

ST. MATT'S MESSENGER



From the Pastor's Pen

BY REV. NICHOLAS BONSKY

We are in the midst of the resurrection season! Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, proclaiming, "He is Risen!"

As we enter the month of May, we begin to experience that resurrection all around us in nature. Whether it is the blooming of tulips and other spring flowers—or even the more persistent "flowers" like dandelions—signs of new life are everywhere. Resurrection is present.

As many of you know, April was not an easy month for my family. In times like these, it can be difficult to reflect on what resurrection truly means. Yet, as

we move into May, I am reminded of glimpses of resurrection in everyday life: the laughter of family as they remember a loved one, relationships that have faded over time being rekindled, and the warm hugs of beloved church members that turn grief into hope and love.

Resurrection is real. And as May unfolds, even though Easter has passed, may you continue to see the power of resurrection that dwells within you—and the resurrection that surrounds you each day.

Pastor Nick

*THIS MONTH'S
SERMON SERIES:*

*"Resurrection
Power"*



Change is Happening at St. Matthew's!

BY STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

As announced in February, Pastor Nick has been appointed to South Lyon United Methodist Church and his last Sunday at St. Matthew's will be June 14. Plans are in process for a send-off for Nick, Leslie and Eli to wish them well in their new appointment and express our great appreciation for the contributions they have made to the congregation over the last few years.

As we prepare for this farewell, we will be welcoming the Reverend Christopher Grimes who has most recently served Clarenceville United Methodist Church. We are very excited that he has accepted his appointment to St. Matthew's which starts at the beginning of July. There will be opportunities to get to know him and celebrate the many gifts and talents he brings to help St. Matthew's fulfill its mission and enhance its ministry. These changes bring opportunities, excitement and the acknowledgement of losing someone who has served the congregation well. Please provide support and encouragement for both Pastor Nick and Pastor Grimes as they transition to new roles, new homes and new ways to serve.

St. Matthew's is blessed to have such wonderful leaders in service to our congregation.



Rev. Christopher Michael Grimes is a native of the greater Detroit area and a product of the Detroit Public Schools system. He is an alumnus of Eastern Michigan University and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.

He currently serves in the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church and has ministered in urban, suburban, and rural contexts across the connection, serving in both pastoral and associate roles.

Rev. Grimes is presently appointed to a two-point circuit, providing cross-racial and cross-cultural leadership at Livonia Clarenceville United Methodist Church, affectionately known as "The Ville" and Detroit St. Paul United Methodist Church.

In addition to his pastoral work, he has served the local community as a high school mentor, basketball coach, and intervention assistant. Pending final approval by the Annual Conference Session in May 2026, Rev. Grimes will be commissioned as a Provisional Elder in the Michigan Conference. On August 9, 2025, he married his wife, Bianca Grimes.

Rev. Grimes affirms that the Church is called to embody the love of Jesus Christ in a world in need. He is committed to fostering a ministry rooted in full inclusion, where all people are welcomed, valued, and affirmed as part of God's beloved community. He values the Church as a diverse and vibrant expression of that love.

Rev. Grimes is grounded in Wesleyan theology, he understands God's grace as active, transformative, and available to all, and he seeks to live out a life of piety and practice marked by personal holiness, social holiness, and faithful discipleship. He values the Church as a diverse and vibrant expression of that love



UWF May Mission

BY ANN STANDO

The United Women in Faith will be collecting for the Brightmoor Free Store in northwest Detroit this month. The following items are needed and can be placed in the bin outside the office door:

Personal Care

- toilet paper
- bar soap and pump soap
- shampoo/conditioner
- body wash
- men and women's deodorant
- combs and brushes
- toothpaste and toothbrushes
- baby wipes
- feminine products

Household Cleaners

- dish soap
- Ajax
- tub and shower cleaner sprays
- toilet cleaner
- SOS pads and sponges

Food

- cereal
- canned chicken and tuna
- condiments (BBQ sauce, mayo)
- seasonings
- canned veggies
- and canned fruit
- instant potatoes
- side dishes (pasta, or rice)
- ready-to-eat soups (like Progresso)

Cash donations are always welcome. We can do the shopping for you! Please make checks out to St. Matthew's UMC-UMW and give to Mary Anne Duluk or put in the black box outside the office door. Thank you!



For more information regarding the Mission programs at St. Matthew's, please contact Drew Doty, Mary Anne Duluk, or Jenny Ronayne.

