

Weekly News from St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Acton, Massachusetts



*The Thursday Women's Study group celebrated birthdays of
Lynne Osborn and Jane McIntyre*

Growing in Faith, Walking in Love March 15, 2017

CHURCH NOTICES, SERVICES, UPDATES, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- Lenten Worship Opportunities
- Immigration Breakfast Seminars at St. Matthew's – March 18
- FREE Family Concert – March 18 – Pizza Preference, Please!
- Ruth Circle Meeting – Rescheduled to March 22
- Soup for Sale – March 26
- Easter Breakfast Sign-up
- Pictorial Directory Launched September 2014

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Sunday Morning Adult Formation – 9:15 am
 - Living the Questions
 - The Meaning of the Cross
- Children & Junior High School
- Senior High Learning and Exploration
- YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS
- Thursday Women's Study Group – 9:30-11:30 am
- Pretzel Sunday is March 26th!
- Spiritual Life Retreat March 31-April 2
- Rolling Ridge Day Apart: God's Healing Touch – March 16

REACHING OUT

- Sew? Have Extra Fabric? Want to Help Young Women in Zimbabwe?
- Exploring Race – Workshop Series, March 23 & 30, April 13
- Bishop Oliveto To Speak – March 27

CHURCH CALENDAR

CHURCH NOTICES, SERVICES, UPDATES, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Lenten worship opportunities

Join us for a simple contemplative prayer service.
Wednesdays, at noon and 7 p.m.

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## Immigration Breakfast Seminars at St. Matthew's



As federal agents crack down on undocumented immigrants, you may be looking for ways to protect your co-workers, friends and neighbors vulnerable to ICE raids, arrest, and fast-track deportations.

St. Matthew's can show you how to help, as the church presents a series of workshops and discussions about immigration.

On **Saturday, March 18**, St. Matthew's welcomes Reverend We Chang of the Belmont-Watertown United Methodist Church. Rev. Chang organized and launched the New England branch of Justice for Our Neighbors, which seeks to help vulnerable immigrants. Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) is a faith-driven ministry, welcoming immigrants into our churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration and legal services, education, and advocacy. JFON is sponsored by UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Rev. Chang will explain how Justice for Our Neighbors is working with immigrants, discuss issues faced by documented and undocumented immigrants living in Metro-West, and suggest how concerned citizens can help.

You are invited to a light breakfast at 8:30 on March 18 followed by a discussion with Rev. Chang. The breakfast and discussion are free, and child care will be provided. If possible, please sign up at <http://saint-matthews.org/> so the church can plan for breakfast.

Topics of future workshops include the Massachusetts Safe Communities Act (a bill sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge), immigrants' legal rights, and a sanctuary movement at a nearby church.

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FREE Family Concert – Pizza Preference, Please



Please sign up at <http://saint-matthews.org/sign-up-central/free-family-concert/> and let us know that you are coming to the Family Concert on Saturday, March 18. We look forward to seeing all our young friends and our young-at-heart friends. We need to know how much pizza (regular and gluten-free) to have available. Thanks!

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## Ruth Circle Meeting – Rescheduled to March 22

After a winter break, the Ruth Circle will resume their meetings on Wednesday, March 22th, at noon in Campbell Hall. We will start with lunch and everyone should bring a hot dish or salad to share. Bread, desserts and beverages will be provided. For the program, Deb Eaton will give a slide presentation on her travels to Ireland, England and France. You may remember Deb as the caretaker for Vera Coleman when she came to the Ruth Circle meetings.

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Soup for Sale – March 26

The Ruth Circle will be making "Hearty Lasagna Beef Soup" which will be the last one made this season. It will be ready on Sunday, March 26th and will sell for \$5.00 a quart. This will be a new soup we make. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Area on Sunday, March 19th. Please return the jars to the kitchen as we need them for future soups. Thanks.

