



AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

ST. MATTHEW'S

Rev. Emily Rowell Brown

Dear St. Matthew's Friends,

I don't know about you, but back-to-school season has always felt more like the beginning of a new year than January. I love returning to more schedules and routines, seeing the school supplies stacked neatly on shelves when I am shopping, and anticipating sweater weather (the school traffic I could take or leave). Although we will not experience fall temperatures anytime soon, we are entering fall mode at St. Matthew's.

We kick off with a prayer for our students, teachers, and administrators at our services on August 2, and at 10 am, we invite children to bring backpacks and youth to bring car keys for blessing. Enjoy a popsicle after the service!

Confirmation classes will also be offered during August for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church or wants a refresher on our Anglican identity. Taylor+ and I will teach the classes together, and the classes will conclude with a tour of the nave on August 30, which anyone is welcome to join.

If you are considering new ways to engage at St. Matthew's, I invite you to consider teaching Sunday School or attending a Sunday School class. We still need a few teachers for children's and youth classes, and the commitment can be as little as helping a couple of Sundays during the semester. I continue to be grateful for the relationships I forged with Sunday School teachers as a child and am still in touch with some of those adults. We also have a fantastic slate of adult classes that will begin in late September, so look out for more information in the coming weeks.

Finally, I know many of you loved children's homilies at Sunday services, and those will return at our late service. Jen, our Formation Director, and I are investigating the possibility of beginning a children's chapel service sometime this fall. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please let one of us know. More details to come.

Whether or not there's a backpack by your door this month, the fresh-start feeling belongs to all of us. Pick one thing to begin: a class, a Sunday morning commitment, or a conversation you have been meaning to have. See you on August 2!

To walk with Jesus, to be with Jesus and to let Him be known

Rev. Taylor Johnson

Happy August everyone!

In case you haven't heard yet, I will be teaching a Sunday School class this fall! It will be a Bible study class, and we will meet in Gruman Hall between the services during the usual adult formation time.

My goal in this class is that it be both an in-depth Bible study that also has a low threshold for entry. What I mean by low threshold is that it will essentially be non-serialized. Each week will stand alone, no need for prior knowledge or an unbroken streak of attendance to understand what we're talking about. I want this to be a place where everyone feels comfortable both coming as often as they're able but also missing a week here and there without getting lost in the content.

I have taught a class like this before, and my hope is that it will allow for broad engagement with Scripture as well as the opportunity for broad themes and connections to come to the surface and enrich our time with the Bible.

There is no sign-up or anything, just come to Gruman Hall starting September 27 and we'll spend some time together in the Bible. I'm looking forward to seeing y'all there!

Taylor



To walk with Jesus, to be with Jesus and to let Him be known

CONFIRMATION

INSTRUCTION

**Sundays, August 9th - 30th
9am in Gruman Hall**

Calling the following Youth and Adults:

- **Those who want to be confirmed**
- **Those who want to learn more about the Episcopal faith but are not ready to make a commitment**
- **Those who would like a refresher course on Episcopal catechism**

**If you are interested, please
contact Emily, Taylor or Jann.**

August 2026

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

August 2026

Christian Formation News

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Dear St. Matthew's Family,

August is a season of new beginnings! As students return to school and families settle back into routines, our Christian Formation ministries are also preparing for another exciting year of learning, fellowship, and growing together in Christ. Whether you're returning to Sunday School, joining a Bible study, preparing for Confirmation, or considering volunteering, we hope you'll find a place to connect this fall. We are looking forward to another wonderful year of faith, friendship, and community at St. Matthew's.

Blessing of the Backpacks & Back-to-School Blessing

Sunday, August 2

During both worship services. - *Back-to-School Popsicle Send-Off following the 10:00 service.

As a new school year begins, we invite everyone—students, teachers, school staff, college students, and working professionals—to bring an item (backpack, keys) that represents your daily vocation for a special blessing.

You're Invited to Serve!

We are seeking volunteers for:

• Nursery - * Pre-K–5th Sunday School - * EYC (Grades 6–12) Sunday School - * Adult Sunday School - * Children's Chapel

Volunteers may serve as either: • Lead Teachers -or- Second Teachers/Helpers

Christian Formation Volunteer Ministry Fair. - Sunday, August 2 - 11:45 a.m. - Gruman Hall

Come enjoy lunch, fellowship, door prizes, and learn more about our Christian Formation ministries. Nursery care will be provided. If you've served before, we'd love to know if you'd like to continue. If you're interested in joining our team for the first time—or know someone who would be a wonderful addition—we'd love to hear from you!

