



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

The ParishScope April 2020

*Take
a
look
inside!*

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Online Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm on April 10th

St. Matthew's is having a Good Friday service at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 10th. The service is built around a series of dramatic readings of the passion story using Mark's gospel as a guide. There will also be pictures to enhance the readings. In addition, we will sing several hymns, candles will be extinguished and the sanctuary will be gradually darkened.

Whether or not you are a member of Facebook, you can connect with the service

as its happening on the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stmatts1>

You can also join in the service later by going to the "new" St. Matthew's web page at <https://www.stmattsumc.com>

Then, click on "Recent Services" on the upper right-hand side of the page. It will take you to the Good Friday service.



Join Together for the Good Friday Prayer Vigil on April 10th

There will be a Good Friday Prayer Vigil from 12 noon to 2:00 pm on April 10th. People are invited to pray at home for 10-15 minutes or longer anytime between 12 noon and 2 pm. (The Sanctuary will *not* be used.)

People taking part in the Prayer Vigil can pray in a variety of ways including:

- focusing on particular prayer concerns in their hearts
- praying for our world and its people as we live through the Corona Virus pandemic
- giving thanks for God's work in our world
- lifting up people who are included on the church's regular weekly prayer list
- requesting God's guidance for our church, our nation, our world
- using a hymn or written prayer to steer one's prayer time
- just sitting quietly in God's presence

Use the resources you have at home. This may include a hymnal, *Upper Rooms*, favorite written prayers, reading scripture passages, Some may wish to use a newspaper or other news source to guide you as you pray for our community and the world during this time.

Here is a suggested prayer for our world as people everywhere struggle with the COVID-19.

Please pray for:

- those who are ill or have died with COVID-19 and their loved ones
- doctors, nurses, paramedics, first responders who are putting themselves in harms way to save the lives of others
- those at risk, including those with compromised immune systems and over 65
- folks who are running errands and getting provisions for people at risk so that they can stay safely at home
- people without work or reduced hours during this time
- governmental officials to provide leadership and make wise decisions
- researchers who are working to find medicines and treatments that are effective
- workers providing food, supplies, protective equipment, power, water, . . . that we need to live through this time
- people in our communities to work together to help one another through this time
- others whom we name in our hearts



Celebrating Easter Differently

EASTER Online

This year we will celebrate Easter several different times. These include:

- Celebrating Easter Sunday on its traditional date – April 12 – with an online worship service.
- Celebrating Easter Sunday with a “traditional” Easter service shortly after we resume in person worship in the sanctuary. The choir has already begun using rehearsal recordings at home to work on special music for this service. Watch the *ParishScope*, your e-mail and announcements for more information.

St. Matt’s Church Council Is Guiding the Church Family Through this Rapidly Changing Time

The Church Council has met 3 times during the last month to guide St. Matthew’s through this rapidly changing time. Under the Council’s leadership the following has happened:

- St. Matthew’s has started worshipping online.
- St. Matthew’s now has a way for people to make online contributions.
- People can now drop their gifts by the church using the secured lock box on the office door.
- The church has a “new” redesigned web page.
- The congregation has a new 2020 directory
- The congregation – including fellowship groups and church committees – and preschool have new ways to gather, stay connected and continue working together.

TOGETHER
AS ONE



The Church Council is the place where all of the church’s leadership come together to provide overall guidance for the church. It includes leadership from all of the church’s committees plus additional folks to help round out its membership. The Church Council began meeting regularly last December under the leadership of Marilyn Matthews to provide better overall leadership to the St. Matthew’s church family.

SPRC, Finance and Trustees continue meeting regularly to help guide the church through this time. They are coordinating their work through the Church Council.

Online Worship Begins at St. Matthew's



St. Matthew's continues to worship together each week, just differently. In response to "Safer at Home", St. Matthew's began having online worship services on March 15th using Facebook live.

The service officially begins at 10:00 am. But many are coming 5 minutes early – at 9:55 am – for an extended prelude. (Note: change to 5 minutes early from 10 minutes early.) Others join the service later during the week using the recording that's available both through St. Matthew's "new" website and on the church's Facebook page.

