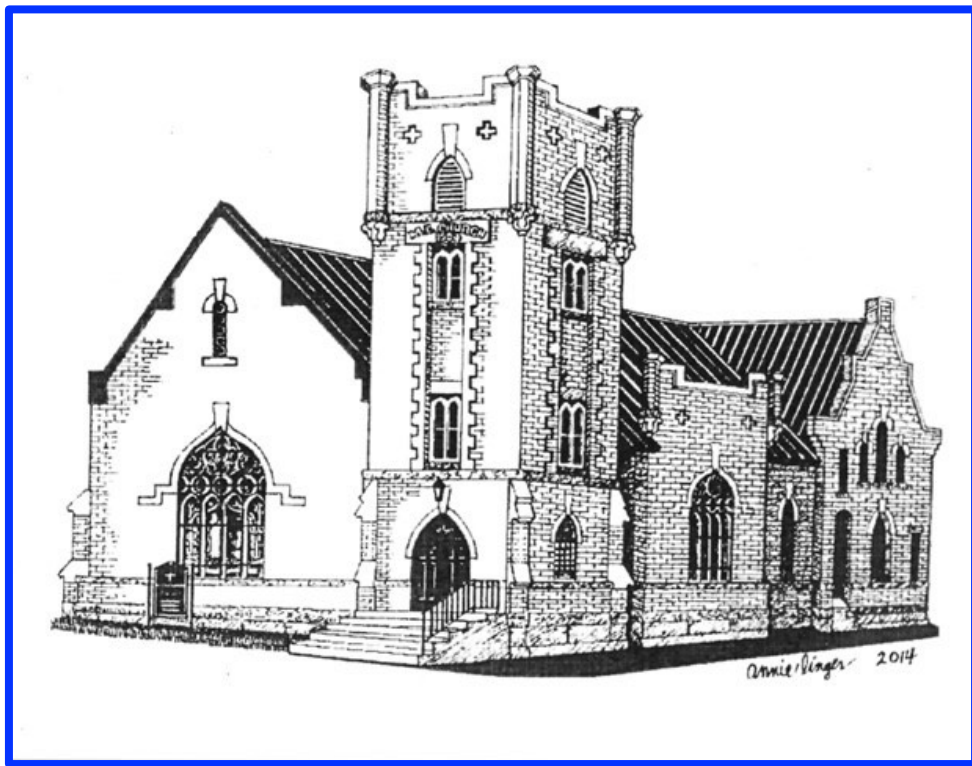


St. Matthew United Methodist Church



Winter 2026
Newsletter

PASTOR'S NOTES

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

*There is a time for everything, and a season
for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,*



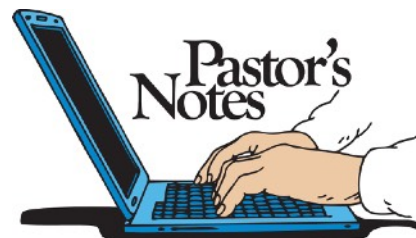
Well, here we are... we have crossed over into the year 2026. Its always fun to make a big deal out of New Year's Eve. We often go out to dinner, we stay up late and celebrate, we watch the ball drop at midnight in New York City, we see all the confetti and hear the band playing. Then we wake up on New Year's Day & wonder, has anything really changed? How about your New Year's resolutions? So many people plan to make big changes in their lives only to see them fall before the end of January. We all look for big things in the New Year, but do we look in the right place?

I think the reason so many people don't see the big changes they hope for is because they don't look to the Lord for the inspiration and perseverance needed to follow through. We are told by all the "experts" that we need to make big changes; we forget that big changes start with small steps. One of my favorite sayings, heard in the office regularly is that you eat an elephant one bite at a time...

I believe that this is a time for God to move among us. We began with small steps, and have begun to make some bigger changes. God has been in our midst for the first year and a half that I've been here. We need to continue praying that God will lead us, and be ready for this time that God has set before us. Let's pray that 2026 will be a year of growth and faithfulness.

I believe that prayer needs to be at the heart of everything we do. I also know that people continue to pray daily for God's hand to be upon this church. Won't you join me in praying each day for this year and this time in the life and ministry of our church? Thank you in advance for your prayers. We know that "the Prayers of the Faithful are powerful and effective."

God Bless & have a great 2026!
Pastor Jeff <'///><



SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR WINTER 2026

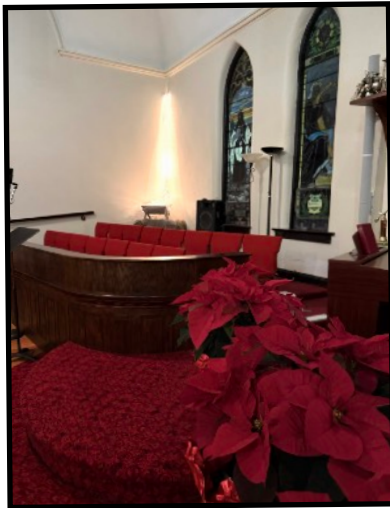
January 11	January 18	January 25	February 1	February 8
And a Sword Will Pierce Your Own Soul too	I had to be in My Father's House	Guest Pastor	Jesus Call Us	Fishing Lessons
Psalm 84	Psalm 122	Guest Pastor	Isaiah 6:1-8	Isaiah 49:1-7
Luke 2:21-40 Jesus Presented in the Temple	Luke 2:41-52 Jesus Left at the Temple	Guest Pastor	John 1:29-42	Matthew 4:12-23

