

# The ParishScope

February 2021



St. Matthew's  
United Methodist Church



## February Facebook Concert Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.

Jake Chapman, Vibraphonist, will be our featured performer for our Facebook Concert on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. This concert starts at 5:00pm.

Jake is a virtuoso of mallet percussion instruments and is the son of Alan Chapman, a radio host for KUSC. He is currently based in Los Angeles. Jake studied music and computer science at Columbia University and jazz vibraphone at Juilliard.

In New York, Jake has performed with many groups in jazz clubs, rock venues, concert halls, and in parks and subway stations as a busker. In December 2019, his family band Von Chaps did a 19-city tour of China, performing musical theatre, jazz, opera, classical, and pop selections in concert halls.

Jake is also a composer and songwriter, having participated in the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop and written music for a few short musicals. During the last few months, Jake has focused his efforts on social media, recording, and the relatively new collaborative music app Voisey. With material he's recorded on Voisey, he's begun a monthly EP series called "The Adventures of Mega Vybes." You can find the series on iTunes and all major streaming services. Jake is on Instagram (@chappymilkshake), TikTok (@jakechapmanvibes), Facebook (Jake Chapman Music), and YouTube (Jake Chapman).



Peek Inside  
Look Inside  
See Inside

For Ash Wednesday Service on February 17<sup>th</sup> - see page 4  
For Lenten Study beginning February 15<sup>th</sup> - see page 5



## St. Matthew's UMC 2021 Stewardship Campaign

By now most of you have received a letter announcing St Matthew's 2021 Stewardship Campaign. The campaign kicked off Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't received the letter yet, don't worry it should be arriving soon.

The Stewardship Campaign helps St. Matthew's to keep the daily operations of a church running. Among other things the funds raised during the Stewardship Campaign:

- For our music director and the wonderful music ministry she directs
- Provides a custodian and gardeners to maintain the campus
- Provides heating and lighting for comfort
- Provides for our Office Manager to support the work of church groups, assist in preparation of the online service and publish the *Parishscope* you're reading
- Provides for a Pastor to preach and lead our uplifting online worship service, provide pastoral care and lead our church during these difficult times
- Allows St Matthew's to engage in mission work in the U.S. and the world

Many times we are faced with a task that is difficult or that makes us uncomfortable. We can look at these difficult tasks, throw our hands up and give in or we can look at these uncomfortable tasks as opportunities for growth. During this year's Stewardship Campaign I would ask that you consider being comfortable taking on what may be an uncomfortable task. I would ask that you prayerfully consider your gift and if possible increasing your gift for 2021.

During the Stewardship Campaign you're going to see a couple of videos inserted into the Sunday Worship Service:

- February 21<sup>st</sup> you'll see a video highlighting our campus. This video will be directed by Ariana and Elias Robles
- February 28<sup>th</sup> you'll see a video featuring your finance committee at one of our meetings.

The Stewardship Campaign culminates on March 14<sup>th</sup> with Stewardship Sunday. Please consider your gift and if possible increasing it this year.

*Yours in Christ,  
Bob Hernandez  
Chair, Finance Committee*



## **“Top of the Hill” is Back! – Virtually 12 noon on Monday, Feb. 8**

“Top of the Hill” is back and we are going virtual!!! Terry and I will be leading this group. We'll be starting our visits and classes again starting this month – February. We get together on the second Monday of each month at Noon.

The first meeting will happen on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. On that day we will be together visiting and catching up with each other. It's been a long time not "seeing" our friends and we know we'll have lots to talk about. An email will go out with instructions on how to come to the meeting. How appropriate to have the first meeting begin a few days before Valentine's Day!

Thank you, Casterlines, for all of your interesting meetings and delicious lunches for so, so many years. And Lori, great job keeping us fed and wanting more. Above and beyond the call of duty and we all were the winners.

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

Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 852 1223 1333#

If asked for a second ID: #

Password: 757621#

### **If you are coming by computer, tablet, smart phone . . . .**

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

Meeting ID: 852 1223 1333

Password: 757621

*See you then, Joy and Terry Feulner*



## **A Thank You**

The McMullin family thanks their friends at St. Matthew's for their prayers and cards at the time Marilyn's brother, Mart Middleswart had cranial surgery, and during his recovery, and through contracting Covid and his death. Your wishes were all appreciated.

