

The ParishScope

December

2021



St. Matthew's
United Methodist Church



**Christmas Eve Candlelight
and Carol Service
at 5:00 p.m.**

*The Christmas Eve Candlelight
and Carol Service is Friday evening,
December 24th at 5:00pm both in-person in
the Sanctuary and also online.*

You can join the online service as it is happening live in the sanctuary or later as best fits with your Christmas plans. (Some may even wish to view this service at 11:15 pm so the service ends around midnight just as Christmas Day begins!)

The service includes lots of opportunities to sing carols, special Christmas music from both the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir. At the end, we will light candles and sing *Silent Night*.

Invite family and friends to join you for a joyful, uplifting Christmas Eve either in-person in the Sanctuary or online.

Share the good news about the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Worship At 10am On December 26th – Online Only, No In-Person
But . . . People Still Can Worship In-Person At 8am**

The annual conference is providing the worship service for St. Matthew's 10 am service on Sunday, December 26th. This includes all the music and our Bishop – Grant Hagiya – preaching. This gives all of the people who make our weekly Sunday worship possible – music staff, tech crew, ushers, greeters, . . . – a day off for the Sunday after Christmas while still having our worship service.



Of course, there are still 2 in-person worship services during the Christmas weekend:

- The Christmas Eve Candle Light and Carol service in the Sanctuary at 5 pm on Friday, December 24th
- The 8 am service on Sunday, December 26th. This service will focus on singing lots of Christmas Carols and hearing the stories behind many of these carols. There will also be special music by Cindy Fallgren and Johnny Doyle. (There will *not* be a sermon.)

“Christmas Baskets” For Newton And Kwis School



This year St. Matthew's is providing gift cards as a "Christmas Basket" to selected children and their families at Newton and Kwis schools. We are doing this instead of asking people to provide poinsettias for the Sanctuary. The schools are selecting the children and their families. We are providing \$50 gift cards so each family can have a special Christmas Dinner. ***Donations need to be in the church office by this Monday, December 13th so that the "Christmas***

Basket" gift cards can be distributed before the schools take their Christmas break.

When people give poinsettias, their gift is in someone's memory or honor. The church shares the poinsettias list of gifts in memory/honor of someone in the January *ParishScope*. When people give towards Christmas Baskets, they often choose to give anonymously.

So, donations of all sizes can be given in any or all of the ways described below. Any amount helps. But, \$50 provides an entire gift card for a Christmas Basket.

- ***make a donation in honor of an individual or couple who is still living.*** The name of the person or couple you're honoring (but *not* the amount) will be published in the January *ParishScope*.
- ***make a donation in memory of someone who has passed.*** The name of the person or couple you're remembering (but *not* the amount) will be published in the January *ParishScope*.
- ***make an anonymous donation.*** Anonymous donations will *not* be published in the January *ParishScope*.

You can get your Poinsettia Christmas Basket donation to the church by:

- ***Putting your donation in the offering plate on Sunday.*** Mark your gift "Poinsettia Gift Basket" and include the names of those you are honoring/remembering.
- ***Mailing your donation. But also e-mail the church office so that we know your gift is on its way.*** Mark your gift "Poinsettia Gift Basket" and include the names of those you are honoring/remembering. The church address is 15653 Newton Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
- ***Bringing your donation to the church. While the office may be closed, the locked box on the office door is always "open".*** Mark your gift "Poinsettia Gift Basket" and include the names of those you are honoring/ remembering. Use the locked box on the front door of the church office.
- ***Making an online donation at www.stmattsumc.com.*** Choose the "Poinsettia Gift Basket" option. *But also e-mail the church office with the names of those you are honoring/remembering.*

Thank you for your support of this project to help children and their families in our community this Christmas.



Pastor Richard Announced His Retirement On June 30, 2022

During the 10 am worship service on December 5th, Pastor Richard announced his retirement on June 30, 2022. This June, he will have completed 40 years of continuous service as a pastor in United Methodist churches since July 1, 1982.

And, at that time he will be just short of his 70th birthday.

In June, Pastor Richard and Ruth are moving to a retirement community – Pilgrim Place – in Claremont where they have long desired to live. They recently found and fell in love with a home there. Pilgrim Place began over a century ago as a retirement community for missionaries. It has evolved into community of persons who have dedicated their lives to improving the lives of others and continue to do so in retirement.

