

June 2025 Newsletter

THE GREAT SUMMER

JOYFEST

LIVE SLOWER. LOVE BIGGER. CHOOSE JOY.

AT ST. MATTHEW'S



What is JoyFest?

This summer at St. Matthew's, we're slowing down, tuning in, and letting joy lead the way.

Through powerful Sunday messages, playful weekly gatherings, and a hands-on Bible study series, we'll discover how to live with deeper presence, bigger love, and lasting joy—no matter where we are on the journey.

Join us for **The Great Summer JoyFest.**

“Why?” A Three-Year-Old’s Lesson on Joy

by Rev. Rob Merola, Rector

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, I was giving our two- and four-year-old daughters a bath. Bathing them together saved time and made getting ready for bed more efficient.

On this particular day, however, they still had a lot of energy when their bedtime...

(cont. on page 2)

(continued from cover)

bath was done. Before I could chorale them and dry them off, they ran out into the living room and began to sing and dance. Mary could barely walk, and so her dance routine involved a lot of falling over. Christine mostly ran in circles, waving her arms in the air. Mary found a bright yellow rain hat which she donned, and then promptly fell over.

It was glorious.

But on this particular occasion, I was... well, kind of grumpy.

"Girls," I said, "Hurry!"

They started running in circles faster. Mary couldn't see where she was going because of the hat, but she desperately tried to keep up with Christine. And, of course, face-planted in the process.

"No, no-- That's not what I mean," I added, now with a bit of exasperation. "Stop with the dancing and get over here so I can dry you off. Hurry up!"

Christine looked up at me with her big, brown eyes and asked a very profound question:

"Why?"

I had not answer. I had nothing pressing I needed to d. I had nowhere I needed to be. I didn't have a

"The joy of it was so great that I have not forgotten it to this day."

deadline looming on something I needed to write. I had just become addicted to hurry and rush, so preoccupied with my own little agenda that I was missing what was going on before me.

Then it dawned on me: this moment, this phase in life, wasn't going to last forever.

So I simply sat down and let them dance. The joy of it was so great that I have not forgotten it to this day.

This summer, we're going to be celebrating The Great Summer Joyfest. I can tell you right now it is going to be GREAT. We've got Big Plans to make each Sunday an experience rich in joy. And we've got equally Big Plans to create occasions for abundant joy for all ages throughout the week. Believe me—you don't want to miss it.

So please—join us for the Great Summer Joyfest!!

Warmly, Rob+

CELEBRATION GARDEN VOLUNTEERING

TUESDAYS AT 8:30 AM



Join us for another season in the Celebration Garden—our 12th year of growing fresh produce and flowers to share with our community!

Drop-in volunteer sessions begin Tuesday, June 3 at 8:30 AM, and no experience is needed.

Teens can earn service hours, and flower arranging begins Saturdays later in June. Email garden@stmmts.org to learn more.

Garden to Table

CELEBRATION GARDEN EVENT



SAT., JUNE 21ST AT 6:00 PM

Celebrate the flavors of summer and the joy of community at our Garden-to-Table Evening! Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy an evening filled with:

- Fresh, garden-grown dishes
- Live music & outdoor games
- Good friends & new connections

Come hungry, come curious, come ready to relax and soak up the joy right on the front lawn at St. Matthew's!



