

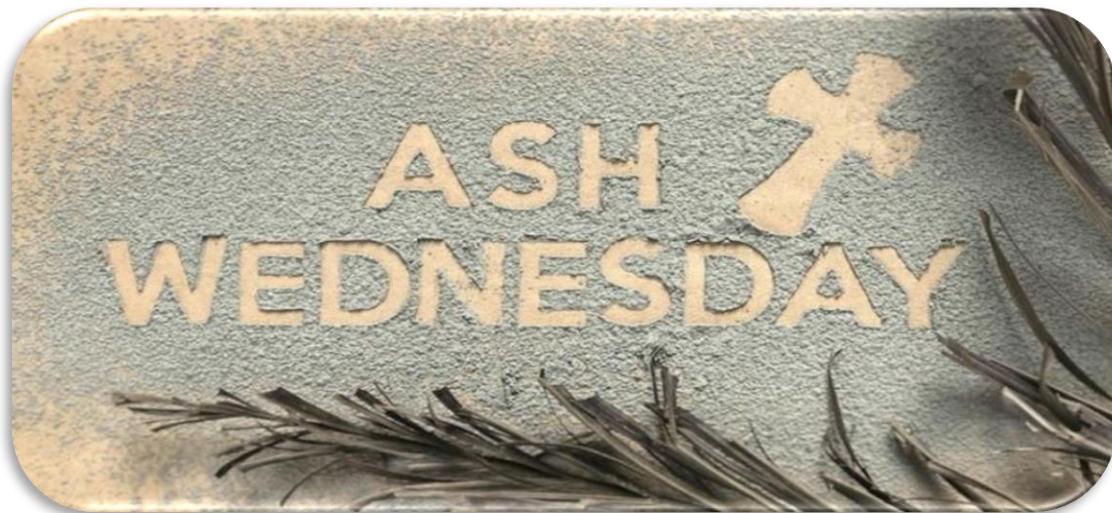
The ParishScope

FEBRUARY

2022



*St. Matthew's
United Methodist Church*



St. Matthew's Is Planning for In-Person Worship on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

St. Matthew's hopes to have its Ash Wednesday service in-person in the Sanctuary at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 2. It will be a very simple service lasting less than an hour. There will be lots of contemplative music and time for quiet reflection. Because of the unusual time for the service, it is unclear if this service can also be offered online.

Traditionally, 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. Just as we do with communion, people are encouraged to bring something from home. Possibilities bringing oil (often olive oil but it could be any cooking oil), dirt from your garden, an erasable black sharpie (could be a different color), water in which to dip your finger, ashes you make by burning something, Then at the appropriate place in the service you can 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.

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. From their perspective, the celebration of Easter is always stronger than the solemnness and fasting of Lent. So, the Sundays during Lent are not counted as part of the Lenten season. Even during Lent, Sunday remains a day of celebration.

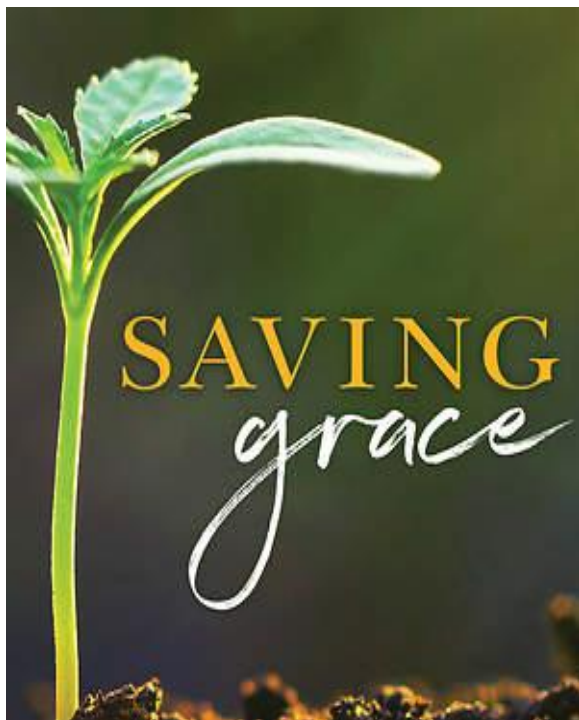
St. Matthew's Assists with Recovery Work in Tonga



St. Matthew's is actively taking part in our annual conference's Tongan Relief Fund to help with recovery work in Tonga after the recent volcano eruption and tsunami. To help, mark your gift "Tongan Relief." Thanks to people's generosity, more than \$1,300 has already been given.