Starting this January, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will be working with our district superintendent, Pastor Saia Tu'itahi, to find St. Matthew's next pastor.

Watch the *ParishScope* and announcements over the next few months for additional information.

Special Charge Conference And Church Council Meeting December 9th

There will be a combined Special Charge Conference and Church Council Meeting at 7:30 pm on Thursday, December 9 on Zoom. Hopefully, the special Charge Conference will be very brief. It's sole agenda is for St. Matthew's to cast its vote in certain matters around the Boy Scout bankruptcy proceedings.

The Church Council meet immediately afterwards. It's agenda will include looking at the 2022 Church Budget and reviewing the church's COVID-19 worship protocols.



If you are coming by phone

Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 810 0959 4496#

If asked for a second ID: #

Password: 829006#

If you are coming by computer

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

Meeting ID: 810 0959 4496

Password: 829006



The Worship Equipment Upgrade Is Almost Complete!!

For the last several weeks those worshipping both in-person in the Sanctuary and online have been enjoying the benefits of the Worship Equipment Upgrade. This included a wonderful special music video that everyone – both in-person and online – could see and hear.

For those online, the new remote control camera provides sharper, clearer pictures of the worship service. And it also allows for quick, easy shifts to see different parts of the Sanctuary depending on what's happening during worship.

Meanwhile, the two new 82 inch screens give those in the Sanctuary a choice of using the worship bulletin or the screen for singing and prayers. One person noted the singing seems louder now because many are looking up at the screens instead of down at their hymnals. The screens also make it easier to see and appreciate Elaine's finger work on the piano.

The remote control camera has allowed our camera operator for the last 18 months to "retire" so she can again sing with the Chancel Choir. And, the new sound system allows for separate adjustments in the Sanctuary and online so a tech crew member is no longer needed to monitor online sound quality. As a result, the Sunday morning tech crew has gone from 4 people to 2.

Because of supply chain issues, the two additional cameras that were ordered in September/October are still on their way. But all of the rest of the equipment upgrade is done.

However, as the tech crew has worked with the new system, they discovered several small additional upgrades which would be helpful. Thanks to the congregation's generosity in the Reopening the Doors Campaign, funds were available so plans for this work could immediately go forward.

Hopefully, the cameras and all this additional work will be complete in time for the Christmas Eve Service.

Did You Get A Butterfly In The Mail?



The 8:00 a.m. Worship Service cut butterflies out of construction paper as part of the recent worship series on how caterpillars enter into cocoons (tombs) and emerge transformed into butterflies. Then, it mailed these butterflies to people connected with the prayer list and others as a reminder of power of God's life-changing love.

Twombly Award Recipient For December 12th Worship Service

Our Twombly Award Recipient, Christopher Trinh, will be performing during our December 12th Worship Service. He will be playing the French horn. Here is Christopher's biography.

My name is Christopher Trinh and I am currently a 2nd year Music Major at Pasadena City College, studying the french horn under the direction of Ms. Tawnee Lynn Lillo. I started piano lessons in the 2nd grade, played clarinet in middle school, and eventually switched to the french horn in high school.

Back in 2014, I originally entered Cal Poly Pomona with the intent to study Aerospace Engineering. I played the french horn in concert bands and wind ensembles as a hobby while studying engineering. In 2019, however, due to personal reasons as well as the later impact of the Coronavirus, I ended up taking a break from school. During the break, I was reminded of my time playing music. One thing led to another, and I decided to take a leap of faith and switched majors to music.

With the support of my family and friends, I now have a new dream to become a sound designer and music composer for the film and video game industry. I hope my music will inspire and help others the way it helped me when I felt lost and unsure of myself during my time off from school.

I have had the privilege of performing with the 2013 PCC Tournament of Roses Honor Band, the CPP Concert Band, the CPP Wind Ensemble, and currently the Pasadena Community/College Orchestra. I have also had the privilege of directing and composing music for CPP VSA's vocal choir: Nth Harmony.



