



JUNE 2020

# THE MESSENGER

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## ST. MATTHEW'S STAFF

**Sherry Minzey**  
Admin. Assistant

**Jim Minzey**  
Sexton

## OFFICERS

**Bill Noone**  
Senior Warden

**Jason Brooks**  
Junior Warden

**David Macey**  
Treasurer

**Linda Gerding**  
Secretary

**Dave Chullino**  
**George Miller**  
Clerk of the Works

## SERVICE TIMES

**Sunday Services**  
**Cancelled due to**  
**Coronavirus.**

## *Message from the Sr. Warden*

Greetings to all of you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. As we approach the midpoint in the calendar year we are still dealing with the Corona virus and probably will be for the foreseeable future. With businesses reopening there will of course be a desire to reopen our churches. I truly believe that we must be cautious when it comes to reopening our parish. The simple reason is obvious, we must proceed with caution simple because so many of our members are in the group which has been identified as "at risk."

Our reopening will comply fully the Bishop's plan which is outlined in his communication titled "Phase Two." I know that none of us want to contract this virus and your Vestry does not want to be a position of moving too fast and then infecting anyone, and I mean anyone through casual contact or even accidental contact. Please keep this in mind. We will need to social distance at services, there will be no singing because singing involves projecting our voices and studies have shown that projection to be greater than six feet. We will not have Eucharist because that would involve contact and could innocently spread infection. For the same reason we will not have coffee hour and we would prefer to keep the Undercroft completely unoccupied. That will simplify our cleaning and sanitizing procedures following services.

If any of you feel unsettled with returning immediately I for one fully understand and appreciate that. It would be better for you to return when you feel comfortable, so please keep that in mind. It is a judgment free environment and your comfort level and safety are our greatest concern. We want to have everyone return in as much safety as possible.

There are two events which we are planning for Pentecost. One is that on the day of Pentecost we will ring our church bell along with other parishes at 12 noon. The other is a possible outdoor service on that same day, subject to our plan being approved by the Bishop. The service will be outside in our parking lot and we will remain in our cars or use our own lawn chairs at a safe social distance. As soon as we have approval for this later service we will let you know.

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Continued Sr. Warden

I believe that we need keep our faith through this period, keep our faith and be true to that faith and all that it entails. Keep our minds open and keep our hearts open so that we can move ahead know that our faith in God is not misplaced. I will close with the words of Amazing Grace: "Through many dangers, toils and snares, We have already come, It was grace that brought us safe this far, And Grace will lead us home."

Bill Noone, Senior Warden



**ST. MATTHEW'S TEAM 2020**  
**AIDS WALK WENT VIRTUAL**  
**4-25-20**



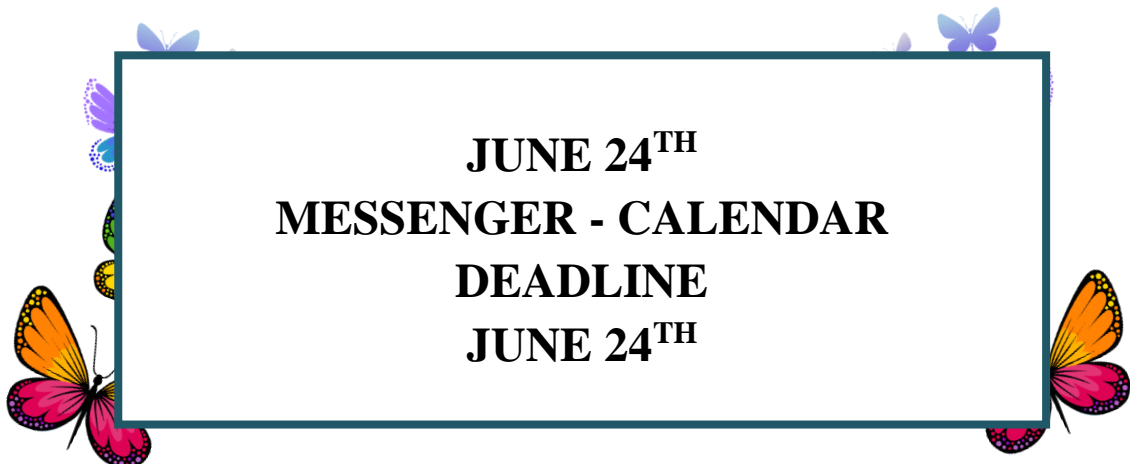
The 32nd annual AIDS WALK-Kansas City was held **virtually** on Saturday April 25, 2020, due to the COVID-19 virus.

This year's tag line was **"WALK 2 Stop HIV Stigma"**, and this was the fourteenth year St. Matthew's registered as a Team. Parishioners were given the information to go online to St. Matthew's Team and register as a virtual participant and donate. Virtual walkers this year were Yael Abouhalkah and Linda Gerding.

Donations totaled \$100.00 on Walk Day which really wasn't that far off from last year's total. Many people are not comfortable making online donations, and without being able to physically give a donation to someone it makes it hard sometimes to meet a goal.

**A big "THANK YOU" to Yael Abouhalkah** for faithfully continuing to support the AIDS Walk both physically, (or virtually), and monetarily.

Linda Gerding  
Service & Outreach Commission

A decorative rectangular box with a dark blue border, containing text about a deadline. The box is adorned with colorful butterfly illustrations: a pink and orange butterfly at the bottom left, a yellow and black butterfly at the bottom right, and several smaller blue and purple butterflies along the top and left edges.

**JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MESSENGER - CALENDAR**  
**DEADLINE**  
**JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>**

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## Making Offerings During the Church Closing

The COVID-19 virus pandemic has turned everything upside down including the operation of St. Matthew's. As you know the Bishop has directed a shutdown of our building for an indefinite period. This includes the office area, and as a result Sherry and I are currently carrying on our duties from our homes. About 90% of our offering is normally received via the offering plates at our Sunday services. With the church closed we still have to pay the bills, so we needed to find a new way to receive offerings. The most obvious way would be for parishioners to mail their offerings to the church, but there is a concern about the security of our mailbox since there is no one present at the church. We've had problems in the past with mail being removed from the mailbox.

We have come up with two different methods to submit your offerings during the period of time that the church is closed. The most secure method is the on-line giving option that is accessible from our website. This is a service that is provided by ACS Technologies that is our church accounting software provider. They have partnered with a credit card processing provider by the name of Vanco. Both ACS and Vanco have the highest security rating from the credit card industry data standard. Using this process, you can use either a credit card or your bank account to make a payment. We currently have 11 parishioners signed up for this service. It seems to be working well so far. Instructions for using this service are available on our website. The plan is to leave this service in place even after the church re-opens.

Online Giving Link: <http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>

The other option is to mail your offering to my home address. I have a secure locked mailbox. Security is probably not as good as the on-line giving because it depends on the reliability of the postal service. This option is intended to be used only during the time that the church is closed. If you prefer to go this route mail your payment to:

Dave Macey  
2200 NW Summerfield Dr.  
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

Offerings are being processed the same as in the past and you will receive giving statements quarterly the same as in the past. If you have any questions about either of the two options call me at (816) 524-7619 or email at [d-macey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d-macey@sbcglobal.net).

God bless and let's pray that the church will be able to re-open in the near future.

Dave Macey, Treasurer



## April Birthdays



Patti McGill



Dominic Brooks



Rick Roberts  
(Linda Batson delivering  
birthday bag.)



# May Birthdays



Dave Chullino



Rebecca Jewell



Dave Batson



Marci Turlin



Zella Forsythe



