

Weekly News from St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Acton, Massachusetts



The Return of "Alleluia"!
Easter Sunday - April 16, 2017

Growing in Faith, Walking in Love April 18, 2017

CHURCH NOTICES, SERVICES, UPDATES, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- Easter Breakfast Thank You!
- Movie screening: Holocaust remembrance event - April 23
- Workshop on Immigration – April 29
- Ruth Circle Meeting – April 19
- Community Suppers to Honor Gary Lawton – April 26
- The Sudbury Savoyards Present *The Mikado* – April 28
- Music at St. Matthew's Welcomes Morgenmusik, Sunday, May 7

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Sunday Morning Adult Formation – 9:15 am
 - Living the Questions
 - Burning Questions
- Children & Junior High School at 9:15
- Senior High Learning and Exploration at 9:15
- Thursday Women's Study Group – 9:30-11:30 am
- A psalm from the retreat

REACHING OUT

- ISLAMOPHOBIA: Rumor or Reality? – April 27
- Care Dimensions in Need of Volunteers for Hospice Patients
- Helping Young Women in Zimbabwe
- Class for family caregivers – Begins April 29
- United Methodist Women: Building Bridges with Muslim Sisters – April 29
- Benefit for Domestic Violence Services Center – May 6

CHURCH NOTICES, SERVICES, UPDATES, EVENTS
& OPPORTUNITIES



To all those who took part in the Easter Breakfast, thank you so much! Whether you washed dishes all morning, leant a hand from set-up through clean-up, helped welcome visitors, donated food, or simply shared in the fellowship, your contribution is deeply appreciated. I am blessed and honored to have been a part of St. Matthew's Easter celebration, and I thank you all for sharing your day with me.

Peace, Melissa Rollins and the Welcome, Outreach & Witness Committee

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**Movie screening: Holocaust remembrance – April 23**

Join us for a presentation and preview of a documentary, "[Soul Witness, The Brookline Holocaust Witness Project](#)," featuring interviews of local Holocaust survivors, sponsored by the Adult Education Committee at Beth Elohim, at Fine Arts Theatre Place, 19 Summer St., Maynard, this Sunday, 7 p.m. Contact [Julie Kozhuklin](#) for more info.

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**Breakfast, Justice, and Safe Communities
Workshop on Immigration – April 29**

You are invited to hear Senator Jamie Eldridge speak about the Massachusetts Safe Communities Act at our next immigration and justice workshop on Saturday, April 29. The morning begins with breakfast in Campbell Hall at 8:30. Then Senator Eldridge will discuss his proposal to make Massachusetts cities and towns a safer place for immigrants.

You will have an opportunity to learn details of the bill and ask questions. So we can plan for breakfast, please sign up at www.saint-matthews.org.

We are also inviting members of the community and people from other churches to join us. If you would like to make them welcome, you may donate food or help with set up. Watch for sign-up sheets or contact Beth Garnaas-Holmes (bethandstevegh@gmail.com), Peggy Papanastassiou (pegquince@gmail.com), or Susan Zuckerman (sczuckerman@gmail.com).

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## Ruth Circle Meeting – April 19

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19th, at noon in Campbell Hall. We will start with lunch and everyone should bring a hot dish or salad to share. Bread, dessert and beverages will be provided. For the program, Tom McIntyre will give a DVD presentation on buildings at Florida Southern University designed by the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. This should be an interesting program so plan to attend.

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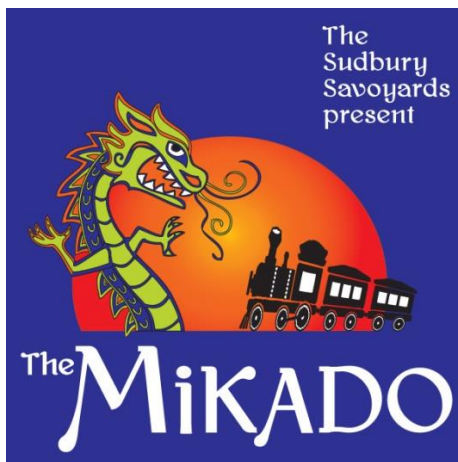
Community Suppers to Honor Gary Lawton – April 26

On Wednesday, April 26, Community Suppers will honor Gary Lawton for his years of service. The meals are held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran church and are served from 5 to 6 pm. If you plan to come, please email sburch@mtcalvaryacton.org.

Lynne Osborn

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## Do Good, Have Fun!



In this intense political climate, let's join with Gilbert & Sullivan and poke some fun at political and social structures that make no sense.