Each week, there are slides showing the words of the hymns so people can sing at home. (And, many folks report that they are!) There is lots of special music including a solo and an extended prelude. We pray together. The Bible is read and Pastor Richard shares a message based on the Bible reading. The service ends with St. Matthew's "traditional" sung benediction song, *The Lord Bless and Keep You*.

An unexpected surprise of doing online worship is how many people have come! Each week at least 300 – and sometimes more than 500 – people are joining together for the worship at St. Matthew's. Many shut-ins in the church family are now enjoying coming to church each week. The church is also receiving positive, encouraging comments from around the country including places such as Minnesota, Tennessee and Utah. Some are from people in the extended church family. Others are from folks who are connected in many different ways with the church family. If you're on Facebook, you can help spread the word. Consider sharing the link to each week's worship service on your Facebook page.

Some thought online worship couldn't be done. But where there is a will, there is a way. Each week, the service continues to happen online. People's words of encouragement are greatly appreciated. So are the many helpful suggestions on ways to strengthen the service.

Whether or not you are a member of Facebook, you can connect with the service as it's happening on the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stmatts1>

You can also join in the service later by going to the "new" St. Matthew's web page at <https://www.stmattsumc.com>

Then, click on "Recent Services" on the upper right-hand side of the page. It will take you to the most recent Sunday Service. And, all of the other worship services since March 15th are there too. With worship online, you never have to miss Sunday worship again.

Wednesday Worship Continues at the Palms



Worship continues to happen at 3:00 pm each Wednesday at the Palms Retirement Community in La Mirada. People are gathering for the service through a group telephone call since many residents of the Palms do not use the internet. The service has been adapted to work better using the phone. There is a time of sharing, followed by special music from Johnny Doyle. The Bible is read and Pastor Richard shares a short mediation. The service ends with prayer.

To learn how to access this service using a phone – either landline or mobile – contact the church office 626-333-6656 or Pastor Richard on his cell phone, 626-261-1428.

Pack 710 Wants to Run Critical Errands for St. Matt's Church Family & Others



As we all do our part to stop the spread of the Covid-19 by staying at home we realize that there are members of our community that may be more restricted than others, especially our elder members.

Our Pack would like to offer any member of St. Matthews United Methodist or a neighbor with a little helping hand. If you have critical errands (such as grocery items, prescriptions, & etc.) but are not comfortable leaving your home, please reach out to us. To reach us please do the following:

1. Send an email to: hpack710@gmail.com
2. List your need
3. Include your name and phone number for us to contact you

We will pair you up with one of our pack members who can facilitate your needs. Please give us at least 24 hours to respond to your request.

Pack 710 would like to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your church community. As we navigate Covid-19 and the new normal, we're all learning to deal with together. We would like to do our part and do what we can to support you as you have us.

– Pack 710 Leadership

Women's Retreat 2020



We had great plans and a wonderful committee excited to share our St. Matthew Women's Retreat at Carlsbad in May. Welcome bags were ready, roommates were assigned, an exciting craft was prepared. Our movie, discussion, and Sunday worship were planned.

We were so disappointed to have to cancel our beloved retreat due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has swept our country as well as many others. The most important consideration is the health and safety of all.

Our hopes are to gather in sisterhood again in 2021 in Carlsbad.

During this time, don't forget to keep in touch with friends and family. Enjoy the beautiful sunshine we are so fortunate to be blessed with. And, enjoy our Sunday worship time via the internet. It is fun to be able to "attend" church and listen to inspirational music and sermon in your jammies.

– *Your Women's Retreat Committee*

Women Only, This Is for You!!!!



Come to breakfast each Wednesday at 8:30 am by a Zoom meeting. Call me and I'll give you all the info and the link to get you on. Call the number or email info below.

It's so easy and we can see each other on the screen. It doesn't take the place of our hugs. But, it's the next best thing. We had 7 folks today and we all talked for 1½ hours. We can all talk at the same time just like our regular breakfast. Really fun and helping us to feel more normal and connected to each other.

We've missed some of you. So y'all come next week. You'll be so happy you did and so will we. No need to dress up or brush your teeth before you get your cup of coffee to join us.

Call or email me for the zoom link. 909-598-6868, joyfeulner@verizon.net.

