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# FOLLOWING FAITH

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

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## Interim Rector's Corner

Rev. Susan Sloan

A pillow on my couch reads, "Be the Person Your Dog Thinks You Are." It's excellent advice. Many of you have met my dog, Candy. After my husband died in July, her companionship carried me through my grief and is one reason I remain at St. Matthew's. I'm not entirely sure what kind of person she thinks I am—but I never doubt who she is. She may be the best "human" I know.

Lent invites us to consider who we want to become. The Church, full of imperfect people like us, calls us to self-examination and repentance; to prayer, fasting, and reflection on God's Word. These practices remind us who we are as God's people and help shape us for the journey of faith. Ash Wednesday gave us a good beginning—but the real work is in what follows.

I've posted this list on my mirror as a daily guide—and perhaps as something Candy might notice in me:

Let love be genuine.

Hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Love one another with affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Be zealous and hopeful; serve the Lord.

Be patient in suffering and steadfast in prayer.

Give generously and practice hospitality.

Bless and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony. Be humble.

Do not repay evil for evil; seek what is noble in all.

As far as it depends on you, live peaceably with everyone.

Feed your enemies.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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# Episcopal Youth Community

Jann Eich, Director

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# MARCH

## EYC EVENTS

**Wed. March 11<sup>th</sup> Sam and Greg's  
5:30-6:45 pm**

**Spring Break March 16-20th**

**Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> March  
Madness Gruman Hall 6-8 pm.  
Easter Egg prep!**

**No Sunday School in March, meet in  
Gruman Hall for Intergenerational Lent  
program at 9 am.**



# youth news

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# Christian Formation

Jenifer Woytowich, Director

Christian Formation: Jenifer Woytowich, Director



Dear St. Matthew's Family,

As March unfolds and Lent continues, we walk with Jesus, slowing down, listening closely, and deepening our faith as we prepare for Holy Week and the joy of Easter.

## Lenten Opportunities

Our intergenerational Lenten studies (through March 22) invite children, youth, and adults to walk with Jesus through love, prayer, courage, service, and hope. **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in Gruman Hall.**

Please note:

- **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday:** *No Sunday School or Lenten Study*
- **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday:** *Children's Easter Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m. (Children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade; Bring your Easter baskets) No Sunday School*
- **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> -** Sunday School classes resume

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## **Ladies Bible Study:**

All women are warmly invited to join our **Ladies Bible Study, Thursdays from 9:30–11:00 a.m.** This welcoming space offers fellowship and discussion in faith. **Reading the book is not required**—sessions are designed for everyone, and the church has several copies to loan or they may be purchased.

- **February 19 – March 26** (6 weeks): *The Walk* by **Adam Hamilton**
- **April 9 – May 14** (6 weeks): *Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings* by **Matthew Skinner**

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## **Sunday School Information for Parents:**

Families with Sunday School–aged children are asked to complete a **Registration & Permission Form** (available from me, the bulletin board outside my office, or CE classrooms).

**Reminder:** Pick up children from Sunday School by 9:50 a.m. to allow a smooth transition to worship.

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## **Easter Egg Hunt & Youth Help Needed:**

I am looking for EYC youth to help hide Easter eggs on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. After hiding eggs, we'll enjoy food and fellowship together at Sam & Greg's Pizza. A few parent volunteers are needed to help transport the youth to and from Sam & Greg's. **Please let me know if you're able to help.**

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## **Vacation Bible School**

VBS information is coming soon! Dates, registration, and volunteer opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks. **Adults and EYC youth interested in helping, please contact me.**

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**"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."** –  
*John 8:12*

Blessings,  
Jen Woytowich  
Christian Formation Director  
[christianed1@stmatthewsmadison.org](mailto:christianed1@stmatthewsmadison.org)

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## Episcopal Church Women

Melissa Barton, President

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Happy New Year from the ECW!

We are thankful for another year of service and fellowship at St. Matthew's!

