

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
5240 Talmadge Rd.
Toledo, OH
43623

April
Edition

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website: smechurch.org

**WELCOME
HOME!
SAINT
MATTHEW'S IS
NOW OPEN**

PLEASE JOIN US IN WORSHIP WHILE

*WE PRACTICE ALL COVID SAFETY
PROTOCOLS.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are gathering in-person again! You have been so missed by everyone. It was grand to see your masked face sitting in your favorite pew once again. This closure I feel was more difficult for people than the first closing. So slowly but surely this pandemic will be behind us and we will celebrate.

In the meantime, 45 of us gathered to worship the Lord on Palm Sunday. It was wonderful. We were not able to gather last year and weren't quite sure if we would be able to this year. I'm so glad we are.

Holy Week is a very special week. People of all denominations attend services throughout the week. We began with a celebration on Palm Sunday and will finish with a celebration on Easter. We will have a variety of music during the services this week. Cora, Debbie S., Bonnie and J.P. will be singing, Alice will play in the Holy Thursday and Easter services and Richard will play during Good Friday services. During this week especially, we walk with the Lord as he prepares for His death by crucifixion. Walking through the pain and sorrow during the week makes Resurrection Sunday all that much more joyful.

Holy Thursday we will have a service at 7:00 pm. Alice Petersen will play this night for us. It is always such a joy to listen to her playing. During the service we consume all consecrated bread and wine. Then strip the altar in remembrance of the Israelites leaving Egypt in haste on the first Passover night. One thing we will not do this year is the washing of the feet due to COVID. But it will return next year.

Good Friday, service will begin at 7:00 pm. JP Smith will be a guest soloist singing Holy City and Richard Ward will bless us a special Lenten hymn.

Easter – Resurrection Sunday will be a celebration beginning at 10:30. We will be blessed with Alice Petersen playing for us again during the meditation after communion.

Our good Lord knows what is happening and He will rejoice in our return to celebrate as a family once again. There will be a day, soon, where we will be able to hug each other during the peace and it is coming soon. We just need to be patient a little bit longer.

God bless,

Rev. Nancy

What did Malachi Have to Say?

By Dan Whitman

The season of Lent and Easter Sunday are wonderful days of worship when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior. The New Testament gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus; the long-awaited Messiah that the authors of the Old Testament had written about for centuries. The prophecy of

Malachi is the final word from God for over four hundred years, until the appearance of John the Baptist and Jesus.

The Book of Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament and has only four chapters, but there is a lot of information about following the Word of God and not straying off into “empty religious rituals.” One of my Bible commentaries says, “Malachi’s chief concern was that the Israelites’ relationship to God was not as it should be. They had forgotten God and treated him with dishonor. They failed to do what God required of them.” The wisdom of Malachi is just as important today as it was before the coming of Jesus.

Malachi 3:1 says, “‘ See, I will send my messengers, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

Malachi 3:6-7 warns us about robbing God. “I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty.”

Just as Old Testament worshipers did, Christians today often stray and we find ourselves missing the main point of worship. And that is to love God, thank Him, serve Him and please Him. Christians can get distracted by worldly things and completely miss the whole point of why we go to church. The Old Testament prophet Malachi warns Christians about making up their own agenda for worship and failing to do what God wants them to do.

We should not go to church to worship a building, a tree, a statue, a favorite song, a pretty picture, a new carpet or dozens of other “things” that can interfere with our true worship of God the Father. We are all familiar with the phrase, “You have been to the worship, now the service begins.” God wants more than good listeners, He wants doers. He wants servants who will continue to love Him, thank Him, serve Him and please Him after the worship.

The Book of Malachi has one of my favorite Bible verses. In Chapter 3:10 we have this promise from God, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessings that you will not have room enough for it.”

Of course, God means this promise only for the obedient who follow his teachings and do not have meaningless rituals. “But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and reap like calves released from the stall,” Malachi 4:2

Thank you, God for the word of the prophets. Thank you, God for your son Jesus; and thank you for your forgiveness when we are led astray.

Articles by Dan Whitman are also printed in monthly issues of Pathway Christian Newspaper.

Prayers

Easter Day April 4 Book of Common Prayer Page 285

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Easter Day April 4 Book of Common Prayer Page 285

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Saint Mark April 25 Book of Common Prayer Page 188

Almighty God, who by the hand of Mark the evangelist hast given to thy Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God: We thank thee for this witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Call St. Matthew's at 419-473-1187 for emergencies or a private visit.

