



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

The ParishScope *August 2020*



Some of the Beauty of God - The Gorgeous Coast of California

ONLINE CONCERT!

St. Matthew's Facebook Live Concert on August 23rd @ 5:00pm



Join us via Facebook on Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 5:00pm on St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Facebook page for a concert. Or, if you can't come then, come when you can. The concert will be available to watch later.

This concert features a Los Angeles-based classical modern ensemble – the *ACE Trio*. It is an award winning ensemble of musicians, featuring Shannon Canchola (flute), Ryan Glass (clarinet), and Jason Stoll (piano). They specifically perform contemporary music written for them by living composers. They are based in California, professional musicians in the industry as well as on faculty at local colleges.

Because of concerns about protecting people's health and well being, there will *not* be a live audience in the Sanctuary. So, the only way to come is online through Facebook.

Please join us at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stmatts1>. (You do not need to belong to Facebook to do this.)

**“Engaging in Conversation: Let's Talk About It” -
A Church-wide Zoom Call, August 20th at 7:30 pm,
with Rodney Kurimoto**



In June, following the death of George Floyd, close to 30 of us participated in a zoom conversation about race in this country and our lives. Did you come away feeling there is still so much more to explore and learn and do and understand? I sure did. So, a small group formed and we call ourselves “Engaging in Conversation.” We have planned three follow up conversations over the coming weeks. We hope you will join us!

Get ready for “Let's Talk About It,” a churchwide zoom call, August 20th at 7:30 pm, to further explore our perceptions and attitudes about race. During World War II over one hundred twenty thousand Japanese Americans were relocated to internment camps such as Manzanar in the Owens Valley. They looked like the enemy and were treated as the enemy, even though about 62% of them were U.S. citizens. Families were forced to leave behind their businesses, property, and possessions. When released they returned to find those businesses, homes and possessions were gone or no longer theirs. This action forever changed their lives and the lives of generations to follow.

I recommend the following documentary for more information. It is about 22 minutes.
<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=remembering+manzanar+video#id=52&vid=de3d618a9a82c2e89c6aa7dbc00ddd30&action=click>

Rodney Kurimoto has agreed to share some of his and his family's experience as Japanese Americans during and after WWII. This will be followed by questions and a general discussion.

Please join us for this engaging conversation. You do *not* need a computer to do this. You can also come if you only have a landline. Here's how to come whether you have a landline, computer, tablet, smart phone,

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

Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 817 9155 1444#

If asked for a second ID: #

Password: 752980#

If you are coming by computer, tablet,

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

Meeting ID: 817 9155 1444

Password: 752980

Two other programs will follow: Monday August 31st and Monday Sept 14th. We will bring you announcements as dates and programs are settled.

- *Patty Graves*

Worship & Gatherings at St. Matthew's



The St. Matthew's Church Family is using Jesus' commandment – Love your Neighbor As Yourself – as its guiding principle. To follow this commandment is to follow the best understandings of how to protect others from becoming infected. Of special concern is providing protections from someone who does not know they are sick because they are symptom free.

Recently many parts of California including Los Angeles County have experienced an upsurge in infections. Our bishop has been very clear that St. Matthew's and all other United Methodist Churches need to follow all recommendations and requirements provided by state and local governments. So, for the time being St. Matthew's is only having online worship. While we may not have an indoor worship service, we may still have a group of up to 10 in the Sanctuary to provide the online service. With recent upgrades in technology, it is possible for this small group to broaden the leadership in the worship service beyond those who are physically present in the Sanctuary. Online worship is now able to include recordings by the chancel choir, bell choir and others. When it is finally possible to resume indoor in person worship, the worship service will need to include a number of changes to make it less likely for someone who comes to the service to become infected.

Church gatherings of 10 or less may continue. But every one needs to maintain 6 feet of social distancing and wear face coverings. Groups of 10 or less are strongly urged to meet outdoors instead of indoors. When people are outside, it is harder to become infected by someone who is sick but symptom free.

In order for a group to gather – even outdoors – which is larger than 10, a United Methodist church must have an approved written plan for how people will be protected. In addition to social distancing and face coverings, this plan needs to include things like how bathrooms and any shared surface will be disinfected between uses. St. Matthew's is currently developing a written plan for a group gathering on the church's front lawn. Once it is approved by the district, we will schedule a BYO (Bring Your Own) everything (chairs, shade coverings,) event. By Bringing Our Own everything to the lawn, we can see each other in a way makes it harder for anyone to get infected.