Passing of Long Time Member – Joann Ramsdale

My name is Debbie Thews, daughter of long-time member, Joann Ramsdale, who was a long-time member of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. She passed away on November 17, 2021 and was 94 years old. She and my Dad, Church Ramsdale, came to California in 1962 and joined St. Matthew's shortly after that. Mom directed 2 Children's Choir at St. Matthew's and was the Assistant Director of the Chancel Choir for a while. Mom was also the Chairperson of the Richard M. Riggs Memorial Messiah from 1968 through 1998. She began directing the Bell Choir in 1976 and retired in 2002.

She and my Dad considered St. Matthew's their family and made many lifelong friends at the church.

- Debbie Thews

You can write to the family c/o Debbie & Tom Thews, 5 Morella, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610.



From the 8:00 am Worship

Have you seen a migration of butterflies? In our Sunday focus in October, we went on a journey of the cute crawling caterpillar with its stripes. I would like to share my memories of these furry creatures crossing my path and stopping on a bridge leading to my family's home. My best friend and I stopped and crouched down on the bridge to admire the furry little body and many legs. We invited the little creature to climb onto my friend's finger and into his palm. Then it inched up my finger and into my palm. In my early childhood, I was unaware of this little creature's next stages of life. But its softness put a smile on the faces of two second or third graders with a love of nature.

When I came to St. Matthew's UMC in the early 80's, I became involved with a young adult college and career fellowship group. It did outdoor hiking, camping and biking adventures in our local mountains and river ways and beyond. And, it had a camping spot in the Santa Monica Mountains. Another memory of butterflies was witnessing a great migration of the Monarch Butterfly. Something I had never encountered until my new life stage as a young adult emerging into my career path in Southern California. The majestic flight of a swarm of butterflies fluttered around my head leading me along the trail when a couple of butterflies landed on my arm in a peaceful rest.

In Isaiah 60:1 we read; *"Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."*

I don't know about you, but in the past twenty months I have been dealing with where do we go from here. In a season of uncertainty for twenty months, we may now be seeing a light on the horizon with a new life ahead coming into focus.

As I journeyed along the trail in 2020, I have experienced the sadness of deaths of friends and frustrations and being a part of the cancel culture. But, remembering the hope that Jesus gave me, for with his stripes, he went to the cross and died for my sins.

Teaming up with fellow believers to bring a life stage of struggles and offer of new possibilities. The cancel culture with the negative vibe of I am done with you causes me to be ponder at a lot about who I am.

On Face Book and Instagram, I have shared with new Scouts BSA friends. While many miles apart, it helped many scouts continue and obtain the final stage and earn the rank of Eagle Scout. One scout that was ready to give up and quit scouting picked himself up and has recently joined me as a new Eagle Scout Brother. While miles apart, the nomad young adult from my former home BSA Scout Council connected with me and we became hiking partners via Instagram on Saturday morning hikes sharing our solo treks on IG TV. We helped each other on fund raising projects. One involved opening the doors for a project here at St. Matt's that in turn helped with his Eagle project at Shiner's Childrens' Hospital for a play area.

When I envision a butterfly, I see the majestic, outstretched wings of many hues and colors. Coming out of a life of struggles. God is inside of me. Jesus found me and at a Crusade where I accepted Jesus into my life. While I am not yet perfect, it marked the beginning of becoming a disciple on a mission venturing on God's earth to reach out and share the love of Jesus Christ and always helping people.

In Jude 24, it says: *"Now to him who can keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."*

So, if you see a butterfly, capture its likeness. Send it to someone special and thank them for being a friend. The prayer and communion 8:00 am worship fellowship is once again back to sending care images of love to you.

As we journey through the scriptures collecting images of God's mystery to life.

The Eight o'clock Worship Coordinators et al.

WORSHIP

Worship at St. Matthew's on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, . . .