– *Joy Feulner*

Three Ways to Give To St. Matthew's As We Worship Online



There are three different ways that people can give their offerings during this time when St. Matthew's is only worshipping online.

1) You can send your offering to the church at 15653 Newton St., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745.

The mail is picked up daily from the church's secured mailbox.

2) You can bring your gift to the church. There is a new locked box on the front door of the church which is checked regularly.

3) You can make an online gift. After you've done it once or twice, you may find it faster than writing a check, addressing the envelope and then putting everything in the mail.

St. Matthew's ONLINE GIVING

*You've haven't tried out our online giving system yet?
That's okay! It's very easy to use.*

Simply go online to:

<https://www.stmattsumc.com>

Then click on "Donate" on the Upper Right-Hand Side

(First time givers will be prompted to provide their payment method via a secure web page.)

If you need assistance you can call, text or email Patty Graves or Bob Hernandez

Patty's cell: 562 713 8717 or Pattygraves@hotmail.com

There Is a New Church Directory



In order to help people in the church family stay connected, there is a new 2020 church directory. And, a "newer" updated 2020 church directory is being sent out both by e-mail and regular mail later this week. The new directory includes addresses, phone numbers (including many cell phones) and e-mail addresses. If you don't get your copy, please contact the church office by phone 626-333-6656 or e-mail office@smumchh.org.

Sheila Crain continues coordinating directory updates. Please send changes to her at scrainx4@aol.com. You can also send her a note through the church office. Many, many thanks to Sheila for her work on this project.

St. Matthew's Has a "New" Website!!

Many thanks to Terry Feulner, David Crain and Pastor Richard who completed the initial replacement of the old, very old St. Matthew's Website. Here's the link to the new website <https://www.stmattsumc.com>

There are several features in the "new" website. We will be adding more functionality and updating the content over the next couple of weeks. Here's some of what's included:

- Link to the Preschool website
- Link to St. Matt's Facebook page
- Links to email for all staff
- Instructions for how to donate to St. Matthew's
- Link to the donation website
- Improved pictures
- Access to the *ParishScope* and the Church Calendar
- Google map to St. Matt's
- Links to videos of past online services
- What St. Matthew's Believes



The project's goal is to achieve some immediate and basic functionality like publishing the *ParishScope* online, Internet enabling the Sunday collection plate (reported elsewhere in this *ParishScope*) and integrating the Preschool website with St. Matthew's. After basic functionality is established, we expect to fall back, regroup and develop a larger website presence. Such a presence can extend St. Matthew's reach to prospective new members as well as our current members who are geographically distant. This is something we have intended for 10 years.

Please send suggested updates to Terry Feulner at jtfeulner@verizon.net.

Where We Stand With Stewardship: A Note from Finance

Hello Friends,

I hope you are all doing well. I also hope you are social distancing and regularly washing your hands because I want to see you all back in worship when we can start attending worship services in the Sanctuary again.

I want to bring you up to speed on our 2020 pledge campaign. We received 43 pledges in 2020 compared to 37 in 2019. 3 of the 43 pledges received are from people who have not pledged before or are new to giving to St. Matthew's. Plus, there are several families who started giving to St. Matthew's who haven't been giving for awhile. The average increase in individual pledges this year is 9% over what was given in 2019.

We estimate giving for the congregation as a whole in 2020 to be just over \$210,000. However, this could change because of the corona virus.

Some may not have pledged yet. That's OK. People can still pledge by mailing your pledge card in to the church office. If you don't have a pledge card, you can call the church office so that one can be mailed out to you. You can send the pledge card to:

St. Matthews UMC
15653 Newton St.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745



The work of St Matthew's continues even though we are not currently attending worship in the Sanctuary. Louise is still working in the office. Our custodian Greg is still cleaning around the church. Our preschool director and teachers are still working a few hours a day with the preschool students via online video. Pastor Richard is very busy leading St. Matthew's during these extraordinary times.

If you are able, please continue giving to St. Matthew's. This can be done a variety of ways.

- You can mail a check to the church at the address listed above. The church has a locking mail box and the mailbox is checked daily. Or,
- If you feel like getting out of the house for a few minutes, you can drop off your check in the drop box on the door to the church office. It's a locking box that was recently mounted on the door. Or,
- You can give online by going to St. Matthew's website at <https://www.stmattsumc.com> There you'll find a link to give a donation.

