



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# a way in the *wilderness*

It was during Lent last year that we began our experience with COVID-19. It's hard to believe that we are now back to this season of prayer, fasting, and repentance that helps us prepare our hearts for Easter. This Lent, we are going to invite you to use the story of the Exodus, as well as events in the life and ministry of Jesus, to reflect on your COVID-19 experience and dive deeper into the question, "Where is God in all of this and how does it connect with our faith?" I want to invite you to join me in this journey through worship and small group opportunities.

*Continued on next page*



## a way in the *wilderness*

### WORSHIP

On Sunday, February 21, we began our Lenten sermon series, “A Way in the Wilderness”. This series will connect the experience of the Israelites in the wilderness with the life and ministry of Jesus to give us the opportunity to reflect on our pandemic journey and where God is leading us. Isaiah 43:19 says, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (NIV) Here’s the schedule, so you can follow along with us:

**February 21:** “The Journey-From Where I Was to Where God is Leading”

Exodus 3:1-10, Matthew 3:13-4:11, Luke 3:21-23, 4:13

**February 28:** “Egypt-The Place of Safety and Longing”

Exodus 5-6, Matthew 8:1-17

**March 7:** “The Red Sea—The Place of Danger and Trust”

Exodus 14, Matthew 8:23-27

**March 14:** “Wilderness—The Place of Loss and Growth”

Exodus 16:1-12, Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 8:18-22

**March 21:** “Sinai—The Place of Encounter and Calling”

Matthew 17:1-13

**Palm Sunday, March 28:** “Kadesh Barnea—The Place of Waiting & Preparation”

Matthew 21:1-11, 23:37-39, Luke 19:28-44

**Easter Sunday, April 4:** “The Promised Land—The Place of Freedom & New Life”

Matthew 28:1-10

Continued on next page...



a way in the *wilderness*

## SMALL GROUPS

Second, we want to invite you be a part of an exciting small-group opportunity called “Exploring the Wilderness”. This 6-week Zoom small group will dig deeper into the bigger themes of the Exodus and use them to help us process the pandemic on many different levels:

Week 1: Looking Inward, Discovering Me

Week 2: Looking Upward, Discovering God

Week 3: Looking Outward, Discovering Us

Week 4: Looking Backward, Damaged Emotions

Week 5: Looking Around, Discovering Community

Week 6: Looking Forward, A Vision for Tomorrow

If you are interested in joining one of these small groups, please contact Pastor Adam at [asparks@stmumc.org](mailto:asparks@stmumc.org).

May God bless us with healing, hope, and hearts that are ready this Lenten season!  
In Christ, Adam

---



## GIVING

Each of our campuses has a dedicated page with different options for giving:

Browns Lane: <https://www.stmatthewsmethodist.com/giving>

River City: <https://www.rivercitymethodist.com/give-online/>



March 1 .....	Sara Brighty	March 19 .....	Ellen Jenkins
March 2 .....	Tracie Kiefer		Max Froelich
March 4 .....	Emily Faulhaber		Diana Grissom
	Andrew Haulk		Janet Essig
March 5 .....	Olivia Leonard		Bill Stratton
	Sarah Jenkins		Noah Sparks
	Jacob McCarthy	March 20.....	Hobie Valladares
March 7 .....	Larry Cox		Lexie Chapman
	Coraline Eastes	March 21 .....	Mallory Murry
March 8.....	Johnathan Koprowski	March 22 .....	James Bartels
	Levi Fulner		Tyler Martin
March 9.....	Barbara Tracey	March 23.....	June Stephens
	Zoe McLaughlin		Frank Payne
	Chris Brandt	March 24.....	Savannah Setzer
March 10 .....	Margaret Dennis	March 25.....	Pat Rankin
	Monte Cheathman		Janna Mathews
	Avery Blair		George Connors
	Declan Mix	March 26.....	Serena Zielberg
March 11 .....	Katelyn Ventners	March 27 .....	Doug Howell
March 12.....	Lisa Warren		David O'Bryan
March 13.....	Carolbeth Kelly	March 28.....	Olivia Shannon
March 14 .....	Brady Davis	March 31 .....	Derek Robinette
	Tori Gidcumb		
March 15.....	Shawn Davis		
	Amanda Benitez		
March 16 .....	Abbey Hale		
March 17.....	David Satterfield		
March 18 .....	Martha Miller		



## BROWNS LANE CAMPUS

### Sunday Morning Worship

9:30am Traditional & Canvas Combined Service

#### IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

<https://www.facebook.com/St.MatthewsUMCLouisville>

-or-

<https://www.facebook.com/CanvasSt.MatthewsUMC/>

Available Sunday afternoon at:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=st+matthews+umc+louisville](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st+matthews+umc+louisville)

