

# APRIL NEWSLETTER

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

A message from Rev. Mary Margaret Winn, Asst. Rector

Dear Friends,

Mission trips: there are about as many different philosophies about mission work as there are people. But if you have ever been on a mission trip, you know that philosophies matter infinitely less than people do. You can plan and organize and fundraise (and these things are all very important!), but when you get to your destination, you realize it is all about relationships.

I have had the great fortune to go on several mission trips in my life and while they have all varied widely, I walked away with the same feeling—my heart on fire.

It was never the kind of fire that I expected, though. Rather than burning hot and fast, I was startled to discover that each time, I simply gathered embers. I remember having a lunch meeting with my advisor in college after a spring break outreach trip to Jamaica. She asked if my life had been changed, expecting me to respond with an enthusiastic “yes!” Instead, I said “sort of?” Of course I had been moved and shaken by the people I met and the places I went, but I didn’t come back with the feeling that I was going to change the world. I came back with hot coals of compassion and questioning and a nagging from God that have continued to burn in my heart ever since. They influence how I move through the world. I know they have been part of my call to ordained ministry.

This kind of fire is exactly what I pray for all of us. While fires that burn hot and fast have their place and are certainly exciting to watch, they can also burn out quickly. What really good mission work does is create embers—relationships that sustain us our whole lives long and drive us to be the best people and Christians we can be.

As you make your plans for this summer, please consider signing up for one of our mission trips. The youth will be headed to Harrisburg, PA June 26-July 2, and adults are headed to Lake Charles, LA July 16 -22 for a variety of community projects and relationship building. These are truly unique opportunities to fuel the fire that God has started in you.

Blessings,

Rev. Mary Margaret

Youth Mission Information:

[stmmts.org/YouthMission](https://stmmts.org/YouthMission)

Adult Mission Information:

[stmmts.org/MissionTrip](https://stmmts.org/MissionTrip)



### This issue:

- **Holy Week & Easter Services**
- **Youth & Adult Mission**
- **Announcing VBS 2022!**
- **April Outreach**

# WAYS TO CONNECT

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**8, 9:30 & 11 AM**  
In-person and Online  
[stmtts.org/services](http://stmtts.org/services)

### Faith Factory for Kids

Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am

### Youth Group Sunday (Not) School

Sundays at 10:15am

### Raising Teens Connection Group

Sundays at 10:15am Classroom 4

### Young Professionals (YoPros)

2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30pm

Email: [Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org](mailto:Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org)

### Compline

Monday - Friday at 8:00pm

Facebook Live: [stmtts.org/live](http://stmtts.org/live)

### Social Time with Candace

Mondays at 12pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

### Bread of Life Small Group

Mondays at 7pm

Email Darrell: [Darrell@stmtts.org](mailto:Darrell@stmtts.org)

### Social Time with Kevin

Mondays at 8:30pm on Zoom

Email Kevin Fletcher: [Kevin@stmtts.org](mailto:Kevin@stmtts.org)

### Sandwich Generation Small Group

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm

### Leadership Lunches

1st Tuesday of every month on Zoom

Email [Miriam@stmtts.org](mailto:Miriam@stmtts.org) for Zoom link

### Outreach Meeting

Email [Kristin.Drummond@stmtts.org](mailto:Kristin.Drummond@stmtts.org)

### WatCh/WonZ (Wednesdays at Church)

6pm-8pm | At Rev. Rob Merola's House for April

Email [office@stmtts.org](mailto:office@stmtts.org) for more information.

### Women's Group

Thursdays at 12:15pm on Zoom

Zoom ID: 886 5270 7607 Passcode: church

### Men's Group

Saturdays at 8:00am

Email Linden: [Linden@stmtts.org](mailto:Linden@stmtts.org)

# April WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH at Rob & Linda's



**WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM - 8 PM**  
**APRIL 27TH - MAY 25TH**

Join us for good weather, good people, and good food as we gather on Wednesday evening in the Edenic setting of Fr. Rob and Linda's back garden from 6 PM - 8 PM.

