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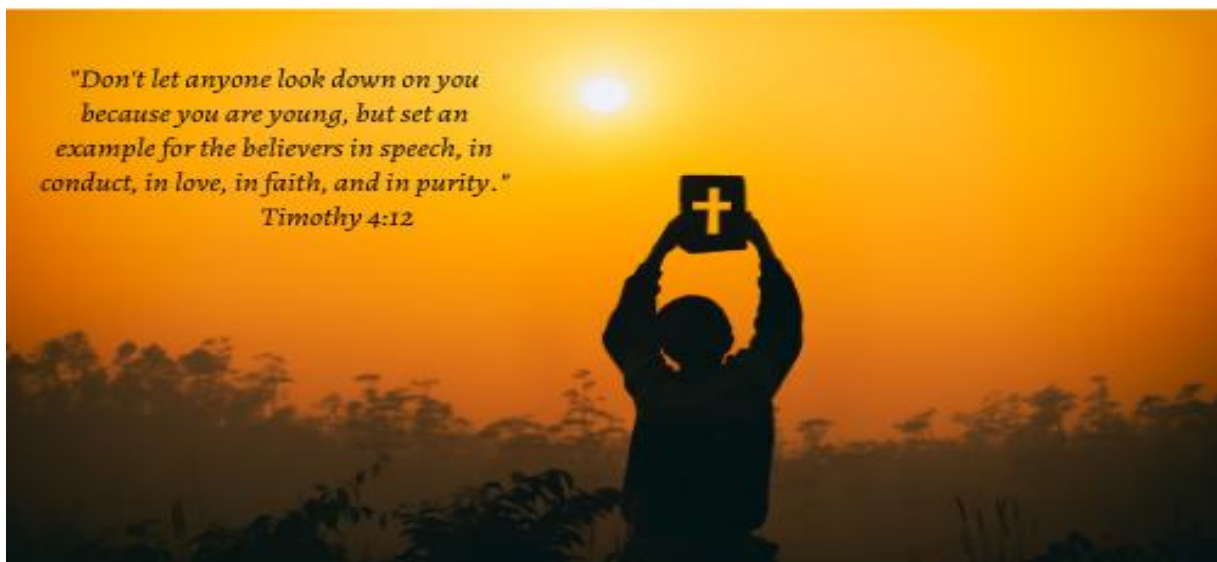
Website: www.stmatthewame.org

Streaming at stmatthewame.org/streaming

YouTube - @stmatthew336

Facebook Live - @stmatthewamechurch

**Sunday, January 11, 2026 | First Sunday After Epiphany
Baptism of the Lord | Youth Sunday**



The Rt. Rev. Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
Presiding Bishop, First Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. C. Carlton Woodward
Presiding Elder, Newark District

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson
Pastor/Teacher

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Donna Ho-Shing, Itinerant Elder

Rev. Dr. Crystal Newby-Reynolds, Itinerant Elder | Minister of Liturgical Arts & Youth

Rev. Tamoya Buckley-David, Itinerant Elder in Local Relations

Rev. Leslie Wilson, Minister to Women

Rev. Marian Sykes Johnson, Local Elder

Rev. Dr. Shirley Roberts, Local Elder

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For Tech/IT Support Before or During Worship, Dial (973) 678-1217, Press Option 8.

We can park at 280 S. Harrison Street with a parking permit from 8:30 am – 11:30 am.

The Nursery for parents and children is located at the rear of the sanctuary. Also, there is a Sensory Room (with a monitor to see worship) for parents and children on the autism spectrum or with special needs. See the Greeters' Ministry located at the front table for directions.

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8:45 am: Pre-Worship Devotions

Setting the atmosphere for worship. If you need to talk, talk to God.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Order of Worship at 9:00 am

In-person worshipers may wear masks. Please be kind to those who choose to do so.

The Worship Leader – Sis. Makayla Costas

*The Doxology

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

**The Call to Worship

Sis. Eleora Powell

Leader: When I think of God's presence in the world, I am grateful:

People: Grateful for the presence of hope; grateful for the gift of life.

Leader: And when I think of God's presence in my life, I am humbled:

People: Humbled by the gift of grace; humbled by the invitation to begin again.

Leader: And when I think of God's presence in this community, I am glad

People: Glad to be surrounded by holy people worshipping our Savior and our Holy God.

Together: Thank you God for bringing us together. AMEN

*The Hymn of Praise

AMEH #5

"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

(Worshipers May Enter)

1 All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall, Let angels' prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.

2 Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall, Ye ransomed from the fall, Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.

3 Sinners whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall, The wormwood and the

gall, Go spread your trophies at His feet, And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,
crown Him Lord of all. Amen.

