

The ParishScope

APRIL
2021



*St. Matthew's
United Methodist Church*



New Way to Worship at St. Matthew's Starting April 18th

Starting Sunday, April 18th, St. Matthew's will have both outdoor and online worship each Sunday.

- **9:00 am in person on the front lawn of the church**
- **11:00 am (no longer 9:55) online.**

The services will be similar, but also different. Both services will have the same sermon by Pastor Richard. The 9 am outdoor service will have special music coordinated by Cindy Fallgren. The prayer time will include praying for people by name. But, it will *not* have any congregational singing or prayers for people to say out loud.

The 11 am online service will continue to be like the service which has developed over the last year. It will include special music from a wide variety of groups and people. People will be encouraged to sing and say prayers out loud at home.

St. Matthew's is working towards being able to safely have an in-person worship service in the Sanctuary while continuing to have an online worship service. This will probably happen in June or July.

Thanks to everyone who filled out surveys. They are providing the foundation for St. Matthew's as it works out how to best resume in-person worship.



Stewardship Campaign Update

I hope you are all doing well and continuing to stay healthy. Diane and I attended the outdoor worship service on Easter Sunday. It was so nice to be in worship with other people. As we continue to wear masks, wash our hands and keep a safe distance from each other, the number of Covid 19 cases are reported to be going down

so it's just a matter of time until we can all attend worship again. I am so looking forward to that time.

I want to bring you up to date on our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. So far this year we have 35 pledges in 2021 compared to 47 last year. 3 of the 35 pledges are from people that did not pledge last year.

So far giving is down for 2021, but that may change. Some of you may not have pledged yet. If you haven't pledged yet, you can still do so. If you haven't received a pledge card or misplaced it, call the church office and request a new one. Then you can fill it out and drop it off in the drop box on the office door at church or you can mail your pledge card in to the church at the address below:

St. Matthew's UMC
15653 Newton St.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

The easiest way to pledge is by going to St Matthew's website at www.stmattsumc.com and click on the Pledge Drive link across the top. Then you fill in the blanks and submit. It's very easy and safe.

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

*Yours in Christ,
Bob Hernandez*



Helping Protect One Another during In Person Worship

It is encouraging that Los Angeles County is now in the Orange Tier and that more and more people have been able to get vaccinated. Even so, some people are still getting sick and needing to be hospitalized. And, it is important to continue being careful so that our area does not join many other parts of the country in having another COVID-19 spike.

Because St. Matthew's is trying to follow Jesus' commandment to love your neighbor as yourself, we will be doing the following at the "in person" outdoor to help protect people in case someone is sick but doesn't know it:

- Bringing your own chair. The church will have some chairs in case you're unable to do this.
- Coming to a check-in station, where we will note your presence and check your temperature with a laser thermometer.
- If the day is sunny, you might want an umbrella, but this is up to you.
- Setting up your chair at properly spaced markings on the lawn to put your chair. Family groups can set up their chairs together around the same marking.
- Wearing face coverings
- Maintaining social distancing of 6 feet or more
- Because singing makes it so much easier to spread the virus, there will not be any congregational singing. There may be special music by an appropriately distanced soloist.
- not serving food or drink
- being encouraged to refrain from shaking hands or hugging

The Board of Trustees Reports . . .



Dear Members of St. Matthew's UMC,

Some of you have had questions about the work going on at the preschool, and other campus projects. I am writing this to let you know of some of the things that your Trustees have been working on, and why.

