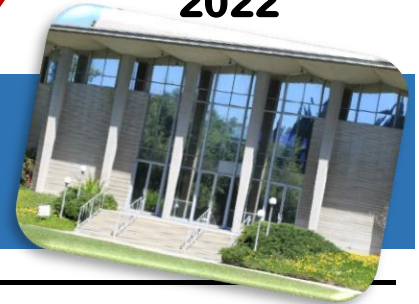


The ParishScope

APRIL
2022



St. Matthew's
United Methodist Church



Good Friday Service, 7:30 pm (not 7 pm) April 15th, both In-Person and Online

St. Matthew's Good Friday Service is at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 15th. (Please note the change from 7:00 pm.) It will happen both in-person in the Sanctuary and online on Facebook. The service is built around a series of dramatic readings of the passion story using Mark's gospel as a guide. During the service, candles will be extinguished as the sanctuary is gradually darkened. The congregation will help by singing hymns that are connected with the readings.

As with all online services at St. Matthew's, you can come to the service as its happening at 7:30 pm on Good Friday or at a later time afterwards that is good for you. Connect with the online service at <https://www.facebook.com/Stmatts1/videos>.

Celebrate Hope!! Christ Is Alive!! Easter Sunday, April 17th

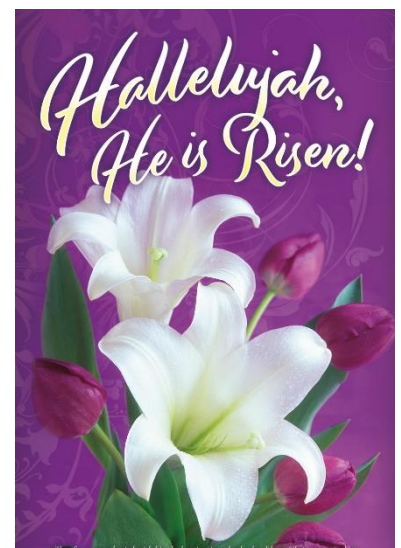
Invite family, friends, neighbors and/or folks you know to come celebrate this Easter at St. Matthew's. Folks can come at 10 am for either the in-person in the Sanctuary or the online as the service is happening in the Sactuary. People may also connect with the Easter service online later on Easter Sunday or throughout the week.

This Easter includes many of St. Matthew's cherished traditions:

- Bringing flowers to help cover the Easter cross. The cross will be on the lawn in front of the church before the 10 am service. Everyone is encouraged to bring flowers from home to help cover the cross.
- Amazing, uplifting special music from both the Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir. In the Moravian Easter tradition, there will also be special trombone music.
- Opportunities for the congregation to sing lots of Easter hymns.

As things presently stand, face coverings will be optional on the main floor. But, the balcony is reserved for those who wish to worship in an area where everyone is wearing face coverings.

The entire Easter service will remain online until about 5 pm on Easter Sunday. After 5 pm, a shorter version of the service will be available along with ways to directly connect with all of the special music. Connect with the online service at <https://www.facebook.com/Stmatts1/videos>



Easter Flower Cross

One of the enduring traditions at St. Matthew's is covering the Easter Cross with flowers. This year options include:

- placing flowers on the Easter Cross before the 10 am service. Bring flowers from home to help cover the cross.
- during the online service, place a flower from the yard in a vase, perhaps with a cross nearby. Or, get a colorful bouquet or Easter Lily to put in a special place. Or, . . .
- drive by St. Matthew's later on Easter to add flowers to the Easter Cross on the church's front lawn.



Sunday, April 26th (Sunday after Easter) the 10 am Service will be Online Only

The Annual Conference is providing the Worship Service for St. Matthew's at 10:00 am on Sunday, April 26th. It will be brief, about 35 minutes with special music from across the annual conference.

By only having a 10 am service online, the entire worship team – musicians, tech crew, ushers, greeters – can have a much deserved rest after all the special preparations for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter.

Those who desire in-person worship on April 26th can come to the 8 am service in the Sanctuary. It is a more informal service and offers the opportunity to discuss the sermon with Pastor Richard. It often has special music by Cindy Fallgren and/or Johnny Doyle.

Giving Easter "Baskets" to Local Families



The week before Easter, St. Matthew's is giving a total of 50 Easter "Baskets" – \$50 gift cards for food – to Kwis and Newton Schools to help children and their families have a special Easter. As in past years, the schools are delighted to be able to help needy children and their families to be able to better celebrate Easter thanks to these gift cards. Both schools continue to express profound appreciation to the St. Matthew's church family for their generosity.