[search\\_query=st+matthews+umc+louisville](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st+matthews+umc+louisville)

12:30pm Tabernaculo de Avivamiento (Gordon Hall)

#### IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

<https://www.facebook.com/tda.church.1>

## RIVER CITY CAMPUS

### Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am **IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED**

<https://www.facebook.com/rivercityumc/>

Wiggle Worship & Splash! Worship and Family Devotional available at:

<https://www.stmatthewsmethodist.com/Sunday-worship>

## IN OUR PRAYERS

### SENIOR/ASSISTED LIVING AND REHAB

#### THE ALTENHEIM

Debbie Brown

#### ATRIA ST. MATTHEWS

Art Williams

#### BELMONT VILLAGE

Barbara Harding

Barbara & Billy Tracy

#### FOREST HILLS COMMONS

Ailene Elliott

#### THE FORUM AT BROOKSIDE

Geneva Madden

#### GRAYSON MANOR (LEITCHFIELD)

Linda Garrett

#### MORNING POINTE

Lois Haswell

#### PARR'S AT SPRINGHURST

Forest Bower

Thelma Poe

#### SENECA PLACE

Sara Fredenberger

#### SUNRISE OF LOUISVILLE

Ina Reeb

#### SWOPE CENTER

Grace Hunt

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Fred Bennett

Russell Browder

April Bunn

Pam Cox

Ronnie Dolen

Barbara Douglas

Mark Foster

Charlie Gatton

Barbara Head

Frank Krause

David Lee III

Sharon & Stan Martin

Jamie Mercer

Erin Murphy

Rickelle Nelson

Elizabeth Putnam

Greer Putnam

Kathy Rauch

John Robinette

Tom Schoeberl

Leonora Schultheis

John Sheesley

Cindy Stuart

Kathy von Roenn

Scott Weigel

Clayton Wilkerson

Marshall Young

Let us know how we may join in your prayer concerns by filling out a prayer request card, by phoning the church office, by email at [prayers@saintmatthewsumc.org](mailto:prayers@saintmatthewsumc.org), or on the church website: [www.stmatthewsmethodist.com](http://www.stmatthewsmethodist.com). Please note that prayer requests normally remain on the prayer list for a period of three (3) weeks.

## *In Sympathy*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Courtney & Matt Kellner on the death of her grandmother, Mattie Coldiron, Wednesday, February 3, in Greenup, KY.



# THANK YOU

Del received so many lovely cards wishing him a time of healing and return to life at home. He pleaded to go home, that he would continue improving in strength. Just one week after returning home, his heart stopped, leaving all of our family heartbroken.

Our family cherishes the final week we shared with him. Thank you for all the kind thoughts.

Marge Fore

## The **OFFICIAL** DO IT YOURSELF **YOUTH BAKE SALE**

At last you can have the experience of a St. Matthews United Methodist Church Youth Bake Sale and a Hanging of the Greens cookie reception right in your own home, with this really cool, hot-off-the-press DIY Bake Sale Cookbook! The youth are excited to share their favorite desserts with everyone, and have put together a cookbook with delicious desserts from members of our congregation! Each book is available in either spiral-bound or digital format for \$8.00 each and can be ordered from Amber Jenkins at [ajenkins@stmumc.org](mailto:ajenkins@stmumc.org), or by calling the church office at 897-6449. Printed copies can be picked up at the church or can be mailed directly to you for an additional \$2.00. Proceeds help fund youth programs for SMUMC and our River City campus!



# SCOUTING PROGRAMS

at St. Matthews United Methodist Church



St. Matthews UMC is blessed with the continuing service of the many volunteers, both members and non-members, who provide leadership and support of our scouting programs. The purposes of these programs are to prepare young people to become responsible and ethical citizens and leaders. Here is a brief report of our Scouting programs during this past challenging year.



## **Boy Scout Troop 314**

Last spring the Troop meetings moved to a zoom format and that allowed the Troop to continue the classroom portions of several merit badges, although the group activity portions remain open. In the summer and early fall, meetings were held outside on the church grounds. Several meetings were devoted to learning (or relearning) lashings and knots, culminating in the construction of a tower twelve feet high. In November the Troop participated in the annual Scouting for Food. SMUMC was not a collection site this time because the event was re-organized by Dare to Care to avoid concentrated gatherings. Food collected by the Scouts was delivered to St. MAM's food bank. Food items collected in our east St. Matthews neighborhood increased more than 50% over 2019.