The task force that's working on the plan for this BYO gathering is Olga Baker, Mike Gallagher, Bob Hernandez, Marilyn Matthews, Elaine Ono, and Pastor Richard. Contact them if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions.

August 18th is the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote

On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed what is now the 19th amendment to give women the right to vote. Two weeks later, the Senate followed. When Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment on August 18, 1920, the amendment was adopted. The heart of the amendment states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."



On Sunday, August 16 the worship service at St. Matthew's will include a celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. A number of United Methodists – usually women – played important roles in the movement that led up to the passage of the 19th amendment.

Come to online worship on Sunday, August 16th – or catch it later on Facebook – to celebrate and learn more.

St. Matthew's Celebrated "Christmas in July"



During morning worship on July 26th, St. Matthew's celebrated Christmas in July. The Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) was read. Special Christmas prayers were shared. There were opportunities to reflect on the reason for the season and how God is with us during this difficult time. Towards the end of the service, people were encouraged to find and light a candle.

An important part of Christmas is the music. So the service included lots and lots:

- The Chancel Choir by video sang two festive Christmas pieces, *Night of the Father's Love* and *Christ is Born, Nowell!*
- The Bell Choir by video uplifted the congregation by ringing out *Joy to the World*
- Guest soloist Mary Palmer by video touched people's hearts with a solo, *Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child*
- Elaine Ono shared Christmas music during the Prelude & Postlude.
- The congregation sang many, many Christmas carols.
- The service ended with an invitation for everyone to sing *Silent Night* with any candles they had lit nearby.

Many people connected with the service as it was happening in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning. Since then, many more have connected with the service.

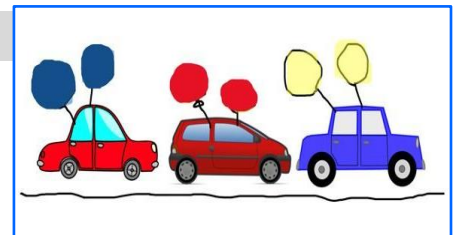
You can still take part in this joyous service. The following link takes you directly there <https://www.facebook.com/Stmatts1/videos/230581684660390/>

(You do *not* need to belong to Facebook to do this.)

In the midst of difficulties and challenges, God was with the people of Jesus' time. And God is with us now.

St. Matthew's Church Family Car Paraded on July 26th

Part of the spirit of Christmas is sharing with others. So after celebrating Christmas in July during the morning, a number of folks in the church family went car parading to the homes of shut-ins during the afternoon.



10 cars gathered in the church parking lot around 5:45 pm. Many had decorated their cars, but some had not. Then, a car caravan went to the homes of 3 shut-ins. The shut-ins were out in front of their homes – often with family, care givers and/or neighbors – to welcome the car parade. Lots of smiles, waves, and greetings were exchanged from a safe social distance. There was horn honking too!! Several in the car parade brought treats and/or gifts to share with the shut-ins. And, just when everyone thought it was over, the line of cars turned around (perhaps not on a dime) and came back for a second pass. A wonderful time was had by all.

Watch the church announcements and e-mails or call the church office for when the next St. Matthew's Car Parade will happen.



Cub Scout Cross Over Event

During the quarantine Cub Scout Pack 710 has been holding virtual Pack meetings to enable den leaders to remain in contact with the Cub Scouts in their dens.

Recently Pack 710 held a two-day Crossover event. During Crossover, the youths advance to their next level of Cub Scouts according to their grade level. On Friday evening, July 30, the Pack held a virtual Crossover on Zoom with the Cubmaster and Den Leaders congratulating the Cub Scouts on the awards they earned. On Saturday, August 1, the Pack held a drive-through Crossover in the front parking lot of St. Matthews Church for the Cub Scouts to actually receive their awards. Nineteen Cub Scouts were presented a special Pack 710 backpack containing their awards, certificates, two face masks, and a bottle of hand sanitizer. The Cub Scouts were able to walk over the bridge to officially “Cross-over” and to have family pictures taken at the bridge.

Thanks to folks in the St. Matthew’s Church Family who came and joined with others in honking their horns as the Cubs crossed over. It helped make it a special day.



