



Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 342
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton, Kansas 67114
Church: 316-283-3310
www.stmatthewsnewton.org
www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton

The Messenger



A Note from Fr. Mike Loyd

THE SHORT MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February is our shortest month which is okay with most folks, because it's winter and most folks want to get to March and that means spring. And March means warmer weather, gardening, green beer, Spring Training, and all that sort of thing.

There's also lots of observances in February. Of course, it's Black History Month, National Bird Feeding Month, and February 12 is Lincoln's birthday. And it's hard to let February 14, Valentine's Day get by. February 2 is Groundhog Day, and the second Sunday in February is that great American observance-Super Bowl. The first Saturday in February is Ice Cream for Breakfast Day and the first Monday in February is National Frozen Yogurt Day. In Malta there is a public holiday to observe the Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck on February 10. And on February 24, if you're in Iran, and I hope you're not, it's Engineers Day.

February 18 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the sacred season of Lent. Which means the day before is Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, the pancake race between Olney, England and Liberal, Kansas and the St. Matthew's Pancake Supper. Other Episcopal churches have pancake suppers, but St. Matthew's is really known for its pancake supper. We serve ham and apple sauce with our pancakes. This year, the proceeds from the pancake supper will go to the Newton Ministerial Alliance Harvest of Love Fund that assists those in need in our community with utility and food assistance. The Newton community will appreciate that the money from their tickets is going to a good cause. And besides, the St. Matthew's Pancake Supper is always a good time.

But after we gorge ourselves on pancakes, ham, and applesauce, it will be time to calm down, focus on ourselves, God's presence, and enter the journey to the cross with Jesus. Lent can be such a special,

sacred time to explore our individual humanity, to acknowledge our need for God, and to see ourselves as followers of Jesus in today's world.

It's significant that the gospel reading for the first Sunday in February is The Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are what we need at this time for us as Christians and as Americans. The people that identify themselves as Christians from the Evangelical and Fundamentalist faith traditions have made themselves to be the spokespersons for our faith. It's time for us to take back our faith. It's time for the true followers of Jesus to speak out against Christian Nationalism. It's also the time for us as Americans to speak out against the cruelty, bigotry, dishonesty, and corruption that comes from those who are running our country.

This season of Lent and its time of quiet introspection, along with reflection on Holy Scripture, fasting, and more time in prayer provides a wonderful opportunity to feel closer to God and to strengthen our commitment as followers of Jesus. Along with our Baptismal Covenant, the Beatitudes are our North Star. They give us guidance on how to live our lives and they remind us of what we believe. This is a time for us, as the Church, to be outside of the walls of our church building and to be the hands and voice of Jesus. To live according to the requirements of the Lord as spoken by the prophet Micah. "To do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God." (Mic 6:8)

I'm looking forward to Lent and engaging in spiritual practices that will guide and strengthen me in my faith as well as give me peace and comfort. And I'm thankful that Ice Cream for Breakfast comes before Lent.

Fr. Mike



St. Matthew's Vision Statement

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is living into God's vision for us as a beloved community and disciples of Christ.

We are always growing in relationship with God, embracing our neighborhood and our world, and leading through acts of service as a beacon of God's justice and love.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Matthew's is to Welcome, Respect and Care for All People. We accomplish this by following Christ, the perfect example of God's reconciling love, as we promote justice, peace and healing for ourselves and our world.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2001 Windsor Dr.
P.O. Box 342
Newton, Kansas 67114

Office phone: 316-283-3310
Office e-mail: office.stmatthewsnewton@gmail.com

St. Matthew's office hours:

- Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm
- Fr. Mike's office hours are Monday and Thursday 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

Services: Holy Eucharist 10:15 am every Sunday
Evening Prayer 6:00 pm Wednesday

- Parish Council Meeting, Sat. Feb. 7, 10:00 am
- St. Matthew's Vestry meeting will be Sunday, February 15 after church
- St. Matthew's PEF will meet after church on Sunday February 22 in the conference room

Discretionary Fund

This is a reminder that on the first Sunday of each month any loose money in the collection plate goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. This gives the Rector resources to give to someone that asks for help with a utility bill, rent, food or anything else that is asked of the church. Please be generous.