Rev. Mary Margaret will give a 15-minute talk at the end of each event on the shape of our worship and why the Eucharist is so important.

Main dish & drinks will be provided, please bring a side dish. Lawn chairs and/or blankets to sit on are recommended. Address: 34 Bedford Drive, Sterling VA

*In the event of bad weather, we will move to the Parish Hall at St. Matthew's for pizza and fellowship.*

# APRIL EVENTS & SERVICES

## PARISH WORK DAY

SAT. APRIL 9  
9 AM - 12 PM

Do you love to garden? Are you handy with a hammer? Need some fellowship on a Saturday morning? Join us!

Stay for an hour or three, whatever you can, we'd love to see you there! Donuts & Coffee Provided.

[stmmts.org/ParishWorkDay](http://stmmts.org/ParishWorkDay)

## HELP US MAKE EASTER AT ST. MATTHEW'S GREAT... AND THEN SOME!

We are so excited to have Easter Services in-person this year, and need your help in making sure we share God's love . . . and then some with the community on Easter Sunday!

There are lots of little things that take just a few minutes of your time. Please take a look at the sign up and see how you can help!



[stmmts.org/EasterHelp](http://stmmts.org/EasterHelp)

## FULLY EXPERIENCE HOLY WEEK

### What is Holy Week?

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter. Experiencing Holy Week is to walk through Jesus' most trying hours and the events that led to his death and resurrection. Walking through this journey allows us to contemplate and embrace the sorrow and then unbelievable joy on Easter morning.

Let's take a brief look at some of the primary observances in Holy Week:

**Palm Sunday** is the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This is the Sunday prior to Easter and will be celebrated by waving palm branches outside and then processing into the sanctuary to hear the Passion.

**Tenebrae** is Latin for shadows, so this is a service of shadows. In this service we use increasing darkness to dramatize the increasing sadness of Holy Week. The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events through music and scripture.

**Maundy Thursday (or Holy Thursday)** commemorates the Last Supper. Our Maundy Thursday service will include the option to participate in foot washing and then the altar guild will strip the altar - removing all signs of Jesus from the church for observing the days Jesus was dead.

**Good Friday** observes the day Jesus was crucified. This day is often a day of fasting and prayer. It's the most solemn day of the church year.

**Holy Saturday** reflects the day Jesus was buried in the tomb. (and you might catch Fr. Rob wearing his 'holey' jean jacket!).

**Easter Sunday** a celebration of Jesus' resurrection!

## PALM SUNDAY

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

St. Matthew's  
Episcopal Church

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
Sunday, April 10th  
8, 9:30 & 11:15 AM

[stmmts.org/Easter](http://stmmts.org/Easter)

## TENEBRAE

SERVICE OF SHADOWS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 AT 7:30 PM

St. Matthew's  
Episcopal Church



## HOLY WEEK

at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

St. Matthew's  
Episcopal Church



MAUNDY  
THURSDAY  
7:30 PM



GOOD  
FRIDAY  
12 & 7:30 PM



HOLY  
SATURDAY  
10:00 AM

SERVICES IN-PERSON & ONLINE  
[stmmts.org/Easter](http://stmmts.org/Easter)

# EASTER SERVICES



## HE HAS RISEN

### EASTER SUNDAY

at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

#### SERVICE TIMES

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH

##### **5:45 AM Easter Sunrise Worship**

Join us at Saint Matthew's for a stunning Sunrise Worship Service with Paschal fire. Following the service, join us for a simple Easter Brunch!

##### **9:30 AM Festival Easter Worship with Band**

Join us for our vibrant Festival Easter Worship with Band as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Following the service, children are invited to join us on the front lawn for an Outdoor Egg Hunt!

##### **11:15 AM Easter Worship**

Join us at Saint Matthew's for joyful Easter Worship with Choir & Strings as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Following the service, children are invited to join us on the front lawn for an Outdoor Egg Hunt!