- Dorothy Persinger
Cub Scout Coordinator



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 strengthened online worship by purchasing the camera that we just started using in Sunday’s service. Her memorial has also made several other much needed purchases possible. There are plans for how her memorial can continue to help get additional equipment which is needed for the online worship service.

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.

Praying for Jennifer Study to Resume Soon

**PRAYING
FOR
*Jennifer***

This year's Lenten Study was reading *Praying for Jennifer* by John Cobb. When everything shut down in March, the last part of the study had to be postponed. There are now plans for this interrupted study to resume via zoom. One of the advantages of gathering by zoom is that people can come to the study by a landline phone. So, you don't need to have a computer or internet access to come to the study.

New people are encouraged to join the study when it resumes. Indeed, the best part of the study – new insights into what it means to pray for others – are still ahead. You can get a copy of the book by contacting the church office or ordering online.

Praying for Jennifer is about a teenager named Jennifer. She is involved in a serious auto accident. She is not expected to live. A nurse tells Jennifer's teenage friends that the only thing which can help Jennifer is to pray. Even though most of the teens are not religious, they pray. Jennifer makes an amazing recovery. But then unexpectedly no matter how hard her friends continue praying, Jennifer stops making progress in her recovery. This confuses the teens and leaves them with profound questions about how prayer does – or doesn't – work. So, they begin asking people questions to understand why their prayers were answered at first and then seemed to stop working. Most of the book is about the various answers people give the teens in language that the teens can understand.

Watch the announcements and church e-mails (or call the church office) for the exact dates and times when the study will resume.



Trustees Report to the Congregation

Through the grace of God, by the time you read this, the office roof will have been replaced. The cost was covered by your contributions to the Matching Gift Challenge Campaign.

The Sanctuary restroom accessibility project is proceeding. It will be completed before we get to worship back in the building.

A Task Force has been appointed to gather information and knowledge of safety procedures necessary, when on-line worship occurs.

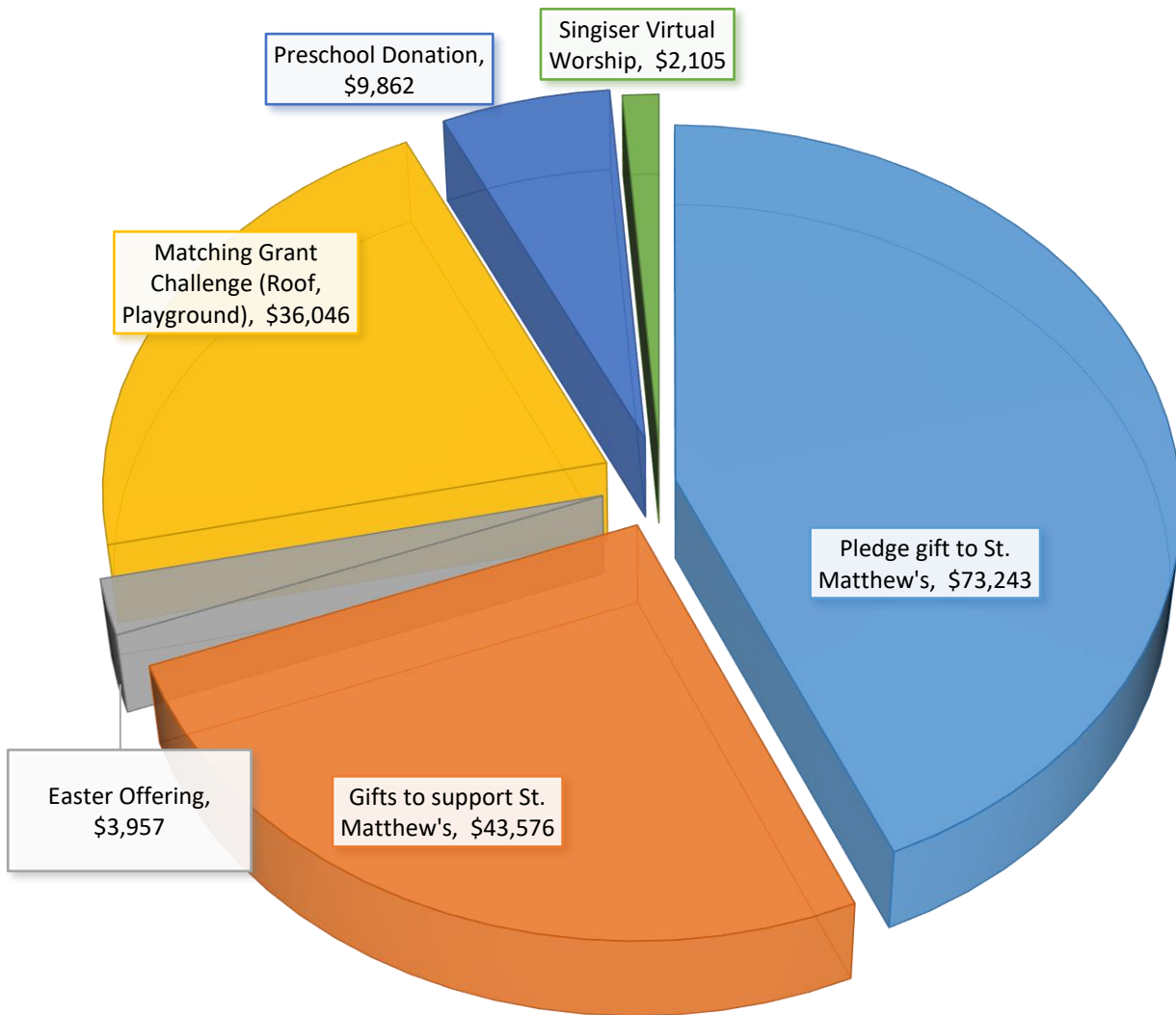
The preschool playyard safety measures are still in the beginning stages, as conversations occur between that planning committee and the state preschool playyard inspector.

