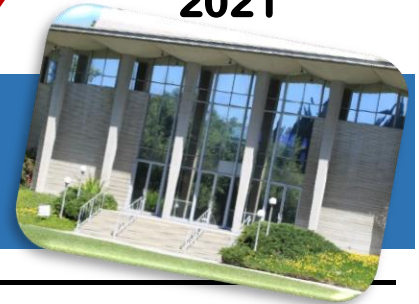


# The ParishScope

may  
2021



St. Matthew's  
United Methodist Church



*Celebrating Mothers*

## Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

One of the traditions at St. Matthew's is to have someone from the congregation preach/share about mothers on Mother's Day. This year it will be Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes!! Come and listen to the special message Dolores about will be sharing about "The Uniqueness of Motherhood" during the 11 am online worship service.

Pastor Richard will bring the message at the 9 am outdoor service.

There may be some surprises during worship on Mother's Day, especially during the 11 am online service.

## "Top-of-the-Hill"

Hi, Top of the Hillers!

Come to our next Zoom meeting on Monday, May 10th. We will be showing our pictures of Israel from our trip March 2017 with Wes and Dede. We have included a picture of the Wailing Wall which surprised us. Didn't know how large it was as we have only seen pictures of it up close. We have lots of pictures that will surprise you!



Join us by computer/tablet/smart phone:

[www.zoom.us](http://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#



*Terry and Joy Feulner*

## Pentecost Sunday is May 23<sup>rd</sup>

In honor of Pentecost – the birthday of the Christian movement – everyone in the church family is encouraged to wear something red on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be celebrating Pentecost during both the 9 am outdoor worship and the 11 am online service.

On the first Pentecost, the spirit descended upon the leaders of the early church. Through the work of the spirit, people who had gathered from all around the world were able to hear the good news about Jesus in their own language. Then, the word about Jesus began to spread rapidly, breaking down barriers far and near. You can read more about this in Acts, beginning with Acts 2:2-21.



## Worship In Music Concert on Facebook



Randy has spent much of 2020/2021 participating in all forms of virtual ensembles as editor, singer, contractor, file uploader, and has been grateful for every opportunity. How fitting to put together this virtual concert (and hopefully last one) while wearing all the hats at once.

Randy is currently the choir director and organist at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Whittier and a Director of Music at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church in Los Feliz. In addition, he is an accompanist and instructional aide at Schurr High School. As a performer, Randy's stage credits include: THE CHRISTIANS (Mark Taper Forum/Center Theater Group), WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON (South Coast Repertory), and the Ovation Award winning production of NEXT TO NORMAL (East West Players).

On television, he's appeared on : 9-1-1, THE OFFICE and JIMMY KIMMEL! LIVE. As a voiceover artist, he has voiced commercials for McDonalds, Toyota and AT&T, as well as being one of the original voices for the GPS app, WAZE. This marks Randy's 5th concert for St. Matthew's. Twice with the Three Filipino Tenors, twice with his good friend Billy Burke, and now solo. He says, "Thanks for having me back!"

## Help Keep Church Property Safe

The church office has been receiving quite a few messages lately that doors to our Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and even the Church Office have been left wide open, and sometimes all lights are left on in Sanctuary.

Please help keep our grounds and buildings free from theft or damages. Anyone leaving any building (especially if you are the last one in the building and/or on the property) is asked to make sure all doors are shut, locked, and that alarms in each building is set.

Thanks much for your cooperation.



*Louise, Ofc. Admin.  
Huber Bongolan, President of Trustees*

## Worship at St. Matthew's



St. Matthew's has 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 at home out loud.



## Moving Towards Reopening In Person Worship in the Sanctuary

In the last few weeks there has been lots of good news about COVID-19. California is planning a significant state-wide reopening on June 15. Meanwhile, infection rates in Los Angeles County continue to decline. It is possible our county may

move up into the yellow tier – the least restrictive tier – even before June 15. And, the CDC recently announced significantly reduced restrictions for people who have been fully vaccinated, especially outdoors. Even so, face coverings continue to be recommended in many indoor situations with larger groups of people such as worship.

Resuming in person indoor worship will soon be possible. But, there will still be differences from the way worship was conducted before COVID-19. The church's Task Force on Resuming In Person Worship is meeting and working on a reopening plan. As part of this, the task force is trying to keep up with recommended best practices in a rapidly changing environment. Its work has also been helped by the information that came back from the recent worship survey. The task force is strongly leaning towards a more careful reopening in mid-June. And then loosening the guidelines as the situation continues to improve. It is concerned what has happened several times with COVID-19 spikes developing when places rushed too quickly to fully reopen.

Once a plan is developed, it will need to be reviewed and approved by the district before worship can reopen. So, the date and details have not been finalized as this *ParishScope* goes to press.

Continuing the online service is part of the reopening plan. Many have found that the online worship offers a way to still come to church when they are shut-in, not feeling well, traveling, . . . . And even with all the good COVID-19 news, a significant number of people in the church family remain wary about returning to in person worship. So, the church's tech crew is working with the task force on how to have both in person and online worship.

Members of the Task Force on Resuming In Person Worship are Mike Gallagher, Olga Baker, Bob Hernandez, Elaine Ono, Rodney Kurimoto, Marilyn Matthews, Morgan Matthews and Pastor Richard. Jack Weatherford and the rest of the tech crew are working with the task force.

Thank you for your prayers and patience as the task force does its work.

## Stewardship 2021 Pledge Campaign

THANK YOU, St. Matthew's, for your faithful support of St Matthew's through your pledges. The total amount of pledges and giving are expected to remain pretty much the same as last year. We are predicting an increase, overall, of about \$2,800 more than last year, even though the number of pledges received are a few less than last year. Ten families increased their pledge over last year's amount, and five pledges are new.