- 1) Due to improperly installed play equipment at the Preschool, much time, effort and monies were put forth to ensure the Preschool play yard meets California State Safety requirements for children. This required taking it apart and rearranging it so that if a child falls from it, they will land on newly installed soft material. This was all extremely time consuming, and required hiring a professional contractor. If you happen to be in the church area, you might want to drive down and look at it now, as it really looks great!
- 2) Our own Huber Bongolan spends many hours on our church campus, arriving early to pick up the many bottles, cans, and other trash left in the parking lot and behind bushes. Due to neighborhood or homeless persons bringing furniture, bedding, and other unwanted possessions, stuffing the bins, and leaving little room for our own church's yard trimmings and other waste, our church's big trash bins have had locks put on them.
- 3) Huber also has been in charge of helping beautify our church by having Boy Scouts do community service projects and Eagle Scout Projects. They have trimmed, weeded, and put new mulch in areas to enhance the plants growing there, including the Aney Garden. Another project included pouring cement to extend the basketball court to actual full size. If you should see the scouts and their supportive families working at the church, please acknowledge them, and let them know how much we appreciate their many efforts and projects.
- 4) There have been persons roaming the church campus at night, as seen on the cameras. installed by Pastor Joshua and the Blessed Chinese congregation. Their pastor saw some of these people trying door knobs, in apparent attempts to get in. At least one of these persons jimmed the door open to the Youth Room, and had been sleeping there.

Your Board of Trustees sees that the neighborhood has been changing, and, for the safety of the three congregations who meet on our campus, and the safety of our Office Administrator during work hours, we are looking into various ways to maintain our campus safety without having someone living on campus. (A security service, additional alarms, or perhaps a nice wrought iron fence, as seen at other nearby churches.)

If you have an idea, please inform one of the Trustees, so that we can make a plan to ensure the safety of all on St. Matthew's campus.

Huber Bongolan, President

Dick Cline, Vice-President,

Olga Baker

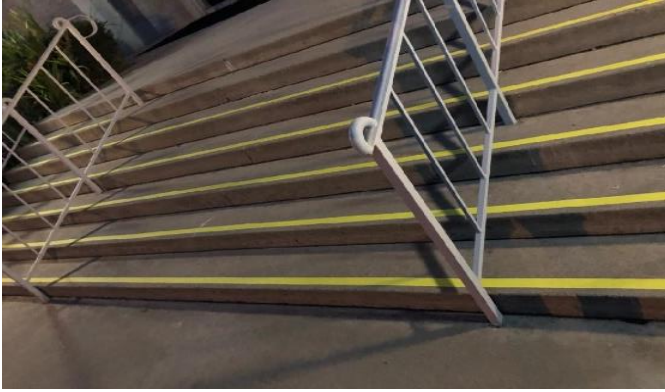
Glenn Hayes

Jerry Casterline

Marilyn McMullin

LaVerne Shaffer, Sec.

Terry Feulner, Asst. Sec.



Thanks to the Bongolans for painting our steps so we all stay safe entering and leaving our Sanctuary.

Notes from Elaine Ono



With an intimate sultry voice and Latin infused playing style, Alexis Soto Jr's music draws listeners' eyes and ears as he lullabies them; inviting them into the story of song. Writing in both English and Spanish, his singer/songwriter style is heavily influenced by jazz, R&B soul, the blues, and afro-Cuban and Brazilian music.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Alexis grew up of Mexican and Cuban descent. He is a first generation born US citizen and his music reflects the combination of influences he was immersed in. Unbeknownst to him, the simple question "How much does a guitar cost?" would change his life forever: Although his uncle didn't give a definitive answer at the time, he would later pass his guitar down to Alexis. The rest was history.

Alexis eventually moved on to play in youth group bands, write original songs, and study at Pasadena City College, where he was the recipient of the Marie Louise Navarro-Monreal Memorial Scholarship



for Excellence In Music Studies, the Dean's Special Recognition Award for Excellent Contribution to the Music Department, and the Bobbie Bradford Award for Jazz. He later furthered his education at Berklee College of Music earning a Bachelor's degree in Writing for Film, TV, and Video Games.

Today, Alexis composes for film and TV and continues to write original compositions. His current project is his first ever full length album that will dive into our current day human experience and explore topics of love, joy, gratitude, hope, grief, death, mental health, anxiety, addiction, God, and spirituality.

Alexis is our Twombly Recipient for Worship on Sunday, April 18th. Be sure to join us.