*\*Overflow parking is available at the Loudoun Sheriff Office or Rolling Ridge Elementary across the street from the church.*



[stmtts.org/Easter](http://stmtts.org/Easter)

# CHILDREN & YOUTH



JOIN US FOR OUR CHILDREN'S

## EASTER

OUTDOOR EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH

FOLLOWING

9:30 AM & 11:15 AM EASTER SERVICES



EASTER EGG HUNTS



EASTER BUNNY



## MONUMENTAL VBS

JULY 25 - 29 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

- Games, Skits, Live Music, Videos, and more!
- Ages 3 years old through rising 5th graders!

*\*3 and 4-year-olds must be accompanied by an adult.*

REGISTER TODAY AS A CAMPER OR TO VOLUNTEER!  
[stmmts.org/VBS](http://stmmts.org/VBS)



DELICIOUS DINNERS



WACKY CHARACTERS



GAMES



BIBLE DISCOVERIES



FUN SCIENCE LESSONS



LIVE MUSIC



LOUDOUN UNITED FC  
 VS. INDIAN ELEVEN  
 GROUP OUTING



Sunday, April 10th at 5:45 PM

Segra Field, Leesburg

RESCHEDULE! Youth are invited to attend a Loudoun United FC soccer game! Join us! Friends are welcome!

Sign up here: [stmmts.org/Soccer](http://stmmts.org/Soccer)



## EARTH DAY



CELEBRATION & FIELD DAY



Team events, games, and hands-on activities to celebrate God's beautiful creation!

Saturday, April 23rd, 4 - 6 PM  
 at St. Matthew's



# APRIL OUTREACH

## YOUTH MISSION HARRISBURG, PA JUNE 26-JULY 2



Details and pricing coming soon, visit [stmmts.org/YouthMission](http://stmmts.org/YouthMission) for updates

## ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSION TRIP GULF COAST (LAKE CHARLES, LA AREA) JULY 16TH - JULY 22ND



STEP UP TO BE THE "HANDS AND FEET" OF JESUS BY CARING FOR AND PROVIDING FOR THE PEOPLE'S NEEDS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Visit [stmmts.org/Mission2022](http://stmmts.org/Mission2022) for details  
Questions? [Zena.Horaibi@gmail.com](mailto:Zena.Horaibi@gmail.com)

## EARTH DAY PLANT ADOPTION

SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH | 9 AM - 12 PM

Hundreds of perennials & seedlings looking for loving homes. Potted herbs will be available for \$5 donation to the garden ministry.

For questions or volunteer to help, please see or contact Heidi Lathrop:  
[CelebrationGarden@stmmts.org](mailto:CelebrationGarden@stmmts.org)



## BECOME A SATELITE FOR FOOD DONATIONS

1. PLACE A BIN ON YOUR FRONT STEP
2. TELL THE NEIGHBORHOOD
3. DROP OFF DONATIONS AT CHURCH!

PRINT-AT-HOME BIN SIGNS  
& SPECIFIC NEEDS POSTED

[stmmts.org/BeTheChange](http://stmmts.org/BeTheChange)



THE FIRST 2 WEEKS IN APRIL ARE  
ST. MATTHEW'S DELIVERY DAYS!

REGISTER FOR APRIL DELIVERIES  
[stmmts.org/AprilLink](http://stmmts.org/AprilLink)

Learn more about Link:  
[stmmts.org/link](http://stmmts.org/link)

Questions?  
Contact Melissa Hancock at  
[MelissaHancock@gmail.com](mailto:MelissaHancock@gmail.com)

## BACKPACK BUDDIES

Our Backpack Buddies program, provides meals dozens of local children. Each child receives a bag filled with six meals, snacks, and milk every weekend during the school year. You can help:

- MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT
- DONATE FOOD
- HELP PACK!

[stmmts.org/backpack-buddies](http://stmmts.org/backpack-buddies)

Contact Hilary Hultman-Lee at  
[HLLlearning@gmail.com](mailto:HLLlearning@gmail.com) to get involved!