The Worship Through Prayer

Sis. Tukiya Tilus

(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

The Worship Through Music

Angel Choir

(Worshippers May Enter)

The Welcome of Visitors

"13 Air Hugs"

Sis. Eliana Powell

"We're so glad you came to worship, we're "God's Love for God's people;" we welcome you with open arms with love that won't go away. Welcome, oh welcome; welcome, oh welcome; welcome, oh welcome, to St. Matthew, to St. Matthew!



First-Time Visitors: WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW!

Please take a picture of this QR Code and complete the First-Time Visitors Information Form. Thank you. We are honored that you have joined us today. If you have a church home, return our greetings to your Pastor. If not, please consider St. Matthew as **"the end of your search for a loving church."**

The Pastor's Words

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

The Worship Through Giving



You can give all tithes and offerings in all categories by text at (973) 272-4332, CashApp (\$StMthw), Zelle (973-280-7654), Givelify (Scan QR Code), mail, or at www.stmatthewame.org.

Please remember gifts to the Restoration Fund

The Worship Through Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12 NIV

Sis. Makayla Costas

(Please Read In Unison – No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the

star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: This is God's Word for God's people. It is already blessed. Amen.

The Worship Through Dance

Youth Dance Ministry

(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

The Sermonic Selection

The Youth Choir

(Worshippers May Enter)

The Preached Word

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Subject: "Why Jesus Could Be a Problem"

*The Invitation to Salvation|Church Membership|Recommitment/Rededication

If you want to be Saved, join St. Matthew, St. Paul, Mt. Zion, or Recommit/Rededicate Your Life to Jesus Christ, you can identify yourself now or text the word JESUS to (973) 840-8874

*The Doxology & Benediction

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

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**\*Pentecostal Prayer Power at the Altar After the Benediction\***

A Member of the Prayer Ministry will be available to pray with you individually after worship in the Chapel on the second floor. The Sanctuary & Second Floor Chapel are open for Prayer whenever the church is open. The Chapel is open on Sundays from 8:15 am – 8:45 am and after 9 am worship for personal prayer.

A Servant Church  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Orange, New Jersey  
*God's Love for God's People*  
Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore

**Generation One**  
Seniors Ministry

**Fitness Class**

**January 21, 2026**  
1:15 PM

Come Dressed Comfortable  
to Move & Workout

336 Oakwood Avenue, Orange, NJ  
For Information Call (973) 678-1217

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson  
Pastor/Teacher

**Date:** Sunday, January 11, 2026

**Preacher/Speaker:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Text:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES

**I heard the Word. I received the Word. This is what I learned. This is what I will do.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# MEMBER *Spotlight*



## **She Uses Her Gifts from God to Grow and Learn**

Learning about God and different people in the Bible excite Aoki Mae each week she attends Sunday school classes at St. Matthew AME. Aoki (pronounced i-oki) also likes the snacks and playing Cahoots following the Sunday school lesson, a game at which she is very good. "I may get a couple wrong," she said. "I like to get the gift cards," she said of winning.

Aoki has been a member of St. Matthew AME since she was 6 months old. She attends church and Sunday School each week with her grandmother, Delores Mae, a Sunday school teacher and former Sunday school superintendent. Aoki, who lives in Irvington,

N.J. with her dad Jonathan Mae and mom Leslie Brown, spends her weekends with grandmother and attends church with her.

The 10-year-old is a competitive 5th grader at Kipp Justice Academy in Newark who has a 3.45 average. She enjoys physical education and art as well as science and math classes. She is also a member of the art club and the book club and Aoki has tried out for the basketball team and for cheerleading. Her busy life does not stop with church and school. She is also active in "Love You Girl Foundation," a South Orange agency that fights domestic violence.

She also likes participating in plays produced by the Sunday school department, including the December 21 production of "Now I See." Aoki learned her lines weeks ahead of time so she would be ready for her performance. And she really liked the recent fundraiser auction where she and her grandmother won the bid for a Donovan McNabb jersey for her dad who is an avid Eagles fan. "We had fun going back and forth," she said.

Her favorite saying is "To God be the Glory." Everyday is about God, Grandmother Mae said she has taught Aoki. "We should always glorify his name." Aoki has also done the welcome to visitors, the prayer, and the call to worship during youth Sundays at the church. And she is involved in youth activities in the church as well.

She has also created three small businesses, making and selling bracelets with her best friend and selling snacks to friends after school. And sometimes she does nails, too.

Grandmother Mae said she also sings and has taken piano lessons. "We talk about using the gifts God has given you," she said. One of Aoki's favorite activities is doing arts and crafts in the kitchen with her grandmother. "She has a special spot here on the kitchen counter, Grandmother Mae said. And both grandmother and granddaughter like to travel. Their month-long summer trip to Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina during the summer months includes visiting her cousins and her uncle, Nathaniel Jr. and Grandmother Mae's oldest son. "We have a good time," both said.

