



## 3rd Annual Car Show

**Saturday, June 13**

**9 a.m.—2 p.m.**

***Rain or shine!***

**No Charge for Spectators**

**Food available for purchase  
Crafters**

Show takes place in  
St. Matthew's parking lots;  
Spectator parking at Bowie HS  
& Jireh Place (across Rt. 450)

**All proceeds to support the  
Bowie Food Pantry  
and the missions of  
St. Matthew's  
United Women in Faith**

## Summer Worship Schedule Begins Sunday, June 7



**8 a.m. Informal Garden Service** *in the Memory Garden*

**8:45 a.m. Coffee Hour** *in Fellowship Hall*

**Adult Sunday School** in July and August  
*in the Parlor with rotating topics and leaders*

**10 a.m. Traditional Worship Service**  
*in the Sanctuary with Children's Church*

**11 a.m. Coffee Hour**

**Special Sundays in June:**

**June 14** **Worship & Music Sunday, Graduation Sunday**  
Graduates' recognition, 1 Timothy Scholars,  
Celebrate Acolytes, Sunday School Teachers  
and other worship ministries

**June 21** **Father's Day; Ice Cream Social** after 10 a.m. service

**Simple Prayer Service** continues on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**Morning Prayer Call** on Monday-Saturday from 6:30 - 6:45 a.m.  
(see page 14 for details).

## LGBTQIA+ Service: Be the Glimmers of Hope



This was the theme of our Annual LGBTQ+ Service on Sunday, May 17. Everyone turned out in their "Love is Love" shirts and colorful clothing to unite in the call God asks of us daily—to show our love and be glimmers of hope to *all* people. When we can give hope to someone unlike us, as Jesus did for many who were considered marginalized in his day, we are actively doing the will of God.

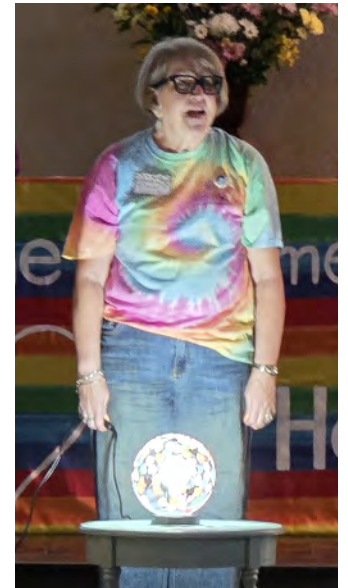
Our speaker was Ann Fleming from [PFLAG](#) Bowie. Ann is a founding member of the Bowie chapter and volunteers as the Treasurer. A life-long Bowie resident, she teaches the ESOL students at Benjamin Tasker Middle School. She attends Christian Community Presbyterian Church and is a Deacon there.

Ann's message was informative and inspiring. She educated us about PFLAG and the work they do. PFLAG educates families and friends as they navigate their varying emotions when they learn a family member is part of the LGBTQ+ community. PFLAG also supports members of the LGBTQ+ community. Ann spoke of how we can be the Glimmers of Hope to the LGBTQ+ community and about PFLAG's work with the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention hotline, which was our Mission

Moment and our special offering that morning.

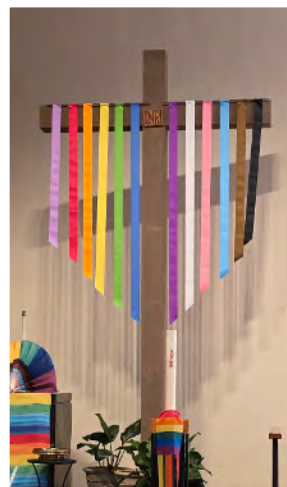
The rest of the service reminded us that we can be Glimmers of Hope to the LGBTQ+ community. Our Children's Message taught the young ones that they have a bright light inside them, and they can share that light with others, no matter what they look like or who they love.

A congregational activity involved attaching a heart sticker to a clear globe lamp. When the sanctuary lights were turned off, the hearts stickers glowed and the spaces between them allowed the light to shine through. The finished lamp was a representation of how we can be Glimmers of Hope to the LGBTQ+ Community.



This special service could not have happened without the willing participation of many people in our midst. To those who helped and to all who received the message of this service, thank you for being Glimmers of Hope.