This special offering will send assistance directly to Tonga via organizations on the ground which have direct connections to our Cal-Pac Annual Conference. Many in the church family met our new DS, Pastor Saia Tu'itahi, at our charge conference. He still has family in Tonga and will be coordinating this effort.

As always, 100% of what's given will go to help the people of Tonga.



Coming Soon – Amazing Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being

Money...is it good or is it bad? How do we get a handle on it's role in our lives? How do we, as people of faith, create healthy relationships with money and possessions? *Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being*, adapted from the best-selling *Freed-up Financial Living* curriculum from Good Sense, provides the text and tools people need to address the topics of saving, earning, giving, spending, and debt, along with helpful strategies for achieving a sustainable financial life. This six-part study is based on United Methodist (Wesleyan) values and helps folks reach their personal financial goals as well as address life concerns.

Pastor Richard will be leading a zoom class soon based on *Saving Grace*. It might be particularly helpful for children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends or neighbors who may be struggling to find some control over the role of money in their lives so they can move towards financial well-being. If there is someone you would like invited to the class, contact Pastor Richard by phone 626-261-1428 or e-mail PastorRichard@smumchh.org.

Watch the announcements and the *ParishScope* for its times and dates. But in the meantime, think of people you know who might benefit from this class.

FAREWELL

Mark Your Calendar – Pastor Richard’s 40 Years of Ministry & Retirement Party Is Saturday Afternoon, May 14th

Pastor Richard is retiring soon after 40 years of ministry. There will be a party from 1 pm to 4:30 pm on Saturday afternoon, May 14th at St. Matthew’s hosted by the SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee).

The party will be on the front lawn and in the Fellowship Hall. People may come at 1 pm or anytime afterwards and stay for as long as they like. Chairs and tables will be arranged to encourage people to mingle and talk. Instead of a sit down meal, drinks and finger foods will served.

Pastor Richard has been serving United Methodist Churches since July 1, 1982. In addition to folks from St. Matthew’s, people from the 7 other churches he pastored may come. Everyone – even folks from St. Matthew’s – will be asked soon to RSVP to help the SPRC in their planning.

If you would like to help, contact Diane Hernandez, chair the planning team. Please watch our upcoming newsletters, announcements and emails for further details including how to RSVP.



Pastor Richard’s Last Sunday in Worship at St. Matthew’s Is May 15th

Pastor Richard's last Sunday at St. Matthew's is Sunday, May 15. Blessed Chinese UMC has requested that the 10 am service be a joint worship service between the two congregations. Starting May 16th, Pastor Richard will be on vacation until he retires.

Please mark your calendar now and then watch our upcoming newsletters, announcements and emails for further details about Pastor Richard’s final worship service on May 15th.

**Pastor Mike DeGuzman
Will Be Helping Out
Once Pastor Richard
Goes on Vacation May 16th**



The SPRC has made arrangements for Pastor Mike DeGuzman to coordinate worship and provide pastoral care beginning Monday, May 16 when Pastor Richard goes on vacation. Pastor Mike will continue doing this until St. Matthew's new pastor arrives.

As part of coordinating worship, Pastor Mike will preach most Sundays at both the 8 am and 10 am services. He will start doing this on May 22 continue until St. Matthew's new pastor officially arrives around July 1. Pastor Mike will also be lead worship at the Palms on Wednesdays.

In addition to coordinating worship, he will provide pastoral care. And, although he will *not* be attending committee meetings, he will be available to provide support for church leaders.



Calling St. Matthew's to Prayer

The SPRC invites the church family to be in prayer during this time of transition to a new pastor.