Whichever way you choose to give, please know that your gift is greatly appreciated. It will be used to further the work of St. Matthew's in Hacienda Heights and around the world.

Yours in Christ,
Bob Hernandez

St. Matthew's Preschool Keeps on Helping Children!



There have been substantial changes in how we operate the preschool over the past month due to the risks and restrictions placed on everyone due to the Corona virus. Because of the "Safer at Home" order, March 13th was the last day we physically had the preschool facility open and operating. However, this has not precluded us from continuing to provide services to our families.

We started off the week of March 16th by introducing an online learning program for our students. The initial program consisted of materials being emailed to our parents every other day. This included academic worksheets, thematic crafts and activities and links to music and movement songs. At the end of the first week, Pastor Richard added to the online learning curriculum by filming children's chapel and putting it to the preschool's Facebook page.

The week of March 23rd began with a new and exciting aspect of online learning. On that Wednesday, the teachers began a virtual learning program with their students using the church's zoom account. The teachers and their children are logging in every day during the week and meeting face to face. They are able to do circle time, worksheets, songs and activities virtually with their class!

It has been an amazing experience that has allowed our teachers and students to continue to connect on an academic and social level even as they are not able to physically connect with one another. We greatly look forward to being able to reopen the preschool once it is safe for the staff and students to do so. But until then, we will continue to reach out to our families in alternative ways in order to maintain our promise of academic, social and spiritual learning.

Many Blessings,
Sherry Morales



Report from Our Board of Trustees



Dear St. Matthew's Congregation, from our March meeting:

Thanks to Boy Scout Eagle Projects from Troops 730 and 707. They and their parents dug and cleaned out the old soil from the planters surrounding the Fellowship Hall. They replaced it with new soil and new drought resistant plants chosen to compliment the plants to be used in the landscaping of the front of our Sanctuary. They also cleaned out the Aney Meditation Garden, and trimmed the shrubbery all along the West side of the front parking lot. Thanks to Huber Bongolan for organizing the Scout projects.

Nearly 2/3rds of the monies have been raised to install the chair lift in the Sanctuary, to get folks down to the restrooms.

Pastor Richard has worked to get a rebate for our church for past tax bills, and a revised tax bill for this year. Terry Feulner has done the paperwork to get a water rebate.

Please keep in prayer the gardener for St. Matthew's UMC, who is suffering from prostrate cancer.

– *LaVerne Shaffer*,
Secretary for the Trustees

Report about the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless

The East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless Winter Shelter, at our newest local at Covina United Methodist Church, was suddenly closed on Thursday, March 12th. We had hoped to be open until March 17th. We had no warning of this closure, but did our best to care for our clients.

This year we felt we had some competition for funds and clients with others opening in L.A. County. However, we all know the Homeless numbers have greatly increased.

We have registered over 1,300 clients from December 1, 2019 to March 11th of this year. Details of that count and our services will be available later.

I am very proud to let you know the Matthews family and St. Matthew's UMC provided a substantial meal on March 17th for the clients. Our local Casa Blanca Restaurant did the cooking for me with a generous discount.

Please thank them if and when you stop by the restaurant.



– *Marilyn Matthews*

Pics from "Nifty After Fifty's" Mardi Gras Party



Le Chef !



Devine qui c'est? (Guess Who ?)



C'est qui nous sommes. (This is who we are.)



Used Eyeglasses Recycled Around the World



Thanks to so many for donating used eyeglasses to be recycled to the needy around the world. Many thanks to St. Matthew's, especially Shirley Butler, for helping the Lions Club so far collect 1,600 pairs of used eyeglasses this year. A few weeks ago these eyeglasses were delivered to the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of Southern California for processing and distributing to the needy.

So many years ago, Helen Keller asked the International Lions International Clubs to be "Knights of the Blind". Therefore, now with 47,000 Clubs and 1,400,000 Lions in 210 Nations and their friends, the Lions are at work carrying out Helen Keller's wishes collecting and distributing used eyeglasses to those who can't afford or have access to eyeglasses.

