

# December Newsletter

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

## IT'S ABOUT TIME...

REV. MARY MARGARET WINN

Dear Friends,

*How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?*

Wise words from Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss. I marvel at how quickly each year passes, how it got so late so soon, before we find ourselves back to December again. Every year at this time, I feel a shortage of, well, time. Not enough time to get shopping done, not enough time spent in the sun, not enough time with family, not enough time to prepare for Christmas.

Here at St. Matt's, we think it's about time to make time for what really matters. Not in a Macy's sort of way, where the marketing is family but the message is "buy more of our stuff." No, we think what really matters, what it is high time we make time for, is the spiritual "stuff" that gets put on the back burner the rest of the year. To that end, this Advent will focus on making time to wake up, connect, be prophets, and listen. We will explore what it means to make time for the things that really matter, all in the context of preparing ourselves for the birth of Christ.

There will be many opportunities over the next several weeks not only to discuss and learn about making time but also to live it. Take a look at the many ways we can connect with each other and listen for God in the activities and events offered in the following pages. I am especially excited about our Sermon Series, and connecting with each of you during our many coffee hour events this December.

So if you find yourself wondering how the time has flown (who isn't?), then there is a place for you here at St. Matthew's. We can't magically procure more of it for you, but if we work together, we can figure out how to spend it in all of the right ways.

Mary Margaret

DECEMBER 2022



*"...making time to wake up, connect, be prophets, and listen."*



## THIS ISSUE:

- Advent Sermon Series
- Christmas Services
- December Events
- Outreach Updates



# Events & Save the Dates

## WAYS TO CONNECT

**Faith Factory for Kids**  
Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Donuts & Discovery - Youth**  
Sundays at 10:30 AM

**Young Professionals (YoPros)**  
2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30 PM  
Email: Caitlin.Dronfield@stmmts.org

**Compline**  
Monday - Friday at 8:00 PM  
Facebook Live: stmmts.org/live

**Social Time with Candace**  
Mondays at 12 PM  
Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

**Bread of Life Small Group**  
Mondays at 7 PM  
Email Darrell: Darrell@stmmts.org

**Social Time with Kevin**  
Mondays at 8:30 PM on Zoom  
Email Kevin Fletcher: Kevin@stmmts.org

**Outreach Meeting**  
Email Kristin.Drummond@stmmts.org

**WatCh (Wednesdays at Church)**  
Wednesdays at 7 PM

**Women's Group**  
Thursdays at 12:15 PM on Zoom  
Meeting ID: 831 0241 0063  
Passcode: 500696

**Men's Group**  
Saturdays at 8:00 AM  
Email Linden: Linden@stmmts.org

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Services at 8, 9:30 & 11 AM  
In-person & online

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

## DECEMBER

Tuesdays - Backpack Buddies Packing at noon

Wednesdays - WatCh Dec. 7 & 14 - Discovering Awe

Sundays - Pageant Rehearsals

Sun., Dec. 4th - Crazy Christmas Sock Day!

Sat., Dec. 10th - Donuts & Nativity Crafts with Santa 10 AM

Sat., Dec. 10th - Liturgy for Survivors of Abuse 5 PM

Sun., Dec. 11th - National Bagel Day Coffee Hour

Mon., Dec. 12th - Spirit Night at Panera

Sat., Dec. 17th - Decorate for Christmas (Parish Work Day)

Sun., Dec. 18th - Christmas Sweater & Hot Cocoa Bar

Sun., Dec. 18th - Parish Hall Set Up for Pageant

Fri., Dec. 23rd - Pageant Dress Rehearsal

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday, Dec. 24th

- Pageant at 3 PM
- Festival Service with Band at 7 PM
- Classic Service at 9 & 11 PM

Sunday, Dec. 25th

- Christmas Day Service 10 AM

## JANUARY - SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, January 1st - Services at 8, 9:30 & 11 AM

Tuesdays - Backpack Buddies Packing at noon

Wednesdays - WatCh at 7 PM

**Chili Cook-Off Returns! Details Coming Soon!**

**FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENT DETAILS, VISIT [STMMTS.ORG/EVENTS](http://STMMTS.ORG/EVENTS)**



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

Dedications for flowers are welcome to remember loved ones, honor birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, or any special occasion. Christmas dedications must be submitted by Dec. 18th.

