



St. Matthew United Church of Christ

3400 Norman Avenue – Baltimore, MD 21213

410-235-3738 Email: smucc.balt@comcast.net

www.saintmatthewucc.org

March & April 2017

Temple Tones

Dear Friends,

During January we marked the national holiday for the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. The focus of that service included a remembrance of one of Dr. King's most memorable and stirring pieces of writing, the "Letter from Birmingham Jail". This letter was written on scraps of paper during his time of imprisonment in jail in Birmingham, Alabama. It is one of his most enduring pieces of writing that beautifully summarized the civil rights struggle in this country.

In February the women of our church marked Black History Month by reading stirring words that women of color have penned during the long and continuing struggle for justice. The words that were read were written out of the blood, sweat and tears that informed their writings over long decades, of the bitter history of righting the wrongs of slavery, oppression and Jim Crow. Part of that service included a dramatic recital of the poem, "And Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou, presented by our own Farrah Howard. I draw your attention to this poem not only because of the power of Ms. Angelou's words, but also because this past week as I watched a documentary style film that highlighted the life of this remarkable woman.

Thinking about these reflections over these past Sundays, recalls for me the fruits of the spirit that the Apostle Paul speaks of in Galatians 5:22; "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such, there is no law."

Blessings,
Pastor Gene Bartell

"And Still I Rise"

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt

But still, like dust, I'll rise.
Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells

Pumping in my living room.
Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,

Still I'll rise.
Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,

Weakened by my soulful cries?
Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines

Diggin' in my own backyard.
You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,

But still, like air, I'll rise.
Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds

At the meeting of my thighs?
Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.

by Maya Angelou



March Birthdays

8	Antoniette Brockenbroughy	23	Anya Price
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April Birthdays

2	Sharon Bengston	14	Linwood Herring
2	Jewel Howard	18	Stacy Lee Bartell
4	Amy Fletcher	19	Kerry Price
12	Zach Fletcher	23	Yolonda Luckey
29 - Alfred Taylor			

Anniversaries

April 12 - Larry & Carolyn Marciniak
April 15 - Phyllis & Louis Plack

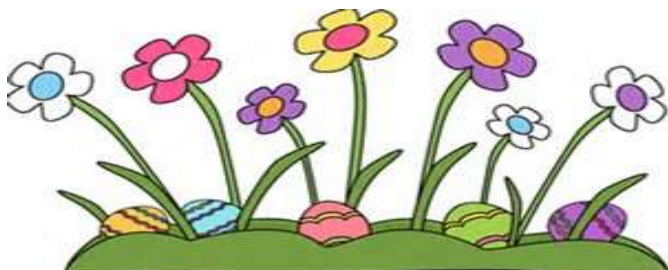
Are we missing your Birthday or Anniversary? Please let us know! Your "Special" day is a great way to shout about the many blessings He has given to you ☺



Calendar of Events

- March 1 - Ash Wednesday service at 7PM
- March 1 - Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, 8:15PM
- March 2 - NO Choir rehearsal!
- March 5 - 1st Sunday in Lent, Worship & Communion Sunday, 10:30AM
- March 7 - Bible Study, 10:30AM
- March 9 - Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, 7PM
- March 12 - 2nd Sunday in Lent, Worship Service, 7PM
- March 12 - Daylight Savings Time
- March 14 - Bible Study, 10:30AM
- March 16 - Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, 7PM
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day!
- March 19 - 3rd Sunday in Lent, Worship Service, 10:30AM
- March 21 - Bible Study, 10:30AM
- March 23 - Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, 7PM
- March 26 - 4th Sunday in Lent, Worship Service, 7PM
- March 26 - "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering received.
- March 26 - Council Meeting after Worship
- March 28 - NO Bible Study, 10:30AM
- March 28 - Supper Club at Baltimore Station
- March 30 - Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, 7PM
- April 2 - 5th Sunday in Lent, Worship & Communion Service, 10:30AM
- April 4 - Bible Study, 10:30AM
- April 6 - Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, 7PM
- April 9 - 6th Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday Worship Service, 10:30AM
- April 11 - Bible Study, 10:30AM
- April 13 - Covered Dish Dinner, 5:45PM
- April 13 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7PM
- April 14 - Good Friday
- April 16 - Easter Sunday! Worship Service 10:30AM "The Rugged Cross becomes the Cross of Glory"
- April 16 - Easter Egg Hunt, after worship approx. 11:30AM
- April 18 - Bible Study, 10:30AM
- April 20 - Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- April 23 - Worship Service, 10:30AM
- April 25 - NO Bible Study, 10:30AM
- April 25 - Supper Club at Baltimore Station
- April 27 - Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- April 30 - Worship Service, 10:30AM

