



The ParishScope

Newsletter

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

15653 Newton Street

Hacienda Heights, CA 91765

626-333-6656

office @smumchh.org

May 2022 Issue



Newton Says "Thank You" in a Giant Way!!

The Thursday before Easter, St. Matthew's distributed 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. The church lets the schools choose the families because each school has quiet ways of knowing when families need some extra help. Indeed, many times schools are aware of families in situations which might otherwise be overlooked.

Both schools expressed profound appreciation to the St. Matthew's church family for their generosity. But, Newton Middle School surprised the church by acknowledging St. Matthew's in a very big, public way – on its information/announcement sign – for the church's donations and support over the years.

Newton School is also appreciative that St. Matthew's has been providing parking for its staff while major construction has been happening at the school during the last few months.



**All Church Conference and
Church Council Meeting
Starting 7:30 pm on Thursday, May 12**

St. Matthew's is having a special All Church Conference at 7:30 pm on Thursday, May 12, 2022. The purpose of this session is to approve Rev. Choi's 2022 Salary & Benefit package at St. Matthew's UMC and to approve minutes from previous charge conferences. Since this is an All Church Conference, all church members may vote.

The All Church Conference is expected to be brief. So immediately afterwards, there will be a Church Council

meeting. Most of Church Council agenda will probably be around matters connected with St. Matthew's change of pastors on July 1. But there may also be other matters on the agenda. With the sudden passing of Marilyn Matthews, Mike Gallagher as lay leader will be helping coordinate the agenda.

Both the All Church Conference and Church Council meeting will be on zoom. The zoom info is below.

For additional info, watch the announcements – especially for Sunday, May 8 – and congregation wide e-mails.

If you would like to get the agenda and information for both these meetings, please let the church office know either by e-mail office@smumchh.org or phone 626-333-6656.

If you are coming by phone

(i.e. you do not need a computer to come),

Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 810 0959 4496#

If asked for a second ID: #

Password: 829006#

If you are coming by computer, tablet,

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

Meeting ID: 810 0959 4496

Password: 829006



Mother's Day Is Sunday, May 8th

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 Rosa Robles! Come and listen to her special message on May 8.

The Worship service will also include a few moments to remember and give thanks for the life of Elizabeth Gutierrez, mother of Marcie Dietrich. There has never been a memorial service for Elizabeth in California because she passed in early 2020, just as COVID-19 was shutting everything down.

Elaine Ono is being given Mother's Day Sunday off. Cindy Fallgren will be our guest pianist.

Notice About "Top Of The Hill"

There will *not* be a meeting of the "Top of the Hill" gang in May because the Feulners will be out of town.



However, in June there will be a special Top of the Hill on Zoom featuring a presentation of the Viet Nam remembrances by Dr. David Fitchett. Dave spent 2 tours of duty in Viet Nam as a surgeon. His pictures and thoughts on his time "in country" are amazing.

Joy has known Dave her entire life. In fact, she was delivered by his father. If you have traveled with Joyful Tours, then you may already know Dave and his wife, Marilyn.

This will be a special presentation. Encourage all you know to join us on June 13th at Noon.

Pastor Richard's Retirement & 40 Yeas of Ministry Gathering Is May 14



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 primarily be on the front lawn. 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, man other people are coming who have been connected with his ministry over the years. So, it's very helpful to those planning the event for everyone – including folks from St. Matthew's – to RSVP.

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>

If you would like to help, contact Diane Hernandez, chair the planning team.

Pastor Richard's Last Sunday Preaching at St. Matthew's is May 15th

Please be sure to join us for either the 8 am or 10 am Worship Service on Sunday, May 15th. This is Pastor Richard's last Sunday preaching at St. Matthew's before he goes on vacation and then retires.

Please join us in saying goodbye and wishing Pastor Richard and Ruth Hutchison all our best during their last Sunday in worship.

Richard's official last day as Senior Minister at St. Matthew's is June 30th. But, he is taking his much earned vacation time beginning May 16th. For part of this vacation, Pastor Richard and Ruth are going to Minnesota for their daughter Hope's ordination as a United Methodist minister on May 24.

Thank you for your service to St. Matthew's, Pastor Richard!



Picture of Pastor Richard's last Easter Sunday he preached at St. Matthew's UMC before he retires. Also a pic of our Easter Flower Cross.

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. Pastor Mike de Guzman will be coordinating Worship and providing Pastoral Care from May 16 to July 1 when St. Matthew's new Pastor, the Rev. Dr. David Choi arrives and begins serving St. Matthew's.

As part of coordinating worship, Pastor Mike will preach on many Sundays at both 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.



