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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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## Rev. Taylor Johnson's Corner

Now that I am officially a priest, I wanted to take some time to say thank you to some groups and to let everyone know what my current status and role will be here at the parish.

First, let's start with some gratitude. Thank you to everyone who came out to my ordination. It was so wonderful to see so many St. Matthew's faces in the congregation. Many of you who couldn't make it took the time to come find me and say how excited you were for me and Gina as we crossed this huge milestone. Knowing I had the support of this parish, both in spirit and in person, meant so much to both of us.

Many of you know already, but just to make it official, I will be staying at St. Matthew's for a while. Every new priest gets placed in their first ministry for a period of two years, and this placement is called a Curacy. Bishop Glenda has officially placed me at St. Matthews, so I will be here at the parish for at least the next two years. For the immediate future, in this period between Rev. Susan leaving and the new Rector coming, I will serve as our Priest-in-Charge. My role is to essentially to keep the seat warm for the new Rector and to keep things running as smoothly as possible. I'm not looking to make any big changes or anything, just keep us worshipping together as the community that we are.

Once the new Rector arrives, my official role will be as Curate, but I'll essentially function as an Associate Rector.

Now, back to the gratitude. I want to say thank you to the Search Committee. Picking a new Rector is never an easy job, and I know that there is extra pressure with this search process. Our Committee has done some excellent work listening to the congregation, crafting our parish profile, and working with the diocese to find some truly excellent candidates. I have full faith and trust that when they bring us the candidate they've chosen, it will be the one that the Holy Spirit has led them to for us.

Finally, I want to say thank you to the entire parish. When Gina and I first came here nearly a year ago, we were welcomed so warmly and genuinely, and this place very quickly became our spiritual home. We wanted so very much to be able to stay and continue to serve in this church and in this community, and we feel exceedingly blessed that we get to. It is because of all of y'all that we felt so loved and so welcomed, so thank you. I know that we will continue to grow and discover the ministries God has for us in Madison and beyond. I a

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## Newcomers's Committee

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Rebecca Perry, Diane Loehr - Chairs

### Introducing St Matthew's Newcomers Ministry

The Newcomer's Committee is now using the Invite Welcome Connect curriculum to guide our work in meeting and greeting visitors and helping them to find their way to full participation in the life of our church. The Newcomer's ministry belongs not just to the people on the committee, but to all of us who worship at St Matthew's.

What the Newcomer's Committee is doing:

- You may have noticed a new Welcome table in the Narthex - you will find one or two of us there each Sunday.
  - We offer smiles and greetings, answer questions and provide directions when needed
  - We provide a welcome bag with a coffee mug, pocket prayer quilt and info on St Matthew's, along with a visitor's card
  - We also provide info about Christian Education opportunities.

What can you do to help with our efforts:

- Invite people you know to come to St Matthew's, tell them why you like being a part of the community - don't be shy!
- Take a moment each week to make sure you know the names of those worshipping around you and who may be visiting for the first time.

And finally, if this is a ministry that interests you, please join our team and work with us to make St Matthew's a welcoming place for all who visit. The commitment is about 45 minutes prior to the 8:15 am or 10 am service once a month and 5-10 minutes after service.



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## Inreach

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Sondra Gerber - Coordinator

### OUR INREACH MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Did you know that St. Matthew's has a ministry whose purpose is to provide support to our fellow church members? Well, we do! Our Inreach Ministry provides meals for new mothers and for recovery following surgery/hospitalization/serious illness. This gift of a meal is not so much about the food as it is about the opportunity to minister to our fellow church members. Food is everywhere and easy to access these days.

BUT what we are doing is more than delivering food. Each meal delivered is like a hug- it says, "I see you and I am here to make this time just a little bit easier.". In addition to providing meals, Inreach can provide rides to doctor's appointments, someone to visit with you at home or in the hospital or even run an important errand if you are unable to drive.

BUT to make this ministry happen, we need volunteers. Over time, the list of active volunteers has dwindled to 17 people! That is just not enough if we want to cover all the needs of our church family without calling on the same people over and over again. Sondra Gerber does a wonderful job of coordinating this ministry and the volunteers, but she needs more people! You may be saying "I am not a cook", "I don't have time to cook" or "I might not know the person who needs the help". Great news- you do not have to be a great cook and if you do not know the person, this is your opportunity to meet them! While you are free to provide a home cooked meal, there are also lots of other options- recently we had people deliver BBQ, Pizza, or pick up a rotisserie chicken with a couple of side items... you get the picture.