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



**JOIN THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

Rehearsals are starting soon!

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

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Christmas is a wonderful time and we can't wait to celebrate this Advent and Christmas season with You - In Person! Will you please consider sharing joy and love this season by assisting in one of the following ways: ushering, reading, helping with communion, and/or lighting the Advent Wreath? Training will be provided.

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



ONE  
*Extraordinary*  
MOMENT



*Celebrate Christmas*

with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

*Christmas Eve Services*

Saturday, December 24th

- 3 PM - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
- 7 PM - FESTIVAL SERVICE WITH BAND
- 9 PM - CLASSIC SERVICE WITH CHOIR
- 11 PM - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH CHOIR



*Christmas Day*

Sunday, December 25th

10 AM - COMMUNION SERVICE



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

# Advent at St. Matthew's

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together.

Printed devotionals available for pick up starting Sunday, Nov. 27th, limited quantities available.



Digital copies available now at [stmmts.org/Advent](http://stmmts.org/Advent)

## SERMON SERIES

### It's Time

Join us every Sunday during Advent as we prepare our hearts for the most wonderful time of the year. It's about time we wake up, reconnect, dream, listen and act! Let us prepare for the birth of Jesus together.

#### Advent I

Nov. 27th- It's Time to Wake Up, with Rev. Rob Merola

#### Advent II

Dec. 4th - It's Time to Reconnect - Discussion with Rev. Rob Merola & Rev. Mary Margaret Winn

#### Advent III

Dec. 11th - It's Time to Plant Seeds with Genevieve Zetlan

#### Advent IV

Dec. 18th - It's Time to Dream, Listen & Act with Rev. Mary Margaret Winn

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

# Outreach at St. Matt's

## GIVING TREE

ADOPT A FAMILY OR PICK A SINGLE GIFT

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
**GIVING TREE 2022**

- Pick a tag from the tree located by the front doors of the church
- Shop for the family you've chosen
- Drop off labeled, unwrapped gifts by Dec. 11th

KNOW AND SHARE  
GOD'S LOVE  
WITH OTHERS  
THIS CHRISTMAS!

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

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE UPDATES



Thank you to everyone who gave to our annual Thanksgiving Bag food drive, we exceeded our goal of 200 bags! Thank you for making a difference for families in Sterling this Thanksgiving!

A special thank you to Pat and Frank Wagner and their team for organizing all of the donations for distribution!

- 244 Thanksgiving bags
- 43 containers of diapers
- 20 containers of formula
- 36 baby juice containers
- 85 packets of wipes
- 6 packs of feminine products
- 97 gift cards to grocery stores!



Through our Backpack Buddies program, we currently provide support to dozens of local children in need.

#### Ways you can help:

- Visit [stmmts.org/give](http://stmmts.org/give) to make a financial gift
- Drop off food donations: Tues/Thurs 8-4, Mon/Wed 12-4, or on Sundays.
- Help pack - Tuesdays at noon, First Sunday of the month at 10:15 AM

Learn more [stmmts.org/BackpackBuddies](http://stmmts.org/BackpackBuddies)

# Children & Youth

## Children's CHRISTMAS

### Pageant

#### REHEARSALS

- Sun. 11/27, 12/4 & 12/11 - Classrooms 1&2: 9:30 - 10:45 AM
- Rehearsals will take place during the 9:30 service. Communion will be offered to the children at the end of rehearsal.
- Sun. 12/18 - Pageant run through - Sanctuary - 12:30 PM
- Fri. 12/23 - Dress Rehearsal - Parish Hall - 6 PM

#### PERFORMANCE:

Christmas Eve Pageant Service - Parish Hall  
Saturday, December 24th at 3 PM



**LEARN MORE**  
[stmmts.org/Pageant](http://stmmts.org/Pageant)

## DONUTS & NATIVITY CRAFTS WITH SANTA

**Saturday, Dec. 10th**  
**10 AM - 11:30 AM**



Come in your favorite Christmas pajamas and see Santa, enjoy donuts, hot cocoa, coffee, juice, make nativity crafts, and hear the nativity story. All ages welcome, event is free.

**RSVP or VOLUNTEER**  
[stmmts.org/Santa](http://stmmts.org/Santa)

## December Youth Events

### YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT

Christmas  
**MOVIE**  
Night



**YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT**  
FRIDAY, DEC. 9TH 7 PM TRAILER

PJs, hot cocoa, and a Christmas movie with friends...what could be better?!

