



THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GENERAL CONFERENCE POSTPONEMENT and what it means for our church

On March 3rd, the Commission on General Conference announced that General Conference would be postponed until 2024 due to COVID related travel issues and a backlog of visa applications for delegates from around the globe. This news was frustrating and disappointing for many because the General Conference scheduled for this Fall was expected to deal with LGBTQ inclusion and address a possible separation within the UMC. You can read the original press release and a response from Bishop Leonard Fairley at www.kyumc.org.

On the heels of the postponement, a newly forming Wesleyan denomination called the Global Methodist Church (GMC) announced that it would officially launch on May 1st. This movement upholds traditional views of human sexuality and would not support the marriage or ordination of LGBTQ

persons. There would also be significant differences in polity and governance from the United Methodist Church, which we will be learning more about as we go forward. You can learn more about the GMC at <https://globalmethodist.org>.

Since this announcement, I have received numerous emails, phone calls, and visits asking what this means for the United Methodist Church and, specifically, St. Matthews UMC. While many answers are still unknown at this time, we believe it is important to share the information we do have to help clarify any confusion or misinformation. So, I have included some of the most common questions at the end of this article.

Most importantly, I want to reassure you of two things. First, our Cross-Campus Shepherding team is committed to helping our church navigate any

Continued on next page

discussions or decisions related to General Conference. As a first step, we will be holding numerous informational meetings and listening sessions over the next few months to help discern our congregation's way forward. We will be contacting your Sunday school class or small group to schedule a time or there will be sessions announced that will be available to everyone. Second, we are committed to the ongoing mission of making disciples of Jesus and sharing God's love with our community. Especially as we see COVID numbers decreasing, we want to be intentional to reengage our existing members and reach out to new people. As Bishop Fairley so clearly stated, "We still have people to feed, peace to make, justice to do, and a call to walk humbly with God. We still have people to reach for Jesus. I hope we do not lose sight of this in the midst of our frustration and disappointment." Please commit yourself to be engaged during this season, pray for our church and its ministries, and seek to share the love of Christ even with those you disagree with. In Christ, Adam

Q&A

Does our church have to make any decisions before the May 1st launch of the GMC?

No, even though the GMC is launching in May, the Kentucky Annual Conference deadline to file paperwork for disaffiliating from the UMC has already passed. Any decision to leave the UMC, even if our church wanted to go in that direction, would not be possible until 2023.

What are the key issues in the separation between the UMC and GMC and where does each group stand?

This is a complex issue, which we will be addressing more in future listening sessions. One of the main issues is the marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons. Currently, the Discipline of the UMC does not allow same sex marriage or the ordination of LGBTQ persons. There is no guarantee, but it is possible that after the separation of GMC churches and clergy that a post-separation UMC would move to allow this in the future. However, at this time, no changes will be made until the 2024 General Conference. However, one misconception is that this is the only difference between the UMC and GMC. In our listening sessions, we will also be outlining differences in the appointment of clergy, term limits on Bishops, the ownership of church property, and other issues.

Continued on page 3

ALL-CAMPUS
Spaghetti and Ice Cream Social

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 - 5:00PM

BROWNS LANE CAMPUS

FREE SPAGHETTI

FREE ICE CREAM

BRING A FAVORITE TOPPING

Let's have some FUN together!



After 2 years, we are so excited to be able to share this meal together! Everyone is invited, and we encourage you to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join you!

GENERAL CONFERENCE (Continued from page 2)

Will St. Matthews UMC decide to go GMC, stay UMC, or go another direction entirely?

We are doing our very best to not speak prematurely about this because it will ultimately be the decision of the church and we haven't done enough listening, discussing, and discerning at this point to know where the majority of our congregation stands. This is why the next 1-2 years will be critical for listening and learning together. We will provide clear feedback from any listening sessions or polls that we take so that people can begin to discern which direction our church may go. Throughout this process, we are also committed to care for LGBTQ members of our church and community. We want to make sure that in our discussions, we don't knowingly do further harm. As Pastor Renee has said so many times, even if we disagree at the end of this process we do not want to hate one another.

