



News of and for the Community of
St. Matthew Presbyterian Church

April 2018

Greetings from Leslie

by Leslie Klingensmith



Happy Easter! Yes, it is still appropriate to greet each other with those words, because even though our major Easter Sunday celebration has passed, Easter is a 50-day season in which we celebrate the Risen Christ. I always enjoy our Easter traditions here at St.

Matthew, but this year felt especially wonderful. Heartfelt thanks to so many volunteers who helped make our Easter worship and fellowship events happen. From the solemnity of the Good Friday service to the gaiety of the community egg hunt, from the delicious food and thankful company of the Easter breakfast to the joyous worship of Easter morning...none of these marvelous traditions "just happen."

Countless people are involved in Easter at St. Matthew...the ones who weed the flower beds, spread mulch, and pick up trash to have our grounds looking beautiful...the ones who sing in the choir or prepare the sanctuary or read a reflection in the Good Friday service...the ones who play handbells or sing on Easter morning...the ones who hide eggs...the ones who help sweet children make crafts...the ones who order and arrange lilies...the ones who set up for breakfast...the ones who cook all that delicious food...the ones who clean up the kitchen and fellowship hall...and I'm probably leaving others out - and for that I apologize in advance.

My point is that a significant part of our Easter joy comes

In This Issue

[Martha's Table](#)

[Vacation Bible School](#)

[Eastertide 2018](#)

[Presbyterian 101](#)

[Book Group](#)

[Grounds Update](#)

[One Great Hour](#)

[VBS Wishlist](#)

[Film Under the Stars](#)

[Important Links](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday, April 8:
Sunday Service. Join us for worship at 10:00 AM.

Wednesday, April 11:
Mary Martha Circle. Join us in the Agnes Wilson Room at 10:30 AM.

Presbyterian 101. Join us in the Agnes Wilson Room at 5:30 PM.

Sunday, April 15:
Sunday Service. Join us

from many people working together to make the day special. Easter is about giving thanks for the gift of the empty tomb, but also about asking ourselves how we will embody the love of Jesus in our world today. One significant way that embodiment happens is that so many of you who show up and share your talents with the community. I'm so grateful for each of you!



Lilies in the sanctuary

Speaking of working together...the gears are moving on capital improvements at St. Matthew. At our April meeting, St. Matthew's Session will hear from the Improvements Committee about bids they have received for various potential projects. With input from the committee, they will decide which projects should take priority and be included in this group of improvements. If you made a suggestion at the town hall meeting that we held on March 4 that is not included, it does not necessarily mean that your idea was bad or impossible. There were MANY good ideas that day, but most of them are not so expensive that we feel we have to solicit contributions or borrow money to do them.



Maggie and Hannah Ayuk at the Easter egg hunt.

Some projects can be accomplished with future deferred maintenance funds (from the operating budget), pursued as workday projects, or done independently as time and volunteers and money allow. And, some suggestions may not prove to be practical or feasible. But our hope is that even if no one gets everything they have dreamed of from this set

of improvements, everyone finds things to enjoy and take pride in. It will be a good feeling to get some overdue things done, to get ahead of the curve on others, and to brighten up the campus aesthetically. This is an exciting time for us, as we seek to be good stewards of this beautiful place God has given us from which to do ministry. Stay tuned for more information soon.

Finally, on a personal note, let me say a word about how grateful my whole family is for your outpouring of

for worship at 10:00 AM.
Martha's Table Sandwich Making (see details in this newsletter.)

Wednesday, April 18: Book Group Meeting. Join us in the Agnes Wilson Room at 7:00 PM.

Sunday, April 22: Sunday Service. Join us for worship at 10:00 AM.

Sunday, April 29: Sunday Service. Join us for worship at 10:00 AM.

Friday, May 4: Movie Under the Stars

Sunday, June 10: Church Picnic at the Lessig Farm

ONE GREAT HOUR



Responding to disasters, feeding the hungry and helping people build up their own livelihoods - these are all ways that your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing can change the world.

This special offering at Easter supports the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

There is more

kindness to my niece Embree, her parents, and her sisters. Your prayers and inquiries about Embree's health touch our hearts and remind us that she is not alone in this ordeal. I am still blown away by your "100 Days of Joy" campaign - Embree looks forward to opening her daily gift and reading the supportive messages you all have sent her. Embree still has a long road ahead of her, but right now is holding her own. Her doctors are pleased with where she is medically (as I write, she is 12 days out from her bone marrow transplant). We are still hopeful that her cancer can be cured. Thank you for being the hands and feet and face of Jesus for our family as we try to see our girls through a tough time. We are so thankful for all you have done.

Grace and peace,
Leslie



St. Matthew participants at March For Our Lives

Youth Notes

by Konni Brantner



Martha's Table Sandwich Making, Sunday, April 15

Our goal is to make 2,500 sandwiches for Martha's Table! To make that happen, we need **LOTS OF** bread, lunch meat, sliced cheese, sandwich bags, peanut butter and jelly.

And lots of volunteers...

- Volunteers to set up Sunday the 15th at 8:30 a.m.
- Volunteers to help in the sandwich preparation
- Volunteers to help clean up

information about many of the projects the One Great Hour of Sharing supports on the bulletin board in the narthex. Any questions may be directed to Julia McBee.

CAMP JOY



Be sure to reserve your spot! Deposits for Camp Joy are due.

NURSERY



The St. Matthew nursery has been painted and updated. We welcome babies and toddlers 3 years and under. Hours are 9:30 am until end of service.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Ida Leong.

GREETERS NEEDED



We need volunteers to serve as greeters to give



Your children won't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of our cities' most under-privileged. Adults: please

feel free to come help!

For more information, contact Konni at stmatkmb@hotmail.com or call 301-598-4400.

