

Prayer of Illumination

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Malachi 3:1-4

+ Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice, FWS 2089

+ Luke 3:1-6

Message Prepare the Way: Week 2 – Refine

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer, UMH 895

Sharing our Tithes and Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

+ Doxology, UMH 94 (to the tune of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear")

+ O Come, All Ye Faithful, UMH 234

+ Blessing

+ Postlude

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in honor of Butch Cover's birthday by his family.

Things to know about worship

First, we are glad you are here! We hope that your visit gives you a glimpse of God's love for you, and we want to make your time here as comfortable as we can. The screens will help you with words and directions and this bulletin will guide you through the service. Please quiet your phone or device but the use of Bible apps are encouraged. There are times when we will invite you to stand as you are able, and these are marked with a '+'. Large print bulletins and hymnals are available upon request. A handicap accessible restroom and wheelchair are available. Please let one of the ushers, greeters or pastor know if you need anything or have questions. Thank you for any financial contributions you may make during the offering time or online at stmatthiasumc.org. These are tax deductible and help us offer ministry to our community and world. Please be sure to use the tear-off sheet to check in, share prayer requests, register for activities and get more information. May God bless us all!

In keeping with St. Matthias Christmas tradition, the SPPRC would like to honor all outstanding staff members with a Christmas gift to show them our appreciation for all they do throughout the year to support our mission statement of Reaching, Teaching, Loving and Serving. Our lay staff members are Susan Courtney (Administrative Assistant), Carole Hall (Choir Director), Judy Puriton (Nursery), and Erin Wetzel (Youth Director). Pastor Bert has requested that the SPPRC share all gifts among the church's Lay staff, but he still appreciates Christmas greetings and seasonal encouragement. If you wish to honor our staff by blessing them with a Thank You gift, simply place your love offering in a separate envelope marked Staff Gift and put it in the offering plate by December 23. Your generosity is appreciated and your prayers for these awesome employees are appreciated even more!

Make Room for God AS BEST YOU CAN, try to set aside the looming distractions of the season, all the lists and longings that begin to grow as soon as Christmas appears on the calendar. Instead, ... create space for God who invites you to choose a different way of living this year, a way of prayer and reflection about the words and days that stretch before you with slow and deliberate holy design. These next few weeks can be unwrapped as pure gifts from God, who invites you to prepare carefully for the coming of Christ, the birth of God's most precious gift to the world. The scripture texts ... have, for centuries, brought light to the dark places of human hearts and night skies. The practice of prayer has, through the ages, brought breath and calm to a laboring world groaning for newness to be born among us. And a single Word, made flesh, has brought God to us, God-With-Us, Immanuel. - Pamela C. Hawkins, Simply Wait, Upper Room Books (2007)

Society of St. Andrew Advent books and offering envelopes are available on the table by the Mission hallway. Also, a special offering for UMFS will be accepted Sunday, Dec. 23.

2019 mission trip to Honduras -- 29 June to 6 July.



Make a difference for people impacted by the California fires today by giving to UMCOR. Thank you so much for what you have already given. Year to Date total collected is \$4,490.00. You can still give by making your check payable to St. Matthias with "UMCOR Disaster" written in the memo line. You can learn more about UMCOR at www.UMCOR.org

UMW Luncheon @ Fawn Lake

Tues., Dec. 11 @ 12:00 – Sign up on front bulletin board.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS Sunday, Dec. 16 @ 5:00 p.m.

Practice: Mon., Dec. 10 @6:30 p.m. If you play a musical instrument and would like to play a song or two at the beginning of our program, I would LOVE to have you! Sign up on the front bulletin board.



Christmas labels are for sale near the mission hallway. The cost is \$5.00 per set. Card sorting & delivery: Dec. 16



A Service of Reflection for those dealing with loss and grief. Saturday, December 22th at 2pm in the Sanctuary of St. Matthias UMC.



Thurs., Dec. 19 @ 9:00 a.m. St. Matthias UMC Fellowship Hall Volunteers are welcome! POC: Tammi Ellis



Invitation to join the St. Matthias texting service to receive reminders and church information. Please join by texting @smumc426 to the number 81010.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 9

5:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice

Monday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry
10:00 a.m. Prayer
5:30 p.m. Upper Room
6:00 p.m. Children's Program Practice

Tuesday, December 11

7:45 a.m. Exercise Class
1:00 p.m. God Celebrators
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Wesleyan Bldg. Bros.