The director of this famous light opera describes this production of *The Mikado* as "laughter, light, airy, fun, farcical, fast ... a Victorian farce about English class structure and society, not a parody of Japanese medieval culture." I imagine that they'll include plenty of references to our current culture, too. PLUS, all the proceeds go to UMCOR for the alleviation of hunger around the world. Won't you join us for a fun night out?

**Who:** Group from St. Matthew's

**When:** Friday, April 28, 2017 at 8:00 PM (There are other performances, too, if this one doesn't work for you)

**Where:** Maynard High School Auditorium, 1 Tiger Drive, Maynard, MA

**How:** For tickets, go to <http://www.sudburysavoyards.org/> (or show up; it's open seating) Adults - \$24.00; Seniors/Students - \$20.00, Children (under 12) - \$15.00

See Betsy Comstock or Lynne Osborn if you'd like to join us. Hope to see you there!

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Music at St. Matthew's Welcomes Morgenmusik, Sunday, May 7

The final *Music at St. Matthew's* concert will be held on Sunday, May 7, at 3 p.m., when we welcome back *Morgenmusik*, the performers from our first concert in 2006. Our long-time friend Richard Given brings his brass-playing friends to present a wonderful afternoon of music for brass. The Music Ministry has decided to ring down the curtain on our concert series, so don't miss the final opportunity to enjoy some terrific music! Posters/flyers will be available after the Easter service, on the table next to the name tags. Please take one (or more!) and help publicize this event.



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 consider some of the challenging questions for thoughtful Christians in the 21st century. We meet in the **Downstairs Library**.

Burning Questions

What are the questions you really want to explore? About faith, scripture, God, worship, theology, the Church, death, Jesus, forgiveness, prayer, family—you name it, we'll wrestle with it. Join us, with Pastor Steve, in the **Downstairs Classroom**.



Children & Junior High School at 9:15

On this second Sunday of Easter, the Church focuses on the experience of the one we call "Doubting Thomas" (**John 20:19-31**). But maybe "doubting" is not what Thomas is doing. Perhaps Thomas didn't join the other disciples in hiding out because he wasn't afraid. Perhaps he somehow knew that God was still with him, even though he was not aware of the stories of Christ's resurrection. We'll explore our own questions of Jesus this Sunday.



Senior High Learning and Exploration

The class meets **two** Sundays each month to respect the very busy schedules our teens keep! This Sunday, **April 23rd**, we'll continue to look at the issues that matter to us in light of our faith. Our discussion this week will focus on mental health and suicide. The United Methodist Social Principles will offer a place to begin the discussion and activities.

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

This Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, we will try something a bit different. We will gather around Lynne's dining room table and craft as we discuss Madeline L'Engle's chapter *The Icon Tree Easter*. The following week, we begin our study of Oliver Sachs' *Gratitude*. 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) know of your interest.

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A psalm from our retreat

At our prayer retreat we were invited to write our own psalms. Here's another, from Betsy Peterson.

A Psalm for Today

Oh River of My Soul, My Home ~
hear my cries.
The road has been long
& my heart is weary.

'Broken but for God'
I seek rest in Your Presence.
'Bring me home',
my constant cry.

Your Steadfast Love Encircles Me ...
- carried by so many, in prayer
- in kindness by stranger & fellow, alike
- the breathing heart of nature & mystery
 draws me towards the light I don't yet see
- Your quiet, reassuring words linger.

I break, and ask You to end my suffering,
and You Do.

Your Spirit fills me.
Your Love renews me.
I find rest in Your Presence.

May I abide in You
all my days.

Loved by Your Whole Heart ~
Loved with my Whole Heart ~
Your Love, the Light unto my path.

REACHING OUT

Community Discussion ISLAMOPHOBIA: Rumor or Reality?

Thursday, April 27 – 7:00 PM

Sargent Memorial Library, 427 Mass. Ave., Boxborough, MA

Meet with Muslim panelists from the Muslim Justice League and Islamic Center of Boston, in Wayland, listen to their experiences, and discuss what can be done. For more information about this **FREE** community discussion, and to register, please visit www.fosteringracialjustice.weebly.com .

Sponsored by Fostering Racial Justice Group – engaging the community in challenging bias and systems that reinforce racism.