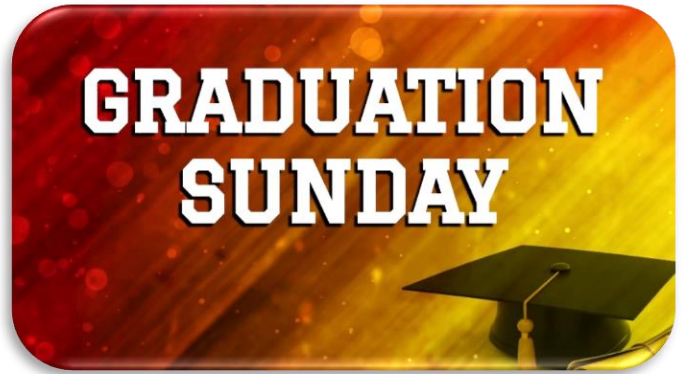
Graduates Recognition Sunday **Is June 12th**

St. Matthew's is honoring our Graduates during the 10 am worship service on Sunday, June 12th. You can help St. Matthew's get ready by letting the church office know about graduates connected with your family. Please provide:

- 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 information about the graduate to the church office. You can send an email to 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 by Wednesday, June 1st. Any further questions, please contact the church office.



Elias Robles Wins a Music Center Spotlight Grand Prize

We're excited to share that Elias Robles was recently named a Grand Prize Finalist in the Non-Classical Voice category for the Music Center's Spotlight program. Spotlight is a performing arts program where students compete for scholarship money, training and an opportunity to perform at the Ahmanson Theatre. We're also happy to announce Elias has committed to the Boston Conservatory at the Berklee College of Music beginning this Fall semester 2022.



Following is the link to the finalists' bio and ticket information for the June 15, 2022 performance where Elias will perform his winning song:

<https://www.musiccenter.org/experience-learn/experience-learn/for-high-school-students-young-adults/spotlight/grand-prize-finalists/>

– Sam and Rosa Robles

A Thank You Note

Thank You

Dear Pastor Richard,

I was given this beautiful Easter lily plant by our front office. They told me that it was from the visiting Pastor which must be you. What a nice gesture on your part. I should be the one to thank you for ministering to us weekly at the Palms by giving you the flowers – not the other way around. Thank you so much for your kindness. Enclosed is a gift to your church to say thank you.

*From one of your Palms attendees, God bless,
Jim*

Note: The Worship Committee organized the delivery of 24 Easter Lilies to people who are in or connected with the Church Family, including Jim and his mother who was turned 104 shortly after Easter.

Our Special Guest Speaker for Worship on Sunday, June 5th

My name is Abiba Alice Shomari. You can call me Pastor Alice. I will be preaching at St. Matthew's on Sunday, June 5. I am married to Rodgers Chishiba. My husband and I are both pastors serving the United Methodist churches in Kansas in the Great Plains Annual Conference, which is located in the states of Kansas and Nebraska. The good Lord has blessed us with five handsome boys – seen below is our family picture. I enjoy family time, cooking, listening to the music, dance, and walking in the park. I also love traveling, meeting new people and making new discoveries in life.

I was born and raised in a small town of Kalemie in the Katanga province of the Republic Democratic of the Congo in Africa. My family of origin is Muslim. I converted and was baptized as a believer into the Christian faith at the age of thirteen. My growing in this journey of Christian faith is rooted in prayer, reverence to the almighty God, and the gift of relationships of family and friends that I meet alongside this faith journey.

Nevertheless, growing up with an Islamic background I value a diversity of interfaith religions. Also, as a black African woman raised in a periphery remote area of poverty within a patriarch culture, I have experienced first-hand social discrimination where women are only allowed to study at certain level. I have been blessed to have come in America with the support and empowerment of other people. In particular, women have helped me further my studies and be able to work here in the USA.

In the growing age of interfaith of religions and the blessings of friendship has led and inspired me to form a missional project called Women of Diverse Confessions (W.D.C). This is a nonprofit organization that empowers and promotes people of diverse cultural backgrounds, faiths and religions to come together in good will to find solutions on how to develop community life and well-being of others. Our missional causes include education, healthcare, gardening, raising animals, community church roofing project. In the Kisima Water Project; women lead and engage others in the gospel conversations using Jesus' model of conversation with the Samaritan woman in John chapter 4. Currently, we are campaigning to raise money in the amount of \$63,000.00 to help funds for the "**Kisima Water Project.**" So, there is a special offering for this project when I am at St. Matthew's on June 5th. For more information and other ways to help, please go to <https://www.womenodc.org/sp/>.

