

St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Brenda S. Overfield, Rector

11300 West Huguenot Road

Midlothian, VA 23113

Announcements for March 24, 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

Morning Prayer via zoom—9:00 Am

Formation Programs via Zoom 10:15

For after-hour emergencies and pastoral care, please contact the Rector or Parish Administrator: 804-464-1842. For baptisms, marriages, or funerals, please contact the Rector. For use of the facilities, membership, or giving and pledges, please contact the

Parish Administrator.

Church sponsored, Sunday bulletin announcements are due in the office by 12:00 PM, Tuesdays and should be submitted here:

www.stmatmidlo.com/news-announcements

Please see our community bulletin board in Morrison Hall for personal and community announcements.

OFFICE HOURS

Office Closed

Staff members are working from home and are checking voice mail and returning calls.

Phone: 804-464-1842 Fax: 804-594-5982

Weather/Emergency Text Updates: Text WeAreIAm to 84483

Web Site: www.stmatmidlo.com ~ Email: st.matthias@stmatmidlo.com

Update From the Rector

Beloved in Christ,

As we near the date originally set by Bishop Haynes to return to daily routines, she has sent an additional email with updated information for everyone.

All Church facilities and activities, including Services at Church, remain suspended for an indefinite period of time. What this mandate by the Bishop offers us is the opportunity for us all to understand Church as Paul and Jesus have reminded us: WE are the Church – not buildings. As such, the staff and I, along with our Wardens and Vestry are in process of putting together the following means to remain connected as a faith community – as the Church:

- I have been calling about 20 folks a day to check in and see how they are doing. I will continue this- with the plan to reach out to everyone.
- Beginning this Sunday, we are going to set up a Zoom Morning Prayer service. It will be at 9AM. All members will be sent the link via e-news to be able to join. More specific information will follow later this week.
- Seekers' Group will meet via Zoom at 10:15AM. We will continue our Lenten Study: The Way of Love. Please look for links and more information later this week.
- We will offer Christian Formation for our kids also via Zoom – children and Youth from 11:30-Noon on Sundays. More specifics to follow.
- Youth Group: look for information from Kristen as to an electronic gathering.
- We will put services together for Holy Week in some form.
- The Ponderings of the Priest have being posted on the Web Site every other day.
- Your Vestry will be meeting regularly to ensure that we are doing everything possible for the good of St Matthias and our community.
- You will be receiving information regarding on-line giving of your pledges if you wish to do that. Checks can also be mailed to the church directly. There is no longer risk of theft, as we have purchased a locking mail box.
- We will be setting up Zoom meetings for all groups, scheduling them in much the same way we set up building use times. (we purchased a plan so we can hold meetings for larger groups of people for longer times) Staff are meeting virtually several times a week to continue to adapt these plans as changes occur. If you lead a group, book study, anything where you wish to gather in community electronically, please contact Br. Mark and he will be very happy to assist you.
- E-News will be sent out twice a week- on Tuesdays and Fridays. We have to be careful about the number of e-news/ emails to the general congregation. The server will mark us a spammers if we send too many, and that effectively shuts us down from sending anything.
- We have figured out a way to distribute food from the Food Pantry. We just have to maintain proper safety protocols for that to be able to continue- unless the Governor issues a Stay at Home order. Then we will have to stop.

I hope this answers some of your questions. Please let us know if you have any more questions or ideas for helping folks in this time. It is most important that we remain connected as a community- while doing so safely and not putting anyone at risk. Thank you all so much for all you do.

> Brenda

The Rev. Brenda S. Overfield

Rector, St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

Sunday Morning Prayer

Brenda will read Morning Prayer on Sundays beginning on Sunday, March 29. This will continue until we are able gather again to worship in person. See the directions below for joining our worship on Sunday.

Time: Mar 29, 2020 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sun, until May 10, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

Mar 29, 2020 09:00 AM

Apr 5, 2020 09:00 AM

Apr 12, 2020 09:00 AM

Apr 19, 2020 09:00 AM

Apr 26, 2020 09:00 AM

May 3, 2020 09:00 AM

May 10, 2020 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Morning Prayer

[Morning Prayer 9:00 AM](#)

Meeting ID: 679 513 030

Password: 700051

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,679513030# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,679513030# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 679 513 030

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/679513030>

Dear St. Matthias Parish Community,

During this unprecedented time the staff is still available to you. We are working from home and available to you via our St. Matthias email. You may also call the Church Office and leave voice mail messages for staff. We are checking voice mail regularly and returning calls.

