

ST. MATT'S MESSENGER



From the Pastor's Pen

BY REV. NICHOLAS BONSKY

It's officially that time. That time when I write my final pastoral message for our church newsletter. Yet even though it's time, it feels like it's come too soon. I know many of you feel that same way. I find it funny that a phrase we often use is "all in God's time," and yet here we are, and my question is, "Why now? God, why don't I have just a bit more time? Why can't it be another year, or two?"

As I run that conversation in my head, I already realize the answer. No matter how much extra time I would get to serve St. Matthew's, it would never be enough. The last four years have been one of the greatest blessings of my life. When I was appointed to St. Matthew's, I did not know what to expect, and

now I leave knowing something deep in my soul: The people of this church love me, and I love them.

God does incredible things, don't you think? I've witnessed this church undergo amazing transformation over the past four years, and I am grateful that I can say, as I leave, that I leave a church that will continue doing amazing things. As I write this note, I'm reminded of my favorite George Harrison song, "All Things Must Pass." George sings that the sunrise doesn't last all morning, just as a cloudburst doesn't last all day, and my appointment here is the same. But as it passes, from the very bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you for this time. Thank you for this love. And thank you for these memories that I will forever cherish.

God bless you,

Pastor Nick

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

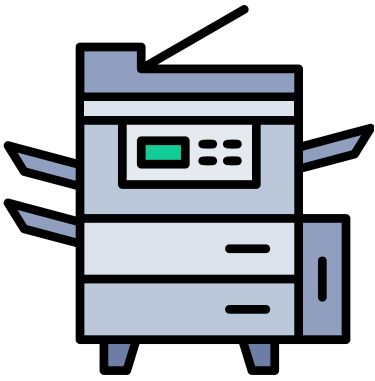
June 7
Graduation Sunday

June 14
Farewell Pastor Nick!

June 21
Kathy Lefler
Guest Speaker

June 28
Hymn Sing

July 5
Welcome Pastor Chris!



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 2 - April Krause

June 5 - Emma Allshouse

June 5 - Goebel Bartley

June 5 - Gary Burdick

June 6 - Piper Fite

June 8 - Dan Ronayne

June 18 - Paul Schlack

June 19 - Rachel DeSantis

June 19 - Jenny Ronayne

June 19 - Janice Trubak

July 1 - Barbara Bloom

July 2 - Lesley Bonsky

July 2 - Nick Bonsky

July 15 - Ken Duluk

July 15 - James Thoel

July 16 - Ben DeSantis

July 16 - Zachary Dudas

July 18 - Jim Lefler

July 30 - Audrey Allshouse

August 4 - Bev Dabliz

August 7 - Tonda Shimbo

August 8 - Roger Nelson

August 10 - Linda Dorton

August 13 - Hannah Murphy

August 17 - Al Eardley

August 24 - Bill Marken

August 25 - Karen Burdick

August 25 - Phyllis Nelson

August 28 - Mary Anne Duluk

August 31 - Caroline Ronayne

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 12 - Jeff & Darlene Ebersole - Wedding Anniversary (50TH)

July 2 - Nick & Lesley Bonsky - Wedding Anniversary

July 23 - Karen Burdick - Cancer Free Anniversary - 10 Years!

August 8 - Paul & Margaret Schlack - Wedding Anniversary



Because we will NOT have newsletter publication in July and August, this month there are quite a few birthday and anniversary announcements to celebrate for the summer months!

With the transition of pastors, there will be a lot of planning and organizing, and production will resume in the fall.

In the meantime, please continue to send your articles and announcements to me for the weekly bulletins!



Graduation!

Congratulations to the following members of the St. Matthew's family that graduated this past year. We are so proud of you!

High School

Owen Clinton Davis



Owen, son of Todd Davis and brother to Nolan, graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School. Owen has been in the Stevenson Marching Band for 4 years, playing the trumpet, mellophone, and French horn. In addition to his musical interests, Owen was on the Wrestling Team for 3 years, the Tennis Team for 1 year, as well as the Bowling Team for 1 year. Owen is currently exploring his options for what lies ahead!