*Blessings to all of you.*

*Marilyn and Bill McMullin*

## Lenten Study Begins at 7:30 pm on Monday Evening, February 15<sup>th</sup>



This year our Lenten Sunday will be on at 7:30 pm on Monday evenings by zoom. Because its on Zoom, people can come either using a landline phone or computer/tablet/smart phone. Pastor Richard will be leading each week's study.

In a year when pandemic has wreaked havoc on our world, this year the focus of Lent will be an

invitation to a journey of letting something good come out of what has been shattered and/or broken during the last year. To guide us on a journey towards healing and recovery, the scripture readings for Lent will focus on the healing stories of Jesus in Matthew's gospel.

Over the course of Lent, healing will be looked at from a variety of different perspectives. How is God at work offering healing both physically and spiritually in our personal lives, our communities, our environment, . . . ?

Each Monday the Lenten Study will:

- Discuss the sermon and scripture reading from last Sunday's service to understand more fully how they can guide us towards healing. There will be time for questions, insights, talking about other directions the sermon might have gone, . . . .
- Look at the scripture reading for the coming week's service. This offers the opportunity to prepare for and enter more deeply into the coming week's service.

Of course, the first Lenten study on February 15 can only look at the scripture passage for the coming Sunday (February 21) since there is no sermon about healing from the pervious week to discuss. So the first session will include time for the group to raise questions, thoughts and concerns about healing that people hope might be addressed sometime during Lent. And, there will be a brief discussion of the scripture reading for the First Sunday in Lent (February 21), which is Matthew 8:1-4, 16-17.

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

Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 840 9848 2905#

If asked for a second ID: #

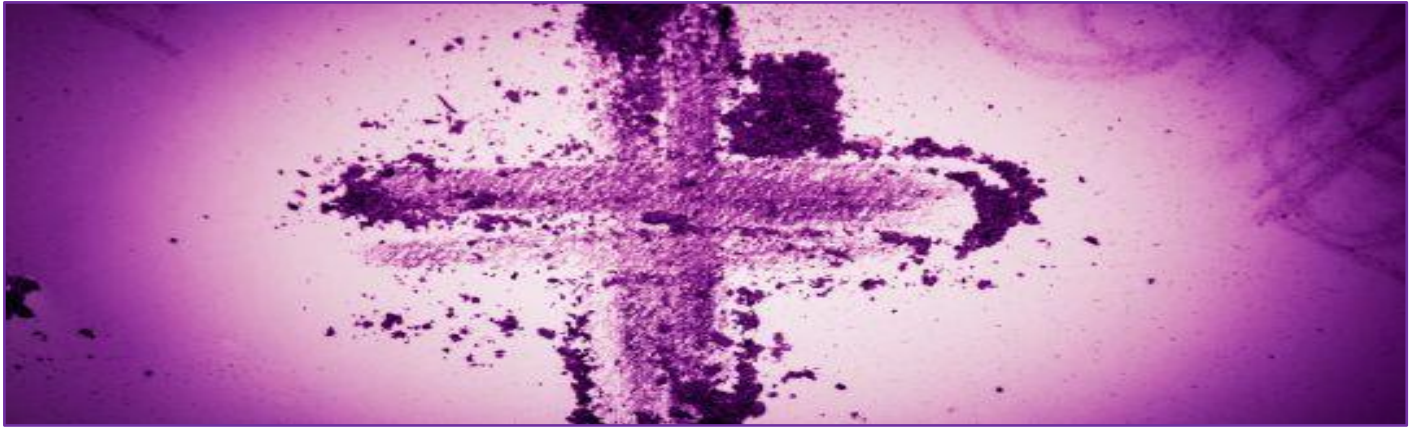
Password: 137604#

**If you are coming by computer, tablet, smart phone . . . .**

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

Meeting ID: 840 9848 2905

Password: 137604



## **Ash Wednesday Service 5:00 pm on February 17<sup>th</sup>**

St. Matthew's will have an online Ash Wednesday service at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 17. It will be a very simple service lasting less than an hour. There will be lots of contemplative music and time for quiet reflection. Since the service is online, you can come at 5 pm or at a later time (including another day).

Traditionally, part of the Ash Wednesday service includes an opportunity for people to have ashes put on their forehead. In order to keep people safe, this year this will be done differently. During the service people will have an opportunity to symbolically have ashes put on their foreheads or hands. Just as we do with communion, people are encouraged to use whatever they have at home. Possibilities include using oil (often olive oil but it could be any cooking oil), dirt from your garden, an erasable black sharpie (could be a different color), dipping your finger in water, burning something to make ashes, . . . . Then at the appropriate place in the service put these "ashes" on your forehead or hand.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season of spiritual preparation for Easter. Lent is 40 days long because Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry (see Matthew 4:1-11). Traditionally, Lent has been a solemn season seeking to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, self-examination, self-denial, and studying God's Word. In a year when pandemic has wreaked havoc on our world, this Lent will be an invitation to begin a journey toward letting something good come out of things which have been shattered or broken during the last year. To help with this journey towards healing and recovery, the scripture readings for Lent will be Jesus doing healings in Matthew's gospel.