**86th Annual
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**



**Tuesday, February 17, 2026
5 to 8 pm
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton**

Pancakes, Ham, Applesauce & Beverage

**\$7 Adults
Children 10 and under \$5**

*Proceeds will go to the Newton
Ministerial Alliance Harvest of Love Fund to help
local people in need*



ANNOUNCING

2026 St. Matthew's Vestry/Leadership

- Rick Glover, Sr. Warden
- Rochelle Glover, Jr. Warden
- Mary Anne McCloud** & Clerk
- Elizabeth Hill
- Darlene Hall*
- Steve Stonehouse*
- Stan Scudder, Treasurer and Building and Grounds

Clergy

- Fr. Mike Loyd, Vicar
- Barbara Gibson, Deacon

St. Matthew's Convocation Delegates

- Elizabeth Hill
- Maggie Snow
- Scott McCloud, alternate*

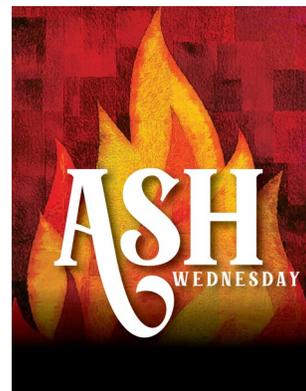
*newly elected
** Second term

Vestry meetings are held every 3rd Sunday of each month. Please contact any vestry member with thoughts, ideas, concerns, and/or questions about St. Matthews Episcopal Church. Your input is welcome!



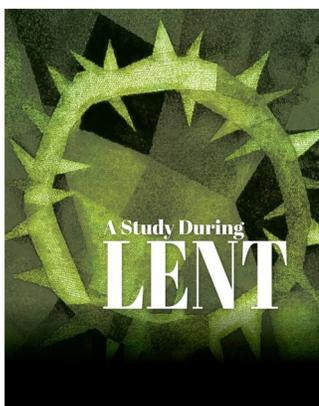
We will once again be "burying the Alleluias". There will be new Alleluia cards put out at coffee hour that you can decorate and we will also use the ones from past years. So feel free to decorate an Alleluia to be "buried" as we begin the season of Lent.

"Burying the Alleluias" is a Christian tradition, dating back to at least the 5th century, where the word "Alleluia" is removed from liturgy and hymnody during the solemn, penitential season of Lent. It symbolizes a temporary farewell to joy, with the word "resurrected" or sung again with great joy on Easter Sunday



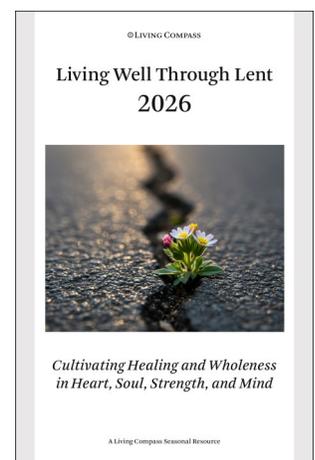
The Ash Wednesday service at St. Matthew's will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 18.

Please join us as we begin the season of Lent and travel together on the road to Easter.



The 2026 Lenten study booklet is available at the church for your use during Lent. You can join the discussion group every Sunday at 9:00 am, starting Sunday, February 22. Each Sunday, we will discuss the week's reflections together.

Hope you can join us.





Birthdays, Baptisms, and
Confirmations

*Remember to pray for each of these persons
on their special day*

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

February Birthdays

- February 2—Jeremy Kitto
- February 7 - Kenny Wall
- February 8 - Aurora Farmer
- February 9 - Darla Stonehouse
- February 11 – Rick Beck
- February 13 – Dave Simmonds
- February 14 - Kala Whiteside
- February 15 - Stan Scudder
- February 17 - Jordan Orr
- February 19 - Conner Ekerberg
- February 19 - Jeff Upton
- February 24 - Andrew Craig

February Baptisms

- February 4 – Stan Scudder
- February 9 – Rick Beck
- February 19 – London Orr-Thompson
- February 21 - Jennifer Beck
- February 28 - Steve Stonehouse

February Confirmations

- February 7 – Twila Lockaby, Stan Scudder
- February 18 – Clay Hedrick

If you know of other birthday, confirmation, or baptism dates that are not listed, please contact the office so they can be included. Thank you.

February 2026
Coffee Hour
Hosts



February 1 - Mary Upton/Jeremy Kitto

February 8 - Melissa Keenan

February 15th - Darla and Steve Stonehouse

February 22 - Sarah and Chris Teichler

There are plenty of openings in the coming months to sign up to host coffee hour. Any questions or concerns, please contact Melissa.

St. Matthew's
Prayer Chain



If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**. The information you share will then be passed on to the chain leaders who will pass the information on to their team. The members of the chain will add your request to their prayers. The information you give me is confidential and will not be shared with others outside the prayer chain without your permission.

Other Prayer Requests:

This is a reminder that you can add names to the Prayer List that is read during the Prayers of the People at the worship service. There is a white binder in the church office that you can have any name added to. The names will remain on the list for a month before being removed. If you need continued prayers, just let Charlie know, and the name(s) will remain on the list.