Elaine Ono, Director of Music

St. Matthew's Brings Easter Joy With 60 Local Families



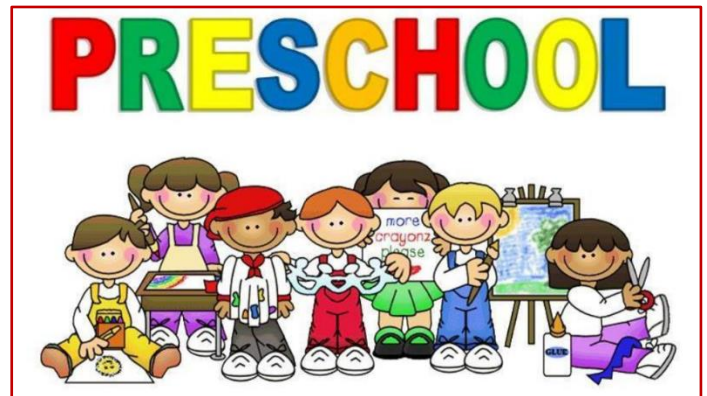
The week before Easter, St. Matthew's took 60 Easter "Baskets" – \$50 gift cards to Vons – to Kwis and Newton Schools to help children and their families have a special Easter. Each school was delighted to be able to chose 30 families to receive gift cards. And, both schools expressed profound appreciation to the St. Matthew's church family for their generosity.

This Easter, the gift cards were purchased with funds from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund is supported with gifts the congregation has already given through donations to the Poor Plate on Communion Sundays. In addition, some people made special donations to help replenish some of the funds used for the Easter Gift Cards. Many thanks to one and all whose contributions made it possible for St. Matthew's to make a difference in the community.

Preschool Update

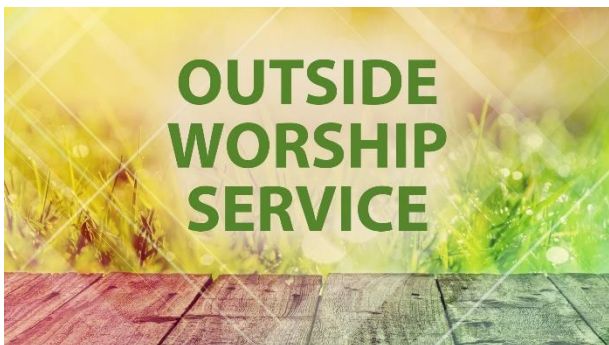
The Preschool Advisory Board continues working so that Blessings Preschool can open its doors at St. Matthew's. The lease was reviewed by East District. As this is being written, St. Matthew's is in the process of approving suggested changes to the lease. Hopefully, everything will be ready to sign soon.

In the meantime, the Preschool Advisory Board and Blessing Preschool have continued working together so that once the lease is finalized the new preschool can open as soon as possible. Watch next month's *ParishScope* for further updates.



The Preshool Advisory Board

Outdoor In Person Worship Has Resumed at the Palms



People at the Palms were excited to be able to resume the Wednesday afternoon Church service. For now, the service is being held outdoors in a shady, grassy area. Even when the service was being held by phone, word about it continued to spread. So, the first in person worship service not only had many people from before, but several new people as well.

While people were glad to be able to meet together again in person, it was also different. People needed to wear face masks and maintain social distancing.

And, because of the ways that singing can help spread the virus, the service is not able to begin with hymn singing right now.



“Top-of-the-Hill”

Top of the Hill is Monday, April 12th at 12 noon. After some time of catching up and fellowship, we'll take a tour of Mount Rushmore and the Badlands area of South Dakota. Enjoy a virtual lunch with us.

Join us by computer/tablet/smart phone:

www.zoom.us

Meeting ID: 852 1223 1333

Password: 757621

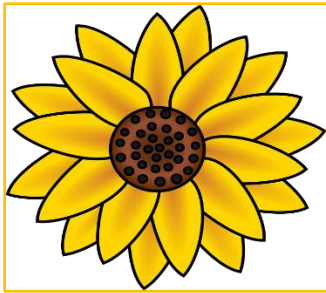
Or regular phone

+1 699 900 6833 (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 852 1223 1333#

Password: 757621#



Women's Retreat 2022 Notice

It's Women's Retreat time, finally. Tru, that it's a whole year away but we have all that time to get excited about being in person with our friends. The date is April 22-24, 2022 – Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Carlsbad Inn in Carlsbad. Our theme is so appropriate for the times we've been experineceing. “Be a Sunflower . . . Stand tall in the darkest of days to find the sunlight!” Watch for updates and plan on coming together as sisters again.