Wednesday, December 12

12:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
7:00 p.m. Finance

Thursday, December 13

11:00 a.m. Retired Teacher's Luncheon
6:00 p.m. Upper Room
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon
7:00 p.m. Worship

Friday, December 14

Pastor's Sabbath

Saturday, December 15

7:00 a.m. Pray Like a Man
8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Prayer

SMUMC by the Numbers

Attendance on December 2

Sunday School: 33

Morning Worship: 124

Weekly Need: \$6,363.50

11/18/18 Offering: \$6,316.50

YTD Need: \$305,448.00

YTD Received: \$254,084.43

Monthly Need Dec: \$6,363.50

MTD Received Dec: \$6,316.50

- Cost of hand crafted cards & bag on UMW craft table: \$1.00
●Weeks pledges will be collected: 3
●Number of pledge cards returned: 37
●Turkey dinners given by church: 22 (8 brought in by Girl Scouts)
●lbs. donated by our Boy Scout Pack 213: 434
●Attendance at Finance Information Session = 25
●Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child: 21

CONNECT

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please update contact information

Please circle one

Visitor Member

Regular Attender

Please pray for....

Blank lines for prayer requests

I would like this to be shared:

- in the bulletin
 with the prayer team
 only with the Pastor
 I would like the Pastor to call me

Prayers of the Community of Faith!

I would like to sign-up for the following events:

Heartwood Food Packing

Children's Christmas Program

Instrument: _____

Administrative Office Volunteer

What are you looking forward to this Christmas?

I would like more information about:

- Becoming a Member of SMUMC
- Love & Laundry Ministry
- Honduras Mission Trip
- Micah Breakfast
- Serving a meal at the Thurman Brisben January 6, 2019 (3:30 p.m.)
- Micah Ministries Cold Weather Shelter
- The Food Pantry
- The Youth Group
- Small Groups
- Heartwood Food Packing
- Children's Christmas Program
- volunteering in the church office

Mourning / Families of: ●Jack Cates ●James Lloyd ●Larry Roberson

Continuing Needs: Greg Anderson ●Velma Bailey (M. Holt) ●Paul Balgavy (R. Balgavy) ●Loretta Bass (Patsy Vida) ●Debbie Carpenter (B. Anderson) ●Margaret Courtney (R. Courtney) ●Pattie Cushing (R. Keene) ●Ruby Duddleson (R. Keene) ●Lindsey Fortune (D. Farrar) ●Jennifer Giannuzzi (B. Giannuzzi) ●Dennis & Connie Hagan ●Mrs. "Clyde" Hambrick ●Mary Ann & David Hill (J. Studley) ●Rev. Wayne Hogue ●Shelley Holmes (B. Holmes) ●Michelle Hutchinson (D. Jenkins) ●Billie Jo Hynson (B. Gmitter) ●Pete Jerman ●Jim Kochoer (J. Belako) ●Kyra (P. Vida) ●Ed Marks (J. Clark) ●George Nosek (D. Garrett) ●Lisa Holsinger Powell (P. Vida) ●Dian Rubiera (B. Giannuzzi) ●Emerson Rudacille (J. Studley) ●Bob & Claire Runger (B. Anderson) ●Joe & Lita Schepers ●Dorothy & Pastor Bob Van Natta (W. Hogue) ●Amy Watkins (C. Hall & L. Cooper) ●Bob Watts (J. Cover) ●Renewal of UMC ●Ken & Charlotte Stockwell ●Patricia Turley (J. Keene) ●Austin Wolfe (R. Varela) ●Betty Zelloe (D. Jenkins)

Prayer Requests from the week of November 18: ●California fire victims ●Greg Anderson ●Prayers for those looking for a job ●Prayers for those who have not yet accepted Christ ●Khalifa Mohamed ●People grieving during the holidays ●Family of Jack Cates ●Julie Dymon ●Amy Roberts ●Joe Reichard ●Rona Vernimb ●Dodie Smith ●Barry Jones ●Sam Frantum

Prayer Requests from the week of November 25: ●Matthew Tompkins ●Ed Conrad ●Natalie & Rosanna ●Victims of the CA wildfires ●Healing for all who need it; physically, mentally & spiritually ●Betty Bradshaw ●The Hale family ●Janice & Marshall Anderson ●Frank & Mary Cloud

Prayer Requests from the week of December 2: ●Bob Watts ●Dale Olson ●our country ●Family of Larry Dean Roberson ●Nova Piper ●G.M. Haney ●Sam Frantum ●Gen. Khalifa ●Lynette Ware

Questions for Reflection

The prophet Malachi says that God is "like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap" (Mal. 3: 2). Reflect on events of the past year. How has God been working to refine and purify your life or your community of faith? Paul writes to the church at Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1: 3-5). Think about people in your life for whom you give thanks, who have been in your prayers, and who have brought good news and joy to you this year. Consider writing them a letter or card to express your gratitude.