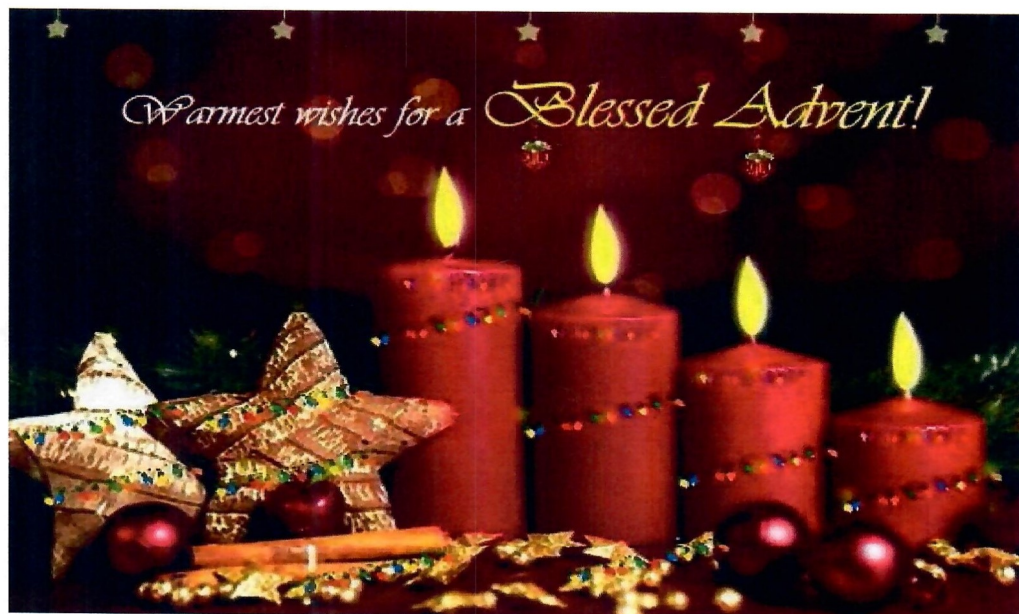
The online worship service is shared live at 10 am on Sunday. Many enjoy coming to worship online from home while people are worshipping in the Sanctuary.

But, the online service also remains available throughout the week. So, if it's not possible to come on Sunday at 10 am, people may come at any other time which is convenient. This could be Sunday afternoon. But it could also be Monday morning, Tuesday evening or Wednesday whenever or any other time.

Many who come to worship online actually connect with the service on Sunday. But others are really do come over the course of the rest of the week. Indeed, some are even connecting a week or two later.

You can any or all of St. Matthew's worship services at: <https://www.facebook.com/Stmatts1/videos/>. Or, look for the direct link to each Sunday's service that is part of the Prayer Update e-mail each Monday.

P.S. Remember, the entire worship service is available online Sunday morning and afternoon. But, then around 5 pm on Sunday, a shorter more focused online service (usually around 35 minutes) replaces the live version of the service. This service is better geared to worship from home but still includes the entire sermon and many of the prayers. So, if you want to come to the entire service, some before 5 on Sunday. But, if a shorter service better suits you, come anytime after Sunday at 5 pm.





WE CONTINUE TO GET TOGETHER . . .

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets Sunday mornings at 8:30am via Zoom.

If you are coming by phone

Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 832 3700 6446#

If asked for a second ID: #

Password: 778913#

If you are coming by computer

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

Meeting ID: 832 3700 6446

Password: 778913

THE SHALOM GROUP meets In-person in the Church Office, beginning at 10:00 a.m. each Monday morning. Call Sharon Kline for more information.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST gets together by Zoom at 8:30am each Wednesday. Any questions, please contact Chris Gallagher.

If you are coming by phone

Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 638 574 0531#

If asked for a second ID: #

Password: 118405#

If you are coming by computer, tablet

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

Meeting ID: 638 574 0531

Password: 118405

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP meets each Thursday morning at 8:00am at IHOP.

Phone David Crain for further details

The first Thursday of each month **OUR LADIES GET TOGETHER IN-PERSON FOR LUNCH AT CASA BLANCA**. We meet for lunch starting at 11:30am.

THE BOOK CLUB meets the third Wednesday of each month. We meet in the Church Library/Office beginning at 12:30pm.

TOP OF THE HILL meets via Zoom the second Monday of each month at Noon. *But no meeting in December because of the Holiday Gathering on December 5th*. To join via zoom, please click on the following link. Our topic will be a holiday themed and a lot of fun for all. Please join us.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85212231333?pwd=dFNRSIRqdjY5NIFXeitSSHJzenRjQT09>

MARTHA CIRCLE AND EVE CIRCLE have reorganized into one Circle. They will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm in Dodrill Hall. Call Dorothy Persinger for more information. New members will be welcomed!