Join us as we kick off the Advent season and watch the movie Elf! Don't be a Cotton-Headed Ninny Muggins and miss this event! Movie and snacks are guaranteed!

Questions? [MaryMargaret@stmmts.org](mailto:MaryMargaret@stmmts.org)

### YOUTH GROUP TACO TUESDAY & LAS POSADAS



**TACOS & LAS POSADAS**  
TUESDAY, DEC. 20TH 1:30 - 3:30 PM

¡Las Posadas are here! The beloved Mexican tradition, 400 years strong, of reenacting the nativity story.

Enjoy your day off of school, make your own tacos and learn about this amazing tradition!

For more information:  
[MaryMargaret@stmmts.org](mailto:MaryMargaret@stmmts.org)

### DONUTS & DISCOVERY



**DONUTS & DISCOVERY**  
SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM CLASSROOM 3

Middle & High School Discussion Group. Join us Sundays at 10:30 AM for donuts and a discussion on "THAT'S IN THERE?" A look into some of the weirdest and most surprising things you didn't know were in the Bible.

Join Genevieve Zetlan in Room 3 for 30 minutes of discussion (and donuts!)

# December at St. Matt's

## BECAUSE YOU SAID YES

As we head into the end of 2022 and look forward to 2023, we are incredibly grateful for the impact all of you have had on our community this year.

Together, we have helped those in our community keep warm with coats, fed hundreds of families through our garden and regular food drives, we have provided diapers, formula, and utility assistance and more.

Because of your faithful giving this year, and with God's help, St. Matthew's has been the place that can say yes to those in need when so many other resources in our area have said no.

Help us continue to say YES in 2023 with a year-end gift to St. Matthew's ministries. We cannot do it without you.

Thank you for an amazing 2022! Take a look at some of the impact you've had this year, check out our And Then Some video here:

[stmmts.org/Thankyou2022](http://stmmts.org/Thankyou2022)



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

## December Events

### AWE WATCH WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS 7-8 PM

What is awe? Join us for our November/December WatCh series as we explore together the meaning of awe, where we find it in scripture and how do we cultivate it?

Nov. 30- AWE in worship & life  
Dec. 7 - Cultivating AWE  
Dec. 14 - AWE how do we use it?

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

We love seeing your holiday cards each year, send us your cards and we'll display them for all to see on the Parish Hall community board.

### St. Matthew's Tree of Lights & Nativity

Add St. Matthew's to your annual Holiday Light sight-seeing list. Beginning December 1st, drive-by to see the beautiful tree of lights and Nativity lovingly displayed by our Men's Group.

### CHRISTMAS SOCKS SUNDAY

Sunday, Dec. 4th

Wear your favorite Christmas socks and join us in the Parish Hall for a coffee hour between the 9:30 & 11 am services for treats & show off your holiday flair!

### NATIONAL BAGEL DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

Join us for coffee hour between the 9:30 & 11 am services for an assortment of bagels & toppings!

### St. Matthew's SPIRIT NIGHT

PANERA - POTOMAC RUN PLZ.

DECEMBER 12th  
4 PM - 8 PM

Use code **FUND4U** at online checkout, in the Panera App or at the kiosk in-cafe

ENJOY A NIGHT OFF COOKING & SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES!

20% of sales will be given to St. Matthew's

### LITURGY FOR SURVIVORS & VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

SATURDAY, DEC. 10th AT 5 PM

Join us for an evening of worship and prayer for those who have survived any type of sexual abuse

In-person and online.

Questions? Contact [MaryMargaret@stmmts.org](mailto:MaryMargaret@stmmts.org)

### PARISH WORK DAY

SAT. DEC. 17TH  
9 AM - 12 PM

We need YOUR help decorating the church and preparing the grounds for Christmas!

We have inside jobs and outside jobs - options for all ability levels. Please join us for any amount of time you can!

Donuts and coffee will be served!

### CHRISTMAS SWEATER & HOT COCOA BAR

JOIN US SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18  
BETWEEN 9:30 & 11 AM SERVICES

Wear your favorite holiday apparel and enjoy some hot cocoa with all the fixings! Awkward family photo ops optional.