This Easter, the gift cards were purchased with through donations that have already been given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund is supported by both special designated gifts to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and donations to the Poor Plate on Communion Sundays. In addition, some are making special donations to help replenish some of the funds used for the Easter Gift Cards. Many thanks to those who have contributed. Your ongoing support makes it possible for St. Matthew's to keep making a difference in the community.

Sunday, May 1st – Joint Worship Service



St. Matthew's and Blessed Chinese are having a joint in-person worship service at 10 am on Sunday, May 1st outdoors on the lawn in front of the Sanctuary. The service will also be shared live online on Facebook.

The service is an opportunity for many of the different groups at St. Matthew's to say farewell to Pastor Richard. In addition to Blessed Chinese, folks may be present from Blessings Preschool, Cub Pack 710, Scout Troop 710, the Chinese after school program, and Hacienda Korean. May 1st begins with a brief worship service. This service includes special music from several different groups and a meditation by Monalisa Tu'itahi, wife of our district superintendent and the first elected lay delegate from our annual conference to General Conference. At the end of the service there will be an opportunity for different groups to share short farewell messages with Pastor Richard.

Since it is a joint service, all of the different groups will share in leading the overall service. Parts of the service may happen in different languages. But only one language will be used at a time with verbal translation kept to a minimum. There will also be a time for everyone to partake in communion using communion elements they have brought from home or individualized communion packets provided by the church. (I.e. communion will be like its been done since the beginning of COVID.)

This joint service is in addition to Pastor Richard's farewell party/40 years of ministry celebration from 1 pm to 4:30 pm on Saturday, May 14. Pastor Richard's last service at St. Matthew's is Sunday, May 15 and includes Pastor Richard's final sermon before retiring.

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee Announces our New Minister

As announced at Worship Service on March 27 (and you can view the announcement on Facebook by going to <https://www.facebook.com/Stmatts1/videos/477458480734583>) the SPRC is excited to welcome the appointment of Rev. David Choi as St. Matthews next pastor.

The SPRC met with Rev. David and his wife Mary, having been introduced by the District Superintendent, Rev. Siosaia Tu'itahi. We were uniformly impressed with him and the care the District had taken to consider the needs of our congregation when making this appointment.

Rev. David brings a wealth of experience with diverse communities and multi-cultural congregations. His emphasis on growing congregations through community music programs appears to be an excellent match for St. Matthew's, providing timely opportunities for growth, while enhancing our already rich music heritage.

Rev. David will begin his term with our Church on July 1. Along with the SPRC I invite all of St. Matthew's to warmly welcome David and Mary to their new church home.

John Elliott, SPRC Chair

Please also see a letter to St. Matthew's from Rev. Dr. Choi on page 6 in this newsletter.



SPPRC
Staff Pastor Parish
Relations Committee

Stewardship Update . . .

As we wrap up this year's pledge campaign let us first thank you for your faithful response. As we write this, we have received 31 pledges. And, they continue to arrive. As you contemplate pledging remember the words of John Wesley:

"Do All the good you can, In all the ways you can, As long as ever you can." You can return the card you received in the mail, get one at church Sunday morning, or click on the link in our website (it's really quite easy).



Joy and Terry Feulner, Finance Chairs

Financial results through February are encouraging compared to last year. This year's total income is greater by almost \$13,000. And, while expenses are \$6,400 greater than last year, they are right on target to budgeted amounts. Our overall net income (loss) is improved by \$6,500. Another indicator of improvement is the available cash which is almost \$27,000 more than last year.

FINANCE RESULTS - YEAR-TO-DATE THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2022

INCOME AND EXPENSES *

with comparison to prior year

2 months ended	February 2022	February 2021
Income		
4000 · Pledges & Gifts	26,298	33,287
4020 · Space donations, events	7,450	2,000
4030 · Lease income-Preschool Building	4,573	0
4050 · Other income		42
4080 · Capital Campaigns & Fund Drives	50	-9,922
Total Income	38,371	25,407
Total Expense	45,869	39,430
	\$	\$
Net Surplus (loss)	(7,498)	(14,023)
CASH AVAILABLE		
	\$	\$
Cash available February 28,	95,402	68,413

~March reports will be presented next month after all March bills are received.