In addition to the links for virtual connection with Morning Prayer & Eucharist, Rev. Brenda will be posting VLOGs on our web page every couple of days. This will be in lieu of a posted sermon with the hopes that their content may be helpful at this time, and also recognizing that most folks do not listen to lengthy postings or links on line.

For those who have wonderfully expressed concern regarding the Food Pantry ministry and those who might not have food: we have come up with a safe way to be able to continue to distribute food on a limited basis while maintaining safety protocols pertaining to COVID-19. IF you are interested in helping or providing food; please contact Rev. Brenda, bsoverfield@stmatmidlo.com, or Linda Hudgens at lhudgens@gmail.com. We will be happy to let you know the ways you can be of assistance. Thank you for your generosity and cooperation

For those wanting to continue to contribute to your pledge

During these unprecedented times, we are called into community in unprecedented ways. Your financial gifts to St. Matthias are of vital importance to support our ongoing ministries and our outreach to the most vulnerable among us. Even though the office is currently shut down staff is working with our outreach ministries to ensure that funds continue be sent to the organizations we support.

Please continue to offer your faithful gifts by mailing your check to our church office at 11300 West Huguenot Road, Midlothian VA 23113.

We are currently in the process of setting up online giving. We expect to go live with online giving in the next 5-7 days. More information will be forthcoming..

Weds. Morning Kerygma will be meeting by Zoom on Wednesdays at 10am. Contact Ned Armstrong at ncarmstron@aol.com to be sent a Zoom meeting invitation.

The subject is a lecture series on the New Testament through Open Yale Courses. It can be found on you tube under Introduction to New Testament History and Literature by Professor Dale Martin.

A Prayer Amid an Epidemic

By Kerry Weber

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ, heal us.

Kerry Weber is an executive editor of America. A Prayer Amid an Epidemic By Kerry Weber www.americamagazine.org

Realm Connect

Yesterday you received an email from the church to sign up for Realm Connect. You may ask what is Realm Connect and is it safe or just a scam. It is real and not a scam!

Realm is the name of the software system the church uses for its operations including all administrative aspects, including all our directory information. The system allows for communications through email and message boards set up for various groups/ministries of St. Matthias.

How secure is it? The security is role based, therefore only certain people can see particular information. For instance, group communications can only be seen by the group members, or payroll information can only be seen by the bookkeeper. Or only you and the bookkeeper can see what you have contributed monetarily to the church this year.

Simply put it is a way for us to stay connected. We thought this was the perfect time for us to invite all in the parish to access this tool so we can continue to support one another in this interesting time.

Please email me with any questions.

Resources for worship at home

[Daily Office](#) Morning, noonday, evening prayer and compline

[Daily Devotions](#) for Individuals and Families

[Morning Prayer](#) podcast

[Online Book of Common Prayer](#)

Formation resources for online use

[Illustrated Ministry](#) Free weekly faith formation resources for all ages for use during this time of suspended services and programs

[Prayer & Worship in Our Homes](#) a free course ChurchNext focusing on prayer, designed for those who might be seeking alternatives to group formation/worship as churches navigate Covid-19 (the coronavirus) in our communities. The course can be utilized either individually or via a zoom-style classroom. ChurchNext is offering two other free courses: [Bridging the Political Divide](#) with Parker Palmer and [Make Me an Instrument of Peace: A Guide to Civil Discourse](#), sponsored by the Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church.

[Lent Madness](#) - This annual saintly competition is carrying on and is a good option for online formation.

[The Work of the People](#) - A spiritual visual library. Their videos can be streamed in Zoom gatherings ([here's how to do that](#)).

Talking about coronavirus with children and youth

[KidsHealth: Coronavirus - How to talk to your child](#)

UBUNTU revised! Due to some changes in the administration of UBUNTU (emergency/ urgent notification to members via text), we need to ask that you again click onto the following link to sign up for these notifications. This is an important communication tool for immediate messages to everyone and we hope you will sign up today.