JUNE



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>Pastor Annabelle Markey Preaching</p> <p>Backpack Buddies Packing & DONUT DAY at 10:30 AM</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Social Time on Zoom at 12 PM ID: 681-861-620</p> <p>Bread of Life Book Group 7 PM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Garden Volunteering 8:30 AM</p> <p>Compline 8 PM Online</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study 7 PM</p> <p>Mindfulness Ministry at 8 PM on Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bible Study 12 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Group 8 AM</p>
<p>pentecost (wear red to celebrate!)</p> <p>Rev. Rob Merola Preaching</p> <p>Kids Coffee Hour at Briar Patch Park</p> <p>GRADUATION Sunday AT 11:00 AM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Social Time on Zoom at 12 PM ID: 681-861-620</p> <p>Bread of Life Book Group 7 PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Garden Volunteering 8:30 AM</p> <p> Fairfax County Last Day of School!!</p> <p>Compline 8 PM Online</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study 7 PM</p> <p>Mindfulness Ministry at 8 PM on Zoom</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bible Study 12 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Loudoun County Last Day of School!</p> <p></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Men's Group 8 AM</p> <p>Women's Coffee Meet-up at 9 AM</p>
<p>Rev. Rob Merola Preaching</p> <p>YOU LOVE DAD. DAD LOVES BACON.</p> <p>CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY WITH JESUS & BACON</p> <p> ME CRAZY SNACK BAR</p> <p>Plus, Rising 6th graders join Donuts & Discovery!</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Social Time on Zoom at 12 PM ID: 681-861-620</p> <p>Bread of Life Book Group 7 PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Garden Volunteering 8:30 AM</p> <p>Compline 8 PM Online</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study 7 PM</p> <p>Mindfulness Ministry at 8 PM on Zoom</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Bible Study 12 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Men's Group 8 AM</p> <p>Garden to Table Event 6 PM</p>
<p></p> <p>Rev. Rob Merola Preaching</p> <p>Kids Water Fun at 10:30 AM</p> <p>Youth Hike at 11 AM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Social Time on Zoom at 12 PM ID: 681-861-620</p> <p>Bread of Life Book Group 7 PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Garden Volunteering 8:30 AM</p> <p>Compline 8 PM Online</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study 7 PM</p> <p>Mindfulness Ministry at 8 PM on Zoom</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bible Study 12 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Game Night at 6 PM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Men's Group 8 AM</p>
<p>Rev. Rob Merola Preaching</p> <p>Celebrate Waffle Iron Day</p> <p>AT 10:30 AM "We're Makin' Waffles!"</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Social Time on Zoom at 12 PM ID: 681-861-620</p> <p>Bread of Life Book Group 7 PM</p>	<p>SUMMER SAVE THE DATES</p> <div> <p>JULY</p> <p>7/6 - Anna Sudha Kitchen 7/7 - 7/11 - Local Youth Mission Week 7/13 - Mac n' Cheese Sunday Returns 7/21 - 7/25 - True North VBS 7/27 - VBS & S'mores Sunday</p> </div> <div> <p>AUGUST</p> <p>8/2 - 8/8 - Youth Mission Trip 8/10 - Garden Delights Sunday 8/17 - Back to School Sunday 8/24 - Aloha Sunday & Haiti Benefit</p> </div>				

This is not a full list of all events or uses of the St. Matthew's buildings, visit: stmmts.org/calendar for the most up-to-date schedule.

Events & Small Groups

June Special Services & Coffee Hour Events



Backpack Buddies + National Donut Day

We're celebrating our final HRTS Backpack Buddies Pack for the School Year AND National Donut Day (a little early)!

Come pack a bag, and grab a donut (or two)!



Pentecost & Graduation Sunday!

Celebrate Pentecost with us on Sun., June 8th (wear something red)!

At 11 AM, all are welcome to join us for a special Graduation Sunday service with music by the 930 Band. To have a graduate recognized, please RSVP to office@stmmts.org.



Father's Day Games + Bacon Me Crazy Bar

Celebrate Father's Day with us as we give thanks for all of the men who have made a positive impact in our lives.

At 10:30 AM dive into the Bacon Me Crazy Snack Bar: a spread of bacon-infused bites, plus tons of Dad's favorite games in the Man Cave (aka Parish Hall).



Welcome to Summer JoyFest!

Kick off JoyFest with us on Sunday, June 22 as we dive into Philippians and ask, "What is joy?"

After the 9:30 service, kids can splash into the fun with water games at 10:30 AM.

It's a Sunday full of surprises and tons of JOY!



We're Makin' Waffles! Waffle Bar

Celebrate National Waffle Iron Day with us featuring every kind of waffle you can imagine at our Waffle Bar at 10:30 AM.

It's joyful, it's delicious... waffle you waiting for? Join us on Sunday, June 29th!

June Small Groups



Bread of Life Book Discussion Group

Mondays at 7 PM

Bread of Life will continue reading **The Problem of Pain, by C. S. Lewis**.

Please join us for this weekly small group to dive deeper into Christian literature.



Wednesday Night Bible Study Group

Wednesdays at 7 PM

Looking for a fresh perspective this summer?

Join Deacon Kara for **"Spark Joy"**. Explore what the Bible says about **real, lasting joy**, and how to live it out every day.



Mindfulness Ministry with Zorana Rouse

Wednesdays at 8 PM

Hit pause midweek with a peaceful 30-minute Zoom session of meditation, gentle movement, and women's fellowship. Reconnect with your breath, your spirit, and your community. Email: office@stmmts.org for the Zoom link.



Thursday Bible Study Group

Thursdays at noon

Our Thursday Bible study will continue to take a deeper look at the weekly lectionary readings.

No previous Bible study experience needed.