St. Matthew's Outreach

Serve This Season

Winter can be hard for many. You can help by serving through our mission opportunities. Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus with compassion and generosity.

Food Cart

10 non perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in January. Thanks for remembering those who don't have enough to eat.

Soldiers & Shut Ins

Our Shut In board in the parish hall only has one person on it. Shirley Charlsen looks pretty lonely up there all by herself!. If anyone has a loved one that can't get out, and would love cards and visits, please contact Melissa. A picture would be appreciated also.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Mark your calendars!! February 8th is the date of the big event!! We will be collecting cans of soup to donate to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love " food bank here in Newton. FEBRUARY 8TH.....bring a can of soup in each hand..we'll open the door for you! TOUCH DOWN!!



The Upside-Down Blessing

The Beatitudes are more than poetic lines from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They're a radical redefinition of what it means to be blessed. The Greek word makarios doesn't just mean "happy." It describes a deep,

untouchable joy that pain, loss or hardship cannot erase. As scholar William Barclay wrote, it is "the joy which shines through tears."

Jesus flips the world's idea of success upside down. The "blessed" aren't the powerful or prosperous, but the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and the merciful. Imagine reading them as "Congratulations, you who feel broken, God's kingdom belongs to you!" His words assure us that, even in suffering, we stand in God's favor.

Real blessing isn't about shiny possessions or smooth sailing. It's the steady, saving presence of God — a life preserver tossed to us when we're struggling to stay afloat. And it's not just an individual promise. Jesus spoke these blessings to a community, a we more than a me. Together, as the body of Christ, we find comfort, strength and the courage to live with joy that nothing in life or death can take away.

— Adapted from HomileticsOnline.com

Checking in With the Vestry

Well January ended up a very cold month and I hope February is kinder. I will try to be more communicative this year about St Matthew's information.

Some early goals this year is to clean up and repair the Play House and Rose Garden, I hope to get things going by March. I will try to make sure you are aware of major KIFA events, this is an organization that is truly trying to help Kansans in need. Our annual Pancake Supper is February 17th and we want to use the money earned to support the Newton Missionary Alliance for Harvest of Love. This is a great event to show Newton who and what St Matthews is about.

I hope to have a Church Meeting this month to discuss what to do with the Rectory. We are finding that most recent Priests haven't needed this housing opportunity. The Rectory is getting older and would need upgrades and repairs if a future priest would want to live there. If we sell the property, we would put the proceeds to the PEF and IEF to support St Matthews. Still , we need to talk as a church and see what the majority would want to do.

We need to replace the Front Signage with St Matthews entrance.

I love Father Mike's ideas of expanding our outdoor presence with a Memorial Garden, an Orchard and again a community garden.

You will probably receive another letter regarding Church Pledges. Everyone knows multiple institutions whom need support. I feel that St Matthew's missions support so many people. For the last number of years, St Matthews has ended the year in the deficit and eventually this will deplete our savings. We will start putting our income and expenses in the weekly bulletin, so you will know where we stand financially. The Vestry continues to try to find savings in our expenses. Whether your contributions are time given or financial, we appreciate all that you do for St Matthews.

Thanks for all you do!
Rick Glover
Senior Warden



God's Love in Action — Valentine's Week

"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV). This month, let's share God's love in simple ways — a kind note, a prayer, a helping hand. Look for ways to bless someone around you!



God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

**Reflections on Proverbs 16:9
Jeremy Kitto**

The book of Proverbs consists of 915 individual proverbs. Each proverb is enigmatic, and collectively the book is a sacred enigma; there is nothing like it in the Bible.

Proverbs are multivalent, a treasure for the young and the wise, respectively. These enigmas are easy to understand, but there is also a great deal of complexity to them that is missed, more often than not. For example, Proverbs 16:9 reads, "The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps" (NRSV).

This proverb is easy to understand, but to introduce some of its complexity, here are two observations to begin further reflection.

The verb in the first half-line, "plans," is emphatic and it connotes a person's course of life (e.g., a person's character).

The first word of the second half-line, "but," is one interpretation that assumes a contrast between each half-line. However, this word can also be interpreted as "and," where the second half-line compliments the first.

Will God determine which steps you must take to fulfill your plans, in contrast to what you initially planned? Or Will God direct your steps just like you planned? On the surface, the meaning of this proverb seems to be either/or. But is your journey with God that simple?

If you would like to reflect further on this proverb and explore more of the complexity inherent within, consider whether or not you have the ability to determine your course of life/character. Also, the word translated as "steps" at the end of the second half-line is a metaphor. How might this metaphor bring greater clarity or ambiguity to God's involvement in your life.



ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild Team for February

Karen Wall, Melissa Keenan, George Whiteside, Kala Whiteside, and Ginger King

Altar Flowers for February 2026

February 1

Steve and Ginger King

"In loving memory of Lee and Ed"

February 8

Vincent Collier

"In loving memory of Chuck and Jerry Collier"

February 15

Fred Schroeder

"For blessings received"

February 22

Lent

No Flowers in Lent

If you have any questions regarding Altar Guild or Altar flowers please contact Margie Knupp at 316-284-1790



Please join
Deacon Barbara Gibson
and company for

Evening Prayer
every Wednesday
at 6:00 pm in the
St. Matthew's
Covey Chapel.

Or join us on Facebook

Everyone is welcome

Come take
a few minutes to end your
day with prayer



LET'S FILL UP THE ST. MATTHEW'S FOOD PANTRY/BLESSING BOX

Don't forget that you can add items to the Blessing Box anytime. Just an extra can or two when you are at the grocery store is appreciated. Please keep the weather in mind when donating an item. It's cold out there! Thank you for doing your part to help our neighbors.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial** love that God shows to humanity?



- A) Eros
- B) Phileo
- C) Agape
- D) Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)

Black History Month:

Please check out the wonderful display in the Parish Hall put together by Karen Wall. This is a collection of early black pioneers who settled in Harvey and Sedgwick counties. This display was put together by Karen Wall over years of researching her granddaughter, Mariah's, ancestry. This display will be at the church all month and Karen will be glad to share more details and information.



From the Council of Trustees

Acting as the Standing Committee

February 2, 2026

Dear Friends,

As we enter this time of transition in the life of the Diocese of Kansas, we are reminded that the Church's foundation remains the same: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through every change in leadership and in every season of ministry, Christ continues to gather and sustain God's people. We write to you with confidence in God's faithfulness and with gratitude for all the ways we daily witness that faithfulness across our diocese.

We want to thank Bishop Cathleen Bascom for her years of faithful service as our tenth bishop. Her leadership and pastoral care have shaped the Diocese of Kansas in lasting ways, and we are grateful. We wish her and her family every blessing in retirement and in her ongoing work with the Episcopal Church's Eco-Region Networks.

Many of you may wish to express your gratitude to Bishop Bascom. It is customary to present a departing bishop with a financial gift (or purse) as a token of appreciation for her ministry. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable directly to Bishop Cathleen Bascom and send them to 835 SW Polk St., Topeka, KS c/o The Ven. Jim Cummins. Cards and notes of thanksgiving are also warmly welcomed at the same address.

The Council of Trustees serves as the Standing Committee in our diocese. As of February 1, 2026, the Council has become the Ecclesiastical Authority until the ordination and consecration of our eleventh bishop. We have been working closely with the Presiding Bishop's Office and our diocesan staff to prepare for this responsibility, and we are grateful for your trust as we share in this ministry of oversight.

The mission and ministry of the Diocese of Kansas continues. Your parishes, your ministries, and the work of sharing God's love remain as vital as ever. Diocesan staff continue in their current roles and responsibilities. If you needed to contact a particular staff member last month, please continue to reach out to that same person. A full staff directory is available at episcopal-ks.org/staff-directory/. The Council of Trustees may be reached at COT@episcopal-ks.org.

We ask for your continued prayers for the Bishop Search and

Transition Committees as their work progresses. Pray also for the candidates in discernment, that they may grow deeper in their relationship with Christ and clarity about God's call on their lives. We look forward to sharing a candidate slate in March.

Times of transition invite us to renewed trust in God's providence. We are grateful to walk this path with you, confident that the one who has begun a good work in the Diocese of Kansas will bring it to completion.

In Christ,

The Ven. Jim Cummins (President, Northeast Convocation member, 2026-second term)
The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll (At-Large member, 2028-first term)
The Rev. Carl Edwards (At-Large member, 2027-first term), Assistant Clerk
Mr. Stephan Mann (At-Large member, 2026- unexpired 2027 term)
Ms. Teresa Ryther (At-Large member, 2028-second term)
The Rev. Daryl Stanford (At-Large member, 2026-first term)
Mr. Mason Weber (At-Large member, 2026-first term)
Mr. Ron Olson (Northeast Convocation member, 2028-second term)
Ms. Melanie Hoyle Laster (Northwest Convocation member, 2028-second term)
The Rev. Margaret McGhee (Northwest Convocation member, 2026-first term)
The Rev. Helen Hoch (Southeast Convocation member, 2026-first term), Clerk
Ms. Martha Stone (Southeast Convocation member, 2028-first term)
Mr. Tim Flynn (Southwest Convocation member, 2028-first term)
The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis (Southwest Convocation member, 2026-first term)

Open sky, open land; open face, open heart; so have you made Kansas and her children, Lord. Homesteads for weather, hands for work, and fiber of human souls, you have winnowed on the prairie. Bless that free soil, O God, her hills of flint, her miles of wheat, her flowers in the sun, and her steady servants of your unswerving truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from A Prayer for Kansas by the Very Rev. Francis B. Sayre, Dean Emeritus of the Washington National Cathedral.)



