



NOVEMBER 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.**

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

### CELEBRATES THE FINAL OUTDOOR SERVICE-2020 October 25, 2020 (at a Social Distance!)

This was the sixth and last Outdoor Service for St. Matthew's Parish Family. November 1, 2020 we will joyously return inside our beautiful sanctuary to pray and praise our Lord. Appropriately it will be All Saints Day and we will have Supply Priest Elisabeth Sinclair to celebrate the Eucharist with us.

Our final outdoor service was overcast, misty, and cold. A canopy was set up to protect the electronics so folks could sit in their cars, stay dry and warm, and allow the microphone to transmit to AM radio station 88.7. Barbara Wegener led Morning Prayer and did a wonderful job sharing reflections on the Gospel message. Attendance was 18...which wasn't bad considering the weather!



Barbara Wegener



Christina Brooks-Stewardship Kickoff



Judy Taylor-Music

Pictures on following page.

## THE FINAL OUTDOOR SERVICE



Parishioners in their cars



Brenda & Jim Laney



Charles & Mary Cease



Diane Hunter



Grace Udeanor



Rick & Judy Roberts



Zella Forsythe



Bill Noone



Linda & Dave Batson



Jane Matson

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## **More from St. Matthew's Day**

### **September 27, 2020 Outdoor Service (at a Social Distance!)**

This was the fifth Outdoor Service for St. Matthew's Parish Family and we were privileged to have Fr. Mark McGuire as our supply priest. We were celebrating St. Matthew's Day, our Patron Saint, and many wore red. Fr. McGuire delivered a special sermon and some history on the Apostle Matthew. He came across loud and clear as Judy Taylor had worked for several weeks to figure out how to get the microphone to transmit through the FM radio station 88.7, into everyone's car. It was a glorious success and many "thanks" go out to Judy for all her tenacity and persistence to get it done!

It was a very good thing the radio channel worked because it was gently raining through the service until the time for communion...and then it stopped. Communion was completed...and then it started again; raining buckets! This made cleaning up and putting everything away a pretty wet process. Many thanks to Judy Taylor, Zella Forsythe, Carl & Marci Turlin, Linda Gerding, Barbara Wegener, and Bill Noone. Several people commented God surely was watching over us to keep the rain at bay. If they only knew! What Linda Gerding and Judy Taylor only knew, being the last ones to leave the church, was that just before they locked up....the building lost electricity!! It seems a huge tree had fallen over on the electric lines behind a house just up 65<sup>th</sup> street. If that had happened just a couple of hours earlier, there would not have been electricity for a Sunday service in the parking lot to celebrate St. Matthew's Day...God really was watching over us!! Praise be!!



Fr. McGuire & Barbara Wegener dry under awning



Grace Udeanor & Judy Taylor under canopies



St. Matthew's Day continued..



Rain stopped for Pat Whitmore & Communion



23 in attendance even with the rain!



Judy Taylor- Master of Amplifier & transmitter

## CROP WALK 2020

ST. MATTHEW'S-"ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME" VIRTUALLY  
Saturday Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Whenever?

This is the year of COVID-19, and the Crop Walk, like so many other events this year, was to take place virtually. This was the first time ever that the Crop Walk was going to be held on Saturday instead of Sunday. The day was changed to see if that would garner more participation...of course THAT didn't happen! BUT, what did happen was the faithful and steadfast support of St. Matthew's Church AND, the **ST. MATTHEW'S CROP WALK TEAM**. The weather was perfect for Yael Abouhalkah, Beci Bosley, and Linda Gerding to walk almost a 3-mile route along the Rock Island Trail. St. Matthew's has been faithful for many years to represent our Parish in its efforts to donate to help in the fight against world hunger.

**St. Matthew's Team raised \$511.00** this year. A BIG THANKS goes to the very appreciated generosity of the following:

*Carl & Marci Turlin  
Mary & Charles Cease  
Darrel & Beth Cook  
Barbara Wegener  
Janie Matson  
Linda & Dave Batson  
Judy Taylor*

*Jim & Brenda Laney  
Yael Abouhalkah & Beci  
Linda Gerding  
Rick & Judy Roberts  
Christina & Jason Brooks  
Bill Noone  
Zella Forsythe*

**"THANK YOU St. Matthew's Parish"**. Hopefully our funds will be "matched" by the Diocesan International Outreach Grant Committee and our total donation to the Crop Walk will be **\$1,022.00!** By supporting the Crop Walk, the opportunity to help **"eradicate extreme poverty and hunger"** worldwide, has been met.