Joy Feulner



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. We learn about family happenings, share many joys and sorrows, and just are 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.

Joy Feulner



Men's Breakfast

Thursday morning is a splendid time to enjoy a cup of coffee at the Men's Breakfast. Zoom in by clicking on this URL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6385740531?pwd=dkNtN1RTTFE0NlozcFRRc0ZFVEVwUT09#success>

For additional information, contact David Crain at davidwcrain@aol.com.

David Crain

March 11th Men's Breakfast





Anonymous Note Left in Our Church Office

Let's give our worker bees a big hand. Really big! They work so hard and long hours to put together the services we all take for granted. The leadership, office, tech crew, music, flowers, designing altar, etc. These folks don't just work on Sundays, holidays, or funerals, but it takes a week making plans and making it all come together. Thanks you everyone for your dedication!

Anonymous



Easter Offerings

Your Easter Offerings are still welcome. Thank you for your continued support to St. Matthew's. You may mail your offering, drop it by the church office or give online.



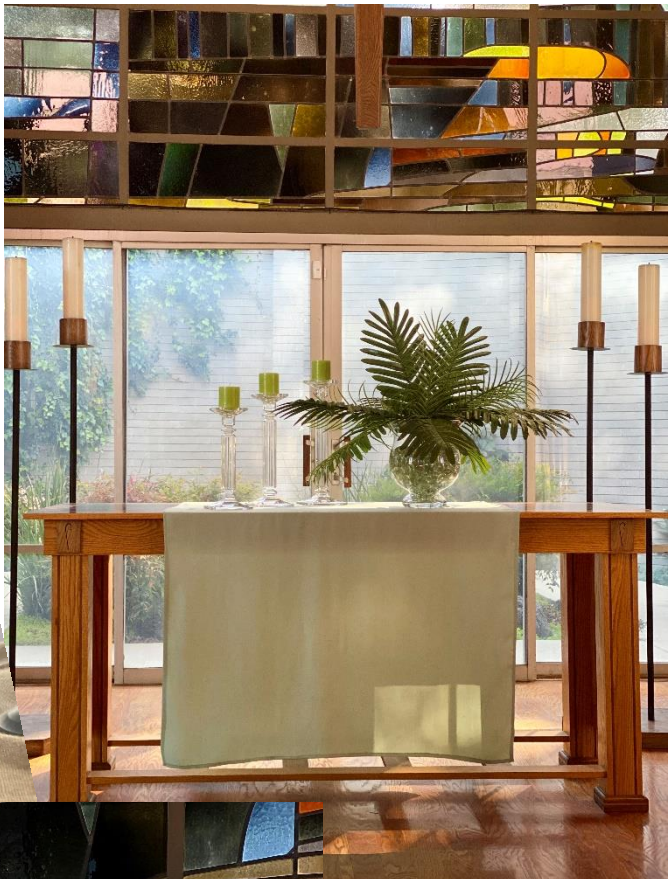
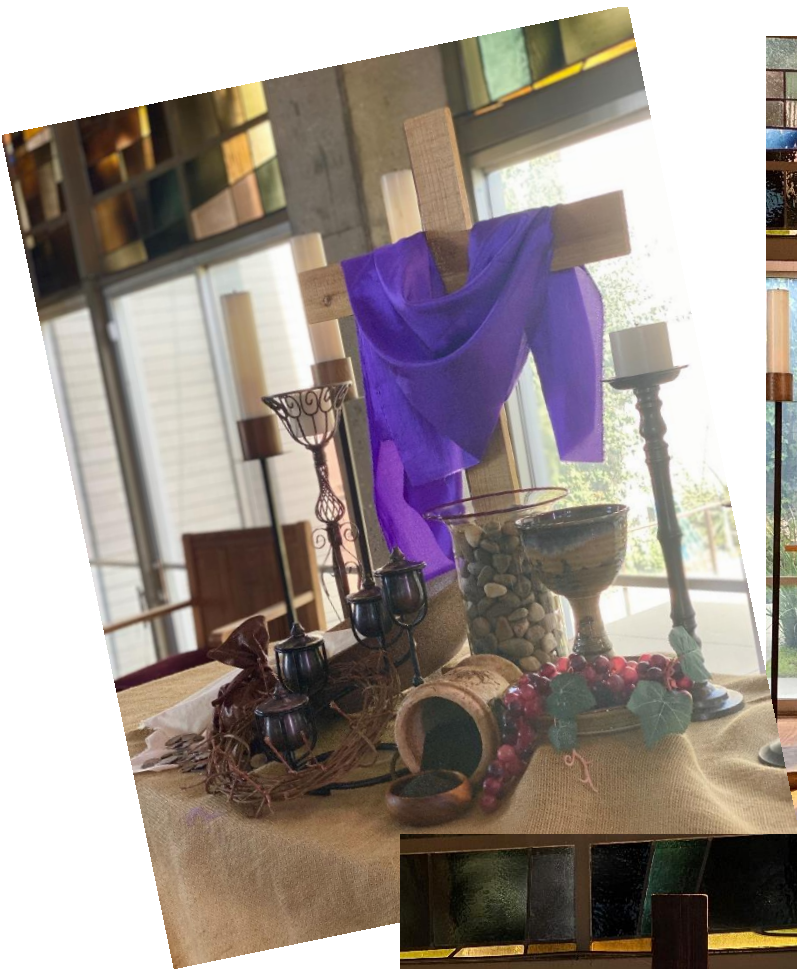
4 Ways to Give to St. Matthew's