—Karen Hastings



# Scenes from the LGBTQIA+ Service



*(above left to right) Speaker Ann Fleming with Rev. JW Park, the congregation places hearts on the lamp, the completed lamp*

*(below top to bottom) The Children's Message taught us to share our light, a special choir sang glorious renditions of "Keep God's Lamp," "Shine, Jesus, Shine," and "Go With God in the Spirit of Love"*



# Administrative Council Update from May 2026

*Please note that Administrative Council meetings are open to the congregation, even when we are holding them via Zoom. If you wish to attend, please contact Chuck Hastings for Zoom details; however, be advised that discussion and voting are limited to Ad Council members. A list of the members of the 2026 Administrative Council can be found [here](#).*



There was an operating gain of \$17.2k for the month, with a YTD operating gain of \$19.9k (including grants and budgeted transfers from investments).

Investments increased by \$51.8k last month to \$746.7k. For the year, the investment account increased \$45,400k from \$701.3k. We have also earned

\$1,629 from our CDs this year through last month. No funds have been transferred from the investment account so far this year.

The average weekly attendance last month was 163 which is up from 144 the previous month. Average weekly attendance last year was 140.

*Chuck Hastings, Chair*

## Financial Status for April 2026

Offerings were \$59.6k, which is \$0.6k over budget for the month. YTD total income is \$277.7k, which is \$12.2k under budget. Total expenses for the month were \$66.6k, which is \$5.5k under budget for the month. Apportionment is current. YTD total expense is \$257.8k, which is \$28.7k under budget, excluding capital improvements.

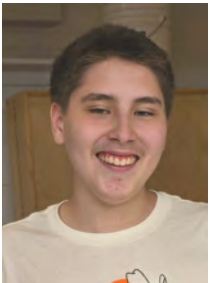


*On Sunday, May 10, Rev. JW Park dedicated our Sacred Grounds garden.*





We will be celebrating our graduates on **Sunday, June 14**. Please let Becky Roper know if your graduate will be part of the service ([beckyroper@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:beckyroper@stmatthews-bowie.org)).



**James Belcher** graduates from Samuel Ogle Middle School and will attend Bowie High School.



**Alyssa Scatliffe** graduates from Bishop McNamara High School and will attend North Carolina A&T.



**Rubie Gingell-Manosa** graduates from Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School and will attend Our Lady of Good Counsel High School.



**Jacob Hastings** graduates from Towson University with a BS in Computer Science - Software Engineering.



**Shurn Scatliffe** graduates from Holy Trinity Episcopal School and will attend Bishop McNamara High School.



**Alissa Starkey** graduates from Tulane University with a Doctorate of Social Work.

## Children and Family News

### Messy Church

Messy Church will be held on **Friday, June 26**. We will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. We hope you will join us as we worship our creative God in a new and exciting way!

### Children's Summer Schedule

The last day for children's Sunday School for the summer will be Sunday, June 7. However, we will still have Children's Church during the 10 a.m. worship service. After the service, we will gather in Fellowship Hall and then fill the LFP. Parents, please watch for updates to our Children's Church program via email in early June.



Scenes from Messy Church in May

## Youth Group News

### Appalachia Service Project—Room for One More Youth

Our youth will be heading to Avery County, NC for our mission trip this year. We still have room for a youth. If you are in or entering high school and would like to join us, please let Becky know

([beckyroper@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:beckyroper@stmatthews-bowie.org)). We leave Sunday, July 5 and return Saturday, July 11. There will be ice cream!

### End-of-Year Celebration

Youth Group will have their end-of-the-year celebration on Sunday, June 7. We will resume regular meetings in September. However, we do get together for fun and fellowship throughout the summer!



Thanks to everyone who came to get a clean car and support ASP. We raised over \$1,200!

## Adult Studies

**Christian Book Club** will welcome Aressa Williams, local author and poet, for our meeting on June 16 (rescheduled from May).

The July and August book will be *Mary as the Early Christians Knew Her* by Frederica Mathews-Green. Look for more details in the next *Circuit Rider*.

**Adult Sunday School** ended Sunday, May 31, and will pause until after the July 4th weekend. Thereafter, please join us at 8:45 a.m. in the Parlor for “rotating presentations” by various people, as we've done the past few years. Those presentations will begin on Sunday, July 12, and conclude on Sunday, August 30.