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

Questions? Patty Graves, Treasurer: pattygraves@hotmail.com or phone/text (562) 713-8717

* as of 4/7/2022

Greetings from Rev. Dr. David Choi

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus.

Hope all is well with you. I am David Choi who is appointed at St. Matthew's UMC as pastor on July 1.

Mary and I thank the SPRC members for showing us their kindness at the SPRC meeting. I was glad to share my ministry plan with them. Mary and I have been serving the community for over 15 years with our musical talents. We have taught over 1,000 people so far and some of them majored in music in college. We plan to continue our music ministry at St. Matthew's UMC. Besides the music ministry, I have a great passion for proclaiming the gospel and leading Bible Studies. I love visiting people on the weekdays.

What I know about St. Matthew's UMC is that it is an adaptive church that embraces challenges, experimentation, and evolving environments. It shares the facility and partners with other ministries in the community. One of my pastor friends lives close to St. Matthew's. He told me that he often sees diverse events on the church's LED sign. It seems the congregation loves their neighbors as themselves. You welcome everyone. I read the church newsletters and it seems the church is very busy with many events for the community. Mary and I will look forward to joining those events.

My ministry at St. Matthew's UMC will officially begin on July 1st. I read an announcement in the newsletter that the church plans to have a farewell party for Rev. Bentley and his wife Ruth. I pray that it would be a nice party. I respect his ministry very much and thank him for everything he has done for the church. Please bless him and his wife.

Mary and I look forward to seeing you all at the church. I believe that God will do great things as we humbly serve God and the community.

*Blessings,
Rev. Dr. David Choi*



Adult Sunday School



The Adult Sunday School started a new study Sunday, April 3rd on the Book of Revelation. New people are especially welcome.

The class meets at 8:30 am on Sunday mornings via Zoom. It is under the leadership of Rodney Kurimoto. The class watches a video each week. Afterwards, there is a class discussion. You do not need to register in order to come to the class. But, if you send Rodney an e-mail, then he can send you helpful material for each week's class. His e-mail is rkkurimoto@gmail.com

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

UMCOR Offering to Help the People of Ukraine

St. Matthew's is taking up a special UMCOR Offering for humanitarian relief efforts that are under way as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The funds will enable United Methodists and mission partners to provide support in Ukraine and in neighboring countries welcoming those fleeing the violence. So far more than \$6,000 has been given.

Because the United Methodist Church has congregations all around the globe, some of the UMCOR's relief work is being carried out by local United Methodist Churches in European countries that border Ukraine. For example, in Romania the Cluj-Napoca United Methodist Church is using its community center, a former hotel, to host "guests" who had to flee Ukraine.

To give, make your check out to St. Matthew's and mark your offering "Ukraine." As always thanks to UMCOR Sunday, 100% of what people give will go to help the people of Ukraine.



Updated Worship Protocols

Starting April 3, some changes were made in some of St. Matthew's worship practices:

- *Balcony* - The balcony has been reopened for occupancy during worship. Masks are required in the balcony.
- *Rest of sanctuary* - Masks are optional.
- *The first two pews on the piano side* of the sanctuary are to be left empty.

Although masks will be optional in the sanctuary, people are asked to continue keeping a safe distance, at least 6 feet, between themselves and persons who are not part of their household.

For the time being, people are still asked to check in at the table in the entryway to the church. And, we will continue with the standing in place greeting at the beginning of worship and with people giving their offering at the back of the church as they enter or leave the sanctuary.



Please RSVP for Pastor Richard's Retirement Gathering on May 14



Thank you to everyone who has already RSVPed about coming to Pastor Richard's Retirement/40 Years of Ministry Celebration on May 14. There are several ways to RSVP:

- You can call or e-mail Sheila Crain that you are coming. Please call her at home (626) 330-3405 or send her an e-mail at scrainx4@aol.com
- If you have gotten an e-mail with an Evite, please respond to the Evite. If you have e-mail and cannot find your Evite, contact Sheila Crain so you can be sent another one.
- Go to Evite and RSVP at <http://evite.me/D31T286JQu>

The celebration of Pastor Richard's Retirement and 40 years of Ministry is from 1 pm to 4:30 pm on Saturday, May 14. *Note there are no longer plans for a brief program at 2 pm.*

The party will be on the front lawn and in the Fellowship Hall. People may come at 1 pm or any time 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 served 8 United Methodist Churches since he began serving as a pastor on July 1, 1982. So in addition to folks from St. Matthew's, other people may be coming who have been connected with his ministry over the years. It would be very helpful to those who are planning if everyone can RSVP.