Zachary Dudas



Zachary is the son of Heather Bonsky, brother to Ashleigh Dudas, grandson of Sue and the late Bill Bonsky, and nephew of Nick and Lesley Bonsky. Zachary graduated from Clarenceville High School in Livonia where he played the snare drum in the Marching Band. Zachary is attending the Universal Technical Institute in the fall to become an aircraft mechanic.

CLASSES
OF
2026

High School



Congratulations to the following relatives of members of St. Matthew's:



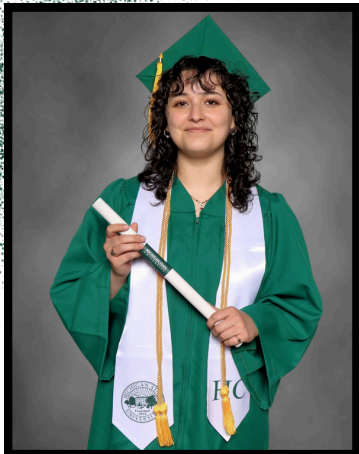
Piper Lynne Fite

Piper, the daughter of Jason and Darlene Fite, graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School. While at Stevenson, Piper played the viola in the Orchestra and did shot put as a member of the Track Team. She's also been doing jujutsu since she was 5 years old and is now a blue belt in the adult class. Piper will be attending Grand Valley University to study nursing.

Andrew Harris, grandson of Judy Harris, graduated from Detroit Country Day and will attend Miami University-Ohio in the fall.

Reagan Kert, granddaughter of Corrine Kert, graduated from Stevenson High School in Livonia and will be joining her sister, Mackenzie, at Michigan State University this fall. She will study veterinary medicine.

College



Rachel Liana DeSantis

Rachel, daughter of Todd and Kim DeSantis and sister to Joey and Ben, graduated with high honor from Lyman Briggs and the Honors College at Michigan State University. Rachel received her Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics with minors in Mathematics and Computational Math, Science & Engineering (CMSE).

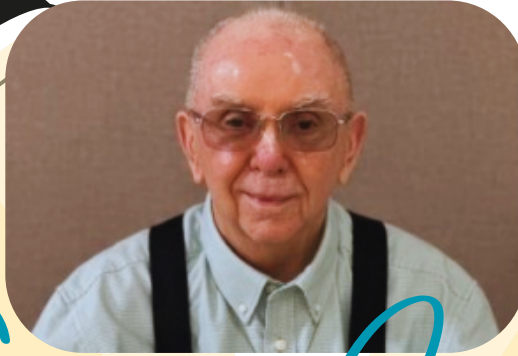
Post Grad



Emily Berriman

Emily, daughter of Dave and Sarah Berriman and twin sister of Joanna, graduated from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. Emily received her Master of Social Work in December 2025.

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George Calder

Member Spotlight

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Detroit and grew up near 7 Mile and John R. I was an 8th grader when my family moved to Livonia in 1951 and I graduated from Bentley High School in 1955 as part of the first of three classes to attend Bentley from 7th through 12th grades.

What is your employment?

I taught mathematics at Livonia's Emerson JHS from 1960 to 1979 and Franklin HS from 1979 to 1992 when I retired.

What led you to St. Matthew's?

When my family moved to Livonia we began attending Hope Chapel Evangelical United Brethren Church on 6 Mile at Middlebelt because it was close to our home off Merriman between 5 & 6 Mile. Hope Chapel and Livonia Methodist Church later merged to become St. Matthew's United Methodist Church.

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

The friends I've met, worked with, and talked to, and the comfortable feeling they give me in case I am ever in need of something.

What has been your involvement at church?

Superintendent of Sunday School Youth Division, Pastor Parish Relations, Tellers, Memorial, and helping mail the former "Life Line" newsletter to over 200 members monthly.

What are some memorable moments?

The traditional "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter Sunday, even though I don't sing. Of course, the past 4 years with Pastor Nick have been all three (memorable, funniest, and moving).

What do you do for fun?

I'm 88 with spinal stenosis and that's NOT fun. So genealogy with over 3,000 names, visiting friends who are homebound, using a computer, and watching TV are fun and relaxing.

What is your favorite food?

A pasty weekly, and a filet mignon 2 or 3 times yearly.

What is your favorite song?

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"

What is your favorite movie or book?