Please be generous with your donation of supplies, energy and time! We are also suggesting monetary donations which will be used to order the bread (and get delivered). And we still need your empty bread bags. Thank you!

**Vacation Bible School,
June 25 to June 29**



God's Puzzle! That's the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School. Once again we're partnering with St. John's Lutheran Church for an exciting week, which will be held from June 25-June 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day.

You won't want to miss the fun. For more information, contact Konni. Click below for a registration form that you can print out, complete, and return it to the church.

[2018 VBS Registration Form](#)

St. Matthew Eastertide 2018

visitors and members a friendly morning greeting as they arrive for worship. The requirements are that you arrive at church 15 - 20 minutes before the service begins and welcome people as they enter.

LITURGISTS



- Apr 8 Amy Hartley
- Apr 15 John Meyer
- Apr 22 Leigh Leslie
- Apr 29 Sylvia McPherson

SERVERS



- Apr 8 Gloria & David Rowland
- Apr 15 Susan Watters and Bruce Dorrier
- Apr 22 Karen & Chuck Gonzalez
- Apr 29 Ellie Javel & Desmond Bailey

Thank you so much for "volunteering." If you are unable to serve on your date, please find a replacement or contact Glenda De Jong 301-460-8523.

VBS Wishlist



Good Friday "Service of the Shadows"



Saturday Easter party and egg hunt



Vacation Bible School is coming!

Registration is now open. Tell your neighbors, tell your friends, register your children, sign up your grandchildren, your nieces and nephews. We have a great summer program planned, share the good news!

As usual, we need your help to make this program successful! We need:

- New and gently used T-shirts (all sizes)
- Paper bags (grocery size) The dollar store now uses these
- Sample size toiletries
- New toothbrushes
- Vinyl tablecloths- any size, any pattern
- Bread ties
- Lots of newsprint
- We will also be needing a LOT of battery operated votive candles and party horns (the kind you blow and a "tongue" comes out)
- Small packs of M&M's
- Brads
- Cool whip lids

If you can collect or



Easter Sunday Service

donate any of these supplies, please either let Konni know or bring them to the church. You get them... I'll store them.

- Konni Brantner

FRIDAY, MAY 4



We will cozy up outside near the Commons for a fun-filled evening of watching the movie, *The Queen of Katwe*, eating chili and roasting marshmallows for S'mores. Chili will be served at 7:30 pm with the movie starting at 8:00 pm. Bring your lawn chair and blanket for your comfort and a snack, chili or side to share.

The movie will be shown in the Commons if the weather prevents an outside showing. Please let us know you are coming by signing up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

- Karen Brown Gonzalez

Congregational Notes



Mary Martha Circle, Wednesday, April 11

by Julia McBee

We will continue our study of the Cloud of Witnesses. The Book of Hebrews explores how a community of Christ offers new perspectives of the early church.

Nell Taylor will present the lesson. A brief business meeting will be followed by lunch. Our hostess will provide coffee/tea and dessert. Bring a sandwich and join us Wednesday morning at 10:30 in the Agnes Wilson Room. Any questions may be directed to Ruth Sasscer or Julia McBee.

Presbyterian 101 Encore, Wednesday, April 11

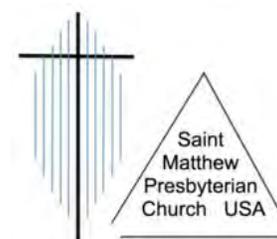
by Leslie Klingensmith

You probably remember that we had to cancel Session 2 of our "Presbyterian 101" series when we had snow and ice on March 21! Our second session, theology and polity, will be held next Wednesday, April 11.



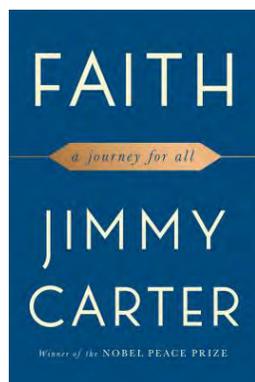
We will meet in the Agnes Wilson Room. Pizza dinner will start at 5:30 PM. Class will start at 6:00 PM and end at about 7:15. There will be time for questions and discussion.

Important Links



Leslie Klingensmith, Pastor

We had a lot of fun at the first session, with a mix of long time and newer Presbyterians (and some non-Presbyterians) attending. Consider joining us for an informal and informative evening!



**Book Group Meeting,
Wednesday, April 18**
by Leslie Klingensmith

We are getting ready to start a new book. Our next read will be *Faith: A Journey for All* by former President Jimmy Carter. It looks like it will be really interesting.

We will meet next on Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 PM in the Agnes Wilson Room. We will finish around 8:00.

I have ordered the book and it is supposed to arrive shortly. Once I see the number of pages and how the chapters break down, I'll send an email with a suggested number of pages to read for our first session with it.

Springtime at St. Matthew
by Sylvia McPherson

I hope you have noticed the enhancement of our church entrance and adjacent hillside. Thanks to the generous donations of several church members to the Special Fund/Landscaping, we were able to do this work on our grounds. Our St Matthew weeders (Joan Weigel, Glenda DeJong, Julia McBee, Jeanne Meyer, Millie Ames, Jody Hursh) really appreciate having their load a little lighter-but there is still more than enough additional work to keep them busy.



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THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the photographers who helped make this newsletter possible: Sofia Hammer, Paul Neal, Sylvia McPearson, Leslie Klingensmith, Julia McBee, Konni Brantner, Ruth Burgos Sasscer.

The deadline for the May St. Matthew Messenger will be Friday, May 4.

Keeping the grounds looking good is an immense job and one that never seems to be completed. If you would like to join our crew (only 2-3 work "party's" in spring and again in the fall) please contact Sylvia McPherson. Join us for good exercise and great camaraderie!