Confirmation Classes

Our Confirmation Class will meet during the Sunday School hour on:

• August 9 - *August 16 - * August 23 - *August 30

Confirmation Rehearsal. - Sunday, September 13 - During the Sunday School hour

Confirmation & Parish Pig Roast. - Sunday, September 20

We are excited to welcome **The Bishop** to St. Matthew's for Confirmation. Following the service, everyone is invited to join us for our annual Parish Pig Roast as we celebrate this special day in the life of our church. Please keep our confirmands, mentors, clergy, and families in your prayers as they prepare for Confirmation.

Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays • 9:30–11:00 a.m. - Gruman Hall - resumes Thursday, August 20th

All women are warmly invited to join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. Whether you've been attending for years or are considering joining us for the first time, there is always a place for you.

No prior Bible study experience is needed, and no advance reading is required. While we use books to guide our discussions, they are optional, and everyone is welcome to participate.

Fall 2026 Study Schedule

August 20 – September 17 - Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning Amy-Jill Levine

Books may be pre-ordered through Amazon and will be available beginning August 4.

September 24 – November 19 - Women of Many Words - The Nine Women Who Talked the Most in the Bible

Book: Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter (Expanded Second Edition) by Lindsay Hardin Freeman and Joe Maniscalco

December 3 – December 17 - An Unlikely Advent - by Rachel Billups

Looking Ahead

Sunday School Open House & Welcome Back Celebration - Sunday, September 13 - Between Services - Gruman Hall

Come meet this year's teachers, enjoy fellowship, snacks, games, and learn more about Christian Formation opportunities for every age.

Regular Sunday School Begins. - Sunday, September 27

We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another year of learning, growing, serving, and sharing God's love together!

As we begin this new ministry year, thank you for the many ways you support Christian Formation through your prayers, service, encouragement, and generosity. Together we are helping children, youth, and adults deepen their faith and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. May God bless each of you as we begin this exciting new season.

Grace and peace,

Jen Woytowich

Christian Formation Director

christianed1@stmatthewsmadison.org

To walk with Jesus, to be with Jesus and to let Him be known

August

EYC NEWSLETTER

The EYC is a group open to all teens! We have a Jr. EYC group for grades 6th through 8th and the Sr. EYC which includes teens in 9th through 12th grade. Sunday School is in the Amy West House (across the parking lot). We meet at 10 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Friends are always welcome to EYC events and Sunday School! If you are new to St. Matthew's or new to EYC please reach out!

Jann Eich- youthdir@stmatthewsmadison.org

**Aug. 2nd Blessing of the Backpacks/Keys at 10 am
service and popsicles after service.**

Aug. 12th Meet at Sam and Greg's 5:30 pm to 7 pm

Aug. 15th Back to School Check In 1-5 pm

6th-8th: 1-3 pm

9th-12th: 3-5 pm

We are still collecting Cards for Veterans. We need 150 cards to be delivered to the "Floyd E Tut Fann" Veterans home in November. There are blank cards on the table in the Narthex, please pick up a few and write a note thanking a Veteran. Thank you for your help.

A memorial service and reception for Valerie Tracy will be held August 13th at 10 AM.

The ECW would like to have a Meet and Greet Lunch on August 30th after the late service. Please bring a dish to share.

The ECW has created a memorial fund to be used only for memorials to buy items like trees, alter linens etc. Checks should be made out to St. Matthew's ECW, with memorial fund written in the memo line then put in the ECW mail cubby, in the copy room.

There will not be an ECW general meeting in August. Our next meeting will be September 9th.

God Bless
Melissa Barton



Prayer List

Remember in your prayers this month:

Remember in your prayers this week:

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, Bob & Eileen Bogard, 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, Scott Cechovic, Joan East, Jeff Anderson, Barbara Combs, Laura Weatherbee, David Lawrence, Rev. Emily Rowell Brown and family.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

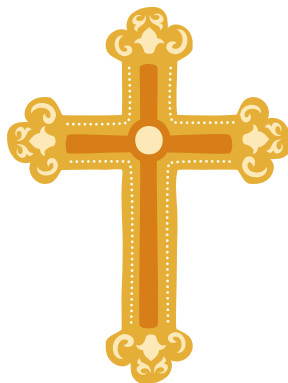
Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Cathy Taveras, 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, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, 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, Elizabeth Lundey, Anthony Kanuchok, Cathy Rasnick, Johanna Nicole Bratcher, Catherine Ott, Lisa Murray.