- 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 for further instructions of how to "text" your giving.

**Lenten Season, Palm Sunday &
Easter Sunday Altars at St. Matthew's UMC 2021**

“Will We Meet Again”





April Birthdays

April 2	Donna Lilly
	Leslie O'Leary
April 10	Marilyn McMullin
	Charlie Hogg
	David Burton
April 12	Eric Wood
	Jeanne Sahara
April 16	Todd Peterson
April 22	Lucille Householder
	Sherry Winchell
April 24	Marcus Gonzales
April 25	Bianca Ault (Hernandez)
April 27	Marilyn Matthews
April 28	Andrew Zepeda
April 30	Joanne Ramsdale





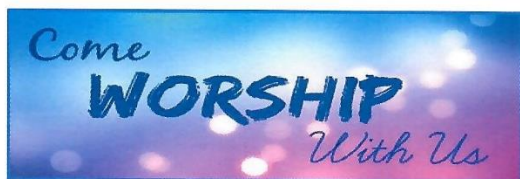
April Anniversaries

Joe and Patty Graves April 3



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL				1 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	2 Noon – 2pm Good Friday Prayer Vigil 7pm-Good Friday Service	3 2-4pm Blessed Chinese UMC Drive-thru Birthday Party – Parking Lot
4 Easter Sunday  9am – Outside Worship 11am – Worship Online	5	6 7pm-Trustees Meeting	7 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	8 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 7:30pm – Special Charge Conference on Zoom	9	10
11 8:45 – Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9:55am - Special Worship Service Video from Cal-Pac Annual Conference (on Facebook)	12 Noon – "Top of the Hill"	13 7pm-SPRC	14 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	15 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	16	17  10:00am – Tom Aney Memorial Service
18 Rev. De Guzman preaching 8:45 – Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9am – Outdoor Worship 11:00am - Worship Service Online	19	20	21 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	22 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	23	24
25 Rodney Kurimoto preaching 8:45 – Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9am – Outdoor Worship 11:00am - Worship Service Online	29		31 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms		30 Church Office closed	



9:00 a.m. Worship Service Outside on Lawn
11:00 a.m. Worship Service Online

To view our worship services on line:

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) – 2nd 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.

One small
POSITIVE THOUGHT
in the morning
can change your
whole day.



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