## Community Outreach Coordinator

St. Matthew's is seeking a Community Outreach Coordinator, who will help build meaningful connections between St. Matthew's and the wider Bowie community. This person will provide collaborative leadership focused on strengthening relationships, creating welcoming entry points into church life, and supporting outreach efforts that serve and engage people across diverse backgrounds. Working closely with staff and volunteers, the Coordinator helps ensure that St. Matthew's is visible, accessible, and responsive to the community's needs and opportunities. This is a paid staff position primarily funded by a three-year grant. See [the complete job notice](#). Your letter of interest and resume may be submitted to [jobs@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:jobs@stmatthews-bowie.org). Learn more about St. Matthew's at <https://stmatthews-bowie.org/>.

George Huffman, SPPRC Chair

## Help Us Be a Safe Sanctuary

We talk a lot about what we want for the future of St. Matthew's and Bowie. Do we want to see the Sunday School program for children and youth expanded? A vibrant Vacation Bible School program to include children from the community? More interaction between the church members and our Early Education Center, such as being guest readers for the classes or sharing other fun activities? Do we want to interact with Bowie High School students to meet some of their needs? To do so, we need more volunteers from the congregation to go through the Safe Sanctuaries process to raise awareness about child abuse and harassment.

The old process required time-consuming paperwork and provided only spotty training. No more! Now the training and background clearances are done online at St. Matthew's expense through [safegatherings.com](https://safegatherings.com). The St. Matthew's website has [more information](#) about this program.

Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to support the programs at St. Matthew's for the children and youth in our congregation and community to help them grow into mature followers of Christ, as well as reaching out to others in our community. For any questions, contact Beth Obear.

## UW Faith News, Meetings



United  
Women  
in Faith

### UW Faith Car Show/Food Fundraiser

We will hold this event on **Saturday, June 13**, from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Please watch for information on how you can help on-site and/or provide items for concessions. For more information, see page 1 or email [uwf@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:uwf@stmatthews-bowie.org).

### June Circle Meetings

**Friendship Circle** will meet on **Monday, June 8**, at noon for lunch at The Blue Dolphin restaurant in Crofton. If you want to carpool, please meet in the church parking lot near the Little Free Pantry at 11:30 a.m. The restaurant's address is 1166 MD-3 North in Gambrills, near the Aldi. Hope to see you there!

**Martha/Agape Circle** will gather on **Friday, June 12**, at **10:30 a.m.** for an end-of-the-year brunch at the Bowie Bob Evans restaurant. We have completed our current study—we will select our next study over the summer.

**Koinonia Circle** will meet on **Monday, June 15**, at **7 p.m.** in the Church Parlor.

## Life Changes

### Death:

**Frank Adorney**, father of Barbara Lambert (died May 11)



### Birthdays:



Please join us in wishing those in our church family who are 80 and older a very Happy Birthday!

B.J. Kimmel	June 2
Gary Allen	June 3
Linda Woodruff	June 6
Sara Henry	June 18
Kay Fuller	June 19
Linda Cooper	June 24
Linda Chapman	June 24
Carol Mattimore	June 29
Glenda Kamosa	June 30



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Articles are due by the 15th of each month. Please e-mail articles to the above address or submit to the church office.

Please call to verify receipt of any faxed articles.

# SHEEP Happenings

## Helping Hands

**Annapolis Extension:** On May 6, Heather Eisinger and residents at the Ginger Cove retirement community made 70 dental kits for the Little Free Pantry (LFP) with supplies that SHEEP provided. This is their second project for us.

**St. Matthew's:** Thanks to everyone who helped with projects in May. We made 47 mini-menstrual kits for the LFP, assembled 92 UMCOR Hygiene Kits, delivered various supplies to the Little Free Pantry and the Bowie Food Pantry, and inventoried current SHEEP supplies for upcoming events. **Helping Hands is on hiatus for June and July.** Please join us on **Wednesday, August 5, at 10:30 a.m.** in the SHEEP Barn (Room 223).



Dental Kits from Ginger Cove residents



## Guatemala Mission Trip

From June 13-20, St. Matthew's is sending one team member and supporting the team's activities, which include Happy Tummies children, Abuelitos (Little Grandparents), construction, and a women's retreat. Thanks to the SEALs (pictured at left) for preparing bookmark gifts and card kits for the women's retreat, and to all who provided supplies for this trip. Please pray for the team and check the August *Circuit Rider* to learn more about our support and the trip.