If you would like to help, contact Diane Hernandez, chair the planning team. Then, watch the *ParishScope*, announcements and emails for further information.



What's Happening at St. Matthew's during the Transition from Pastor Richard's Retirement to the arrival of St. Matthew's New Pastor

Pastor Richard will be on vacation from May 16 until his retirement on June 30. So, Pastor Mike de Guzman will be coordinating Worship and providing Pastoral Care from May 16 to July 1 when St. Matthew's new pastor arrives.

As part of coordinating worship, Pastor Mike will preach on many Sundays both at the 8 am and 10 am services. He will also be leading worship at the Palms on Wednesdays.

As an experienced pastor, he is also available to provide support for church leadership (but not attend committee meetings) during this time.

The SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) met with our DS Saia Tu'itahi about what St. Matthew's was looking for in its next Pastor. As announced during our March 27th Worship, the Rev. Dr. David Choi will be joining St. Matthew's beginning July 1st.

A Thank You!

Dear Carillon Ringers and Chancel Choir -

Thank you for all your hard work in beautifying the gardens in front of the Sanctuary. Diane Hernandez has been pulling up weeds on her own for the past few weeks. The choir as well will be joining Diane in the following weeks until all is done. Hopefully gardens will be weed free and gorgeous in time for Palm Sunday or Easter.

Carillon Ringers members include: Eleanor Brown, Joy and Terry Feulner, Chris Gallagher, Diane Hernandez, Pat Kunishima, and Judy Vroman.

Thank you!

Elaine Ono, Director of Music



Birthdays And Wedding Anniversaries

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 2	Donna Lilly
	Leslie O'Leary
April 4	Abigail Barnes
April 10	Marilyn McMullin
April 11	Charlie Hogg
April 12	Eric Wood
	Jeanne Sahara
April 13	Nancy Acosta
April 16	Todd Peterson
April 22	Lucille Householder
	Sherry Winchell
April 24	Marcus Gonzalez
April 25	Bianca Ault (Hernandez)
April 27	Marilyn Matthews
April 28	Andrew Zepeda
	Tina Peterson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Joe and Patty Graves April 3



WE CONTINUE TO GET TOGETHER . . .

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets Sunday mornings at 8:30 am 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 is meeting in-person at 10:00 a.m. each Monday morning. For the time being, it is gathering at the home of Sharon Kline because of Sharon's recent accident. Call Sharon Kline for more information.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST gets together by Zoom at 8:30 am 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 8:00 am both in person at IHOP but also by Zoom. Phone David Crain for further details.

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

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

TOP OF THE HILL meets via Zoom the second Monday of each month at Noon. To join via zoom, please click on the following link. Our topics are different each meeting and a lot of fun for all. Please join us.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85212231333?pwd=dFNRSIRqdjY5NlFXeitSSHJzenRjQT09>

NAOMI CIRCLE meets on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Call Dorothy Persinger for more information. New members will be welcomed!

An Eastertime Thought from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Every year during the Lenten Season, members at a United Methodist Church in Orange County put together a Lenten Booklet. Members submit whatever their heart desires having to do with Lent for each of the 40 days in Lent. The booklet is copied and handed out free to anyone wishing a copy.

The submission below is from this year's booklet. Boy, this writing gave me something to really, really ponder.

What the Cross Symbolizes
by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
(from "The Stone that Rolled Away – Living the Miracle of Easter")

Every time I look at the cross, I am reminded of the greatness of God and the redemptive power of Jesus Christ. I am reminded of the beauty of sacrificial love and the majesty of unswerving devotion to truth. It causes me to say with John Bowring:

*In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.*

It would be wonderful were I to look at the cross and sense only such a sublime reaction. But somehow I can never turn my eyes from that cross without also realizing that it symbolizes a strange mixture of greatness and smallness, of good and evil. As I behold that uplifted cross, I am reminded not only of the unlimited power of God, but also of the sordid weakness of man. I think not only of the radiance of the divine, but also of the tang of the human. I am reminded not only of Christ at his best, but of man at his worst.

We must see the cross as the magnificent symbol of love conquering hate and of light overcoming darkness. But in the midst of this glowing affirmation, let us never forget that our Lord and Master was nailed to that cross because of human blindness. Those who crucified him knew not what they did.

Easter Blessings to each of you
from your Office Administrator, Louise

dreamstime

HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION



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**