The SPRC met with our DS, Pastor Saia Tu'itahi, about what St. Matthew's is looking for in its next pastor. He listened intently, asked thoughtful questions and took careful notes. Now the congregation enters a time of waiting for the appointment of the pastor to be announced sometime over the next few months. Meanwhile, the congregation is encouraged make this a time of active waiting by joining with the SPRC in praying as the bishop and DS discern who will be our next pastor.

The SPRC will have an opportunity to meet with the proposed new pastor before his/her appointment to St. Matthew's is finalized. The new pastor is expected to officially begin around July 1.

A Thank You

Dear Church Family –

Thank you all for your kind words and support during Joel's home recovery. Our family is grateful to Pastor Richard for his outreach and message at Joel's celebration of life memorial. I continue to be blessed by your prayers.



2 Timothy 4:7

- Anita Lopez

HEALTHY CHURCH

Worshipping at St. Matthew's

Thankfully, the spike from the omicron variant appears to be subsiding. Groups at St. Matthew's that had paused in-person meetings are beginning to meet in-person again.

St. Matthew's Task Force on Resuming Worship had an e-mail consultation. It strongly recommends for the time being that the church keeps its present practices regarding Sunday worship since so many in the church family are vulnerable. Indeed, even though the spike is subsiding, folks connected with St. Matthew's still are testing positive and needing to isolate. Sometimes people are not only testing positive but getting sick or even needing to be hospitalized.

So, for the time-being as part of following Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves, the church family is asked to:

- If you are sick (COVID-19 or otherwise) or had significant exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the last 5 days, stay home and only come to worship online.
- Wear a face covering at all times during worship, especially when singing.
- Be careful to maintain social distancing. Several months ago when things were looking better, there was a tendency to be more relaxed about this.

The Task Force continues to monitor the situation and will meet as necessary. Task Force members are: Olga Baker, Richard Bentley, Mike Gallagher, Bob Hernandez, Rodney Kurimoto, Marilyn Matthews and Elaine Ono.

FYI from St. Matthew's Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees met Tuesday evening, Feb. 1st. They choose officers as well as appointed those who serve on this committee with certain responsibilities for our St. Matthew's Campus. Please see the list below. Any problems or concerns regarding our campus, please do not disturb our Trustee President nor Vice-President. Please contact Louise in Church Office at 626-333-6656 or email to office@smumchh.org.

Trustees Officers 2022 & List of Trustees Responsibilities

President – Glenn Hayes (serving a 1 year term until Jan. 2023)
Vice President – Sam Robles (serving a 1 year term until Jan. 2023)
Secretary – LaVerne Shaffer

The following persons also serve on the Board of Trustees and handle issues regarding:

Sanctuary and Kitchen in Fellowship Hall – Olga Baker
Office and Dodrill Hall – Jerry Casterline
Fellowship Hall – LaVerne Shaffer
Preschool Building and Alarm System for St. Matthew's Campus – Bob Hernandez
Parsonage – Marilyn McMullin
Church Grounds/ Boy Scout Liaison/ Eagle Scout Projects – Huber Bongolan
Liaison to Blessed Chinese UMC/Korean MC – Dick Cline

- Louise, Office Administrator



Report from St. Matthew's Finance Committee

St. Matthew's broke even financially in 2021, as a result of strong giving during December and Christmas. Financial highlights of the year include the funding and installation of the new audio/video equipment in the

sanctuary, upgrading the preschool play area and generous contributions to UMCOR.

In 2022 Blessings Preschool has begun operation and we are expanding our relationship with Blessed Chinese to include an afterschool program. Both the preschool and afterschool programs will provide a service to the community as well as provide income to St. Matthew's.

A balanced budget has been approved by the committee incorporating the direction provided at the last Church Council meeting. The final budget will be presented at the next Church Council meeting for formal approval. A huge thank you to Patty Graves, our treasurer, for all of her work putting the budget together and help the new chairs come up to speed.

We on the Finance Committee look forward to 2022 being a good year, both spiritually and financially.