As always, we pray for those less fortunate, hungry, and in need: **"Oh God, to those who have hunger, give bread. And to those who have bread, give hunger for justice."** (Latin American prayer)

Blessings,

Linda Gerding  
Crop Walk Chair-2020  
Service & Outreach Commission



Linda Gerding

Beci Bosley



Yael Abouhalkah



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## ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

The Community of Chaplains again met in the “semi-outdoors” for their October 2020 Circle of Care meeting on the screened-in porch at Linda Gerding's. Chairs were again distanced and masks were worn. It was a bit nippy, but the table top heater generated just enough warm air to keep it pleasant.

Mary Cease was the Host and brought doughnuts, bear-claws, and cinnamon rolls from Ridgewood Doughnuts, and Linda provided the coffee. It almost made it seem like we were having “Coffee Hour” at St. Matthew's!! Prayers were said for the Church and others.



L-R Patti McGill, Linda Gerding, Mary Cease, Jim Laney, Brenda Laney, Carl & Marci Turlin (not pictured was Zella Forsythe as she had to leave early to join in a meeting of Daughters of the King.)

Linda Gerding, Community of Chaplains



*It's been quite a year. The lingering effects of Covid 19. Another mind-numbing campaign season. Ongoing concern about economic decline. And locked-up with my loved ones, until the specter of running away from home floated through our domestic conversation; although there is no safe place to run.*

*Meditating on the radical idea of giving **Thanks** in all circumstances; I began to recognize the difference between giving thanks **for** and giving thanks **during** a personal, communal, or global catastrophe. I can always be thankful for my circumstances, but I can always give thanks during adverse and challenging times.*

*It hit me: **Gratitude** is a noun, something I feel. **Thanksgiving** is a verb, something I do. Even when outer circumstances are grim, Ex: hard winters, global pandemics; it is still possible to feel gratitude and give thanks.*

*To my utter surprise, the act of giving thanks generated a feeling of gratitude in my heart; not for the circumstances of my life, but for the people around me, and gratitude for life and it's possibilities.*

*"Gratitude gives you the power to live without regrets." Studies show that writing down 3-things we are grateful for, more than 21 consecutive days can increase optimism. Other studies have shown gratitude is calming, boosts employee morale and increases willpower. Gratitude means; it's the small things: hot water, good coffee, my husband. These are the things that float me on the river of gratitude.*

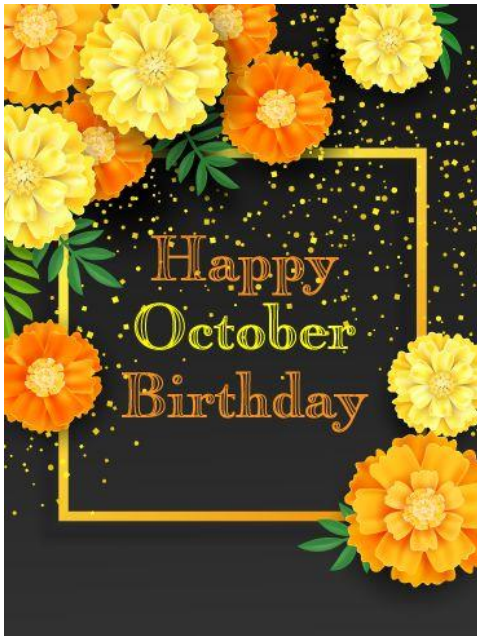
*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."*

## **Blessed Thanksgiving**

*Daughters of the King*







Stacy Wagstaff delivers Diane Hunter her Birthday Bag



Beth Cook



Stacy Wagstaff



## GIVING REMINDER

Just a reminder that you have options on how you can send in your pledge.

By mail: Dave Macey's address: 2200 NW Summerfield Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081

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



**DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK**

**Set clocks back one hour on Saturday night.**

**Remember now is the time to change batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.**



**December Messenger & Calendar Deadline**  
**November 18th**