



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

The ParishScope *July 2020*



"Christmas in July" Worship Service on July 26th

**During our Worship Service
on Sunday, July 26th
we will be celebrating
"Christmas in July".**



We will be singing lots of Christmas Carols and enjoying
the **SPiRiT OF CHRISTMAS**
even if it is July and the weather is hot.

And . . . hopefully there will even be a few
Christmastime decorations up in our Sanctuary.



A Big Thanks to St. Matthew's Church Family

Dear Church Family,

I want to take a minute to tell you how awesome St. Matthew's members are. We currently have over \$35,000 in our "Matching Gifts Fund." That means that you, St. Matthew's members, have given over \$20,000, matched by a gift of \$15,000 to fix the office roof and the preschool playground. Thank you to everyone who has given to these projects.

By the time you read this article, the office roof will have been replaced and we'll be ready to weather the winter storms this year.

We are still working on repairing the preschool playground equipment. We have a contractor ready to do the work but there are some details that have to be worked out. We hope to have the playground ready to go soon.

If you haven't given yet and you feel like giving, there are three ways for you to give:

- You can mail a check to the church at:

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

The church has a locking mailbox 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 is checked daily. Or,
- You can give online by going to St. Matthew's website at

<https://www.stmattsumc.com> where you'll find a link to give your donation.

Whichever way you choose to give, please know that your gift is greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ,

Bob Hernandez, Finance Committee Chair



Beginning repair of roof



Roof all done!

St. Matthew's Plans to Continue and Strengthen the Online Worship Service

Online worship will continue even when in person worship in the Sanctuary resumes. Many of the 300+ people who worship online each week at St. Matthew's will be unable to come to worship in person. People from as far away as Minnesota, Tennessee, Utah and Africa have left comments encouraging comments about the online worship service.

People want the online worship service to continue for a variety of reasons. Some are shut-ins who can only worship online. Others live so far away its impractical to come except perhaps for special occasions. Yet others sometimes travel so online worship allows them to come wherever in the world they happen to be.

Since St. Matthew's is going to continue offering online worship, it is beginning to invest in equipment to strengthen its online worship capabilities. The improvements in the July 5 worship service were made possible by recently purchased equipment. St. Matthew's has begun consulting with an audio/visual specialist who came highly recommended by other United Methodists. The consultant has made many practical, inexpensive suggestions over the past few weeks that have been very helpful. In addition, the consultant is working with church leadership to develop an overall plan what is needed in order to do online worship well. Once the plan is complete, there will be additional equipment purchases. This includes upgrading from the smart phone we're using right now to one (or possibly more) good camera(s). Sometimes it's been hard to find the needed equipment because so many churches started worshipping online at the same time.

Many thanks to our tech crew – Morgan Matthews, Ruth Hutchison and Jack Weatherford with help from many others – for providing the foundations that make online worship possible each week.

What are the Plans for In Person Worship to Resume in the Sanctuary?

St. Matthew's is exploring how to resume in person worship while continuing to offer online worship. Some in the church family long to gather together for worship as soon as possible. Others do not yet feel safe in group gatherings. And, some have family who don't want them to leave the house for anything.

In addition to the congregation's differing viewpoints, there is Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Since some people are sick with COVID-19 and infecting others without any signs of illness, loving our neighbor as ourself requires worshiping and gathering in ways that protect people from being infected by someone who doesn't know they are sick. The Church Council has established a task force to develop a plan to help do this. Members of the task force are Olga Baker, Mike Gallagher, Bob Hernandez, Marilyn Matthews, Sherry Morales, Elaine Ono and Pastor Richard. Please pray for them as they wrestle with developing this plan.

As part of developing this plan, the church is mailing a letter to everyone in the church family. The letter includes a questionnaire for people to return to the church. The questionnaire provides everyone in the church family an opportunity to share their views and help church leadership better understand people's needs.

Once a plan to resume in person worship is developed, it will need to be approved by groups within our church and also by our district superintendent. So, it may be a while before in person worship resumes.

Whatever St. Matthew's does next, we will need to offer worship in ways that meet the differing needs of our church family.

Father's Day Happened at St. Matthew's

This year for Father's Day our guest preacher was Rich Kozak. He shared an uplifting and inspiring message about Forgiving Fathers – both about fathers who forgive and moments when fathers may need to be forgiven. Caleb Shim shared a brief Father's Day greeting on behalf of all the children in the congregation. You can still watch Rich's sermon and Caleb's greeting on the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stmatts1/videos/> (You do NOT need to be a member of Facebook to watch these services.)



Memorial Fund in Memory of Maxine Singiser

Family and friends of Maxine Singiser have established a memorial fund in her memory. Maxine so enjoyed our online Worship Service. Even if she wasn't feeling well, the online service meant she could be in church every Sunday.