"The Sound of Music"



Acts of Love

BY CAROL KAHAIAN

The month of June puts St. Matthews' love to the test. We are experiencing saying goodbye to Pastor Nick, Lesley, and Eli; a family we have grown to love. We want to wish them well on their new spiritual journey and at the same time put aside our disappointment of their departure. Pastor Nick has displayed the love of Jesus as he has led this church.

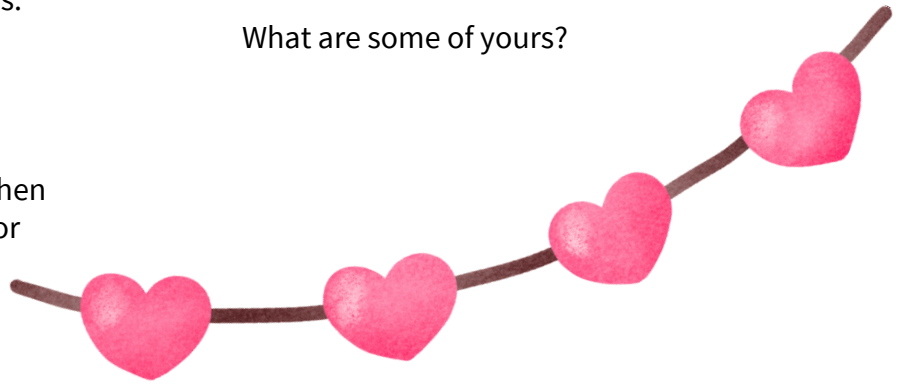
Now as we say farewell, we are asked to shift gears to a loving welcome for our new pastor, Pastor Christopher Grimes. What does he bring? Will he take us to the movies? Will he have coffee at Anastasia & Katie's on Wednesday mornings? Many know he comes with abundant love which he showed us when doing the Celebration of Life service for Bill Bonsky.

St. Matthew's, Jesus is telling us we can ace this test simply by following his commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you."

So for June, post some hearts expressing your love for Pastor Nick. Here are a few of mine:

- I love Nick's sense of humor
- I love Nick's community involvement
- I love Nick's family values

What are some of yours?



Livonia Spree

BY MARGARET SCHLACK

It's SPREE time again! Spree is coming June 22 - June 29 and it is time to man our St. Matthew's Spree Tent. If you haven't made it to Spree before we have a food tent where we serve our famous sloppy joes, hot dogs, kielbasa, nachos, drinks and so much more! It is a great chance to connect with our community and each other. Sign up for a 2 hour shift or more, as many days as you can! You will be amazed at how time will fly! There are many different jobs and there is a job for you! No experience needed and we offer job training for FREE. You don't have to be a member to work and you can bring friends to work with you (just sign up your friend too.)



You can sign up remotely using Signup Genius at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B44AFAB22AA8-63463907-spree>

Any questions, feel free to ask Drew Doty or Margaret Schlack.



Classical Bells Youth Summer Handbell Camp

August 3-6, 2026

6:00 - 8:00 PM

For Youth Ages 10 - 14

Location:

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
30900 Six Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152

Contact: Darlene Ebersole



classicalbells.com



THE ENGAGEMENT PAGE

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST
2026



SUMMER GIVING, SERVING AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



JULY TOY COLLECTION



In July we will once again be collecting NEW/UNWRAPPED toys for the D.O. It For Denny Toy Shop in December. This is a fabulous event where parents of Livonia children can come and receive 5 free toys per child as well as 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!



ST. MATT'S AT THE DRIVE IN IN JULY!



Join us on Friday, July 24, at the USA Hockey Arena Drive-in Movie Theater for a double feature with your St. Matt's church family. See the attached flyer for more information and look for the sign-up sheet in June.



AUGUST CHILDREN'S BOOK COLLECTION AND CROSSROADS LUNCH



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 food insecure youth. We will also be doing a craft/learning activity after we serve lunch.

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

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



SEPTEMBER TOILETRY COLLECTION FOR D.O. IT FOR DENNY'S TOY SHOP



Toiletry collection for this year is going to be a bit different. D.O. it for Denny is now collecting items that they will put in a bag that will go to families in their "Take What You Need" station at their annual Toy Shop in December. They are very specific this year about the items needed. Please see the list below that they provided us:

Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Hairbrush or comb, Kleenex, Lotion, Band-aids, Neosporin or other first aid cream, Bars of soap (no liquid soap, they had a spill and it was a catastrophe!), Hair ties, Dental floss, and Toilet paper.