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## Easter Breakfast Sign-up

The Welcome, Outreach & Witness Ministry will once again organize the Easter Breakfast, with seatings at 7 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. Easter morning. This is a potluck event and requires a great deal of support in contributions, set-up, hosting, and clean-up., but the rewards are clear from the many great reviews we receive. Don't miss it! Our detailed sign-up sheet will be available beginning this Sunday. An early indication of how you would like to participate would be most helpful. We look forward to yet another joyous gathering of celebration and fellowship this Easter.

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Pictorial Directory Launched September 2014

Susan LaSante

I just wanted to remind everyone that we have an online church directory! The directory is a way for us to be welcoming to new people. It allows them to connect names to faces. It contains most church members, staff and some active friends of the church. The directory is password protected and only available to those listed in the directory. You control how much information to share. Everyone who is listed in our church directory should have gotten an email with your individual log-in information. Please contact Susan LaSante if you did not get an email with your individual information or you have forgotten how to log in. I would encourage everyone to log on and make sure your information is up to date. If you have not uploaded a picture this would be a great time. If you have additional questions you can use the Help tab in the directory, or contact Susan LaSante at susan.lasante@gmail.com.

To Access the Directory:

- Go to <http://saint-matthews.org/>
- Click the **Pictorial Directory** link on our home page found in the "Quick Links" section.



FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Morning Formation at 9:15 ADULTS

Living the Questions

Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Each week the video presentations present conversational questions and insights from leading religious voices, all of which encourage curiosity and thinking outside of the usual lines of doctrine. Several of us worked through parts of this curriculum a few years ago and appreciated the fresh, progressive approach to the issues presented. Please join us as we begin to consider some of the challenging questions for thoughtful Christians in the 21st century. We meet in the **Downstairs Library**.

The Meaning of the Cross

Join us as we explore what the cross is all about, what it means, and doesn't mean, and how it can be a powerful symbol in our spiritual growth. In the **Downstairs classroom**, with Pastor Steve.

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## Children & Junior High School

This coming Sunday, we will meet the Woman at the Well (John 4:5–42) and eavesdrop on her conversation with Jesus. What is living water? Where do we find it? Join us at 9:15 and find out!

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Senior High Learning and Exploration

The class meets **two** Sundays each month to respect the very busy schedules our teens keep! Our next meeting is **Sunday March, 26th**. We'll be talking about how our faith is lived outside church. The United Methodist Social Principles will offer a place to begin the discussion and activities.

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

The Youth Group will meet this weekend from 4:30-6:30 for Dinner Sunday. We will watch the movie, "Hunt for the Wilderpeople." Come on time so we can serve ourselves dinner and settle in for the movie.

This week we'll open our group to friends of all ages, from within and outside the St. Matthew's community, for this great film. Let me know if we can expect you and any friends you'll bring along, so I can plan appropriately for dinner. Thanks! Melissa Rollins: mrollins@mr-online.com.

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## Thursday Women's Study Group - 9:30 -11:30

Madeline L'Engle's *The Irrational Season*, has given us lots of food for thought! This Thursday, **March 16<sup>th</sup>**, we will continue exploring her Lenten chapter, *Lion and Lamb*, focusing on her discussion of the second Beatitude. We welcome new voices in our on-going community. This is a wonderful time to try us out! PLEASE JOIN US! Let Lynne Osborn ([gilyn1961@verizon.net](mailto:gilyn1961@verizon.net)) know of your interest.

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PRETZEL SUNDAY IS MARCH 26TH!

Our Sunday School children will gather in the kitchen at 9:15 to join in this St. Matthew's Lenten tradition! Pretzels were originally created as a Lenten discipline. If you can make pretzel dough for us, please email drelizabethsmumc@gmail.com and she will send you the recipe. The more dough, the more pretzels to share at coffee hour!