EVERY Sunday is Fellowship Sunday with people joining together at 10AM for light refreshments. Worship Service & Sunday School then follows at 10:30AM. Come and join us ☺



Check out the Worship Assistance schedule for March & April to see when you will be helping. Don't see your name or would like to volunteer? Give the office a call, 410-235-3738! Please remember to secure a substitute if you are unable to be there on your assigned Sunday. Always know there are not any age restrictions if you would like to assist in the worship service 😊

<i>Date</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Tower Bell Ringer</i>
March 1 Ash Wednesday	Elaine Niemeyer	Norma Smith & Dante Howard	Edris Hendricks	Frank Cimino
March 5– Comm Carolyn Marciniak	Francine Lane	Richard Jones Raymond Herring	Alfred Jones	Grant Abraham
March 12	Dorothy Foos	Norma Smith & Farrah Howard	Fletcher Little	Luke Salyers
March 19	Kerry Price	Edris Hendricks & Dante Howard	Abe Price	Dan Beasman
March 26	Abe Price	Francine Lane & Will Doyle	Iris Ciorca	Grant Abraham



<i>Date</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Tower Bell Ringer</i>
April 2 – Comm Asst Edris Hendricks	Elaine Niemeyer	Raymond Herring & Alfred Taylor	Jewel Howard	Ben Price
April 9	Iris Ciorca	Linwood Herring & Quiana Mondowney	Dante Howard	Luke Salyers
April 13- M/Thurs Comm Asst- Quiana Mondowney	Norma Smith	Dante Howard & Richard Jones	Abe Price	Grant Abraham
April 16-Easter	Quiana Mondowney	Norma Smith & Farrah Howard	Edris Hendricks	Ben Price
April 23	Farrah Howard	Edris Hendricks & Will Doyle	Will Doyle	Frank Cimino
April 30	Francine Lane	Raymond Herring & Alfred Taylor	Alfred Taylor	Luke Salyers



**Volunteers are
always welcome!**



Help volunteer to host the weekly Sunday Fellowship! Kudo's to everyone that helped with our Fellowship time last month! But here comes yet another month! Anyone can select any available Sunday by signing up in the rear of the church. It's easy..... a cake or a couple dozen donuts = FELLOWSHIP ☺

March	Hosted by:		Hosted by:
5	Phyllis Plack	19	Carolyn Marciniak
12	Sandy Wancowicz	26	Sharon Abraham
April.....all weeks available, just for you!			

"RADA CUTLERY"

Have you ever heard of Rada Cutlery?

*Rada Cutlery is **100% American Made** - raw materials and construction. Rada Mfg. Co. has made and sold over 132,000,000 knives since 1948, earning the reputation for remarkable cutlery, service, and value.*

We started with just three knives and now have a complete line of kitchen knives, utensils and cutlery sets as well as stoneware, cookbooks, soy wax candles and quick mixes.

St. Matthew can make a 40% profit just from the sales of this product. But the added benefit is the remarkable value you receive while supporting your cause. This value is created because you are working directly with the manufacturer and there are no middlemen, (local sales reps), adding costs and driving up the prices.