Facts & Figures:

In the month of March we had 143 views of our Sunday Service on Youtube.

Our March income was \$24,614.08.

Our March expenses were \$ 10,280.30

The difference was \$ 14,333.78.

St. Matthew's Prayer Chain

Janet Valade	419-867-0838
Penny Garber	419-343-8122
Joyce Heinze	734-847-5757
Linda Holder	734-847-7658
Nancy Glinka	419-350-0654

St. Matthew's Messenger

Bev Gaynor	419-475-7178
Carol Maley	419-509-9698
Pat Greninger	419-882-8095
Tomiko Heninger	419-475-5167
Cindy Hayes	419-376-2551
Mary Ann Reed	734-279-2128
Faith Spink	419-350-8567
Leslie Fritz	419-764-6320
Rev. Nancy	419-410-0943

What's Happening

***WE OPENED ON PALM SUNDAY! ! HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE WILL BE AT 7PM AND GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT 7PM. Parents: Check out this app for your kids: [WWW. Genesispark.com](http://WWW.Genesispark.com) Visit the Genesis park and find out amazing facts about dinosaurs. This site has lots of reading not many games.**

***EASTER DAY SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT 10:30 AM. YOU MAY ALSO WATCH ONLINE AT YouTube SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30 OR AT www.SMEChurch.org IF YOU WISH TO BRING FLOWERS FOR THE NARTHEX CROSS PLEASE BRING THEM AND TAKE THEM HOME ON EASTER. ALTAR FLOWERS ARE \$25.00. PLEASE TELL THE OFFICE BY HOLY Thursday. *NO LILY'S PLEASE!*. THE OFFICE WILL BE THE WEEK AFTER EASTER!**

***APRIL 11 WILL BEGIN TO HOLD SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9AM AND 10:30 AM**

***THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE APRIL, 18TH IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE. THE MEETING WILL BE VIDEOED AND STREAMED. VOTING WILL BE DONE BY MAIL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON. WE WILL SEND OUT THE BALLOTS BEFOREHAND AND ASK THAT YOU RETURN THEM BEFORE SUNDAY, APRIL 18TH. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE TO SERVE ON THE VESTRY OR FOUNDATION, PLEASE NOTIFY SOMEONE ON THE VESTRY. (BARBARA CHIAPPETTA, PAUL EVANS, CINDY HAYES, KEHI OBETO, MARY ANN REED, LARRY SPINK, MARK TANTARI) WE ALSO NEED DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES FOR THE GENERAL CONVENTION.**

***Our website is again available. Check it out at www.SMEChurch.org. There is a link to our YouTube Services on it. Help with bringing the website up to date is appreciated. Contact Rev. Nancy for details.**

St. Matthew's Messenger

*PayPal is working on our website: www.SMEChurch.org. The fees are 2.2% plus I think \$.30. So for every \$100 donation the fee is \$2.50.

* The church gets a statement that tells us who has contributed and how much. Francesca and Rick will be managing the account.

April Birthdays

13	Mark Ach
15	Tod Greniginer
21	Trevor Obeto
22	Debbe Southard
22	Mark Tantari
26	Alice Peterson

April Anniversaries

16	John & Kehi Obeto
21	John & Nancy Glinka

Parishioner News

Mary Ann Reed is recovering from her recent surgery at home. I'm sure she would love to receive some cards from everyone.

St. Matthew's Family News Blog:

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS MAY 15. PLEASE CALL ME AT 419-376-2551 OR E-MAIL TO CMH1@ROADRUNNER.COM.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 NIV
There are 20 opportunities at St. Matthew's open to volunteers. This can be a one-time thing or an ongoing commitment. If you have an hour or a day available that you would like to help out, please call the Church.

The Video Team, Website, Sunday School and Altar Guild are looking for volunteers to help. Training available!

Quarterly Fundraising Report

Our Amazon Smile quarterly earnings from October 1 to December 31, 2020 were \$8.58. If you order from Amazon and are not signed up for this benefit, please sign up. Go to smile.amazon.com and click on 'get started'. Just follow the instructions. St. Matthew's will

St. Matthew's Messenger

get .5% of your purchase and it won't add anything to your cost! Thank you Leslie Bailey for keeping track of this for us.

