,225	\$2,386	\$2,386	\$8,955	\$2,400	\$3,235	\$2,375	\$2,925	\$2,715	\$3,710
2024 Actual	\$2,858	\$3,370	\$2,755	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2024 Budget	\$5,202	\$2,596	\$2,151	\$2,306	\$2,306	\$8,657	\$2,320	\$3,127	\$2,296	\$2,828	\$2,625	\$3,586

Happy Birthday

May 11 ----- Brianne Fekete
John Howard
May 13 ----- Brenda Froelich
May 14 ----- Janice Smith
Jenna Faulhaber
May 15 ----- Megan Harrington
May 18 ----- Willa Mook
May 19 ----- Becky Hall
Pierce Hackett
Abby Hackett Welton
Becky Fenton
Kalab Golden
May 20 ----- Aaron Weaver
Evan Walker
Oscar Guerrero Sanchez
May 21 ----- Anne Shadle
May 24 ----- Joshua Hilliker
May 25 ----- Kameron Reed
May 26 ----- Barbara Hamric
Chris Burkeen
Sharon Hammond
Bob Oliver
May 27 ----- Juanita Cashen
May 28 ----- Frances Smith
May 29 ----- Kathleen Bartels
May 30 ----- Emily Sheesley
Mike Silliman
May 31 ----- Alyssa Gorman-Lyons
Karen Diehl
June 1 ----- Connie Nichter
June 2 ----- Ellery Dolen
Megan Dukes
Amy Dickinson
June 3 ----- Mary Dove
DeAnna Payne
June 5 ----- Molly Krueger
Jacob Vandiver

June 6 ----- Hope Richards
Teresa McCammon
June 7 ----- Jack Stewart
June 8 ----- Steve Riggs
Daniel Royse
Deniesha Golden
June 9 ----- Mary Britton
June 10 ----- Courtney Morrison
June 12 ----- Kim Raho
Brittany Kleiner
June 13 ----- Rob Fenton
June 15 ----- Sarah Davasher-Wisdom
June 16 ----- Doug Royer
Charlie Stevens
Brad Setzer
Dorka Cardoso-Mayoral
June 17 ----- Steve Jenkins
Estelle Sullivan
Gary Stuart
Martha Shafferman
Trevor Graham
Vicki Clark
June 18 ----- Pat Brinson
Hannah Martin
June 19 ----- Kay Krueger
Zach Wedding
June 20 ----- Owen Lane
June 21 ----- Gail Shaw
Peter Mook
June 22 ----- Linda Eastes
June 24 ----- Chris Seidt
June 25 ----- Ruthie Bartels
Caroline Bartels
Denise Davis
Eric Anderson
June 27 ----- Debbie Wilkerson
June 29 ----- Jeanie White
Eliza Love
June 30 ----- Mary Alice Smith



What Can I Do? The Path from Climate Despair to Action by Jane Fonda A UWIF book review.

If better stewardship of the Earth calls to you, this is a book you'll want to read. Each chapter begins with relevant information relating to climate change and ends with suggestions for action under the heading "What Can I Do?" The data makes it clear that fear, denial, and a sense of futility are not options now. This book convicted me from beginning to end.

Chapter 1 is titled "The Wake Up Call." Did you know that: *"There are 2.9 billion fewer birds in America than there were in 1970? Sea turtles are strangling from tumors caused by pollution in oceans? Whales are found dead with 50 pounds of plastic in their bellies? Polar bears are starving? 93% of children worldwide are breathing polluted air that endangers their health?"*

I hope the following quote from an indigenous woman and tribal attorney that was shared near the end of the book will move you as it did me: *"...Reconnect to the earth... Love the air; the air loves you. Love the sun; the sun loves you. Love the water; the water loves you.... We have to have a life of stewardship, not just have endless consumption... Don't fall into complacency or apathy... Build communities. Stand with love."*

Submitted by Eileen James



Are you interested in participating in a yoga class at church? The Health Ministries Team at SMUMC is currently assessing the level of interest in starting a new class with the instructor who led a group here several years ago. Possible times would be Monday evenings at 5:30, Thursdays at noon, or Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. The cost would be \$10. Let us know (yes or no) by using this [quick survey](#), or by email to Martha Royse at roysenp@gmail.com, who you may also contact for more information.