In 2020, two young men became Eagle Scouts and they are now in college.

The number of active Scouts has declined. There were no new graduating Cub Scouts this year. There are approximately 12 boys enrolled. Meetings are presently in a blended format with a few attending in person and others via zoom.

Plans for summer camp and a biannual canoe trip last summer were unfortunately cancelled. The Council intends to go forward with summer camp this year and we hope to be doing that in late June.



## **Girl Scout Troop 2311**

The Troop resumed activities in August with a socially distanced Bridging Ceremony in the front parking lot. Quite a few girls moved up to their next level in scouting. Twenty-six girls are enrolled in the Troop: 14 Juniors (Grades 4 and 5) and 12 Cadettes and Seniors (Grades 6 through 9). Most of the weekly zoom meetings have between 10 to 16 Scouts in attendance.

To help engage the girls, meetings have included monthly game nights, badge nights, visiting speakers, and show and shares. Guest appearances have included many cherished family pets and siblings. Girls have had the opportunity to engage in programs on social issues and the democratic process of an election year. The Troop held an art show and some girls have shared their musical talents. Zoom breakout rooms have enabled age-appropriate programming.

The Troop has reached out every two months to all 26 Scouts with special TLC packages that have included art materials and kits, badge work supplies, and other “we care” items. Parents and girls have shared that these packages have been much appreciated.

Despite limitations on service projects, the Troop has assisted in a food drive and is currently collecting supplies for the Humane Society. The Troop held a fall product sale and is in the midst of the annual cookie sale. Cookies are due to arrive later this month.



## **Cub Scout Pack 314**

Cub Scouting is available for elementary school boys from kindergarten through 6th grade. In March 2020, Pack 314 had approximately 18 Cub Scouts, most of whom were in 3rd or 4th grade. (Starting a few years ago, charter organizations have been allowed to include girls in the Cub Scout program, but with our vibrant Girl Scout Troop we have chosen to continue Cub Scouting for boys only.)

Unfortunately, remote Cub Scout meetings proved impractical for 3rd and 4th grade boys. When in-person meetings became impossible, the Pack became inactive. Summer day camp opportunities were cancelled. Typically, our Pack resumes activities when school resumes in August, but with school being remote we had no opportunity for in-person contact or activity and our annual recruiting drive at St. Matthews Elementary could not be held. With the continuing support of our SMUMC family, we hope to re-start Pack 314 in the coming months.





The Sarah Circle has been busy making homemade soups for members of our church who:

1. are feeling “under the weather”, physically or emotionally;
2. are recuperating from an illness or surgery;
3. are a loved one of a family member in the hospital, nursing home or rehab setting.

The soups have been frozen in quart size bags and labeled with the type of soup as well as the date it was made.

Please call the church office at 897-6449 to request a soup delivery to your home or to suggest a church member who may benefit from receiving a soup delivery!



# SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

at St. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BROWNS LANE & RIVER CITY CAMPUSES

## Zoom Groups

If you would like to be added to a ZOOM meeting, please contact the leader listed below. Or, if your group is hosting a meeting and would like to be listed, please let us know!

### Agape Sunday School Class

This group of active, young adults - many with young families - **meets online Sunday mornings at 11:00am**. Contact: Rev. Adam Sparks, [asparks@stmumc.org](mailto:asparks@stmumc.org)

### Questor's Sunday School Class

The Questors Class is a group of middle age and older adults who share the teaching responsibilities in a lecture/discussion format. **The group meets online Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm**. Contact: Millie Farmer, [kymillie@gmail.com](mailto:kymillie@gmail.com)

### Covenant Sunday School Class

This group of middle-age adults focuses on a variety of Spiritual and Biblical topics and is led by Allen Priest ([allen@allenpriestcpa.com](mailto:allen@allenpriestcpa.com)). The group **meets online Sunday morning at 10:45am**.