Marilyn McMullin, who is the Trustess responsible for taking care of matters with the Parsonage, has spent a great amount of time and effort to get the Parsonage's refrigerator repaired, and to have the dryer repaired. We need to take care of our Pastor and Ruth, who prepare much to get ready for Sunday streaming worship.

Your continued generous giving to St. Matthew's has allowed these projects to proceed, and some others projects are also being finalized.

- *May God continue to keep you safe, LaVerne Shaffer, Trustees Secretary*

**YOUR GIFTS TO ST. MATTHEW'S
JANUARY 1 TO JULY 31, 2020
\$169,140**



The chart above includes monies that are available for St. Matthew's day to day operations and planned repairs.

Not included are receipts that are designated to: UMCOR \$3,793, Memorials and Designated Gifts \$9,113.



An Opportunity to Help Vulnerable Children

Early this year I visited the San Fernando Valley Refugee Children's Center (SFVRCC) founded by United Methodist Church Pastor Fred Morris. Pastor Morris is also the Executive Director of the Center since its inception in 2015. What I saw moved me. Their undertaking is challenging but incredibly important. It is very much needed by those most vulnerable – children who have been separated from their parents at the border or unaccompanied minors who have made the

treacherous trip from Central America to the Southern U.S. border.

The overarching goal of SFVRCC is to reach out to these children and their families. The Center offers a place of welcome and healing through partnerships with community organizations to provide for basic needs, services and resources including:

- Fun gatherings, field trips, potlucks, etc.
- Clothes, blankets
- Personal hygiene items
- School supplies
- Toys
- Financial assistance for basic care and/or referrals for medical, dental, vision needs
- Emotional and spiritual support

The Center gives kids a sense of warmth and belonging by organizing social activities, providing playtime, tutoring, and most importantly a chance to get acclimated to a new life.

SFVRCC also partners with non-profit law firms and attorneys to ensure that kids receive fair and competent representation during their court hearings. **Over 90% of refugee children who have legal representation are granted asylum status . . .** while those who don't are usually denied.

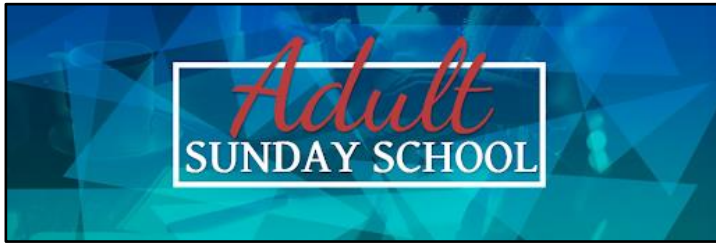
SFVRCC is an Advance Special of our annual conference. This means the program has a relationship with our annual conference. Other conference Advanced Specials include The David and Margaret Home, all of the Cal-Pac annual conference camps and campgrounds, and Baker Homes where several people in the St. Matthew's church family live.