*What a blessing on April 26 to have several EEC kindergarteners and their teacher, Mrs. Sterling, talk about their February "Food from the Heart" food drive for the Bowie Food Pantry. Four kindergarteners, with the guidance of their*

*teacher, collected, checked, counted, and delivered 456 food items to the Pantry. The donation helped hungry families get healthy meals and feel the love of a neighbor.*



*In May, a large, anonymous donation of 156 peanut butters, 100 boxes of elbow macaroni, and 48 macaroni & cheese cups blessed the Little Free Pantry and the Bowie Food Pantry.*

## Christmas in April 2026 - Another Meaningful Day of Service

On a mild and pleasantly cloudy day in April, volunteers gathered to serve a neighbor in need through the Christmas in April program. Volunteers from St. Matthew's—including Scot Dahl, Marion Huebert, Nathan Merris, and Katie Merris—and from Christian Community Presbyterian Church and the National Council of Negro Women, made the day a resounding success.

Work began early, with folks tackling a variety of projects. Outdoors, a new railing was constructed for the home's steep porch stairs, providing much-needed safety and peace of mind for the homeowner, who is in her 80's. A major yard cleanup and garden rehabilitation effort transformed the front yard; beds were cleared and weeded, making way for colorful flowers the homeowner loves. In addition, two new window air conditioning units were delivered, helping to ensure comfort in the hot summer months.

Inside, the screened-in porch received a fresh coat of paint. Volunteers also coordinated with professional plumbers to address plumbing issues so that the homeowner no longer needs to use a garden hose to do the laundry.

Throughout the day, there was a strong sense of fellowship and shared purpose. The homeowner expressed heartfelt appreciation for the work completed.

Special thanks to Dan Blades, Nate Merris (House Captain), Cardell Albritton (Co-Captain), and everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make this year's Christmas in April a success!

*Katie Merris*

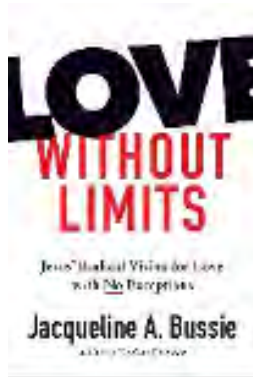


## SHEEP Summer Book Club

[Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions](#) by [Jacqueline A. Bussie](#)

If this sounds like a book you'd like to read and discuss, join us! **No payment is necessary.** All you have to do is sign up when you pick up a copy of the book during Coffee Hour on June 7 and 14.

Our first meeting will be on Monday, June 22, via Zoom. Once the sign-ups are complete, we will send an email with the Zoom link. We will read this book by section and not all at once. For more information, email [karenhastings@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:karenhastings@stmatthews-bowie.org).



## P.G. County Men's Shelter Meals

Volunteers are needed on **July 19** and **October 18** to help [prepare/buy, deliver or serve meals](#) for the 40 men residing at the shelter in Capitol Heights.

Please contact Pat Clunies to volunteer. ([patclunies@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:patclunies@stmatthews-bowie.org))

## Lectionary Readings for June 2026

**June 7 ~ 2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12

Roman 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**June 14 ~ 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Roman 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

**June 21 ~ 4th Sunday after Pentecost;**

**Father's Day**

Genesis 21:8-21;

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Roman 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

**June 28 ~ 5th Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13

Roman 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

## June Communion Offering: Peace with Justice

Offerings for this Special Sunday support programs and ministries to educate, equip, and mobilize actions in



support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities.

Half of the funds collected on this Special Sunday will remain in the Annual Conference to strengthen social justice ministries within the local conference. The other half of the donations collected will fund national and international peacemaking ministries and grants.

## Online Giving Expenses 2026

The Finance Committee thanks you all for your continued generous financial support of St. Matthew's! As we prepared the 2026 budget, we noticed that the fee St. Matthew's incurs from the convenient online giving that many of us use is still a significant expense. In 2025, the church spent \$3,004 on online giving expenses. The amount that we pay depends on the source of the donation. The table below shows the costs per donation and the amount we paid, by source, in April 2026.

### Giving Costs

Source	Transaction charge	Variable charge <sup>1</sup>	Cost of a \$500 donation	In April 2026...		
				Amount Donated	Online Cost	Cost/\$1000
Direct debit from checking account	\$0.25	0.60%	\$ 3.25	\$9,000.00	\$ 64.50	\$ 7.17
MasterCard, Visa, Discover (credit or debit card)	\$0.35	2.65%	\$13.60	\$3,823.00	\$113.60	\$29.71
American Express	\$0.35	3.99%	\$20.30	\$700.00	\$ 28.28	\$40.40
Paper check	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 0.00	\$81,310.00	n/a	\$ 0.00
				<i>Total</i>	\$206.38	

<sup>1</sup> The variable charge is multiplied by the amount of the donation.