2026 OFFICERS

Church Council	Trustees	SPRC Members
Chair: Ruth Macbeth	Sandy Virden	Debby Clark
Lay Leader: Griff King	Donis Hannah	Mike Stout
SPRC Chair: Rosanna Silcott	Jim Sumpter	Bob Stultz
Trustee Chair: Election 2/11/2025	Marvin Murphy	Flora Elliot
Finance Chair: Bob Stultz	Jesse Grubb	Rosanna Silcott
Treasurer: Judy Staubly	Patty Smith	Paula Hinzman
UMW Chair: Sandra Matthews	Brad Montgomery	Harriet Williams
SS/UMM Chair: Griff King	Juanita Alfred	Linda Smith
	Dorothy Garton	
	Tim Conrad	

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

St Matthew United Methodist Church supported several programs over the Christmas season to include: Operation Christmas Child (shoebox mission), Angel tree, Silver Tree (senior center), and Shoes for Roanoke school children. Thank you so much to everyone who supported these important programs! Your donations, time and prayers are a blessing to so many. We look forward to sharing God's love for us in 2026!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Christmas Eve Service is always such a beautiful opportunity to reflect on God's light in our lives and how we can share that light with those around us. As we step into the new year, remember the hope and the excitement that came from a baby in a manger. Lets carry that hope with us all year long.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped to decorate the church inside and out. Your time and your talents make the Christmas Eve service special.

OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM NEWS

- The Outreach and Evangelism Committee had a wonderful time decorating the church van for the Christmas parade. A big thank you to Bruce Riffle and Rick Willams for being our drivers; as well as to the UMW for donating candy. It was wonderful to see St. Matthew represented in the community!
- The volunteers of the live nativity had a blast sharing the birth of Jesus. Hot cocoa and cookies were the perfect sweet treat for people to enjoy as they took in the scene. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. Showing people the true reason for holidays is such blessing, we hope to participate in these events again next year!



CHILI COOK-OFF

The second annual chili cook off will be held in the fellowship hall Saturday January 17th at 12:00pm. We encourage everyone to invite a friend and bring their best chili recipes to share! The winner gets bragging rights for 2026!



MARDI GRAS PARTY

Come join us for some tasty desserts in the fellowship hall after the Sunday worship service on February 15th! This is a great way to celebrate the upcoming Ash Wednesday and Lenten season. Bring your favorite dessert to share and lets party!

OUR NEIGHBOR ITEMS FOR JANUARY

Our Neighbor Items of the month of January are... Sample or travel sized hygiene items, cold weather gear and shelf stable meals like: Ramen noodles, macaroni & cheese cups and soup cans with pull-open lids. Please leave items in the bin marked "Our Neighbor" in the Annex hallway of our church or deliver them directly to Our Neighbor Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.



FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK



We are so excited to announce, that because of your generosity, St. Matthew UMC has made a donation of **\$5895.00** to the Family Resource Network (Lewis County Food Pantry) for 2025! Your donations add up and help our community in a big way!

Community Dinner

This months community dinner will be hosted by the Girl Scouts on Saturday Jan. 24 at 4PM. Menu will be lasagna, garlic rolls, garden salad and cupcakes. All are welcome to attend!



COMING EVENTS



**Sunday School 9:00 AM,
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM,
Bible Study Thursdays at 11:00 AM
in the Meeting Room.**

Bible Study Resumes
UMM Breakfast
Chili Cook-Off
Church Council Meeting
Community Dinner
Guest Pastor
UMM Breakfast
Trustee Meeting

Thursday January 8th at 11:00 AM
Sunday January 11th at 8:00 AM
Saturday January 17th at 12:00 PM
Thursday January 22nd at 1:00 PM
Saturday January 24th at 4:00 PM
Sunday January 25th at 10:00 AM
Sunday February 8th at 8:00 AM
Wednesday February 11th at 6:30PM

PRAYER LIST

Ginger Bailey, Eleanor Kafer, Aidan Linger, Betsy Martin, Brad Montgomery, Carol Haan, Ginny Lamb, Mary Anne Lamb, Joan Hinzman, Julia Bragg, Pat Reckart, Ruth Macbeth, Jim Stutler, C.D. Cole, David Parks, Luke Roselli (Macbeth), Cierra Deploy, Sarah Dotson, Catherine Ratliff, Esker Davis, Marvin & Marcia Murphy, Tom Virden, Patty Smith, Jean Bennett, Shirley Bennett, Barb Brown, Lennon Brown, Barbara Whitt, Lisa Sturm (Conrad)

If you would like to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please call the office at: 304-269-2428