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### **Care Dimensions in Need of Volunteers for Hospice Patients**



Founded in 1978 as Hospice of the North Shore

***Care Dimensions is in need of volunteers for our Hospice patients! Volunteers are ordinary people making extraordinary differences in the lives of our patients. No matter what your skills, talents, or motivation, we have a volunteer opportunity for you! Our next training starts May 5<sup>th</sup>, so please contact Sr. Volunteer Coordinator, Jane Corrigan at 781-373-6574 or [jcorrigan@caresdimensions.org](mailto:jcorrigan@caresdimensions.org) for more information.***

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Helping Young Women in Zimbabwe

We had a wonderful gathering on Saturday making sanitary products for high school girls in Zimbabwe. We cut and traced and sewed many pads and have 63 finished and many more in progress. We want to thank everyone who came to join us for work, fun and fellowship. Eighteen people lent their hands and hearts to make sanitary pads for young women who will be able to go to school and learn instead of staying home for days each month.

We are planning another gathering on May 20th from 10 AM to 12 PM to package the items to send with Nikki Makarutsa when she travels to Zimbabwe in late May. If you are working on sewing the pads at home, please bring them to church by May 14th. You can place them in the gray bucket near the back door.

We have enough flannel sheets and towels. We could still use fleece if anyone has any more to donate. We are planning to add some small items to the packages along with the pads. We are accepting donations to help defray the cost so if you would like to donate, please make out a check to St. Matthew's and insert sewing circle in the memo line or you can give your donation to Sara Wagg or Beth Garnaas-Holmes.

Thank you again from all of us in MOA for helping to do God's work.

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## Workshop for Family Caregivers – April 29

Acton-Boxborough United Way and Minuteman Senior Services present a six week class in support of those individuals who are caring for a chronically ill family member or friend. The workshop, entitled The Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop, is Free of Charge to Acton and Boxborough residents. There is financial support available to cover the cost of in-home care for an ill family member or children so that the caregiver can attend. The class is designed to provide family caregivers with the skills they need to take care of themselves as they care for others.

The Powerful Tools for Caregivers will help you to:

- Reduce Stress
- Improve self-confidence
- Balance your life
- Better communicate your feelings
- Increase ability to make tough decisions
- Locate helpful resources

Dates: Saturdays, April 29 - June 6. Meetings are once a week, for six weeks.

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough

Cost: FREE, but space is limited! Registration is required.

Contact: Rachel Sagan, Executive Director, AB United Way at [abuw@abuw.org](mailto:abuw@abuw.org). [978-263-1777](tel:978-263-1777)

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Building Bridges with our Muslim Sisters - April 29

Do you know the definitions of the terms Islam, Moslem, Muslim, and Muslem? Do you know why there is misunderstanding and ill feelings among Christians, Jews, Muslims and others? Do you know why Muslim women wear burkas, hijabs, or other coverings? Are they required in Islam? What can you do to build bridges toward positive understanding and interactions with our Muslim sisters in these unsettling times? To find answers to some of your questions about Islam and our Muslim friends and neighbors, come to the Central MA District United Methodist Women Spring Gathering and join us for a presentation and informational panel discussion led by Asima Silva. She is an organizer of Enjoining Good, a nonprofit based in Holden, MA, that began in 2015 to foster understanding, dispel fear and hate, and promote the strengths in our diversity. Its motto is "Building bridges for a positive lasting impact on the world."

Bring some friends and we'll look for you on Saturday, April 29, at Wesley U.M. Church in Worcester, at 9:15 am. 114 Main Street Worcester MA 01608

Spring Gathering registration and lunch is \$10.00 each. Checks payable to: CMA UMW. Send to: Marcia Hoyt 8 Bacon St. Natick MA 01760 by April 24, 2017 (or call 508.655.0077 marciahojt@aol.com)

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## Celebration of Hope: Benefit for Domestic Violence Services Network - May 6

The 3rd Annual Celebration of Hope Benefit to support, Inc. will take place on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at the Collings Foundation Museum in Stow, MA. The Stow facility houses a splendid aviation museum and an incredible automobile collection that pay tribute to a number of historical eras in U.S history. The Collings Museum is only open to the public three times a year or for special charity events. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy this exceptional facility. The event starts at 6:30 PM, but Sponsors and VIP ticket holders are invited to join us at 5:30 PM for the VIP reception. **VIP Ticket (\$125):** Provides access to the VIP reception beginning at 5:30 PM including complimentary beer & wine, featured cocktail, passed hors d'oeuvres, dinner, reserved seating, and an exclusive photo opportunity with one of the vintage collections. **Classic Ticket (\$85):** Ticket to the event beginning at 6:30 PM including complimentary wine & beer, a hors d'oeuvres station, seated dinner, and access to the Collings' historic collections. [Info here](#)

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## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

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 event.