[Click here to sign up:](#)

You can also subscribe by text by texting WeAreIAm to 84483

DAY OF SERVICE: On March 28th we will have a congregation wide Day of Service. We will be helping distribute food for the Chesterfield Food Bank at Chalkley Elementary. We are structuring the day to look like a service day from our previous mission trips. It includes fellowship and reflection as well as service. The day will begin at 7:00am at St. Matthias where we will share a meal and prepare our hearts and minds for service. We will travel to Chalkley around 8:00 to help set up distribution and get instruction from the Food Bank leaders. We will support the distribution of food to ~120 "clients" from 9:00 to ~11:30, collecting food and helping them to their cars. We will help clean up and listen to Food Bank representatives about their organization and programs. Finally, we will head back to St. Matthias for lunch and wrap-up. This opportunity is open to everyone above age 7. We have committed to 20 volunteers but there is plenty of room for more than that! There is a signup sheet in the commons, and info such as release waivers and attire will be sent to those who sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick McElhinney (hokieseahawk@gmail.com/804.239.7781), Jonathan Hawkins (jhawkins@bshknights.org), or your vestry greeter.

This activity has been postponed.

Updated March 28th Shelter Feeding: :: Our next Shelter Feeding date is Saturday, March 28th. As of now, we do not have enough volunteers to provide bagged lunches to the 4 shelters we serve. We need 8 more volunteers. If you are able to help out with this ministry, please follow the link to sign up to provide 10 bagged lunches: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AAFAC2EA5FD0-march1>

Each lunch bag should have a sandwich, a fruit snack, a salty treat, a sweet treat and a napkin. Please no condiments. If you make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, please mark "PBJ" on the bag.

We will meet at 9am on the 28th in the parking lot to collect the lunch bags.

If you are unable to access the link, please either call or email:

Mary Ellers, (804) 908-1575 maryellers@yahoo.com Carrie Dean(804) 986-6460 carriedean@aol.com

Unless notified this activity will take place.

EASTER EGG HUNT GOES GREEN! We will no longer be using plastic eggs for the egg hunt. Instead, we will be using dyed wooden eggs. You can still lend a hand to this community-wide event by donating wrapped candy for the goody bags. Bring donations to the Christian Formation office. Questions? Ask Kristen: [kris-](mailto:kristen.ketron@stmatmidlo.com)
[ten.ketron@stmatmidlo.com](mailto:kristen.ketron@stmatmidlo.com) -OR- at 464-1842 ext. 111.

Stay tuned for fun events such as dyeing eggs and VBS workshops during spring break!

This event has been canceled

SPRING BREAK FUN IS COMING TO ST. MATTHIAS! Join us for some great activities and projects on April 6, 7 & 8 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Come for the whole time or just drop in for a bit. Lunch will be provided (served at 12:00 noon). This whopping good time is open to all ages (children under 4 will need to have a parent stay). Contact Kristen at (kristen.ketron@stmatmidlo.com -OR- 464-1842 (ext. 111) if you have any questions.

This event has been canceled.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer requests can be sent to Br. Matk at Mark.jenkins@stmatmidlo.com.

Our Congregation is asked to keep in their prayers the following:

The people of St. Luke's

Erik Anderson
William
Dick Harman
Kate Reid
Alice
Elizabeth B.
Gibbes B.
Kenny Welton
David Fry
Andrea
Ed McCowan
/Joan & Jimmy
John V.
Fran Olson
William
Sam Hardy
Mary
Torey
Jim
Hub
Timothy
Jodi
Camille
/Kyle & Chad Doebler
James Bonniwell

Alice
Bill
Paige
Samantha
Emma Kate
Maggie
Landon
Mary
Dot Worsham
/Rodger Hardy
Bob
Gretchen
Alice
Karen Dougan
Thomas Binney-Amisshah
Liz Brengel
Jim T.
David M.
Stuart
Denise M.
Melanie
Cody

Todd Batteau
Sooky Brooks
Alex Burton
Christopher Garland
Michael Handlan
Jake Hentges
Rebecca Jenkins
Donta Mason
Tom Montgomery
Jacob Murdock
Phillip Plourd
Andrew Rodgers
Heather Smith
Hank Truillo
Nat Williams
Corey
Spencer
Zach

For the repose of the souls of :the Rev. Robert (Bob)

Armstrong; the Rev. Sean Cox

For those in the military, especially:

MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Imy Caulker-Burnett	29
Betsy Goodreau	29
Caitlyn Kirkland	29
Wesley Kirkland	29
Carolyn Baum	30

April

Keene Mendenhal	2
Grayson Padgett	4
Debbie Vance	4