St. Matthew's UMC is taking up a virtual special offering benefiting the San Fernando Valley Refugee Children's Center. Your offering will be a practical blessing to the children. There is no a specific date for the offering. So you can give at any time. You can give 3 ways:

- 1) Send a check marked "Children's Center" or "SFVRCC" to the church at 15653 Newton St, Hacienda Heights, CA
- 2) Drop a check marked "Children's Center" or "SFVRCC" in the locked box on the front door of the office.
- 3) Make an online offering at <https://stmatthewshh.churchcenter.com/>. One of the giving choices in the drop down list is "San Fernando Valley Refugee Children's Center"



Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes



Join Us Sunday Morning for Adult Sunday School Class

Adult Sunday School Class has resumed at 8:45 am each Sunday. Several new people have joined the class. Additional new people continue to be welcome.

The Adult Sunday School Class is under the leadership of Rodney Kurimoto. The class is part 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 do 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 can 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: 778913

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

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 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.



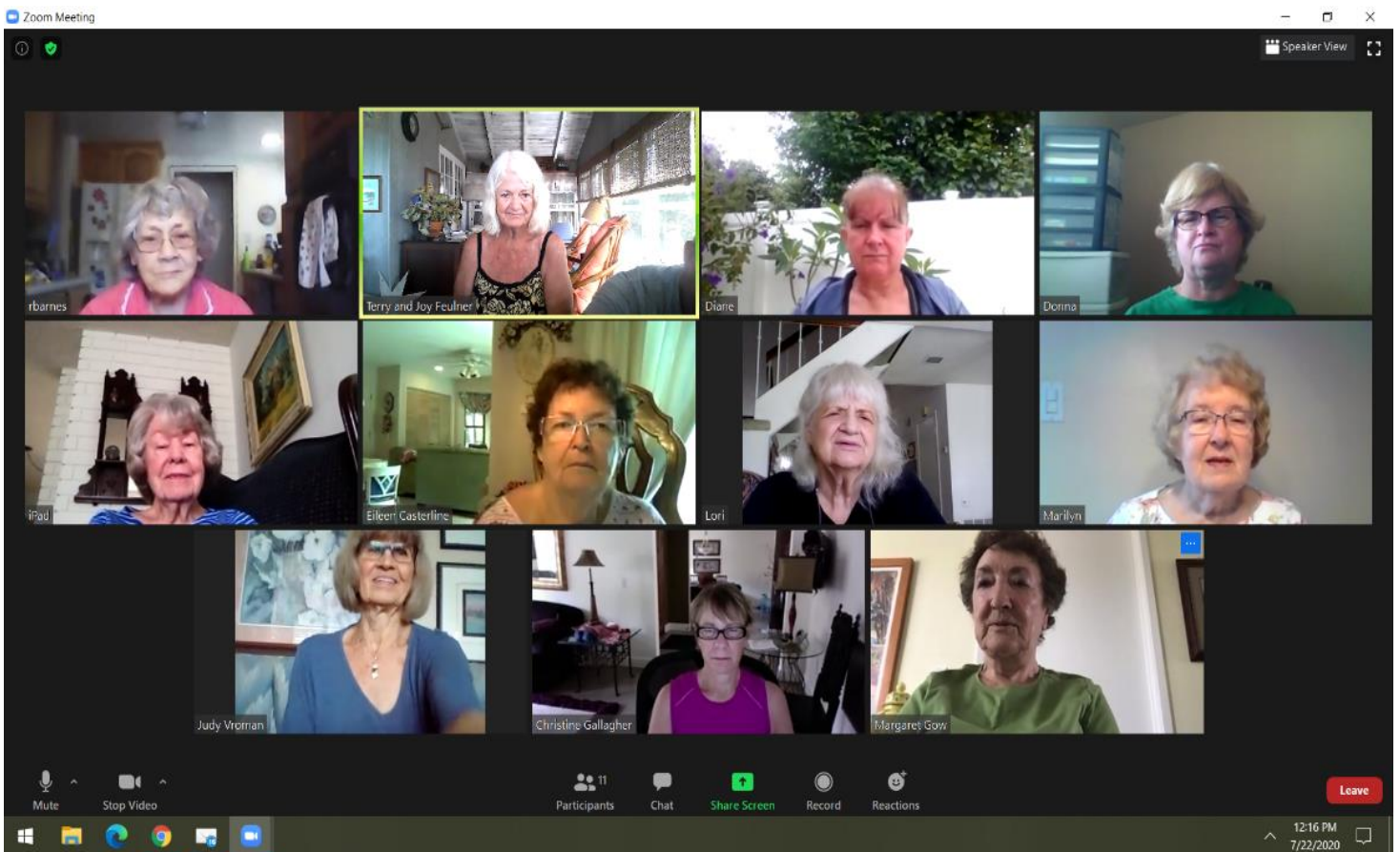


Women's Breakfast Group Gets Together

We missed you at yesterday's breakfast! Come next week and join us. All kinds of fun though we all look so serious in this picture.