*The **Tomato Slicer** is our second best-selling knife behind the Regular Paring – but probably the most talked about knife we offer!*

*For details about ordering, see or call
Lillian Lowensen, 410-276-5688*

Orders can be placed through April 30





St. Matthew UCC
3400 Norman Avenue, Baltimore
"In the Heart of Mayfield"

Easter Sunday Worship, 10:30AM
"Where the Old Rugged Cross
Becomes the Cross of Glory"
Followed by our Easter Egg Hunt!



You Are Invited! Come All!
All children, 10 years and
younger. Bring your baskets or
use our bags!!

Maryland State Boychoir
performs many of their
concerts here at their home
base at St. Matthew, now
known as the
MSB Center for the Arts.

Here are just a few of their
upcoming concerts:

- April 2, 4PM, **Annual Spring Concert.** All Choirs performing.
- April 30, 3PM.
Benefit Concert,
Healing Power of Music. All choirs performing, plus the HPM Chorus.
- May 20, 7:30PM,
Baltimore Boychoir Festival Concert. All Choirs performing.

For ticket information
contact their office at 410-
554-8644.



Celebrating Black History Month February 12, 2017

On February 12, St. Matthew designated a portion of the Worship Service to the celebration of Black History Month. There were 14 selected readings about Men and Women of Color. As an example a poem entitled *Still I Rise*, by Maya Angelou, was read by Farrah Howard, and the congregation sang "I Thank You Jesus" by Kenneth Morris. Participants included, Francine Lane, Sandy Wancowicz, Pansie Deane, Sharon Abraham, Sharon Bengston, Sylvia Watson, Phyllis Plack, Iris Ciurca, Karen Bartell, Sharon Price, Elaine Niemeyer, Norma Smith, Dorothy Foos, Michael Lane, Farrah Howard, Jewel Howard, and Kerry Price. Many accolades to Francine Lane who was also instrumental in organizing and planning the entire program.



From left to right:
"Still I Rise" read by
Farrah Howard,
daughter Jewel
Howard performing
in dance, and a
section of the
congregation
totally engaged!
What a day it was ☺

And....on bottom
left, check out
Francine Lane with
Karen Bartell, as
they leave for the
Women's Rights
Walk of Baltimore!



*Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.*

*If Scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.*

*Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.*

*For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the state.*

*We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.*

*We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the "unwed daddy," our Senior King.
It's "inappropriate" to teach right from wrong;
We're taught that such "judgments" do not
belong.*

*It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot, my soul please take!*

AMEN

Contributed by Norma Smith



THANK YOU NOTES!!

From North East Pantry; "Thank you so very much for your generous and faithful donation of food. Your donation helped serve 135 families/332 people in November, and 124 families/273 people in December!!"

Earl's Place; "Thanks to you and so many others, 25 men found a home at Earl's Place last year and of those 25, six moved to permanent housing. Thank you for being a part of our extended family. We cannot continue this work without you."

McKim Center; "Please convey our thanks to the congregation of St. Matthew for the generous gift of Christmas toys and \$60 to the McKim Center. We hope that each and every one of you will be blessed in the New Year with all the good things in life."

Hearts for Haiti; "Thank you for your very generous donation of \$75 to Hearts with Haiti. Your donation will support the operations of the St. Joseph Family. Thank you!"

You can read the entire letters on the new bulletin board at the rear of the sanctuary. ☺

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Baltimore, MD 21213
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Come.....Celebrate Easter With Us!

Easter Sunday Worship, April 16, 10:30AM

**Bring your fresh cut flowers, and help us decorate the
"Old Rugged Cross", and see it become the Cross of Glory"**

Followed by our Easter Egg Hunt!



**"No matter who you are, or where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome here.
Come and join us every Sunday. Get to know God
and learn of Jesus"!**



Many folks turned out on February 5, to help make our lunch assembly fabulous. 250 bag lunches were completed to give away to the homeless and needy on the streets of Baltimore! Plus donations of cookies were donated to make the lunches really yummy!!