St. Matthew's members and friends,

We are saddened to announce the passing of Nyla Friesen, 73, on the morning of January 29th at Newton Presbyterian Manor. Nyla has been a valued member of St. Matthew's, playing the organ for our services, serving as a vestry member, and as a volunteer with our Payee Program before her decline in health.

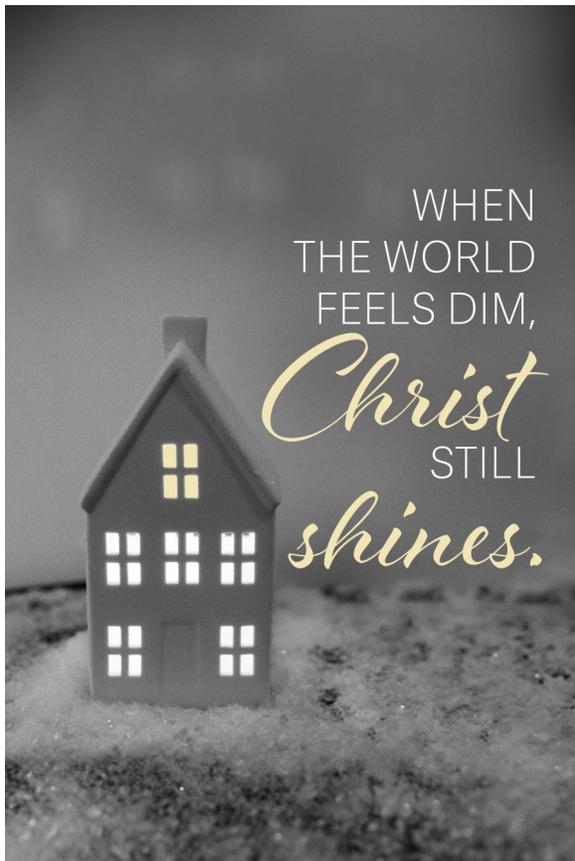


St. Matthew's will host the funeral service on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. Fr. Mike Loyd will be the celebrant.

Memorials may be made in Nyla's name to St. Matthew's Church Organ Fund.

Her full obituary is on the Peterson Family Funeral Home website: [Nyla D Friesen Obituary January 29, 2026 - Petersen Family Funeral Home](#)

"Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Nyla with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting" Book of Common Prayer pg. 499



A prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for?

You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust.

Dear Christ, hasten to me.

-The monk known as Aelred of Rievaulx in Yorkshire, England



Here is the worship schedule for February. Please let the office know if you would like to sign up to read, usher and/or count. We can always use more hands! *If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please find a substitute.* Thanks for your service!

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Season	4th Sunday after Epiphany	5th Sunday after Epiphany	Last Sunday after Epiphany	1st Sunday in Lent
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist Healing Service Vestry Meeting	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara
LEM& Acolyte	Elizabeth Hill Maggie Snow	Karen Wall Chris Iserhardt	Ruth Cooper Chris Iserhardt	Fred Schroeder
Lector— Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Bonnie Jones	Maggie Snow	Ruth Cooper
Lector—Psalm	Mary Upton	Darlene Hall	Rick Glover	Mary Upton
Ushers (2)	Mary Upton	Elizabeth Hill	Rick Glover	Melissa Keenan
	Rick Glover	Melissa Keenan	Mary Upton	Mary Werner
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	Twila Lockaby
Altar Flowers	Steve and Ginger King “In loving memory of Lee and Ed”	Vincent Collier “In loving memory of Chuck and Jerry Collier”	Fred Schroeder “For blessings received”	Lent No Flowers in Lent
Coffee Hour Hosts	Mary Upton and Jeremy Kitto	Melissa Keenan	Darla and Steve Stonehouse	Sarah and Chris Teichler
Organist Flutist	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Kelli Glann Sarah Teichler

Evening Prayer: every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm in the St. Matthew's Covey Chapel

Ash Wednesday Service: 7:00 pm Wednesday February 18