You are welcome to be part of this group of women who live and care for each other. Our talks cover any topic you can imagine. And if you have something that interests you, you are welcome to share. Join us every Wednesday on Zoom starting at 8:30 a.m. until 10:00. We'd love to have you. Contact Joy at 909-784-8086 or joyfeulner@verizon.net.

Joy Feulner





Men's Breakfast Sets Record

Despite the COVID quarantine the Men's Breakfast had 15 coffee drinkers join in fellowship July 30. That's probably an all-time record both in person and on-line. We do have plenty of room around the Zoom table as we look forward to the day we return to full-breakfast fellowship at iHOP.

Every Thursday, we 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

Participants (15)

- David Crain (me)
- Richard Bentley (Host)
- Gene Logan
- Jerry
- Orlen
- Tom Aney
- Bob Preston's Voice
- Dick Cline
- Glenn Hayes
- Jack's iPad17
- Judy's 2nd Fire
- Robert Hernandez
- wes
- Rodney Kurimoto
- Bob Preston





Notes 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 August we "meet" on August 13 and August 27.

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



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



A Thank You Note

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for including me in your "Drive By" Sunday afternoon. It was really good to see and wave to the many in cars and know I'm still a part of our church. Even a neighbor came by to take photos.

Love,
Joan Zoller

A Favorite of Janet Shoop's

Ahhh... summer! Even though this has been a summer like no other, the sun is still shining, the sky is still blue and the flowers and trees and the birds and the bees are still busily humming away.

Love is still finding a way.
Baby bunnies are still precious.
Roses still smell like raspberries.
A sunset is still a gift.
Ice cream is still awesome.
And God is still good.

There are so many, many things to celebrate even in a time of uncertainty. Join me in celebrating LIFE this summer in all the small ways which have become so much more meaningful during the last few months.

We can still create.
We can still make someone smile.
We can still express gratitude.
We can still minister to hurting hearts.
We can still give back with our talents.

Focus on the "stills" this summer. What is still true.

And celebrate it with everything you've got.





Celebrating August Birthdays

August 5	Bob Holte Elizabeth Bongolan
August 6	Nena Wesner Carlita Bongolan
August 10	Rev. Gail Messner
August 11	Marilee Hartling
August 14	Audrey Butler
August 16	Brian Kozak
August 23	Elias Robles
August 24	Steven Hill Mary Michael (Resident @ The Palms)









Celebrating August Anniversaries

August 9	Mike & Chris Gallagher
August 12	Swede & Judith Rader
August 17	Jerry & Eileen Casterline
August 24	Rick & Pat Kunishima
August 25	Richard & Diane Cline



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>August</h1>						1 Cubs CrossOver Drive Thru (Parking Lot) 
2 8:45 – Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship 	3 9:30am - Shalom	4 7pm - Trustees Meeting	5 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	6 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	7	8
9 8:45 – Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship 	10 9:30am - Shalom	11 7pm - SPRC	12 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	13 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - Eve Circle 3:00pm – Online Choir & Bells Social Time 7:30pm-Church Council	14	15
16 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote! 8:45 – Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship 	17 9:30am - Shalom	18	19 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	20 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 7:30pm – “Engaging in Conversation/ Let's Talk About It” (Online) 	21	22
23 8:45 – Adult Sunday School 9:55am – Worship 5:00pm – Face Book Online Concert featuring <i>The ACE Trio</i>	24 9:30am - Shalom	25	26 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm - <i>The Palms</i>	27 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 3:00pm – Online Choir & Bells Social Time 7:30pm – Finance Committee Meeting	28	29
30 8:45 – Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship 	31 9:30am – Shalom 7:30pm – “Engaging in Conversation/ Let's Talk About It” (Online) 					



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.



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