### Seekers Sunday School Class

This adult class includes members ranging in age from mid-30's to mid-80's. Study material ranges from Bible study to current events. A strong emphasis is placed on care for each other, both in prayer and in more tangible ways as needed. **This group meets Sunday mornings at 11:00am**. Contact: Cammie Cox, (502) 693-2711

### Young Adult Sunday School Class ("The Incredibles")

As the name implies, this is a class for young adults who are interested in journeying in the faith with others of their generation. The class is being led by Alvin Cox and **meets online Sundays at 10:00am**. Contact: Alvin Cox, [alvin@alt32cox.com](mailto:alvin@alt32cox.com)

### Youth Group Zoom (Mid High and Senior High)

Youth Group Zoom, **meets Sunday Afternoons, 12:00pm-1:00pm**  
Contact: Amber Jenkins at [ajenkins@stmumc.org](mailto:ajenkins@stmumc.org)

### Tweens Zoom, meets Sunday Afternoons, 4:00pm-5:00pm

Contact: Shannon Seidt ([sseidt@stmumc.org](mailto:sseidt@stmumc.org))

# In-Person Small Groups

## 20 Somethings Community Group

**Sunday Evenings, 7:00pm**, River City campus

Contact: Nathan and Alex Dearen

([nathandearen@gmail.com](mailto:nathandearen@gmail.com) or [alexandradearen@gmail.com](mailto:alexandradearen@gmail.com))

## Boy Scout Troup 314

**Meets Monday Evenings, 7:00pm** Browns Lane campus

Contact: Allen Priest ([allen@allenpriestcpa.com](mailto:allen@allenpriestcpa.com))

## Diabetes Support Group

**Thursday Evenings, 6:00pm**, Browns Lane campus

POC: Jena Hilliker ([jenahilliker@gmail.com](mailto:jenahilliker@gmail.com))

## Wednesday Morning Men's Group

**Wednesday Mornings, 7:30am**, River City campus

Contact: Derek Robinette ([drobinette@stmumc.org](mailto:drobinette@stmumc.org))

## Youth Group

**Sunday Evenings, 5:30-6:30pm**, February meetings at the River City campus; March meetings at the Browns Lane campus

Contact: Amber Jenkins ([ajenkins@stmumc.org](mailto:ajenkins@stmumc.org))

# IN-PERSON WORSHIP

- 9:30AM, Browns Lane campus, Combined Traditional/Canvas service
- 10:45AM River City campus
- 12:30PM Browns Lane campus, TDA Hispanic Ministry

# ONLINE WORSHIP

- 9:30AM Traditional/Canvas (Browns Lane):  
<https://www.facebook.com/St.MatthewsUMCLouisville> or  
<https://www.facebook.com/CanvasSt.MatthewsUMC/>
- 10:45AM, River City: <https://www.facebook.com/rivercityumc/>
- 12:30PM, TDA Hispanic Ministry: <https://www.facebook.com/tda.church.1>

# SMUMC's Handbell Wizard Mary Britton in Concert from Alaska!

Anchorage Lutheran Concert Series  
virtually presents



How does she do that? Why does she do that?

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30pm

Access at [www.anchorage.lutheran.org](http://www.anchorage.lutheran.org)

Join Mary Britton for a virtual handbell recital that includes works of Debussy, Bach, hymn arrangements, and a bell choir anthem. Learn about martellatti, tower swings, gyros, bell trees, and more. Tune in, remove your mask, pour a beverage of your choice, and revel in music. Guest Musicians include Lisa Wilkinson, Miriam Delap and Tamara McCoy!

**NOTE: THE TIME LISTED ON THE FLYER IS ALASKA TIME ZONE,  
WHICH WOULD BE 8:30PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME.**



The Evangel for February 24, 2021  
St. Matthews United Methodist Church  
319 Browns Lane at Norbourne Boulevard  
Louisville, Kentucky 40207

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Louisville, KY  
Permit No. 127



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Adam Sparks.....Senior Pastor  
Rev. Derek Robinette.....Associate Pastor  
Rev. Maikel Rojas.....Assistant Pastor  
Kate Shafferman.....Care Coordinator  
Harrison Zoercher.....Director of Discipleship & Missions; Organist  
Shannon Seidt.....Director of Children's Ministries  
Noel Weaver.....Director of Music Ministries  
Miriam Rodriguez.....Music Associate, Canvas  
Raiko Ruz.....Music Associate, TDA  
Aaron Weaver.....Music Associate, Youth  
Mark Benz.....Music Associate, Children's Choirs  
Amber Jenkins.....St. Matthews Campus Youth Minister  
Andrew Chapman.....River City Worship Leader  
Lexie Chapman.....River City Children's & Nursery Ministry Director  
Sandy Hotell.....Administrator/Financial Secretary  
Allyson McCormick.....Nursery Coordinator  
Trent Salter.....Ministry Intern  
Frank Krause.....Sexton

Traditional Worship - 8:30 & 11 AM;  
Sunday School - 10:00 AM  
Hispanic Worship - 5:30PM  
Contemporary - 11 AM

ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
319 Browns Lane at Norbourne Boulevard • Louisville, KY 40207  
502-897-6449  
www.stmatthewsmethodist.com