April 1..... Kate Shafferman
Marissa Ghavami
Melanie Sparks
April 2.....Cindy Stuart
Brady Dixon
April 3Melody Higginbotham
April 5Brad Barnett
April 6Libby Jackson
April 7 Lisa Daugherty
April 8Nicole Hunt-Shannon
Matt Murry
April 9 Curtis Essig
April 10 Frank Krause
Miriam Rodrigues
April 11.....Heath Tassin
Ruth Payne
Caleigh Seidt
April 12Carrie Mook
April 14 Kathy Barkley
April 15Jane Mills
April 16Sarah Everitt
APR 17 Sharilyn Valladares
Ashley Benz

APR 21..... Allen Seelhorst
Susan Rhodes
APR 22Quinton Leonard
Jackson Hammond
APR 23Camren Smith
APR 24 Harold Freeman
Hannah Benz
Donny Anderson
Laura Cooksey
Emily Freeman
APR 25 Elizabeth Lane
Casey Smith
Susan Turner
APR 26 Kevin Payne
APR 27 Eileen James
Cheryl Williamson
Paul Powell
Linda Garrett
APR 28 Dana Seay
Helen Lutts
APR 29Brandon Padgett

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS



ST. MATTHEWS AREA MINISTRIES EASTER FOOD BASKETS

We need your help once again to provide Easter dinner for our St. MAM families!

Here's the plan:

1. Purchase the following items from your local grocery.
2. When you have purchased an entire food basket:
 - Put the items in a reusable grocery bag
 - Tape this list to the bag so we know it's a complete basket.

In a Reusable Bag:

- 2 Boxes instant potatoes
- 2 Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese
- 2 Cans of fruit
- 2 Cans of peas
- 2 Cans of carrots
- Hawaiian Rolls
- Cake mix with icing, or Easter cookies
- \$25 Kroger Gift Card for Easter ham and other fresh items

**Please bring to St. Matthews Area Ministries
201 Biltmore Road**

(Beechwood Baptist Church)

**St. MAM Entrance—double doors next to the playground*

On Monday, April 11, between 9AM-4PM

Contact Sarah Banks at 893-0205 or
SarahBanks@stmam.com

It's back!

Repair or Shine

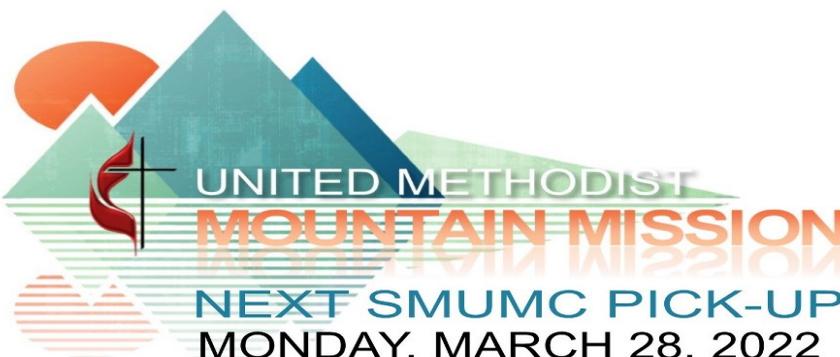
The Great EGG HUNT

SATURDAY | APRIL 9 | 11AM-1PM

ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RIVER CITY CAMPUS—4611 LOWE ROAD

AGE-DIVIDED EGG HUNT AREAS, PETTING ZOO,
FACE PAINTING, FREE LUNCH, AND MORE!

Saturday, April 9, from 11AM-1:00PM, featuring age-divided egg hunt areas, a petting zoo, face painting, free lunch, and more. All on our River City campus. We will need LOTS of candy to stuff our plastic Easter eggs. You can donate individually packaged candy to church anytime before April 3, or make a monetary donation for its purchase. You can also pick up empty eggs and bring them back filled with candy!



**UNITED METHODIST
MOUNTAIN MISSION**

**NEXT SMUMC PICK-UP
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022**

**ALL DROP-OFFS IN COKESBUREY ROOM
MONDAY, MAR. 21 - FRIDAY, MAR. 25, 9:00am-4:00pm**

SERVICE INFORMATION

BROWNS LANE CAMPUS

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)

11:00am Canvas (Contemporary)

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

<https://www.facebook.com/CanvasSt.MatthewsUMC>

12:30pm Tabernaculo de Avivamiento (Gordon Hall)

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

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

RIVER CITY CAMPUS

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

FOREST HILLS COMMONS
Ailene Elliott

THE FORUM AT BROOKSIDE
Geneva Madden

GRAYSON MANOR (LEITCHFIELD)
Linda Garrett

THE LEGACY (ENGLISH STA.)
Harold Freeman

PARR'S AT SPRINGHURST
Forest Bower

SENECA PLACE
Sara Fredenberger

VANITY LIVING SPRINGDALE
Charlotte Mosley

PRAYER REQUESTS

Russell Browder

April Bunn

Ray Cashen

The Cox Family

Ronnie Dolen

Barbara Douglas

Mark Foster

Owen Fredrickson

The Freeman Family

Tom & Diane Fuchs

Charlie Gatton

Barbara Head

Mary Lea Kirven

Judy Leonard

Keith McCracken

Jamie Mercer

Erin Murphy

Tabby Nuckols

Elizabeth Putnam

Bob Royer

Tom Schoeberl

Leonora Schultheis

Gail Shaw

John Sheesley

Kathy Sherman

Orson Smith III

Kim Strong

Don Wagaman

Bill Wild

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.