– Robert Preston

A Thank You

Special Thanks To

An extra special thanks to you, Janet Shoop, for donating those 4 super duper nice chairs (from her Mother's dining room) for around the small meeting table inside the Church Office. Thanks for "classin' up the joint"!

– Louise, Office Admin.

April Birthdays



April 2

Donna Lilly

April 10

Marilyn McMullin

April 11

Mabel Kim

Charlie Hogg

David Burton

April 22

Lucille Householder

April 27

Marilyn Matthews

Eastertime Thoughts from Louise in the Church Office

Thoughts to ponder as we celebrate Easter and the Risen Christ. The following comes to my mind each Easter Season and . . . even at Christmastime.

“Life and Love gave Jesus authority over sin, sickness, and death. His mission was to reveal the science of celestial being, to prove what God is and what He does for man.”

“Jesus of Nazareth taught and demonstrated man’s oneness with the Father, and for this we owe him endless homage.”

- Mary Baker Eddy

My prayers and wishes for your peace go out to each of you. Think good thoughts, reach out to someone if they need help, reach out to someone if you need help. Let’s continue to love our neighbors as best we can (don’t ignore the “social distancing” practice tho). Continue to be safe and remember we are in God’s care. I do miss seeing and hearing from you all. Happy Easter, dear St. Matthew’s Church Family!



Your Office Administrator,
Louise

Coronavirus, What Each of Us Can Do

St. Matthew’s response to the Coronavirus has been decisive and swift. Under Pastor’s leadership, St. Matthew’s has aggressively deployed the power of the Internet to:

- Continue Sunday services along with our music program
- Maintain connections with our extended — and now expanding — Church family
- Maintain oversight of our Church administrative functions such as Finances and Trustees
- Continue some of our social groups such as the Women’s and Men’s breakfasts.
- Extend our reach into the homes of our Preschool children and families with daily online learning sessions.

We have all experienced the positive effects of these efforts as St. Matthew’s demonstrates our ability to promptly react to new challenges while following social distancing directives.

Still, for the foreseeable future and like other churches, St. Matthew’s faces basic monthly expenses to keep the Church open and serving the community. While many churches might crumble, Pastor Richard announces, amid his tireless efforts, he and Ruth will be donating 1/4 of his salary back to St. Matthew’s each pay period for the next three months. This gift is part of the foundation which allows St. Matthew’s to keep all of its staff in place. While many have reduced hours, none have been laid off.

The Bible says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21). Please prayerfully consider how you can sustain our Church as an enduring presence in our community, rising to meet the financial threat that is facing our Church today.

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21

David Crain,
SPRC Chair

Online Communion Happens at St. Matthew's

The worship service on April 5 included gathering the church family together for communion. Some gathered at 10 am as worship was happening. Others have been joining since then. You can watch Pastor Richard's brief video on how to prepare for online communion at