Here are some of the social activities we already have planned. We're having a formal Tea Party on Apr. 25th from 2-4pm and a Back-to-School Ice Cream Social on July 25th from 2-4pm. Both will be in the parish hall. The fourth Tuesday of every month will be a luncheon for senior women at a local restaurant—watch for sign up sheets in the narthex.

We are actively looking for ways to be of service in our community. Since we will no longer be raising money through a rummage sale, we are exploring other ways to help others. There are many volunteering opportunities at First Stop, Habitat for Humanity, the Madison Senior Center and various Veteran's programs. We expect to create many new activities to be of service to others over the course of the year. We continue to work with First Stop to provide meals quarterly. We will continue to do the United Thank Offering and Church Periodical Club collections.

We hope all women in the church will join us for our meetings the second Wednesday of most months. Our next meeting will be Feb. 11 at 10:30 in Gruman Hall.

Blessings!

Margaret Ott

ECW Treasurer



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# Gratitude Committee

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## ST. MATTHEW'S GRATITUDE COMMITTEE MISSION AND VISION

### OUR MISSION

The Gratitude Committee's mission is to cultivate a spirit of genuine thankfulness by identifying and celebrating the many blessings within our St. Matthew's family and our daily lives. We strive to recognize God's goodness, encourage appreciation, and inspire joy through expressions of gratitude in all we do.

### OUR VISION

**Gratitude** is the first and most natural emotional response to grace and is an indispensable part of our connection to God.

**Gratitude** is not a momentary feeling but a way of life that leads to deeper relationship with God and each other.

**Gratitude** must be shared to flourish.

**Gratitude** benefits each of us individually, the church collectively, and welcomes newcomers with open arms.

**Gratitude** is a living expression of God's love in action, as we learn to see each other as God sees us.

We enact this by encouraging people to reflect, write, speak, draw, paint, and sing about experiences that are meaningful to them wherein they felt comforted, edified, loved, heard, helped, or saved from misfortune.

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## Prayer List

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Please pray for St. Matthews's members who are distressed in body, mind, or spirit:

Bill Byrd, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, David Osmond, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Molly Killian, Trudie Gruman, Ray and Shirley White, George and Sandra Burgess, Norm Smith, Keith Ulrich, Tyron Newton, Clarissa Dozier, Daryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Deborah Harrison, Dennis and Beth Blanco, Scott Cechovic. Beau Womack and Joan East, Jeff Anderson, Barbara Combs, Robby Brueggeman, Laura Weatherbee

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Peggy Wagner, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple, John David Landin, Mike Bolton, Dr. Mark Bronner, Ashley Jenkins,, John Freedman, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Kathleen Glor, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, Vaughn Cassell, Shannon Carpenter, Jarilyn Alleman, Jake Sowder, Cheryl Lavazza, Margaret McHugh, Shawn and Rachel Blanco Jane Stanland, Wisam Safie, Diego Candia. The Hardin family, Anthony Hardin, Cathy Collier