Women's Coffee Mixer at Ridgetop

Sat., June 14th | 9 AM

Meet up with other women at Ridgetop Coffee in Sterling for a casual morning of great coffee, conversation, and connection.

Children are welcome!



GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, JUNE 27TH
AT 6 PM

Bring a snack and your favorite game to share as we enjoy some friendly competition and great company.

Fun starts here!

WOMEN'S retreat

SEPTEMBER 19 - 21, 2025
SHRINE MONT RETREAT CENTER




Join the women of St. Matthew's for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, VA! Together we will focus on the spiritual gifts and talents God has entrusted to each of us, and how to use those gifts for good.

We are excited to welcome Rev. Mary Margaret Winn as our guest speaker and Zorana Rouse as our yoga leader!

REGISTER EARLY AS SPOTS ARE LIMITED:
stmmts.org/WomensRetreat






SCAN ME



Ages 3 - 5th Grade
Sundays at 9:30 AM

BIG FAITH, BIG STORIES, BIG JOY!

This summer, Faith Factory is bringing the **WOW** with a joy-packed journey through some of the most exciting stories in the Bible—from **David and Goliath** to **Queen Esther**, and the **great Exodus escape!**

Every week features hands-on fun like science experiments, art explosions, musical mayhem, and joyful games that bring Scripture to life. Come as you are. Bring a friend.

Let's make this a summer of BIG joy, BIG faith, and BIG fun together!



ART.
DRAMA.
MUSIC.
GAMES.



EPIC BIBLE
STORIES THAT
SPARK
IMAGINATION



HANDS-ON
FUN EVERY
SUNDAY AT
9:30 AM

JUNE kids events Sundays at 10:30 AM

JUNE 1

BACKPACK BUDDIES & DONUTS!

Help with our final Backpack Buddies pack for the school year and celebrate National Donut Day with some delicious donuts!



BRIAR PATCH PARK

Grab your Coffee-Hour-To-Go Snack Bag and join us at Briar Patch Park across the street from St. Matt's for a morning of fun at the playground!



FATHER'S DAY GAMES

Celebrate Father's Day with games and fun! Challenge Dad to corn hole, fooseball, wiffleball and more, and enjoy bacon flavored treats at coffee hour.



JUNE 22

JOYFEST & WATER FUN!

June 22nd kicks off our Summer JoyFest at St. Matt's!

Kids - bring a towel and clothes to change in to and get ready to make a splash during coffee hour!



JUNE 29

WAFFLES & BOARD GAMES

Celebrate National Waffle Iron Day with us! Make your own waffle creation and play board games with friends.



There's a Bear on the Loose and it's headed straight for VBS!

- July 21-25 | 5:30-8:30 PM
- Adventure, Dinner, and Jesus (what else do you need?)
- Ages 3 through rising 5th grade.
- Register soon so we can plan food and t-shirt sizes!

REGISTER TODAY!
stmmts.org/VBS



PARENTS: FEELING THE SUMMER CHAOS ALREADY?

You're not alone, and we've got just the thing. Check out our new blog post: **"Faith-Filled Summer Survival Guide for Parents."**

It's packed with simple tools for a more JOYful, grounded summer, including a **playlist, blessing calendar, and quick faith practices** your whole family can enjoy.

Read the full post:



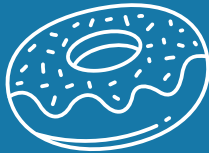
SUMMER

YOUTH EVENTS

AT ST. MATTHEW'S

FOR STUDENTS IN 6-12TH GRADE

JUNE
15



Donuts & Discovery

Welcome Rising 6th Graders! All rising 6th graders are invited to join us for Donuts & Discovery!

JUNE
22



Great Falls Hike

Bring your water and a snack for an afternoon of hiking!

JULY
7-11



Local Mission Week

A week of giving back to nonprofits here in Loudoun County ending with an epic day of water tubing!

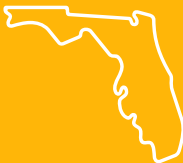
JULY
21-25



VBS Volunteering Fun!

Serve at VBS and enjoy evening activities just for youth volunteers!

AUGUST
2-8



Youth Mission Trip to Florida

Come make a difference and build your faith while helping those impacted by recent hurricanes.

AUGUST
10



End of Summer Event

Details coming soon!

AUG
24



Haiti Benefit Concert & BBQ

Come help serve at the Haiti Benefit & enjoy delicious BBQ and games!

EVENT DETAILS: [STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEVENTS](https://stmtts.org/youthevents) OR
JOIN US ON THE BAND APP!