Shalom!



The Chishibas' family in the picture; from left to right above, Aaron, Rodgers Sr., Alice, Johnson. and down from left to the right; Japheth, Rodgers Jr., and Jephte.



Report From The Finance Committee

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN – Exciting days are ahead for St. Matthew’s as we break from our chrysalis and spread our wings into 2022. A huge thank you to all St. Matthew’s folks who joined in this year’s pledge campaign!!!! Commitments this year outpaced last year, both in participation and in the total amount pledged, which totals this year to \$116,820. Your generous pledges encourage and fund St. Matthew’s Missions and Teams to move forward boldly.

FINANCIAL RESULTS -- The financial outlook remains encouraging. Giving remained strong in the first quarter. Total income is up considerably compared to last year. Because we are returning to pre-Covid levels of activity it is only to be expected that more is being spent this year than last. Remember that last year we had not yet resumed face-to-face anything. Overall, our net loss through March is not pretty, but it is significantly better than this time last year.

**YEAR TO DATE THROUGH MARCH 31,
with comparison to prior year**

Three Months Ended	Jan - Mar 2022	Jan - Mar 2021
Income		
4000 · Pledges & Gifts	\$41,670.81	\$49,302.77
4020 · Space donations, events	11,400.00	4,925.00
4030 · Lease income -Preschool Bldg	7,023.24	0.00
4050 · Other income	0.00	55.03
4080 · Capital Campaigns & Fund Drives	-1,461.76	-17,422.00
Total Income	58,632.29	36,860.80
Total Expense	75,107.68	61,492.10
Net Surplus (loss)	<u>\$-16,475.39</u>	<u>\$-24,631.30</u>

CASH AVAILABLE

Cash available March 31,	\$ 95,084	\$ 90,319
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~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



IT IS A WONDERFUL LIFE!

Stewardship: Faith in Action

Hallelujah! Christ Lives!

Again this year St. Matthew's extends God's loving hand to our community neighbors. In April fifty \$50 dollar Easter "Baskets" (Von's gift cards) were provided to families of Kwis Elementary and Newton Middle Schools.

St. Matthew's members delivered 24 Easter lilies to shut-ins following the Easter service

Again this year St. Matthew's extends God's loving comfort to our neighbors in our nation and the world through gifts to UMCOR. Already this year, gifts passed from your hands, through the church, to UMCOR total over \$10,000!

"God is asset rich – He owns it all. But He is cash poor, all his funds are in our hands." ^{1/}

St Matthew's
Is an inclusive congregation that
puts its faith into action

St. Matthew's continues its legacy
of being good stewards to one
another, the community, and the
world.

Stewardship
Is the blessings we have
received, and how we shine
them back into the world

^{1/} The God Pocket, Bruce Wilkinson

Board Of Trustees Report For April 2022

Dear Congregation.



Your Board of Trustees does a lot of work behind the scenes. What the Boy Scouts do is generally noticeable, if not always acknowledged. The congregation has noticed the much nicer appearance of the parking lot with the Slurry Project, led by Huber Bongolan. Seven Eagle Scouts raised funds, and then prepared the entire parking lot by pulling weeds, and picking up wayward stones, et al. As many of you know, these Scouts (and others) who are supported by their parents and church members, become leaders. Most of you who supported them financially, got a personalized card of thanks from these involved young people. The Eagle Scouts who were involved in the slurry project are: Ryan Kuo, Derrick Chiu, Patrick Chiu, Daniel Sun, Ethan Tran, Brian Lin, and Leo Huang.

Boy Scouts are now sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, and have insurance through the Boy Scout Council.

Blessings Preschool is open, and Tina and Carissa have been working tirelessly to improve it for students and their parents, sometimes using Scouts' efforts. Recently, Trustees followed through on their request for parking lot lighting outside of the preschool.

Bob Hernandez has been working on the alarm system, to ensure the safety of those on campus. This is an ongoing project, with many persons using the system.

Diane Hernandez began her own rendition of "try to get ahead of the weeds!" She and other choir members, including Elaine, used shovels and other tools to try to get rid of the weeds growing on the hard packed soil area in front of the sanctuary. It looks good now, but if anybody wants to join them in keeping the weeds at bay, please come, and BYOS – bring your own shovel!

Olga Baker is ensuring that the kitchen is up to par for gatherings that come up, such as memorial services. Please help in the effort to keep the refrigerators clean and clear for catered foods that are brought in.

Olga and her crew of Kathy Farley and others, take care of the sanctuary, and change the vestments as needed for each liturgical season.