Those who look closely at the calendar may say, "But there are 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter!" That's because the Sundays during Lent are not part of Lent. The early Christian movement saw every Sunday as a "little" Easter Sunday. And, from their perspective, the celebration of Easter is always stronger than the solemnness and fasting of Lent. As a result, the Sundays during Lent are not counted as part of the Lenten season. And, Sunday remains a day of celebration.



## UMCOR Sunday is February 28<sup>th</sup>

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR Sunday is the time we help cover UMCOR's operating expenses. Because of people's generosity on UMCOR Sunday, whenever we take up a special offering – such as to help the victims of a disaster – during the rest of year, the entire special offering goes to help the people in need.

UMCOR works globally to alleviate suffering, and to advance hope & healing. To realize its mission, UMCOR is organized into program areas focused on:

- U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery
- International Disaster Response and Recovery
- Sustainable Development
- Global Health
- Global Migration

UMCOR acts as the hands and feet of Christ's church, moving towards the most vulnerable in their time of need. Helping people in their darkest days doesn't have to be something someone else does. It can be something we do. Join with United Methodist congregations around the globe to share compassionate relief in the midst of devastation and make a difference on UMCOR Sunday.

You can give to UMCOR Sunday by marking your check or an offering envelop "UMCOR Sunday" and mailing it to the church or putting it in the locked box on the front door of the church. You can also give online at <https://www.stmattsumc.com>, clicking on "donate" and then choosing "UMCOR Sunday" from the drop down list.

### Until Further Notice . . .

**Church Office**

During this time when COVID-19 is spiking again, the St. Matthew's Church office will be "closed" until further notice.

The church is doing this to help both keep people as safe as possible and keep hospitals – including their over worked staffs – from being overwhelmed.

Although the "office" is closed, the following will continue to happen:

- You can call the church office from 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Thursday and 10 am to noon on Friday. Our Church Secretary will answer.
- You can continue sending the church e-mails. And, the church will stay in touch with you through regular e-mails.
- The church's mailbox will be checked on a daily basis.
- The lock box on the front door of the church office will be regularly checked.
- The ongoing business operations of the church will all continue – just differently.

He will cover you with his feathers.

He will shelter you  
with his wings.

*His faithful promises  
are your armor  
and protection.*

-Psalm 91:4

## Opportunities to Pray at Home During Worship



From now until Ash Wednesday (February 17), the St. Matthew's church family is invited to try out three different ways of praying at home:

1) *Set aside a place at home for written prayer concerns.* It could be a bowl, a box or something else. During the week and/or worship service, write down prayer concerns on a small piece of paper. Then, place them in the bowl, box or other special place as a sign of placing them in God's hands. Of course, you can also contact Pastor Richard or the church office to have a person or situation placed on the church's prayer list. But often there are additional prayers in our hearts. This may be a meaningful way to see them lifted up and placed in God's care.

2) *Join together in the silent prayer times during the worship service.* During the prayer time, Pastor Richard will suggest a prayer focus. Then, there will be a brief time for silent prayer. During this time, you can let the suggested focus guide your prayer. Or, you can pray in another direction as led by the spirit and/or your heart. At the end of each silent prayer time, everyone will be invited of come together in a brief response such as "Emmanuel, God With Us, hear our prayer." Each Sunday there will be three or four suggested areas of prayer.

3) *Sharing in a brief video from our homes about how God has been "holding our lives" in God's hands. This has turned out to be so popular, that people will continue sharing about how God is "holding our lives" through Easter on April 4.* A person or family shares how they have felt the love and support of others, of God, in this time of disruption and pandemic. This sharing could be a sentence or two. Or it could be slightly longer. A video – either just one individual/family or a collage of several different participants – will be part of some of the worship services. If you would like to take part, please contact Judy Vroman at 626-964-7066 or by email at [jgvroman@msn.com](mailto:jgvroman@msn.com).