Gifts to her memorial have already helped strengthen online worship by making several much needed purchases possible. Your gifts to Maxine's memorial are still welcome. Send your gift to the church or contribute online. Be sure to mark your gift "Singiser Memorial". Thank you.



St. Matthew's Preschool Hopes to Reopen August 6

Warm weather, nature in full bloom and the preschool has a date set to reopen! Hooray for summer! We are looking forward to resuming school as of August 3rd. The past few months have been challenging to navigate and we are happy that some sense of normalcy is on the horizon. While there is a ton of preparation and additional work that is required in order to open the preschool, the benefits of reuniting with our students and their families far outweigh the drawbacks of the extra work.

Stay Safe!
Sherry Morales

GOD holds
my today and tomorrow
in the Palm Of His Hands.
No matter what comes against me,
I'm secured and safe in His Hands.



Graduates Were Recognized in All Kinds of Ways on June 14

On Sunday morning during the online worship service, St. Matthew's recognized 12 high school graduates and 5 college graduates connected with the church family.

Then on Sunday evening, about 20 people in the church family joined together for a car parade. It started with cars assembling in the church parking lot. Some cars came fully decorated, others not so much. Some folks came from Hacienda Heights while others came from as far away as Brea and Cypress. After everyone had gathered, a line of cars caravanned to the homes of two graduates who are church members – Ariana Robles and Brad Hernandez. Both Ariana and Brad were surprised as a long line of honking cars filled with smiling, waving people very slowly drove past their homes. And then when they thought it was over, the line of cars turned around to come back for a second pass!! A good time was had by all.

Ariana Robles & her Dad, Sam Robles



Thank You Notes from Graduates for Surprise Car Parade Celebrating Their Graduation

Good afternoon St. Matthew's,

Thank you so much for the drive-by surprise. I was definitely surprised and overwhelmed with love and joy. I am so blessed to call St. Matthew's my home away from home. Also, thank you for the wonderful flowers, books and journal. They were all beautiful. I miss every member at St. Matthew's very much. Thank you again for all your love and support.

Yours truly, Ariana Leilani Robles

Dear St. Matthew's,

My name is Brad Hernandez. I am Diane and Bob Hernandez's son. This is a little late but I would like to thank those that drove by my house to congratulate me on my graduation from University of Redlands. It was very unexpected and a lovely surprise. Please spread my thanks to those that were a part of it.

Thank you, Brad Hernandez

Honoring Our Church Family's 2020 Graduates



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

- Ariana L. Robles**, Los Altos High School. Going on to Cal State Fullerton majoring in Communicative Disorders. **Church member and daughter of Sam and Rosa Robles.**
- Joshua Schlitt**, Rowland High School, **Grandson of Joyce Schlitt.**
- Ivan Schlitt**, High School in Yucaipa. **Great-grandson of Joyce Schlitt.**
- Max Ryan Seiler**, Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills. Going on to Sacramento State College majoring in Automotive Engineering. **Grandson of Ron and Doris Sachs.**
- Rasheed McRae**, Milton Hershey High School in Pennsylvania. Going on to Indiana of Pennsylvania majoring in Health and Human Services. **Great-nephew of LaVerne Shaffer.**
- Israel Bongolan**, Pasadena High School. Going on to Pasadena City College then transferring to UCLA. **Nephew of Huber and Carlita Bongolan.**
- Sydney Sherman**, Tesaro High School. Going on to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in Bio-Medical Engineering. **Granddaughter of Dick and Diane Cline.**
- Logan Diedrich**, Flower Mound High School in Texas. Going on to University of Oklahoma majoring in Business. **Granddaughter of Dick and Diane Cline.**
- Tyler McGow**, Diamond Ranch High School. Earned a scholarship to Mount Sac to play Volleyball. **Granddaughter of Orlen Willoughby.**
- Matthew Willoughby**, High School in Las Vegas. Going on to University of Florida majoring in Aeronautical Engineering. **Grandson of Orlen Willoughby.**
- Conner Vroman**, Oak Hills High School. Going on to Victor Valley Community College pursuing a Nursing Degree. **Grandson of Larry and Judy Vroman.**

COLLEGE GRADUATES:

- Bradford Hernandez**, University of Redlands with a Bachelor Degree in Business. **Church member and son of Bob and Diane Hernandez.**
- Travis Bell**, UC Berkley with a BA in Political Economy. **Grandson of Olga Baker.**
- Amelia Feick**, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a BS in Environmental Engineering. Hired by Roux Engineering. **Granddaughter of Ruth Feick and daughter of Ken and Susan Feick.**
- Riley Kline**, La Verne University with a BS in Business. Continuing on to earning a Masters Degree. **Grandson of Sharon Kline.**
- Sarah Preston**, Cal State Fullerton with a B of A in Arts. **Granddaughter of Bob Preston.**
- Hannah Wyatt**, University of California, Riverside, with a Masters in Bioengineering. **Granddaughter of Terry and Joy Feulner and daughter of Charlie and Wendy Wyatt.**



How to Connect with Online Worship

For the complete detailed instruction on how to view St. Matthew's Sunday Services Live, or view previously recorded Worship Services at any time you like, please contact the Church Office. Email your request to office@smumchh.org or call 626-333-6656. We will be glad to mail or email you the three pages of complete instructions.