The convenience and regularity of online payments are a benefit to you and the church; however, there are several actions that we can all take to reduce the cost of online donations.

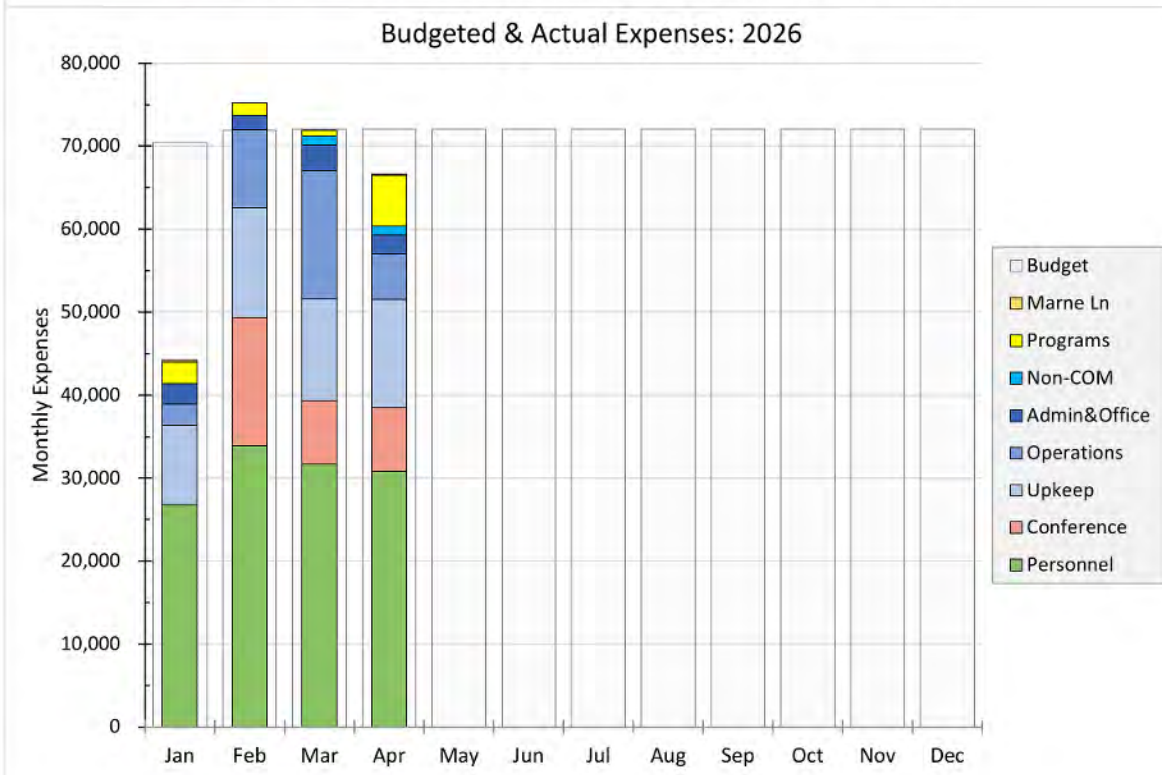
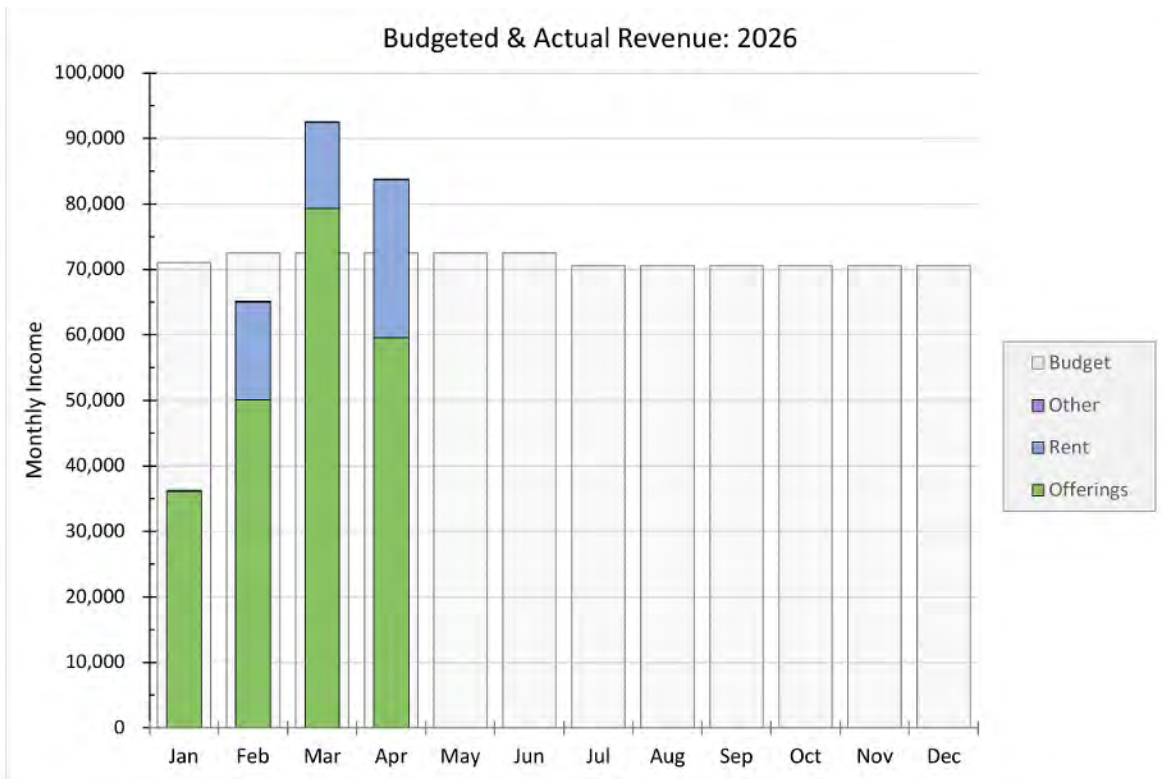
- Consider making your donations from your checking account rather than using a credit or debit card. Everyone likes to get cash back from their credit card purchases but, effectively, that 1.5% cash back is actually coming from your church, diluting the impact of your donation.
- Instead of making 52 weekly online donations, consider making twelve monthly donations (while keeping the same annual total). This would save the church \$10 - \$14 per year.
- You can use your bank's "bill pay" feature to have your bank regularly and automatically send a paper check to the church. We deposit these just like any other check received and they cost us nothing to deposit.
- If you are making an unusually large donation, say from your Powerball winnings or a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA, consider writing a check. Doing that could save the church hundreds or even thousands of dollars compared to an online gift.