IF you are willing, please reach out to [Sondra at ibagrammy@gmail.com](mailto:Sondra@ibagrammy@gmail.com) and asked to be added to her list. She can also be reached at 256-679-2420. (If you send her an email, it is helpful to send her a text letting her know). When an Inreach request is made to the church office, Sondra will send out an email to the team with all the details and a link to an electronic sign-up. Very easy! We would really appreciate some folks joining us so it is not the same people stepping up every time. Inreach is really the whole church caring for each other- something we all strive for as part of this church family.

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# May 2026 EYC News

**Episcopal Youth Community is a group of 6th-12<sup>th</sup> graders that gather for fellowship, Sunday School, special events, volunteer with the church and Mission Trips. If you are an uprising 6<sup>th</sup> grader, you can join us this Summer starting in June!!**

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> -9 am Sunday School in Amy West House**

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>- 10 am service High School Senior Recognition**

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day during 10 am service**

**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> Sam and Greg's Madison-Pizza night drop off and pick up at the restaurant 5:30-7:00 pm**

**Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday School end of semester party. 9 am in AWH Bring a dish to share for breakfast**

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> Belize Mission Team will attend the 10 a.m. and service and will be presented for prayers for our Mission**

**Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>-EYC Belize Mission Trip**

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# Christian Formation

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Jenifer Woytowich, Director



Christian Formation: Jenifer Woytowich, Director

Dear St. Matthew's Family,

May is a beautiful season of celebration and transition in the life of our church. As we continue to live into the joy of Easter, we also take time to recognize growth, milestones, and the many ways God has been at work in our children and youth throughout the year.

Thank you to all of our teachers, volunteers, and families who have made this program year so meaningful. Your dedication, love, and faithfulness have created a strong foundation for our young people to grow in Christ.

**May highlights & Important Dates:**

• **Sunday, May 3 – High School Senior Recognition Day (10:00 service)**

Join us as we celebrate and honor our graduating seniors and all they have contributed to our parish community.

• **Sunday, May 10 – Sunday School Teacher Recognition Day (10:00 service)**

We give thanks for our wonderful teachers who have faithfully shared their time, talents, and love throughout the year.

• **Sunday, May 17 – Last Day of Children's Sunday School**- End-of-year celebrations will take place during the Sunday School hour as we wrap up a fantastic year together. (*\*Adult Sunday School will meet over the summer*)

**Ladies Bible Study:**

Our Ladies Bible Study continues through mid-May and has been a wonderful time of fellowship and faithful conversation. 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.

• Matthew The Gospel of Promised Blessings - Ongoing through **May 14**

• **May 21 – Final gathering before summer break**, Potluck and fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who has participated this spring. We look forward to resuming in August!

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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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**Vacation Bible School**

Exciting news—Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! Plans are underway, and more details about dates, registration, and volunteer opportunities will be shared soon.

We will need both adult and youth volunteers, so if you are interested in helping, please reach out—I would love to have you involved!

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**Looking Ahead – Mark Your Calendars**

As we move into summer, we look forward to continued opportunities for connection, service, and growth in faith. Stay tuned for more information on summer activities for children and youth.

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**“Because I live, you also will live.” — John 14:19**

Blessings,

Jen Woytowich

Christian Formation Director

[christianed1@stmatthewsmadison.org](mailto:christianed1@stmatthewsmadison.org)

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## Gratitude Committee

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We invite everyone to visit and follow our new page, St. Matthews Page of Gratitude!

We'll be sharing regular posts very soon, and we would love for the whole church community to be part of it. You're encouraged to contribute your own stories of gratitude by emailing them to [drmargaretott@gmail.com](mailto:drmargaretott@gmail.com).

Let's come together to share and celebrate gratitude!

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## Kenya Relief

Lauren Eich - Sponsor and Donor Engagement Coordinator

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To my wonderful St. Matthew's Family,  
Over the last three years, serving in Kenya has shaped me in ways I'm still learning how to put into words. Living & working with the children and staff at Brittney's Home of Grace, the school, and the clinic has been a daily invitation to reflect, to listen, and to learn what steady, faithful care really looks like. It has at times been difficult to see the immense need those in this community face, but my heart has been made full time and time again seeing so many come here to help.

As I step into this next season, my role is shifting. I'll now be serving as Sponsor and Donor Engagement Coordinator with Kenya Relief, focusing on communication and social media—helping share the stories, updates, and the everyday life and work that happens here on campus in Migori. While I'll be based in the U.S., I'll still return to Kenya each quarter to stay closely connected to the children, the work, and the people here.

