



From the Rector, Rev. Rob Merola

Dear Friends,

Did you hear about the adventurers who were paddling in the open water? They grew chilled, and so lit a fire in their boat. Unfortunately, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

OK, you can hiss if you want to. But I hope maybe before you do, you smiled even if for just a second. What I really hope is that maybe you even laughed. If not, should I try again?

Did you see The Queen's Gambit? My favorite scene was when a group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer..."

Here's my point: I don't think we laugh enough. And I think laughter may be more important now than ever.

You probably know that on a purely physiological level laughter has very real benefits like decreasing stress hormones and increasing immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies, thus improving our resistance to disease. But mostly, it just feels good, doesn't it?

As we continue to deal with the many challenges that are before us, I hope you'll take some time simply to enjoy life. We've all had our fair share of gloom and doom. Let's also make sure we are finding some reasons to smile, making occasions to laugh "long and hard and clear" with those we love, and maybe sometimes even with those we don't. As we begin to regather again after a year of social isolation, let's remember how good and pleasant it is to share joy with one another.

To that end, here's one last pun (and if you've got some good puns too, please, by all means—I'd love for you to share them with me!).

Since I've always loved puns, a few years ago I entered a local pun contest. I sent in ten different puns, hoping that at least one of them would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did...

Much love to you, dear and beloved friends,

Rob+



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- Algonkian Park Picnic
- Children & Youth Events
- Outreach
- Young Professionals

WAYS TO CONNECT



STAY CONNECTED VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON

In-Person (Outdoor) & Online Sunday Worship
Sundays at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am

Faith Factory for Kids
Now In-Person. More info on page four.
Email Adrian@stmtts.org for information

Youth Group Weekly Gatherings
Now In-Person, Sundays at 10:20am
Email MaryMargaret@stmtts.org for info.

Young Professionals (YoPros)
2nd/4th Sundays at 12:00pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 832 1051 7955

Noon Day Prayer and Compline
Monday - Friday at 12:00pm and 8:00pm
Facebook Live: stmtts.org/live

Social Time with Candace
Mondays at 12pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

Bread of Life Small Group
Mondays at 7pm on Zoom
Email Darrell: Darrell@stmtts.org

Social Time with Kevin
Mondays at 8:30pm on Zoom
Email Kevin Fletcher: Kevin@stmtts.org

Sandwich Generation Small Group
1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm
Zoom ID: 844 3193 1826

WonZ - The BIGGIES with Fr. Rob
Wednesdays at 7:15pm
Zoom ID: 849 0700 9439

Women's Uncommon Prayer
Thursdays at 12:00pm on Zoom
Email Susie: susie.harding@gmail.com

Men's Group
Saturdays at 8:00am on Zoom
Zoom Meeting ID: 581 005 941

Algonkian Park Worship and BYO Picnic
Sunday, May 30, 11am

Please RSVP: go.stmtts.org/RSVP
This will be the only in-person service offered on May 30. Services will be held online at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am.



YO PROS SPRING PICNIC

Saturday, May 22

The St. Matt's Young Professionals (Yo Pros) group had a fantastic hike through the Bluebells in April, and we look forward to spending time together on Saturday, May 22. We'll choose a location based on the weather forecast. Please email Emily at Emily@stmtts.org to be added to the text communication. We'd love for you to join us!

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

RETURN TO REGULAR OUTDOOR WORSHIP: EVERY SUNDAY

We are thrilled to have returned to regular, outdoor worship! Join us every Sunday (except May 30 - see below) at St. Matthew's at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am. Please bring your own chair, face covering, and maintain 6ft. of distance. We will have chairs available if needed.

If you prefer to continue with virtual worship, we are still offering weekly worship online at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am.

Learn more information about our plans for re-opening and the safety measures in place by visiting our website: stmtts.org/reopening.



WORSHIP AT ALGONKIAN PARK SUNDAY, MAY 30 at 11AM



It's an annual tradition to meet for worship and an afternoon of fun on Memorial Weekend. We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday, May 30 at Algonkian Park Shelter One., and then stay to enjoy the company of friends you may not have seen in awhile. We'll provide lots of games!

To ensure everyone's safety, our theme this year is **Bring Your Own:**

- Food
- Drinks
- Seats (camp chairs, blankets)

As we prepare to meet indoors, we want to practice using our reservation system.

Will you please RSVP using this link:
go.stmtts.org/RSVP

This will be the only in-person service offered on May 30. Services will be held online at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am.

MAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



FAITH FACTORY OUTDOORS Sundays | 9:30 AM

Join us on Sundays at 9:30 from May 2-23rd during our Outdoor Worship Services for Children's Outdoor Faith Factory. Masks required.



FAITH FACTORY END OF YEAR PARTY MAY 2 | 10:20-10:50 AM

Join us for snacks and games following our 9:30 Outdoor Worship service as we celebrate the end of Online Faith Factory! Masks are required.



MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT MAY 9 | 10:20-10:50 AM

Join us following our 9:30 Outdoor Worship service for a craft event and make a Mother's Day gift. Craft and supplies will be provided. Masks are required.



SUNFLOWER PLANTING EVENT MAY 15 | 10 AM

Join us at St. Matthew's for a tour of The Celebration Garden and plant some sunflower seeds. Masks required.



WATER BALLOON FIGHT! MAY 16 | 10:20-10:50 AM

Join us behind the trailer for a water balloon fight. Masks required



GARDEN STORY & CRAFT ONLINE MAY 17 | 1 PM-1:30 PM

You're invited to a garden themed book and crafting online activity for kids. **Zoom ID: 753 6635 1082** **Password: Church**



FRYING PAN PARK PICNIC MAY 22 | 10 AM-12 PM

Join us for a hike, explore the farm and bring a picnic. Sign up at go.stmmts.org/farmouting. Masks required.



FAITH FACTORY GRADUATION PARTY! MAY 23 | 9:30 AM

Join us as we celebrate the 5th grade students as the graduate from Faith Factory. Cupcakes following the service. Masks required.



VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! JULY 19-23 | 5:30-7:30 PM

Join us for a week of fun. Space is limited, so we invite you to register today at: go.stmmts.org/VBS

YOUTH EVENTS

Local Hike at Seneca Regional Park

Saturday, May 8 at 10am

Join us at 10 AM for a beautiful hike through the woods and a small picnic after. Close-toed shoes, water bottle, and sunscreen recommended.



Meadowlark Gardens

Saturday, May 22 at

Join us at 10 AM for a morning at the gardens. We will have a native plant scavenger hunt, photo contest, and more! Bring \$3 for entrance fee, or email to Rev. Mary Margaret.

Algonkian Park Picnic and Games

Sunday, May 30 at 11am

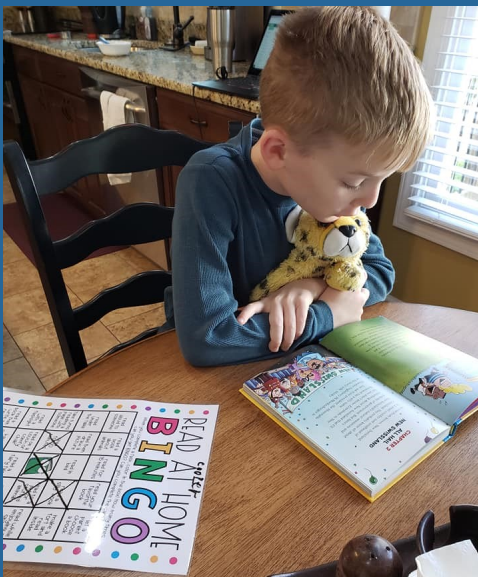
The entire parish will worship at Algonkian and then celebrate Memorial Day with a picnic and park day! Youth will have games and activities.



Sunday Youth Gatherings

Sundays at 10:20am

Sunday Youth Group will move offline to informal gatherings during the month of May. We will gather between the 9:30 and 11AM outdoor worship services for catching up, games, and pre-packaged snacks.



MAY BOOK DRIVE

In the month of May, St. Matthew's is stocking free libraries around the area with **gently used children's books**. If you're doing spring cleaning and have children's books to spare, please drop them off at church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am - 4pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Becca Welt at beccawelt@yahoo.com

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



BACKPACK BUDDIES

Backpack Buddies continues to support local children in need. Shelf stable food donations are welcome at the church on Tues. & Thurs 8am-4pm. To help pack, sign up at go.stmmts.org/pack4bb Contact: Hillary at HLLLearning@gmail.com for more information



PARK VIEW HIGH SCHOOL FOODSHARE PROGRAM

We are providing food and toiletries to Park View High School families in need. **We need volunteers on May 20 and 22.** Sign up today: go.stmmts.org/parkview. For more info, please contact Amanda Sternitzke at amandagayle1@hotmail.com.



CELEBRATION GARDEN

This volunteer-operated organic Outreach garden, supplies local families with much needed fresh produce. Now is the perfect time to volunteer! Please contact Heidi Lathrop at HLathrop@me.com or follow the garden's Facebook page: facebook.com/St.MattsCelebrationGarden.



CARE RESPONSE TEAM

When our Care Response Team is notified that someone is in need, the team springs into action shopping for and delivering essential items to the people who need them. If you would like to be added to this team of responders, please contact Tess Frawley at tess.frawley@stmmts.org.

UPCOMING OUTREACH MEETINGS

Are you interested in becoming involved in St. Matthew's outreach efforts? Join us for our monthly meeting to share your ideas and volunteer. Contact Kristin Drummond at kristin.drummond@stmmts.org.