Kids Korner:

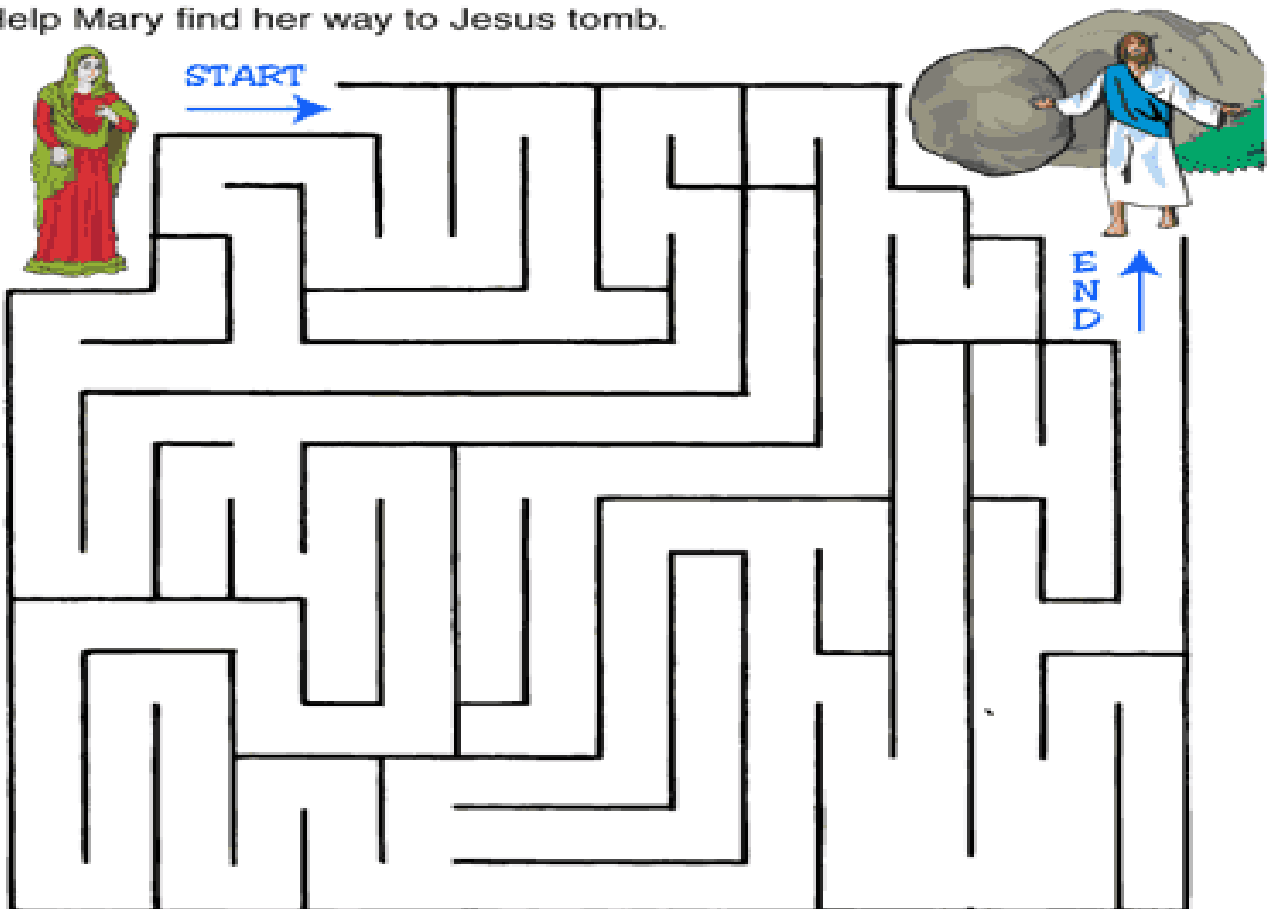
BibleWise

Jesus is Alive Maze

Early Easter morning, Mary Magdalene visited Jesus' tomb. The stone had been rolled away, and Jesus was not in the tomb. She was very sad because she thought someone had taken Jesus' body.

Then Mary saw a man she thought was the gardener. She was so happy to see the man was Jesus! She ran to tell the disciples Jesus was alive.

Help Mary find her way to Jesus tomb.



Parents: Check out this app for your kids: [WWW. Genesispark.com](http://WWW.Genesispark.com) Visit the Genesis park and find out amazing facts about dinosaurs. This site has lots of reading not many games.