<b>Total number of pledges received in 2021</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Number of pledges decreased by</b>	<b>-4</b>
<b>Number of new pledges</b>	<b>+5</b>
<b>Number of pledges with increased giving</b>	<b>+10</b>
<b>Number of new givers</b>	<b>+7</b>
<b>for 2021 total expected pledge and giving increased</b>	<b>\$2,800</b>

While we have lost treasured friends and members over the year, we have also had success drawing old friends back and attracting new worshipers. We have started receiving regular, non-pledge, gifts from seven new families, both new people and former familiar names who had not given during the past 12 months. This represents a growth in the number of people embracing St. Matthew's as a church home. Credit goes to our warm and welcoming congregation who continue to reach out, to Richard's Pastoral care, and to being included in prayer lists and other caring activities by church members.

## Graduates Recognition Sunday Is Coming This June

St. Matthew's is honoring our 2020 Graduates in June. The exact date has not been chosen yet. The church is considering different options depending on plans for reopening in person worship in the sanctuary.

But whichever Sunday in June, right now you can help St. Matthew's get ready by letting the church office know about graduates connected with your family. Please contact the Church Office with:

- the name of the graduate
- the name of the school/trade school or college that the person is graduating from
- the degree and in what field
- the graduate's plans for next steps
- your relationship with the Graduate.

There are 4 ways you can get the complete information about the graduate to the church office. You can send an email to [office@smumchh.org](mailto:office@smumchh.org), mail the information to the church, phone 626-333-6656, or drop the graduate's information in the drop box on the front door of the church office.

Please try to get as much information as possible to the church about graduates before the end of May. Any further questions, please contact the church office.



## 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



## Preschool Lease Approved in Special Charge Conference on April 8

On Thursday evening, April 8 St. Matthew's had a special charge conference with our district superintendent Rev. Melissa MacKinnon presiding. The charge conference reviewed several suggested

improvements to the lease with Blessings Day Care. After a time for questions and discussion, the updated lease was approved without any votes in opposition.

However, the lease is still waiting for final East District approval before Blessing Day Care can begin operations at St. Matthew's. Over a month ago, the Preschool Advisory Board provided lengthy written answers to several questions it had received from the East District Committee on Building and Locations. Neither the Preschool Advisory Board nor the special charge conference thought any additional changes to the lease were necessary in order to respond to these questions. The Preschool Advisory Board continues actively following up with the East District about getting its approval for the lease.

Once the East District approves the lease, Blessings Day Care is ready to begin operations at St. Matthew's. It will need to have the Education Building relicensed under its name. So even with East District approval, it will still be several months before children are back at the preschool.

Watch future *ParishScopes* and the weekly announcements for additional information.

## 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

The Men's Breakfast continues on Zoom. Come join each Thursday at 8:00 AM for friendly coffee fellowship. 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](mailto:davidwcrain@aol.com).

*David Crain*



## Summer Is Coming! Camps Are Coming! Camperships Are Available!

We have gotten word that the three southern California United Methodist Camps will be operating this summer. If you have kids or teens that would love to go to camp it is not too early to start thinking about it. Call the church office if you would like more information. St. Matthew's does have some camp scholarships available.



## May Birthdays

May 1	Linda Hall
May 2	Eleanor Brown
May 3	Donna Matsumura Howard King Morey Llerena
May 5	Jimmy Ang
May 9	Travis Gallagher
May 11	Shelley Aney Sanders
May 17	Charlie Wyatt Ryan Zepeda
May 19	Ted Kuhlman Janet Shoop
May 21	Elizabeth Stocks Emmeline Johnston Michael Schillo
May 22	Joel Lopez
May 23	Ruth Hutchison
May 24	Debbie Nason
May 25	Marilyn Lutjens Josiah Gonzalez
May 26	Rev. Phil Hartling Andrew Pastrana Cazares
May 29	Richard Sahara
May 30	Judy Vroman





## May Anniversaries

May 3	Larry & Judy Vroman
May 18	Steve & Monica Shim



# St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2 Communion</b> 8:45am – Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9am – Outside Worship 11am – Worship Online	3	4 7pm-Trustees Meeting	5 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	6 <b>National Day of Prayer</b> 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	7	8
<b>9 Mother's Day</b> 8:45am – Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9am – Outside Worship 11am – Worship Online 12:15pm – Bells practice	10 Noon – "Top of the Hill"	11 7:30pm-SPRC	12 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	13 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	14	15
<i>Louise, Office Administrator, is on Vacation May 10 thru May 14</i>						
<b>16</b> 8:45am – Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9am – Outside Worship 11am – Worship Online	17	18	19 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	20 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	21	22
<b>23 Pentecost</b> 8:45am – Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9am – Outside Worship 11am – Worship Online 12:15pm Bells	24	25	26 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	27 8:00am - Men's Breakfast	28	29
<b>30 Memorial Day Sunday</b> 8:45am – Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9am – Outside Worship 11am – Worship Online	31 <b>Office closed for Memorial Day</b> 					



**9:00 a.m. Worship Service Outside**  
**11:00 a.m. Worship Service Online**

(<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stmatts1>)

**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, 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).**



**THANK GOD FOR  
EVERY GIFT  
RECEIVED**

"Happiness isn't what you find at  
the end of the road.  
It's right here. Right now."  
— Unknown



**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  
Elaine Ono, Director of Music

Louise Green, Office Administrator  
Greg Gomez, Custodian

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