Redford Brightmoor Initiative

BY MARY ANNE DULUK

The Redford–Brightmoor Initiative (RBI) is located on Outer Drive between I-96 and 5 Mile. Their mission is to provide families with essential goods and services as a means of achieving stability while building community.

The Redford-Brightmoor Initiative was founded in August 2012 by the Rev. Jeff Nelson and Cliff Bath following the merger of the West Outer Drive United Methodist Church in Brightmoor with the Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church. RBI received 501(c)(3) status in February 2013 and today is a stand-alone organization, strongly supported by a number of churches but not itself part of any religious organization.

To support their mission the following programs are provided and available as needed:

Free Stores offering:

- clothing and personal care items
- household items and linens
- toys, baby items, diapers (RBI is a distribution location for the Metropolitan Detroit Diaper Bank)

Laundry Support - the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month

Car Care - a certified mechanic comes to the Brightmoor location on Saturday mornings

Other Services:

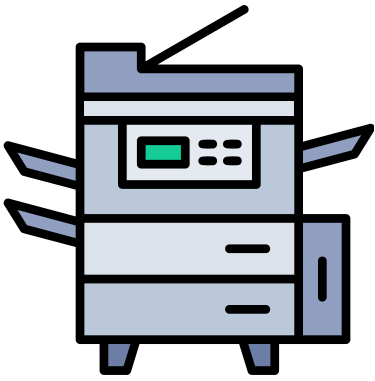
- Community Meals
- Diaper Bank
- Holiday Programs
- Fresh Produce
- Furniture Program
- Mobile Dentist
- Wayne Mobile Health Unit
- Social Workers
- Youth Programming
- Back to School Events

Food Services:

- Community breakfast every Saturday while the free store is open.
- Several Saturdays each month we receive 65 bagged lunches that are distributed to the Brightmoor Free Store shoppers.
- We invite community members to join us by allocating plots in the garden for each interested gardener. Community members can plant what they would like and tend to it when they are able.
- As a member of Keep Growing Detroit, we are able to provide seeds and starter plants as well.
- Food 4 U is a drive-thru food pantry which has been serving the Redford area for many years. All are welcome.
- Each year 125 families in the Brightmoor area receive complete Thanksgiving dinners, including a whole turkey or turkey breast, potatoes, yams, collard greens, stuffing, gravy, and sweet potato pie.
- An additional 160 families receive a turkey along with their November food box from our Redford Food 4 U pantry.

Other Activities: One Stop Shop is our annual holiday event where our neighbors in Brightmoor, Redford and beyond receive new items for the holidays! Items including linens, towels, pillows, small appliances, groceries, stockings full of goodies and, most importantly, toys! Last year, we served 251 households, including nearly 1,000 children.





OFFICE SPACE

BY KIM DESANTIS

This space is dedicated to happenings and processes that are facilitated through the church office.

Church phone: (734) 422-6038

Cell phone: (313) 510-0283 (text too!)

kimdesantis@stmatthewslivonia.org



2026 Graduates

We will honor our St. Matthews' Class of 2026 this year on Graduation Sunday, June 7! Please submit the following to me:

High school graduation: name, school, future plans, any awards/achievements/hobbies that you'd like to mention, as well as a few pictures.

College, post grad or trade school graduation: name, school, degree earned, and a picture. (Winter 2025 grads too!)

Family members that have graduated and are **not members** of St. Matthew's: name, school, and degree earned.

All submissions must be turned in by **MAY 24** to be included in the bulletin as well as the June newsletter. Any questions, please let me know. Thank you!



Summer St. Matt's Messenger

Please note that we will NOT have newsletter publication in July and August. With the transition of pastors we will hold off and resume in September. That being said, if there is anything you'd like to announce prior to the summer, please have your information to me by **MAY 24**.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 4
Ashley Bloom

May 7
Peg Besecker
Lori Johnson

May 17
Joey DeSantis



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 4
Todd & Kim DeSantis
- 30 Years -

May 22
Jim & Kathy Lefler
- 50 Years -

Have a June/July/August birthday or anniversary?

Please contact Kim DeSantis to be in next month's issue!



Audrey Allshouse

Member Spotlight

Where did you grow up?

Livonia, Michigan

What is your employment?

I am a chiropractor, but right now I am homeschooling my girls full time.

What led you to St. Matthew's?

I have been at St. Matthew's since I was 10 years old when my mother, Kathy Lefler, joined as a member.

What do you like the most about St. Matt's?