If you have any questions about any of these options, please email [bookkeeper@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stmatthews-bowie.org).

# Finance Report: St. Matthew's Finances at a Glance

St. Matthew's Finance Committee works very hard to prepare reports for the Administrative Council. It is the Council's desire to share our financial status with the congregation on a monthly basis. Please direct any questions to our Finance Chair, Dave Monroe, at [finance@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:finance@stmatthews-bowie.org).

Click here for [Online Giving](#)





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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
**STMATTHEWS-BOWIE.ORG**

Facebook: [stmbowie](https://www.facebook.com/stmbowie)



Time Dated Material  
Please Deliver Promptly



## Weekly Schedule beginning June 7

### Sunday Services

**8 a.m. Garden Service** (in-person only)  
Informal service in Memory Garden

**8:45 a.m. Coffee Hour**

**10 a.m. Worship in Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary**  
with Children's Church

**Live-stream:** [St. Matthew's UMC Facebook](#)  
or [St. Matthew's UMC Website](#)

**Zoom:** Contact church office for the link.

**11 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall**  
**Children's Sunday School ends June 7.**

**Tuesday 9:45 a.m. Bible Study with Isaac** in Parlor  
**7 p.m. Bible Study with Rev. Park** on Zoom  
will resume on September 8

**Wednesday 7 p.m. Simple Prayer Service** (Sanctuary)  
In-person or call-in 267-807-9601,  
access code 111-576-270#

**Daily 6:30 a.m. Morning Prayer** (except Sundays)  
Call-in 267-807-9601,  
access code 111-576-270#

## St. Matthew's Welcome Statement

### ***Inclusive Community. Connecting in Christ. Making a Difference.***

St. Matthew's UMC is an inclusive church, connected to our community, and committed to welcoming all persons in every phase of church life. We choose to live by Christ's example, affirming that all people are created in the image of God.

We celebrate our diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, marital status, nationality, physical abilities, mental abilities and economic position. Through the Spirit we commit to live in the words of John Wesley to "love alike though we may not always think alike."

**Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.**