Yours in Christ, Joy and Terry Feulner

FINANCE RESULTS - YEAR TO DATE THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2022

INCOME AND EXPENSES

with comparison to prior year

	Jan 2022	Jan 2021
Income		
4000 · Pledges & Gifts	14,353	19,158
4020 · Space donations, events	2,650	0
4030 · Lease income-Preschool Building	1,662	0
4050 · Other income	0	2
4080 · Capital Campaigns & Fund Drives	50	78
Total Income	18,715	19,239
Total Expense	18,677	16,325
Net Surplus (loss)	\$ 38	\$ 2,914

CASH AVAILABLE

Cash available January 31, 2022	\$ 98,026	\$ 92,314
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January was a good month - we finished the month in surplus, meaning we took in more than we spent. The lease income from the preschool helps with that; in addition to the income shown above we banked \$2,080 of the lease payment as reserves for future repairs.

Cash available includes all St. Matthew's accounts, checking, savings, and reserve accounts



February Birthdays And Wedding Anniversaries




Feb. 1	Donna Peterson
Feb. 2	Diane Hernandez Lonnie Sardo
Feb. 3	Charlie Dietrich
Feb. 4	Ruth Harker
Feb. 7	Yuet Yun
Feb. 9	Cindy Fallgren
Feb. 17	Norm Peterson
Feb. 19	Riley Gallagher Dorothy Hulbert
Feb. 24	Marie Peterson
Feb. 25	Jerry Lutjens
Feb. 26	Irma Rosas

February Wedding Anniversaries

Feb. 10th Bill & Marilyn McMullin



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7pm-Trustees Meeting	2 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm-The Palms	3 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 11:30am - Ladies Lunch @ Casa Blanca 3pm-Bells practice	4 6:30pm-9pm Blessed Chinese UMC (FH)	5 Boy Scout Fundraiser - Parking Lot (to Slurry St. Matthew's Parking Lot)
6 Communion 8am-Early Worship 8:30am - Adult Sunday School Zoom 10am - Worship in Sanctuary & Online	7 10:00 - Shalom 7:30pm - Staff Parish via Zoom	8	9 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm-The Palms	10 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 3pm-Bells practice 7:30pm-Finance Committee	11 6:30pm-9pm Blessed Chinese UMC (FH)	12
13 8am-Early Worship 8:30am - Adult Sunday School Zoom 10am - Worship in Sanctuary & Online	14 Valentine's Day 10:00 - Shalom Noon - Top of the Hill via Zoom 	15	16 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 1pm-Naomi Circle (FH) 3:00pm -The Palms	17 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 12:30pm - Book Club (Church Office) 3pm-Bells practice	18 6:30pm-9pm Blessed Chinese UMC (FH)	19
20 8am-Early Worship 8:30am - Adult Sunday School Zoom 10am - Worship in Sanctuary & Online	21 Office Closed for President's Day 	22	23 8:30am - Women's Breakfast 3:00pm -The Palms	24 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 3pm-Bells practice	25 6:30pm-9pm Blessed Chinese UMC (FH)	26
27 8am-Early Worship 8:30am - Adult Sunday School Zoom 10am - Worship in Sanctuary & Online	28 10:00am - Shalom					



8:00 a.m. In-Person Prayer and Worship Service in the Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online Worship Live. (<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stmatts1>)

Be sure to call or email the Church Office for further information or questions about St. Matthew's meetings, classes, or activities or "get togethers" at 626-333-6656 or office@smumchh.org.

LOVE

IS PATIENT.

IS KIND.

DOES NOT ENVY.

DOES NOT BOAST.

IS NOT PROUD.

DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS.

IS NOT SELF-SEEKING.

IS NOT EASILY ANGERED.

KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS.

DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL.

REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH.

ALWAYS PROTECTS.

ALWAYS TRUSTS.

ALWAYS HOPES.

ALWAYS PERSEVERES.

LOVE NEVER FAILS.

Corinthians 13:4-8



ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Phone: 626-333-6656

Email: office@smumchh.org

Rev. Richard Bentley, Pastor
Elaine Ono, Director of Music
Greg Gomez, Custodian

Louise Green, Office Administrator
Elias Robles, Video Producer

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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