To walk with Jesus, to be with Jesus and to let Him be known

August Servers

August schedule						
		<u>August 2</u>	<u>August 9</u>	<u>August 16</u>	<u>August 23</u>	<u>August 30</u>
8:15						
VOD		B.Byrd	J.Simoneau	D.Utt	R.Centanni	M.Ott
Altar Guild		B.Carpenter	A.Turner	S.Cape	D.Buzby	B.Carpenter
Ushers						
Crucifer		B.Williams	E.Bruce	A.Maddox	E.Bruce	B.Williams
Lector		B.Carpenter	A.Turner	A.Williams	B.Williams	J.Burch
LEM		A.Williams,Carpenter	Carpenter,Scheuer	Scheuer,Smith	Williams,Williams	B.Williams,Smith
Counters		Gainer,Driesbach	Cooper,Byrd	Tidwell,Driesbach	Gainer,Byrd	Tidwell, Driesbach
Hospitality		D.Buzby	K.Hicks	C.Byrd		B.Carpenter
Nursery			Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown
Media		G.Beech	L.Stanbery	G.Beech	G.Beech	L.Stanbery
10:00						
VOD		B.Byrd	J.Simoneau	D,Utt	R.Centanni	M.Ott
Altar Guild		S.Bagwell	N.Snell	Coiner,Kleinjung	S.Bagwell	G.Lo
Ushers						
Lector		J.Salmon	P.McGraw	M.Harrison	S.Fletcher	P.Marques
Epistoler		F.Looney	N.L- Trout	A.Utt	T.Sampson	A.Coiner
Intercessor		P.Marques	A.Coiner	B.Womack	L.Lanier	S.Peterson
LEM		L-Trout,Weaver	Price,Vaughn	Weaver,Barr	L-Trout,Vaughn	Barr, Price
Crucifer		C.Bagwell	A.Maddox	A.Utt	N.L- Trout	A.Utt
Gospeler		C.Trout	E.Maddox	B.Watson	C.Trout.	A.Wales
Torch Bearer					N.Rasmussen	
Torch Bearer					M.Rasmussen	
Counters		Modrall,Cechovic	Barton,Coiner	Harrison,Lane	Cox,Lewis	Modrall,Cechovic
Hospitality		M.Brown	M.Couch		T.Sampson	D.Kleinjung
Nursery		Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown
Media		J.Thompson	D.Rasmussen	L.Stanbery	D.Rasmussen	D.Rasmussen



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August Church Calendar

Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

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

Monday

5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - Scouts BSA #628

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Reunion Group
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Noon Eucharist
6:030 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Choir Practice

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

Saturday, August 1 - Ukrainian Bake/Craft Sale at 10am in Gruman Hall

Sunday, August 2 - Blessing of the Backpacks at both services in the Nave. Popsicles following the late service in Gruman Hall

Sunday, August 2 - Sunday School Volunteer Fair at 9am in Gruman Hall

Monday, August 3 - The Writer's Nook at 6pm in the C.Ed. Building

Tuesday, August 4 - Wing and a Prayer at 5:30pm at Cricket's

Saturday, August 8 - DAR Meeting at 2pm in Gruman Hall

Sunday, August 9 - Sunday, August 29 -

Confirmation classes at 9am in Gruman Hall

Sunday, August 9 - Lessons and Carols Kick-off at 11:15am in Gruman Hall

Wednesday, August 12 - ECW Meeting at 10:30am in Gruman Hall

Wednesday, August 12 - Pizza with the Padre at 5:30pm

Thursday, August 13 - Valerie Tracy Funeral at 10am in the Nave. Reception to follow

Thursday, August 13 - Madison Station Quilt Guild at 4pm in Gruman Hall

Saturday, August 15 - EYC Back to School 1pm and 3pm in Gruman Hall

Monday, August 17 - Sewing Sisters at 6pm in the C.ED Bldg

Tuesday, August 18 - Kairos Prison Ministry at 4pm in Gruman Hall and the Nave

Tuesday, August 18 - Vestry Meeting at 6pm in the C.E. Bldg

Thursday,

August 20 - Ladies' Bible Study returns after summer break

August 24 - Sewing Sisters at 9am in Gruman Hall

August 25 - Wing and a Prayer at 5:30pm

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