It's a different kind of "being here," but one I'm genuinely so excited about. I'll get to keep telling the stories of this place I love so much—the children, the staff, the behind the scenes work that often goes unseen—and help others feel connected to the work in a deeper way.

Thank you for the ways you've supported me, prayed for me, and cared about this community over the years. I'm grateful that, in this new role, I still get to carry these stories with me—and share them with you.

Excited to be home in a little over one week!  
Lauren



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## Prayer List

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Remember in your prayers:

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, 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, Scott Cechovic, Joan East, Jeff Anderson, Barbara Combs, Laura Weatherbee, David Lawrence.

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.



# May Servers

<b>May Schedule</b>					
	<b>5/3/26</b>	<b>5/10/26</b>	<b>5/17/26</b>	<b>5/24/26</b>	<b>5/31/26</b>
				<b>Pentecost</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>
<b><u>10:00 a.m.</u></b>				-	
<b>VOD</b>	J.Anderson	N. L-Trout	B.Byrd	B.Womack	R.Franz
<b>Altar Guild</b>	S.Bagwell	Coiner,Kleinjung	N.Snell	G.Lo	S.Bagwell
<b>Ushers</b>					
<b>Lector</b>	A.Modrall	A.Coiner	A.Utt	P.McGraw	C.Lanier
<b>Epistoler</b>	T.Sampson	T.Clem	F.Looney	M.Harrison	J.Salmon
<b>Intercessor</b>	J.Anderson	S.Fletcher	N. L-Trout	P.Marques	L.Lanier
<b>LEM</b>	Vaughn, Barr	Loehr, Vaughn	Weaver, Anderson	Price. L-Trout	Barr, L-Trout
<b>Crucifer</b>	A.Utt	A.Maddox	S.Jones	A.Utt	C.Bagwell
<b>Gospeler</b>	B.Watson	E.Maddox	A.Wales	B.Watson	S.Jones
<b>Torch Bearer</b>		N.Rasmussen			
<b>Torch Bearer</b>		M.Rasmussen			
<b>Counters</b>	Modrall, Cechovic	Barton,Coiner	Harrison, Lewis	Modrall, Cevochic	Barton, Coiner
<b>Hospitality Media</b>	J. Turner B.Williams	K. and F. Odom L.Stanbery	M. Pezzula B.Williams	K. Hicks L.Stanbury	R. Wyatt B.Williams
<b><u>8:15 a.m.</u></b>					
<b>Lector</b>	A.Williams	A.Turner	B.Buzby	W.Christopher	B.Williams
<b>Counter</b>	Tidwell. Byrd	Christopher, Cooper	Tidwell, Driesbach	Christopher, Cooper	Tidwell, Byrd
<b>Ushers</b>					
<b>Crucifer</b>	E.Bruce	B.Williams	E.Bruce	A.Maddox	B.Williams
<b>Altar Guild</b>	D.Buzby	B.Carpenter	A.Turner	S.Cape	D.Buzby
<b>LEM</b>	Scheuer, Smith	Carpenter, B. Williams	A. and B. Williams	A.Williams, Carpenter	Scheuer, Smith

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## May 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

Saturday, May 2- Ukraine Bake Sale at 10am in Gruman Hall

Sunday, May 3 - CPC Ingathering

Sunday, May 3 -Outreach Meeting at 11:15 in C.E.Bldg. Room 2

Monday, May 4 - Writers' Nook at 6pm in C.E. Bldg. Room 2

Tuesday, May 5 - Wardens' Meeting at 6pm in C.E. Bldg Room 1

Wednesday, May 6 - Staff Meeting at 10am in the kitchen

Saturday, May 9 - DAR Meeting at 2pm in Gruman Hall

Monday, May 11 - Sewing Sisters at 9am in Gruman Hall

Tuesday, May 12 - Wing and a Prayer at 5:30pm at Cricket's

Wednesday, May 13 - ECW meeting at 10:30am in Gruman Hall

Sunday, May 17 - DOK meeting at 11:15am in C.E. Bldg. Room 2

Monday, May 18 - Sewing Sisters at 6pm in C.E. Bldg. Rooms 1 and 2

Tuesday, May 19 - Vestry Meeting at 6pm in C.E.Bldg. Room 1

Wednesday, May 20 - Newsletter articles due

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day - Church closed

Monday, May 25 - Sewing Sisters at 9am in C.E. Bldg. Rooms 1 and 2

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