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## Spiritual Life Retreat: Praying the Psalms March 31 – April 2



The Psalms are strange, aren't they? There are some beautiful images, like "The Lord is my shepherd" of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm... and then there are some that have a nasty attitude. What's with those Psalms, anyway? It turns out they're really rich vessels for prayer (even those crazy ones). On this retreat we'll learn about the psalms so they're not so strange, and explore some ways to pray with them. This is an opportunity to retreat from our usual routines and responsibilities for a time of prayer, reflection and deepening our relationship with God, the earth and one another. (Really: the time is yours. You can even retreat from the Psalms if you want to!) The retreat will be at Marie Joseph Center in Biddeford Pool, ME, Friday evening, March 31 – Sunday noon, April 2. The retreat house is on the ocean, with private rooms. Cost is \$170, but we will share the load with anyone for whom cost is a burden. You can sign up online or on the sign up bulletin board at church.

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Rolling Ridge Day Apart: God's Healing Touch - March 16

Our fast-paced society encourages us to forget who we are and whose we are. But we can actually experience God's peace in our daily lives. If we can surrender to the peace of God within, life becomes more manageable. Come for a day of prayer, blessing, meditation, self-compassion and learning to be rooted in God. We will experience God's peace within — "the peace that passes all understanding." Offered by Rolling Ridge, Thursday, March 16, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. For information [click here](#).

REACHING OUT

Sew? Have extra fabric? Want to help young women in Zimbabwe?

In May, Nikki Makarutsa, who has worshipped at St. Matthew's from time to time, will be traveling to Zimbabwe, where she was born and has family and friends. To help young women there, she would like to take with her a supply of reusable sanitary napkins.



You can help with this worthwhile project and send some love from St. Matthew's to Zimbabwe!

- First, do you have **extra fabric** you could contribute? We're looking for soft, washable, absorbent fabric such as cotton flannel, quilting batting, old towels, old flannel pajamas, and baby receiving blankets. All should be 100% cotton. We also can use polyester fleece for the outside layer. If you have fabric to donate, please put it in the marked container by the back door next to the Boston Share and recycling receptacles before April 9th.
- Second, given a simple pattern, would you be willing to **sew a few sanitary napkins**? We're trying to make enough to fill a big plastic tub that will be easy for Nikki to bring with her. We need to be finished by May 15.

Please call or email Sara Wagg (978-263-7828, sarawagg@msn.com) for more details and to sign up to sew a few napkins.

THANKS!

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## Exploring Race – Workshop series, March 23 & 30, April 13

A local group called Fostering Racial Justice Group is offering a three-week series intended to give you a framework to understand race, bias, and the history of racism. Thursdays, 7 p.m. To sign up email the Fostering Racial Justice Group [here](#).

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Bishop Oliveto To Speak – March 27

The Boston University School of Theology Lowell Lecture on March 27 will feature Bishop Karen Oliveto speaking about "For the Living of These Days." This event is free and open to the public. Karen P. Oliveto was consecrated as a bishop of The United Methodist Church last July and assigned to the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area, which includes the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences. Bishop Oliveto was elected to the episcopacy after serving as the first woman pastor of the 12,000-member Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, Calif. She is the first woman to serve as senior pastor of one of The United Methodist Church's 100 largest congregations. She served Glide from 2008 until her election as bishop. Bishop Oliveto has the distinction of being the first openly lesbian bishop in The United Methodist Church. She and her wife, Robin Ridenour, a nurse anesthetist and United Methodist deaconess, were married in 2014. You can register for this event at: www.bu.edu/sth/oliveto. If you have questions, contact Jaclyn Jones at jkjones@bu.edu or [\(617\) 353-8972](tel:6173538972).



CHURCH CALENDAR

Attached to this email you will find a copy of the church calendar for the month of March.

For the most up-to-date church calendar information, please go to the website, or click on the following link: <http://www.saint-matthews.org/happenings/calendar>. Here's how to find what you need:

From the HOME page, click on QUICK LINKS, then CALENDAR. To filter the type of events shown, click on the 'DOWN ARROW' to the right of the AGENDA tab at the top of the calendar. Following are the filters:

- Classes & Small Groups
- Music Rehearsals
- Outside Organizations' Events
- Committee Meetings
- Worship
- U.S. Holidays
- Events

Choose what you would like to see, then 'unclick' all the others. You should be able to see the calendar for as far out as it has been scheduled. If you want to see the location of an event, click on the individual event. We hope this is efficient for you.