## Update on the Preschool Playground Structure

We are happy to report that the playground structure at St. Matthew's Preschool is finally on its way to a full recovery. An extensive inspection of the playground structure was conducted last fall to assess its ability to meet the recommended federal guidelines for preschool age children as set forth in the Public Playground Safety Handbook. It was established that all of the elements of our playground structure satisfy the requirements for use by preschool age children – our structure is fully age-appropriate. However, in terms of overall safety, there are some things which will need to be corrected, not the least of which is the surface of the overall playground structure "use zone" which will need to be replaced. This will be a pretty big task, but we have met with our contractor several times to discuss the process. We now have an agreed project scope and a cost proposal that we like and is consistent with the funds we have available. We will be seeking approval from Trustees and the Preschool Advisory Board the first week of February, and hope to be executing a contract and initiating work soon thereafter.

*Dick Cline, Trustee*

**Breaking News:** Since Dick wrote this update, the contract has been approved and work begins soon.

## ESGV Coalition for the Homeless



The Assistance Center of the Coalition is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 1:00pm at St. John Vianney. They continue to serve clients on a one to one basis and provide packaged meals to go. The showers are not presently available.

They serve about 85 new clients monthly and some 500 repeat persons. These are late November 2020 figures. No Winter Shelter was scheduled so clients needed to know what to do or where to go.

One single mother and two boys are in our "Bridge" Program. We still distribute motel vouchers, gasoline cards, bus passes, hygiene kits, etc., as necessary.

We thank you for your continue support of the Coalition.

*Marilyn Matthews*

## East District Leadership Training Invitation

**"Put Your Own Mask on First"**

*East District Leadership Training:  
First-of-Three Webinar*



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: BISHOP HAGIYA**

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 13, 2021

**TIME:** 10 A.M TO 12 NOON

**ZOOM LINK:** To Be Announced

**WORKSHOPS:**

- ✓ Spiritual Practices
- ✓ Mental Health Strategies
- ✓ Online Discipling and Spiritual Growth
- ✓ Basic Virtual Ministry 101

REGISTRATION REQUIRED - NO CHARGE  
RSVP by February 8, 2021



An East District Leadership Training Webinar is open to all Districts. Link to conference webpage with details for online registration RSVP (see below).

<http://www.calpacumc.org/events/east-district-leadership-training-2021-part-1/>



## 4 Ways to Give to St. Matthew's



- 1) **Mail your gift to the church** at 15653 Newton Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745. The church's mail comes to a secured mailbox.
- 2) **Bring your gift to the church.** There is a locked box on the front door of the office. The locked box is checked regularly.
- 3) **Give online.** Go to St. Matthew's website at <https://www.stmattsumc.com> Then, click on "Donate" on the upper right-hand side of the page.
- 4) **Text any amount to 84321** to give. Standard message and data rates may apply. Anytime you want to give, you can simply text your donation amount (and fund) to **84321** to initiate an online donation.

Call or email the church office at 626-333-6656 or [office@smumchh.org](mailto:office@smumchh.org) for further instructions of how to "text" your giving.



## Zoom the Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School Class

Adult Sunday School Class continues at

8:45 am each Sunday. All are welcome. Some people come by landline phone. But most come on their computer, tablet, electronic device. Several people have joined the class since it started meeting by Zoom.

The Adult Sunday School Class is under the leadership of Rodney Kurimoto. The class is presently doing 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@smumchh.org)

## A Pic of the Ducks at Their Farewell



*Picture courtesy of the Feulners*

### How to Join Us for Worship Services on Sunday Mornings

Join us for worship starting at 9:55 am each Sunday morning:

1) Go to the church's Facebook page at

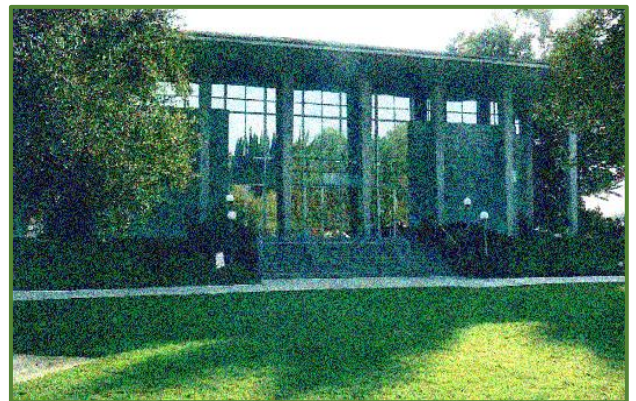
<https://www.facebook.com/Stmatts1/>

(You do NOT need to belong to Facebook to do this)