Household Prayer: Morning

Blessed are you, Lord God by your tender mercy the dawn breaks upon us. Guide our feet this day in paths of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Blessed are you, Lord God for you have smiled on us this day and redeemed us from our sin. Give light to all who wait in darkness until we rest with you in perfect peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

St. Matthias United Methodist Church
Called to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World

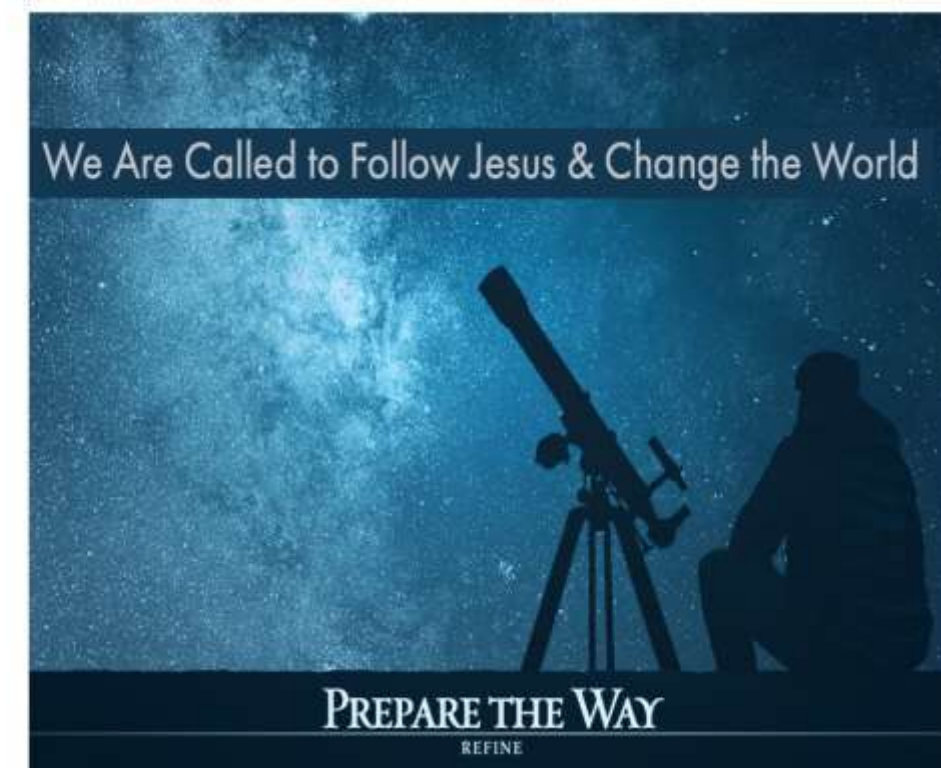
Worship:

Sundays: 8:45 & 11:00
Nursery for infants to 5 yrs
Kids Own Worship (pre -5th grade): 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship:
1st & 3rd Sundays @ 5:45 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Bert Cloud
540-736-7007 (voice & text)
pastorbert@stmatthiasumc.org

Office: Ms. Susan Courtney
(540) 373-8759
office@stmatthiasumc.org
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Find us: Visit us online at stmatthiasumc.org
and on facebook
Physical & Mailing:
426 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405



December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

Greeting and Opening Prayer

+Introit Angels From the Realms of Glory, UMH 220

+ Lighting the Advent Wreath – Love Candle

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, stanza 1, UMH 196

**All [sung]: "Come, though long expected Jesus, born to set they people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart."**

Reader 1: God of mercy and power, we seek to see the messenger that you are sending.
Refining God, purify us so that we may prepare the way of the Lord.

**All: We, God's people, sing Zechariah. With your compassion, Lord, make the dawn
from heaven break upon us. Give light to those who are sitting in darkness and
in the shadow of death. Guide us on the path of peace. (Luke 1:78-79, CEB)**

Reader: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this candle of love to remind us that
we are being refined by your love that we would love others as you have loved us.

Light the Love Candle.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, stanza 1, UMH 196

O come, O Come, Emmanuel, UMH 211

8:30 a.m. Children's Moment

Special Music

Child of Peace

St. Matthias Choir