<https://www.facebook.com/Stmatts1/videos/2408574115909743>








And you can participate in the worship service with communion at

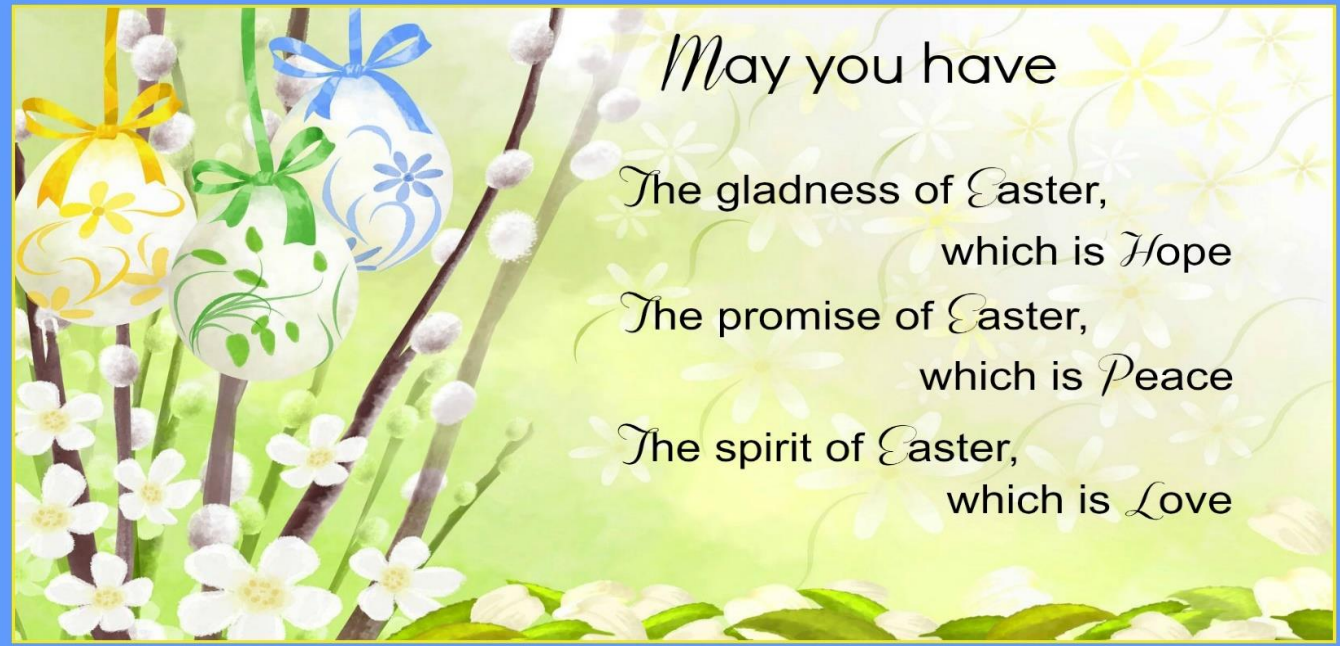
<https://www.facebook.com/Stmatts1/videos/2706546092789211>





St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 April Fool's Day 			
5 Palm Sunday  10 a.m. – Please sure to watch and even participate in our Worship Service from the comfort of your home via www.facebook.com					10 Good Friday Noon - 2pm Good Friday Prayer Vigil at homes 7pm – Good Friday Service Please sure to watch and even participate in this service from the comfort of your home via www.facebook.com 	
12 EASTER  10 a.m. – Please sure to watch and even participate in our Worship Service from the comfort of your home via www.facebook.com	<p>For the safety of each of us, our families, friends, neighbors, and our World, St. Matthew's is and will be following all health orders from the Officials at the CDC and the Officials of our State until this worldwide <i>CoronaVirus</i> disease is under control.</p> <p>We remain in our homes whenever possible, keep the "social distance" of 6 feet from each other if we need to be out a about, and are currently not holding any gatherings.</p> <p>Yes – St. Matthew's remains to "Stay Connected" with each other by means of "electronic communications".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LET'S CONTINUE TO KEEP IN TOUCH !!!</p> <p>Those committees and groups who "get together" are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. - Women's Breakfast Group</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Bunch</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Wednesday's – Richard is streaming Chapel Time to our Preschool Children</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Our Committees are still "meeting" via conference calling. Those committees are our Board of Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee, our Finance Committee, and the Staff of our Preschool.</p> <p>Please note that if you are currently serving on one of our church's committees, please contact the committee chairperson as to what day and time you will be "getting together" by means of good old fashioned conference calls or "electronic communication".</p> <p>If you participate in any of St. Matthew's small groups, classes or social activities, also please contact your group leader as to when you are "getting together".</p>					
19  10 a.m. – Please sure to watch and even participate in our Worship Service from the comfort of your home via www.facebook.com						
26  10 a.m. – Please sure to watch and even participate in our Worship Service from the comfort of your home via www.facebook.com						



May you have

*The gladness of Easter,
which is Hope*

*The promise of Easter,
which is Peace*

*The spirit of Easter,
which is Love*



ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

15653 E. Newton Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

Phone: 626-333-6656 Email: Office@smumchh.org

Rev. Richard Bentley, Pastor Louise Green, Office Administrator Elaine Ono, Director of Music
Greg Gomez, Custodian Morgan Matthews, Sound Technician
Sherry Morales, Director of Preschool, 626-330-8340, www.smumpc.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

St. Matthews United Methodist Church
15653 E. Newton Street
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