COVID GUIDELINES UPDATE

Dear St. Matthews UMC Family,

We are so excited to see how COVID numbers are decreasing in Jefferson County and how guidelines are changing in our community. As we shared during worship on Sunday, our COVID-19 Reentry Team approved the following changes.

Beginning Sunday, March 13:

- Masks will be optional. People are still welcome to wear masks if they want or need to and they will continue to be available in our entryways. However, they are no longer strongly recommended.
- Social distancing tape will be removed. The majority of our worship areas will no longer be taped off for socially distanced seating. However, optional, socially distanced areas will continue to be available.
- Hospitality ministries will be back! We will begin serving coffee and refreshments again in Wesley Cafe at the Browns Lane campus and the Gathering area at the River City campus. We invite you to join us before and after services!

Beginning Sunday, March 20:

- Assuming that COVID numbers continue to decline, masks will be optional for staff and the choir.

Coming soon:

- Throughout the pandemic, our children and youth ministries have followed many of the policies put in place by Jefferson County Public

Continued on next page

COVID GUIDELINES UPDATE (Continued)

Schools. We are aware that these policies changed this week to mask optional. Students and families will be contacted directly by our youth and children's ministry team to give you specific updates for youth ministry, children's ministry, and nursery as these will be specifically tailored to each age group.

We want to thank you for your understanding and flexibility over the past two years as we have navigated the challenges of doing ministry in unprecedented circumstances. We also want to thank our COVID Reentry Team for their dedicated work to keep our congregation and our community safe, while still finding new and creative ways to continue doing ministry. We will be taking time to honor them in an upcoming worship service as they complete this phase of their work. Thank you again for your patience and support throughout this journey and we look forward to seeing you Sunday!

In Christ,
Pastor Adam, Pastor Renee, and Pastor Maikel



GIVING

Each of our campuses has a dedicated page with different options for giving:

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

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

THE **EVANGEL** is the newsletter of St. Matthews United Methodist Church - Browns Lane & River City campuses. Send all items for inclusion in the newsletter to: hzoercher@stmumc.org.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 14, 2022 - 7:00PM

A HOLY WEEK PRAYER EXPERIENCE



STATIONS OF THE CROSS DES PRES PARK PAVILLION - LOWE ROAD

RIVER CITY CAMPUS OF ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our River City campus is hosting a Stations of the Cross worship experience at Des Pres Park (4709 Lowe Rd). We will meet at the pavilion, walk around the walking path, and experience each station of the cross. If it is raining we will have a service in the sanctuary (4611 Lowe Rd). Everyone is welcome!

GOOD FRIDAY

john rutter requiem

· T · E · N · E · B · R · A · E ·
APRIL 15, 2022 - 7:00pm

St. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BROWNS LANE CAMPUS

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. This year's Tenebrae will also include music from John Rutter's Requiem. Join us in-person or on Facebook Live!

The Evangel for March 18, 2022
 St. Matthews United Methodist Church
 319 Browns Lane at Norbourne Boulevard
 Louisville, Kentucky 40207

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Louisville, KY
 Permit No. 127

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Adam Sparks..... Senior Pastor
 Rev. Renee Jennings..... Associate Pastor
 Rev. Maikel Rojas..... Associate Pastor
 Kate Shafferman..... Care Coordinator
 Harrison Zoercher..... Director of Discipleship & Missions; Organist
 Shannon Seidt..... Director of Children's Ministries
 Noel Weaver..... Director of Music Ministries
 Miriam Rodriguez..... Music Associate, Canvas
 Raiko Ruz..... Music Associate, TDA
 Aaron Weaver..... Music Associate, Youth
 Mark Benz..... Music Associate, Children's Choirs
 Amber Jenkins..... St. Matthews Campus Youth Minister
 Andrew Chapman..... River City Worship Leader
 Lexie Chapman..... River City Children's & Nursery Ministry Director
 Sandy Hotell..... Administrator/Financial Secretary
 Allyson McCormick..... Nursery Coordinator
 Frank Krause..... Sexton

Traditional Worship - 8:30 & 11 AM;
 Contemporary - 11 AM
 Sunday School - 10:00 AM
 Hispanic Worship - 5:30PM

ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 319 Browns Lane at Norbourne Boulevard • Louisville, KY 40207
 502-897-6449
 www.stmatthewsmethodist.com