Louise, Office Administrator



Join Us Sunday Morning for Adult Sunday School Class

Adult Sunday School Class has resumed at 8:45 am each Sunday. New people are welcome. The Adult Sunday School Class is under the leadership of Rodney Kurimoto. The class is part of the way through a study of the history of the Christian movement. You do not need to register in order to come to the class. But, if you contact Rodney by e-mail or phone, then he can send you helpful material for each week's class. His e-mail is rkkurimoto@gmail.com. You can get his phone number by calling the church office or looking in the church directory.

The class uses zoom to listen/watch each week's presentation. Afterwards, there is a class discussion. While the presentation is a video, its content makes sense even if you only hear it by phone. The notes Rodney sends in advance are particularly helpful to those who are listening by phone.

If you are coming by phone (i.e. you do not need a computer to come),

Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 832 3700 6446#

If asked for a second ID: #

Password: 778913#

If you are coming by computer, tablet,

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 832 3700 6446

Password: 77891

You can also e-mail the church office for a link at office@smumchh.org

Wednesday Worship Continues at the Palms

**WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP**

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 meditation. 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.



Board of Trustees Decides All Groups Meeting at Church Need to Wear Face Coverings

Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Some people who are sick with COVID-19 do not show any signs of illness. Because they are sick, they can infect others without anyone being aware this is happening. So, loving our neighbor as ourselves requires gathering in ways that protect one another from being infected by someone who doesn't know they are sick.

Wearing a face covering in case you are sick but don't know is one of the most effective ways to keep others from becoming infected. One of the primary ways that COVID-19 spreads from one person to another is through droplets that sick people breathe out which then float in the air. Wearing a face covering keeps a sick person from putting these droplets into the air where they can infect others. Wearing a face covering is *not* about keeping the person wearing it safe from others, but about protecting others in case the person wearing it is sick but doesn't know it.

During its July meeting, the Board of Trustees discussed what a group meeting on the St. Matthew's campus needs to do in order to resume person gathering. It is working with the Church Council in the overall development of these plans. For the time being – especially with the present increase in infections – it does not encourage any in person meetings.

During the board's discussion, it became clear how important it is to wear face covering in order to protect others. So, the Board of Trustees voted to require that any plan which allows people to meet together in person needs to include wearing face coverings. All groups – including fellowship and study groups – are asked to follow this requirement.

In addition, as in person gatherings are allowed to resume, the Trustees encourage groups to meet outside on the church's beautiful grounds whenever possible. For a variety of reasons, outside gatherings are safer than inside gatherings.



Invite from Elaine Ono, Director of Music

St. Matthew's Chancel Choir and Carillon Ringers have been "getting together" via ZOOM conferencing. We get together on Thursdays as we usually do when we are rehearsing for Sunday Worship.

If anyone else would like to join and socialize with the choir and bell ringers – we would love it! We "meet" every other Thursday at 3:00pm. In July we "meet" on July 2, July 16, and July 30.

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82716181867?pwd=N0VVdEZPRVd5VmhJTINmMFBJSmJvQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 1618 1867

Password: 536478

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,82716181867#,,1#,536478# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,82716181867#,,1#,536478# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 827 1618 1867

Password: 536478

Hope everyone is staying cool, getting some exercise, eating well, and finding ways to be happy and connected during these uncertain times. Miss you all! BIG HUG!!

Elaine Ono

A Laugh for the Day



**So I got pulled over
in the HOV lane and
when the cop asked
where was my
passenger, I told him
due to social distancing
he was in the car
behind me.**



Women's Breakfast Group Gets Together

Women's breakfast is a hit!!!!!! No getting up early, no dressing up, no lipstick, no traffic. But we all do comb our hair, I think. We have many coming on Zoom. Get your cup of coffee and join us. Every Wednesday at 8:30 Pacific Time. Some of us are in another time zone and love being included. "See" you Wednesday.

Contact Joy for more information at joyfeulner@verizon.net.