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



FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026
GATES OPEN AT 7:30 PM
MOVIES BEGIN AT 9:15 PM

DRIVE-IN DOUBLE FEATURE



ADMISSION:
\$13 FOR ADULT
\$11 FOR KIDS (AGES 4-12)
FREE FOR AGES 3 AND UNDER

USA HOCKEY AREANA 14900 BECK RD.,
PARKING LOT PLYMOUTH 48170

CONCESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LOT AND FROM CJ'S BREWERY ON-SITE. MOVIES ARE NEW RELEASES AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO THE DATE. GROUP RATES AT \$11 PER ADULT TICKET FOR GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE. WE WILL PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE FOR A GROUP RATE IF ENOUGH PEOPLE SIGN UP. BRING LAWN CHAIRS, BLANKETS, GAMES, ETC. "RAIN CHECK" PASSES WILL BE GIVEN FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER. LOOK FOR THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN JUNE. SEE JENNY FOR QUESTIONS.





Crossroads Lunch and Craft

Join us in preparing and serving lunch for food insecure kids and helping them with a craft/learning activity!

Thursday,
August 20,
2026

2424 W. Grand
Blvd., Detroit
48205

9:30 AM-
2:00 PM

We will take our collected new and used books to share with the children.

Crossroads will provide the food we will prepare and serve. They have humbly asked for monetary donations to cover the cost of the food each day.

Each meal includes a fresh fruit, dessert, and lemonade. They will also ensure a vegetarian option is available. The cost is \$200 per day. Donations will be greatly appreciated!

Watch for the sign-up sheet in July

**See Jenny Ronayne for more information
734-776-1789 or jennyronayne@stmatthewslivonia.org**



Summer

AT A GLANCE



Summer Calendar

In addition to the events listed on the Engagement Page and Upcoming Events Page, the following are ongoing activities at the church during the summer, all are welcome!

- BOOK CLUB the first Tuesday of the month, 10:00 AM in the chapel. Contacts: Judy Harris and Carole Pogarch
- FOOD DELIVERIES TO CASS each week on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:00 AM. Contact: Ken Duluk
- MEMORIAL GARDEN CARE weekly on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM. Contacts: Ken Duluk and Lori Johnson
- COFFEE TIME at Anastasia & Katie's (19215 Merriman Rd, Livonia, MI 48152)
- UWF BIBLE STUDY CIRCLE takes place the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the Chapel.
- ONE BOARD MEETINGS the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the chapel. Contact: Margaret Schlack

Please check the bulletin for Weekly Events for the most up-to-date activities, as some events may be added, removed, or rescheduled.

If you have an event to be scheduled this summer (for calendaring and publication in the weekly bulletin), please contact Kim DeSantis in the church office at:

kimdesantis@stmatthewslivonia.org or (734) 422-6038

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Graduation Sunday: June 7

Pastor Nick's Last Day/
Farewell Lunch: June 14

Father's Day: June 21

Livonia Spree: June 22-29

Pastor Chris Begins: July 1

Offices Closed: July 3

Pastor Chris's Welcome
Lunch: July 12

Donation Collection
Fundraiser: July 17-19

Kim on vacation: July 13-17

Jenny on vacation: Aug 3-7

HAPPY SUMMER!



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

"All Things Must Pass"

by George Harrison



*Sunrise doesn't last all morning
A cloudburst doesn't last all day
Seems my love is up
And has left you with no warning
It's not always gonna be this grey
All things must pass
All things must pass away
Sunset doesn't last all evening
A mind can blow those clouds away
After all this my love is up
And must be leaving
But it's not always going
To be this grey
All things must pass
All things must pass away
All things must pass
None of life's strings can last
So I must be on my way
And face another day
Now the darkness only stays at night time
In the morning it will fade away
Daylight is good
At arriving at the right time
But it's not always going
To be this grey
All things must pass
All things must pass away
All things must pass
All things must pass away*



Farewell and God Bless Pastor Nick, Lesley, Eli and Murphy!



"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." – Numbers 6:24-26

St. Matt's Messenger
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