2) Go to a special page on the church's website. (This page only works when a Facebook live service is happening) <https://www.stmattsumc.com/facebook-live/>

During the week, the easiest way to join the worship service is by going to the church's website and click on "Recent Services" <https://www.stmattsumc.com>

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





## Women's Breakfast Group Gets Together

The St. Matt's Women's Breakfast meets each Wednesday at 8:30 am on Zoom. Since the virus we have all enjoyed keeping together on Zoom, learning about family happenings, sharing many joys and sorrows and just being there for each other. It's nice being able to be as close as before the virus with women who have moved away or are on vacation. We'd love to have anyone join us.....our hearts are big and welcoming.

Here is a pic of the breakfast group from Wednesday ,January 13<sup>th</sup> celebrating Ruth Barns and Joy Kraft's birthdays.

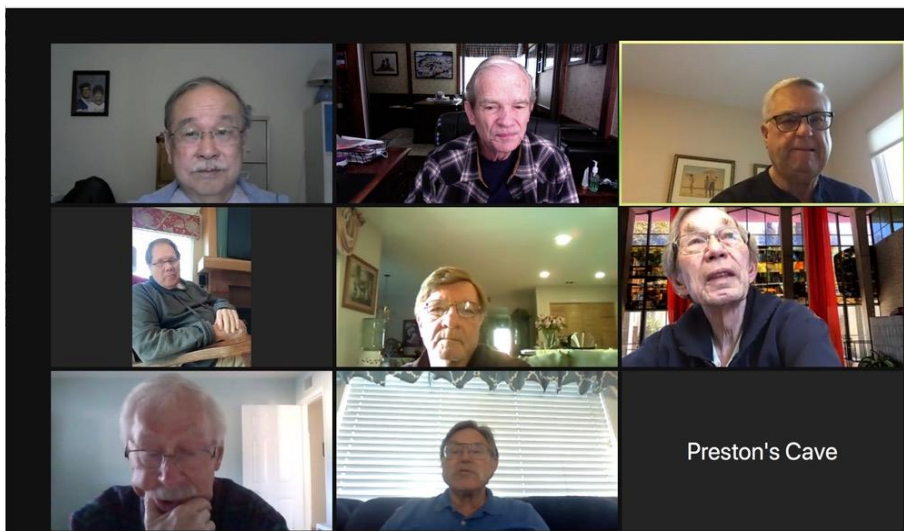
*Joy Feulner*



## Men's Breakfast

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! Go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). 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](mailto:davidwcrain@aol.com) for more information.

*David Crain*





## February Birthdays

Feb. 1	Donna Peterson
Feb. 2	Diane Hernandez Lonnie Sardo
Feb. 3	Hazel Bonner Charlie Dietrich
Feb. 4	Ruth Harker (@ the Palms)
Feb. 7	Yuet Yun
Feb. 17	Norm Peterson
Feb. 24	Marie Peterson
Feb. 25	Jerry Lutjens
Feb. 26	Irma Rosas

## Febraury Anniversaries










Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Bill and Marilyn McMullin



Happy Valentine's Day



# St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7pm-Trustees Meeting	3 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	4 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	5	6
7 8:45am – Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship 	8 Noon – “Top of the Hill” Gathering on Zoom 	9 7pm-SPRC	10 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	11 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	12	13
14 Valentine's Day  8:45am – Adult Sunday School 9:55am - Worship	15 ** President's Day – Office closed  7:30pm – Lenten Study Class	16	17 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms 5:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service 	18 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	19	20
21 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  8:45am – Adult Sunday School 9:55am – Worship 5:00pm – Facebook Concert featuring Jake Chapman 	22 7:30pm – Lenten Study Class	23	24 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	25 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	26	27
28 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent  8:45am – Adult Sunday School 9:55am – Worship						



### TO VIEW ALL 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 continue to keep in touch:

- 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) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
- Church Council* – To be determined.
- Finance Committee* – to be determined.
- Small Groups also keep in touch by phone during the week.

Be sure to call or email the Church Office with any questions about meetings, classes, or “get togethers” at 626-333-6656 or [office@smumchh.org](mailto:office@smumchh.org).



**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**15653 E. Newton Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**

**Phone: 626-333-6656**

**Email: [Office@smumchh.org](mailto:Office@smumchh.org)**

Rev. Richard Bentley, Pastor

Louise Green, Office Administrator

Elaine Ono, Director of Music

Greg Gomez, Custodian

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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