Our church is inviting to all people, members and guests alike. Our church is also very generous, fulfilling Christ's mission of loving everyone.

What has been your involvement?

When I was younger I was part of the Youth Groups and went on mission trips. I have been a Sunday School teacher, served on the Ad. Board, and help the SPREE committee.

What are some memorable moments?

My experience at Mountain Top (1995-1997) helped me to see the world through new eyes and to have a better appreciation for the blessings in my life.

What do you do for fun?

We do a lot as a family - travel, explore, learn and have fun together. Our "read-aloud" time as a family is my favorite past time.

What is your favorite restaurant/food?

I enjoy eating all types of food, but I could eat Mexican food everyday!

What is your favorite song?

Right now in my life I love listening to Toby Mac; "I Don't Want to Lose My Soul" and "I've got Heaven on My Mind" are my favorites.

What is your favorite book?

I am a voracious reader - love too many to list!



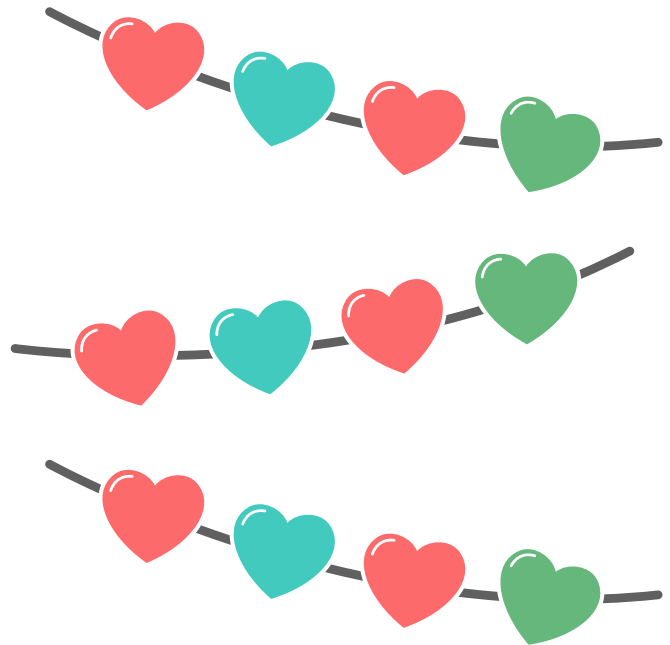
Acts of Love

BY CAROL KAHAIAN

Every Sunday during the offertory, Pastor Nick calls for us to share our gifts. Volunteering to share a skill, an interest, and/or ability is an Act of Love. The church is very dependent on people sharing their talents. This month, here are a few of the ones posted:

- Baked communion bread
- Made service PowerPoint
- Played trumpet for service
- Participated in Maundy Thursday service
- Served as liturgist

Every Sunday we hear “one of your greatest gifts is your presence.” We show our love for God by worshipping together online or in person.



Take a Book, Share a Book

BY CAROL KAHAIAN

Have you noticed St. Matthews’ “Free Little Library”?

The Free Little Library is a non-profit organization with a mission to build communities, inspire readers and expand book access for all. It promotes neighborhood book exchanges.

Our Free Little Library structure was donated by the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). Mary Ann Duluk, a member of DAR, approached our One Board for permission to have a library placed on the grounds. The library has been placed next to the sidewalk entrance to the Little Guys & Dolls Preschool.



The library has books for readers of all ages. The two shelves provide space for children’s books and older reader offerings. The goal is to borrow a book, donate a book or even keep a beloved book, hopefully expanding access to books for all, as well as reusing books.

Our Free Little Library requires service. The Book Club that meets at St. Matthew’s has agreed to oversee donations, circulation and replacement on a regular basis. We appreciate any donations of gently used or new books. Please place any book donations on the bookshelves in Fellowship Hall.

Check it out! You may find an interesting read.



**Please join us on
Sunday, May 31, as
we honor those who
have survived cancer
and the caregivers
that helped in their
healing.**

There are over 18 million cancer survivors in the United States, and St. Matthew's is blessed to have many members who have survived various forms of cancer.

We would like to focus our May 31 service on hearing from some of our members while we celebrate what they have overcome and acknowledge the caregivers who have made their healing possible.

If you have a cancer survivor story to tell and would like to share it with the congregation, or if you have any ideas to make this service special, please contact Jenny Ronayne at 734-776-1789 or jennyronayne@stmatthewslivonia.org.