December Birthdays And Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Dec. 2 | Patricia Kunishima Barbara McLaughlin |
| Dec. 10 | Ian Rogers |
| Dec. 16 | Dr. Elaine Drake-Hurst |
| Dec. 18 | Rick Kunishima |
| Dec. 20 | John Robinson |
| Dec. 24 | Leah Cruz-Wood |
| Dec. 25 | Dorothy Tarvin |
| Dec. 27 | Eileen Casterline Lisa Zepeda |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Dec. 8 | Jack & Caroline Weatherford |
| Dec. 20 | Don and Linda Pastrana |
| Dec. 28 | Rich & Denise Kozak |
| Dec. 29 | Terry & Joy Feulner |

December

December Calendar @ St. Matthew's UMC

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, Dec. 1 | 8:30am – Women's Breakfast on Zoom |
| Thursday, Dec. 2 | 11:30am – Women's Lunch at Casa Blanca |
| Saturday, Dec. 4 | 2pm to 8pm - Boy Scout Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday, Dec. 5 | 8:00am - Early Worship 8:30am - Adult Sunday School on Zoom 10:00am - Worship in Sanctuary and Online – 2nd Sunday in Advent 3:00pm – Thanksgiving and Christmas Gathering in Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday, Dec. 5 | |
| Monday, Dec. 6 | 10:00am - Shalom meets in Library |
| Monday, Dec. 6 | Staff Parish meets |
| Tuesday, Dec. 7 | 7:00pm - Trustees meeting |
| Wednesday, Dec. 8 | 8:30am – Women's Breakfast on Zoom 3:00pm – Worship @ The Palms |
| Thursday, Dec. 9 | 8:00am - Men's Breakfast at IHOP |
| Thursday, Dec. 9 | 2:00pm – Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, Dec. 9 | 3:00pm – Bells Rehearsal |
| Thursday, Dec. 9 | 7:30pm – Special Charge Conference followed by Church Council Meeting - Zoom |
| Saturday, Dec. 11 | Noon to 6:00pm - Blessed Chinese UMC Celebration in Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday, Dec. 11 | Boy Scout "Yard Sale" front lawn of Church Office |
| Sunday, Dec. 12 | 8:00am - Early Worship 8:30am - Adult Sunday School on Zoom 10:00am - Worship in Sanctuary and Online – 3rd Sunday in Advent 1:30pm – Chancel Choir records music |
| Monday, Dec. 13 | 10:00am - Shalom meets in Library |
| Wednesday, Dec. 15 | 8:30am – Women's Breakfast on Zoom 1:00pm - Ladies Circles Group Meets in Dodrill Hall 3:00pm – Worship @ The Palms |
| Thursday, Dec. 16 | 8:00am - Men's Breakfast at IHOP 12:30pm – Book Club meets in Church Office/Library 3:00pm - Carillon Bells rehearsal |
| Friday, Dec. 17 | 7:00 to 9pm – Blessed Chinese UMC in Fellowship Hall (this gathering is resuming every Friday) |
| Saturday, Dec. 18 | 9am to 1pm – Blessed Chinese UMC Event in Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday, Dec. 19 | 8:00am - Early Worship 8:30am - Adult Sunday School on Zoom 10:00am - Worship in Sanctuary and Online |
| Monday, Dec. 20 | 10:00am - Shalom meets in Library |
| Wednesday, Dec. 22 | 8:30am - Women's Breakfast on Zoom 3:00pm - Worship @ The Palms |
| Thursday, Dec. 23 | 8:00am - Men's Breakfast at IHOP |
| FRIDAY, DEC. 24 | * 5:00PM – CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND CAROL WORSHIP SERVICE* |
| Sunday, Dec. 26 | Watch for plans about Worship Service this Sunday. |
| Monday, Dec. 27 | 10:00am - Shalom meets in Library |
| Wednesday, Dec. 29 | 8:30am - Women's Breakfast on Zoom 3:00pm - Worship @ The Palms |
| Thursday, Dec. 30 | 8:00am - Men's Breakfast at IHOP |
| FRIDAY, DEC. 31 | NEW YEAR'S EVE |



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

Elias Robles, Video Producer

Greg Gomez, Custodian

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