Marilyn McMullin, along with Glenn (Trustees President) and Dolores Hayes, did a walk-through of the Parsonage, to determine what upgrades or replacements are necessary before the new Pastor and his wife move in. It will be quite an extensive job, and they have found good people to do the long list of work before mid June.

Dick Cline, Bob Hernandez, and Jerry Casterline all had some concerns about the congested fire lane during the Campus Open House. They will schedule a time to discuss this with those other groups on campus. Other items will be addressed as well, with so many vehicles in and out daily. There will be no summer school program on our campus.

Louise Green, our Office Manager, takes care of sooo many things to keep our church going, including getting this Parishscope out monthly, ensuring that the Sunday bulletin/announcements are completed, even with last minute changes. She was told of a water leak on campus, and called the appropriate firm to come and take care of the issue. Louise is our go-to person who schedules groups and buildings for special meetings. Please give her special respect, as an adjunct member of nearly all of our church committees!

*Prayerfully submitted,
LaVerne Shaffer, Secretary*

Updated Worship Protocols

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

- *If you don't feel well, please stay home and worship online.* Whether or not you turn out to have COVID-19, this will always help keep others from getting sick.
- *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 are now optional in much of 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.



St. Matthew's Continues with UMCOR Offering To Help The People Of Ukraine

Because of people's ongoing generosity, St. Matthew's continues 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 enable United Methodists and mission partners to provide support in Ukraine and in neighboring countries which are welcoming those fleeing the violence. So far the church family has given more than \$7,000! And the amount has continued growing each week.

Because the United Methodist Church has congregations all around the globe, some of 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.

*They have been spotted by the Papparazzi!
 Guess who these smiling faces are
 and guess where
 they are visiting?*



May Birthdays And Wedding Anniversaries

May 1	Linda Hall
May 2	Eleanor Brown
May 3	Donna Matsumura
	Howard King
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
May 23	Ruth Hutchison
	Betty Jo Thompson
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

Wedding Anniversaries in May

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



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Joint Worship & Communion 8:00am – Early Worship 8:30 Adult Sunday School 10am-Worship in Sanc. & Online	2 10am- Shalom	3 7pm – Trustees (FH)	4 8:30am- Women's Breakfast 3pm-Worship at The Palms	5 8:00am- Men's Breakfast @ IHOP 11:30am – Ladies Lunch @ Casa Blanca 3pm-Bells practice	6 6:30pm-9:00pm Blessed Chinese UMC (FH)	7
8 Mother's Day Rosa Robles, Guest Speaker 8:00am – Early Worship 8:30 Adult Sunday School 10am-Worship in Sanc. & Online 	9 10am – Shalom 7:30pm – SPRC	10	11 8:30am- Women's Breakfast 3pm-Worship at The Palms	12 8:00am- Men's Breakfast @ IHOP 3pm-Bells Practice 7:30pm – All Church Conference & Church Council Mtg.	13 * All day – St. Matthew's Sets up in Fellowship Hall for Pastor Richard's Retirement Party on 5-14	14  1pm-4pm Pastor Richard's Retirement & Farewell Party (FH)
15 Pastor Richard's Last Sunday preaching 8:00am – Early Worship 8:30 Adult Sunday School 10am-Worship in Sanc. & Online 	16 10am-Shalom 6pm-Newton School uses Parking Lot for Award Evening	17	18 8am – 1pm Newton School Uses Parking Lot for 8th Grade Promotion Day 8:30am- Women's Breakfast 1:00pm-Naomi Circle (FH) 3pm-Worship at The Palms	19 8:00am- Men's Breakfast @ IHOP 12:30pm – Book Club (Office) 3pm-Bells practice	20 6:30pm-9:00pm Blessed Chinese UMC (FH)	21
22 Rev. Miguel DeGuzman preaching 8:00am – Early Worship 8:30 Adult Sunday School 10am-Worship in Sanc. & Online	23 10am-Shalom	24	25 8:30am- Women's Breakfast 3pm-Worship at The Palms	26 8:00am- Men's Breakfast @ IHOP 3pm-Bells practice	27 6:30pm-9:00pm Blessed Chinese UMC (FH)	28
29 Rev. Miguel DeGuzman preaching 8:00am – Early Worship 8:30 Adult Sunday School 10am-Worship in Sanc. & Online	30  Office Closed	31				

**** Please note that the Finance Committee and Staff Parish Relations Committee meet at various days and times. Please contact the Chairperson for date and time of meeting if you serve on either of these committees.**



Prayer Garden and Stained Glass Windows at St. Matthew's UMC (pic taken by Elaine Ono)



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Staff:

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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