THE ENGAGEMENT PAGE

MAY
2026



MAY

CANCER SURVIVOR SUNDAY



Please join us on Sunday, May 31, as we honor those who have survived cancer and the caregivers and supporters who helped in their healing.

There are many ways you can participate in this service. If you would like to write a message about how your faith helped in your journey, you can speak during the service, or we can have someone else deliver your words. Other opportunities to participate in the service include reading, delivering a prayer, or offering a musical selection.

Please contact Jenny Ronayne for more information.

Look for the form to fill out telling us what kind of cancer you survived or are currently battling so we can make sure that we have the right amount and correct color of ribbons.

Everyone will receive a purple ribbon that represents cancer caregivers and supporters.

UPCOMING SUMMER GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



TOY COLLECTION



In July we will once again be collecting NEW/UNWRAPPED toys for the D.O. It For Denny Toy Shop. This is a fabulous event where parents of Livonia kids can come and receive 5 free toys per child, stockings, decorations, clothing, housewares, and toiletries.

In 2024 we collected 30 toys, and in 2025 we collected 80 toys! We hope we can beat that amount in 2026. Now is a good time of year to be looking for toys on sale!



CHILDREN'S BOOK COLLECTION



We will be collecting new and used children's books again this year. We will take them to Crossroads in Detroit on August 20 when we serve lunch to at-risk youth. We will also be doing a craft/learning activity after we serve lunch.

Watch for the sign-up in June, and we hope you can join us!

Please consider looking for used books at garage sales, book sales, or in your own homes!



SPECIAL THANK YOU



Thank you to all who made our Little Guys and Dolls Easter Egg Hunt so special. Thanks for the candy, trinkets, supplies, and the volunteers who made the actual event so fun!

For questions contact Jenny Ronayne at jennyronayne@stmatthewslivonia.org or 734-776-1789



MAY



At a Glance

Continuing Events

Mondays at 9:00 AM - Classical Bells

Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:00 AM -
Food deliveries to Cass Community
Social Services

Wednesdays at 8:00 AM - Coffee at
Anastasia & Katie's, (19215 Merriman
Rd, Livonia, MI 48152)

- ALL ARE WELCOME! -

Wednesdays at 9:00 AM - Memorial
Garden Care



Upcoming Events

May 5 - Book Club (10:00 AM)

May 7 - HeartCrafters (9:30 AM)

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 12 - UWF Bible Study Circle (10:30 AM)

May 19 - Staff Meeting (11:00 AM)

May 19 - One Board Meeting (7:00 PM)

May 21 - HeartCrafters (9:30 AM)

May 21 - Pubology (6:30 PM)

May 24 - Pentecost Sunday

May 25 - Memorial Day

May 28 - HeartCrafters (9:30 AM)

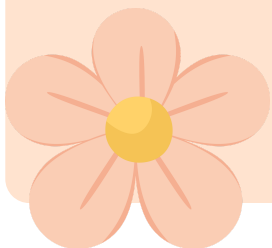
May 31 - Cancer Awareness Sunday

Important Reminders

➡ May 24 is the deadline to get graduation information to the office

➡ Church offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day

➡ Pastor Nick will be away at the Annual Conference May 28-31





ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES BELOW FOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

**MAY
31**

CANCER SURVIVOR SUNDAY
10:30 AM Sanctuary



**JUNE
14**

**PASTOR NICK'S LAST SUNDAY
AND LUNCHEON**
10:30 AM Sanctuary and 11:30 in Fellowship Hall



**JULY
5**

PASTOR CHRIS'S FIRST SUNDAY
10:30 AM Sanctuary



**JULY
24**

ST. MATT'S AT THE DRIVE-IN!
DOUBLE FEATURE WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY
7:30 PM 14900 Beck Rd., Plymouth 48170



**AUGUST
20**

CROSSROADS LUNCH AND CRAFT
9:30 AM-2:00 PM at Crossroads of Michigan
2424 West Grand Blvd, Detroit 48208



For questions contact Jenny Ronayne at jennyronayne@stmatthewslivonia.org or 734-776-1789

*“Give all your worries and cares to God, for he
cares about you.”*

~ 1 Peter 5:7



**If you have any questions or
anything to add to the newsletter,
please contact Kim DeSantis at
kimdesantis@stmatthewslivonia.org**

**Church Phone: (734) 422-6038
Cell Phone/Text: (313) 510-0283**

**Deadline for June
(and summer) submissions:**

May 24