## March Servers

### March schedule

	3/1/2026	3/8/2026	3/15/2026	3/22/2026	3/29/2026
					<b>Palm Sunday</b>
<b><u>10:00 a.m.</u></b>					
<b>VOD</b>	J.Anderson	N.Lapacek-Trout	B.Byrd	B.Womack	R.Franz
<b>Altar Guild</b>	G.Lo	N. Snell	S. Bagwell	Coiner, Kleinjung	G.Lo
<b>Ushers</b>	Anderson/Snell	Cassell/Weaver	Barton/T.Sampson	Anderson/Snell	Harrison/Weaver
<b>Lector</b>	L.Mack	A.Coiner	P.Marques	S.Peterson	F.Looney
<b>Epistoler</b>	M. Pezzula	M.Harrison	P.McGraw	B.Womack	N.Lapacek-Trout
<b>Intercessor</b>	Jeff Anderson	S.Fletcher	J.Salmon	D.Lawrence	B.Buzby
<b>LEM</b>	K.Price/K.Barr	D.Loehr/K.Barr	S.Weaver N.Lapacek-Trout	K.Price/J.Anderson	K.Barr/J.Vaughn
<b>Crucifer</b>	A.Utt	C.Bagwell	N.Lapacek-Trout	A.Maddox	A.Utt
<b>Gospeler</b>	N.Lapacek-Trout	B.Watson	S.Jones	E.Maddox	B.Watson
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	C.Trout			M.Pezulla	N.Rasmussen
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	A.Wales			S.Pezulla	M.Rasmussen
<b>Counter Hospitality</b>	Modrall/Cechovic M.Brown	M.Barton/Coiner M.Pezulla	Harrison/Cox J.Turner	Modrall/Lewis R.Wyatt	M.Barton/Coiner D.Kleinjung
<b>Nursery</b>	Anderson,Brown	Anderson,Brown	Anderson,Brown	Anderson,Brown	Anderson,Brown
<b><u>8:15 a.m.</u></b>					
<b>Lector</b>	A.Williams	B.Williams	A.Turner	A.Utt	No Service
<b>Counter</b>	Byrd/Cooper	Tidwell/Driesbach	Christopher Cooper	Tidwell/Byrd	No Service
<b>Ushers</b>	Utt/Utt	Stagner/ Abercrombie	R.Sampson B.Buzby	Utt/Utt	No Service
<b>Crucifer</b>	E.Bruce	E.Maddox	E.Bruce	B.Williams	No Service
<b>Altar Guild</b>	D.Buzby	S. Cape	D.Buzby	A.Turner	No Service
<b>LEM</b>	K.Scheuer/S.Smith	A.Williams B.Williams	T.Christopher W.Christopher	S.Smith B.Carpenter	No Service

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## March 2026 Church Calendar

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### Weekly Recurring Events

#### Sunday

8:15 a.m. - Eucharist/Reflection  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 am - Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Nave

#### Monday

5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - Scouts BSA #628  
6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. - Bells Angels

#### Tuesday

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Reunion Group

#### Wednesday

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Reunion Group  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Noon Eucharist

#### Thursday

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Ladies Bible  
Study

#### Friday - Office Closed

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Cleaning crew

#### Saturday - Office Closed

### Other Scheduled Events

Monday, Mar. 2- Writer's Nook at 6pm  
in the C.E. Bldg

Sunday, Mar. 8 - Outreach Committee  
Mtg. at 11:15 in C.E.Bldg. 2

Monday, Mar. 9 - Sewing Sisters at 9am  
in Gruman Hall

Thursday, Mar. 12 - Madison Quilter's  
Guild - 4pm in Gruman Hall

Saturday, Mar. 14 - DAR Meeting at  
2pm in Gruman Hall

Sunday, Mar. 15 - DOK Meeting at  
11:15 in C.E. Bldg 2

Monday, Mar. 16 - Sewing Sisters at  
6pm in C.E. Bldg 1 and 2

Mon-Fri, March 16-20 - Madison City  
Schools Spring Break

Friday, Mar. 20 - NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE

Monday, Mar. 23 - Sewing Sisters at  
9am in Christian Ed. Bldg 1 and 2

Tues. Mar. 24 - ECW Museum of Art  
Tour

Saturday, Mar. 28 - Flower Guild set-up  
at 8:45 in Gruman Hall

Saturday, Mar 28 - Flower Guild set-up  
at 9:00 am in the Nave

Sunday, Mar. 29 - PALM SUNDAY

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## Outreach

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# March Pantry Needs

**Canned Fruit** (Dollar Tree \$1.25)

**Shelf Stable Milk** (*Dollar Tree \$1.25*)

**Spaghetti Sauce** (*canned or plastic please*)

**Jelly** (Dollar Tree \$1.25)

**Spaghetti Noodles**

**White Rice** (1-lb bags)

**Chef Boyardee**

**Ramen Noodles**

**Saltines**

**Cereal**

**HUNTSVILLE**  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
MATTHEW 25:35



"Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy". BCP

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