Joy Feulner



Men's Breakfast Continues to Meet

Every Thursday, about 10 of us get together for a cup of coffee (formerly breakfast) on-line. It's a great opportunity to stay connected with friends and with what's going on at Church. So next time 8 O'Clock Thursday rolls around, drop in on our Zoom meeting—there's plenty of room for more! Just Click on [Men's Breakfast](#). Use the Meeting ID: 638 574 0531, Password: 118405. Or, if your computer has no video camera, just call in: 1-669-900-6833. Contact David Crain at davidwcrain@aol.com for more information.

David Crain

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The main window displays a 3x3 grid of video thumbnails for participants. The participants are: Dick Cline, 118405 (me), Rodney, wes, Terry and Joy Feulner, Eileen Casterline, Jack's iPad17, Glenn Hayes, and Richard Bentley. At the bottom, there are two large circular icons for phone dial-in numbers: 16263332618 and 16263362403. On the right side, a 'Participants (11)' list is visible, showing the same participants with their names and initials, along with icons for mute, video, and chat. At the bottom right of the interface are buttons for 'Invite', 'Mute Me', and 'Raise Hand'.



Thank You Notes

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for keeping me in your prayers. Thank you also for all wonderful cards and phone calls. That meant so much to me and Jerry. I am getting better every day and hope to be back in church soon.

Fondly,
Eileen Casterline

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for honoring me on my birthday with your phone calls, phone calls signing me "Happy Birthday", bouquet of flowers, text messages, and all your cards.

Boy - St. Matthew's Congregation, you all certainly reflect God's love.

Lovingly,
Your Office Admin., Louise



Terry & Joy Keep in Touch from DE

Picture of Terry bringing in a bucket full of blue crabs for dinner. Our crab pot is about 500 feet from our front door. Lucky us! We love crab.

Joy Feulner

(P.S. Watch out Joy and Terry – St. Matt's Congregation just might appear at your door for dinner some night?)





Celebrating July Birthdays

July 1	Ester Elliott Lori Novak
July 2	Gary Lyons
July 9	Bill McMullin
July 11	Kathy Farley
July 12	Don King
July 13	Patrice Meighan
July 16	Patricia McIntosh
July 18	Dorothy Persinger
July 19	Julie Williams
July 20	Rich Kozak
July 21	Chris Kozak Joy Feulner Donna Lyons
July 23	Ariana Robles
July 31	Marcie Dietrich



Celebrating July Wedding Anniversaries

July 2	Richard Bentley & Ruth Hutchison
July 4	Tom & Shirley Aney
July 10	Gene & Jean Logan
July 10	Shelly (Aney) & Dave Sanders
July 12	Howard & Sandy King
July 14	Huber & Clarlita Bongolan
July 15	Bianca (Hernandez) & Rusty Ault
July 23	Eric & Leah Wood
July 24	Sam & Rosa Robles



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	2 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 10:30am - Bible Study 3:00pm - Online Choir & Bells Social Time	3 <i>Office Closed</i> 	<i>Happy July 4th</i>
5 4th of July Celebration during Worship 8:45 - Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship 	6 9:30am - Shalom	7 7pm - Trustees Meeting	8 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	9 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	10	11 7:30am - 3pm Eagle Scout Project for St. Matthew's
12 8:45 - Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship 	13 9:30am - Shalom	14 7pm - SPRC	15 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	16 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - Eve Circle 3:00pm - Online Choir & Bells Social Time 7:30pm - Church Council	17	18
19 8:45 - Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship 	20 9:30am - Shalom	21 7:45pm - Finance Mtg.	22 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	23 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	24	25
26 "Christmas in July" 8:45 - Adult Sunday School 9:55 - "Christmas in July" Worship 	27 9:30am - Shalom	28	29 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	30 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 3:00pm - Online Choir & Bells Social Time 10:30am - Bible Study	31	



TO VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICES:

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stmatts1>. You can also view past services by going to going <https://www.stmattsumc.com/facebook-live-test/> then click on the service you want.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO KEEP IN TOUCH!

Please watch your emails with details on how you can join in . . .

Every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. - *Shalom* (contact Sharon Kline).

Every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. - *Women's Breakfast Group*.

Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. - *Men's Breakfast Bunch*.

Trustees - First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. each month.

SPRC (Staff Parish Relations) - 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee - to be determined.

Church Council - 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Small Groups keep in touch by phone during the week.

Please note that if you are currently serving on one of our church's committees, participate in a class or social activities and have any questions, please contact your committee chairperson or leader.

**Just to be clear,
the Church has not been closed,
so it doesn't need to be re-opened.
We have simply stopped worshipping
in our buildings for a time
to protect the health & well-being
of our people & our communities.
The Church does not require a building
in order to be the Church.
What is required is love, compassion,
& the presence of God.**



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**