Grandmother Mae joined St. Matthew in 1991 and became a Sunday school teacher, eventually becoming superintendent. "I have been with the Sunday school for 33 years and I love it," she said. "And I wanted Aoki to be a part of the church so I started bringing her."

Aoki said she would eventually like to become a veterinarian or seamstress. She has a dog named Deuce Blue Mae, "a friendly boxer who is 4 years old in human years.

*By Sandra Long Weaver*

# Member Spotlight



## Her Healing Comes From God

The necklace 14-year-old Gabrielle Pearson wears references John 15:13, a Bible verse that guides her life and honors her late father.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," reads the verse. It was given to her when her father Senior Corrections Officer Al-Mustafa Pearson, who was killed in the line of duty in 2020, was honored for the first time.

"My life has a crack that cannot be filled with concrete or sewn back together," Gabrielle said. "The only person who can help me heal is God above."

Gabrielle is a ninth grader and an honor student with a 3.85 GPA at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains where she enjoys her Italian class and performing in theater productions.

She also enjoys writing and drawing, she said. "I like fantasy stories."

"I've been a part of St. Matthew since I was in my mother's womb," she said. "I've always loved singing," she said. My mom has videos of me. It is great to be able to sing for the glory of God. She regularly attends Sunday School at St. Matthew.

Gabrielle and her mother, Elaine Pearson, are also active in the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), an organization that supports families of fallen officers. And Mrs. Pearson is a retired police officer. Because of COPS, Gabrielle said she has been able to connect with "other kids from other states. I've met people from Georgia, California and I am in group chats. We sometimes text each other or call."

"She is able to connect with other children dealing with some type of death," Mrs. Pearson said. She has also participated in the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) activities, Toys for Tots, the Student Movement Against Cancer and made cards for hospitalized kids.

Gabrielle said she hopes to attend college and eventually pursue a career in law. "There's a lot of crazy things going on the world," she said. "I would like to fight for others, especially those who don't have a voice."

\_ By Sandra Long Weaver

## **January: The Month of New Beginnings**

**January Birthdays** – **1/1:** Evonne Fields **1/2:** Barbara Copeland **1/3:** Beth Ludd, Evan Reynolds **1/5:** Nancy Smith **1/6:** Nia Sorbino **1/8:** Marcie Johnson, Roman Mozell **1/9:** Brenda Clarke, Jesse Brown **1/10:** Jacqueline Herran **1/12:** Carolyn Davidson **1/13:** Joy Mills **1/14:** Coretta Craig, Marenda Brooks-Glover **1/15:** Tency Eason, Michael Brown, Sr., Pamela Cuff **1/17:** Jennifer Ransom **1/19:** Dr. Sharon Boyd-Jackson, Jerry Mosley **1/20:** Rose Tilus **1/22:** C. Claire Stevens **1/24:** Annie Golden, Laurie Crowley-Martin **1/25:** Arba Della Foster **1/30:** Lauren Wilson **1/31:** Cathleen Robinson, Sha'Riah Harris

**January Anniversaries** – **1/14:** Darnell & Paquita Mason – 27 years; **1/27:** John & Miriam (Mippi) Clark – 53 years

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH

Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm. Friday, 9 am – 12 Noon.

Church School for all ages after worship. All adults and youth are invited to attend a Class.

Monday 1/12 – Connectional Church Growth Seminar at Mother Bethel, Philadelphia. Bishop Green, preaching at 7 pm. MFH Food Pantry at 11:30 am. We served **52 people and 3,215 pounds of food was given away.** Spiritual Movement Exercise at 7 pm.

Tuesday 1/13 – City of Orange Police & Fire Dept. Promotional Exercise at 10 am. Bible Study at 6:30 pm online.

Wednesday 1/14 – Annual Meeting/Church Conference at 6:30 pm. Zoom link will be sent. Spiritual Movement Exercise & Inspirational Choir at 7:30 pm.

Thursday 1/15 – **The actual** Birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pastor Wilson preaching for the City of Cranford King Observance at 7 pm at St. Mark AME Church, 34 High Street, Cranford, NJ. Please drive and meet us there. Inspirational Choir, Ushers, everyone asked to attend. Spiritual Movement Exercise at 7 pm.

Saturday 1/17 – Men's Bible Study at 8 am. Usher's School at 10 am. Scheduled meetings with Roland David from 10 am – 1 pm.

Sunday 1/18 – Divine Worship & Inspirational Choir Annual Day at 9 am.

You can order your Annual Conference shirts now. They will be usable and wearable after the Conference, too. Deadline for ordering is January 31.

Here is the link: <https://www.customink.com/g/uqso-oodo-zbtt>

Direct any questions to Sis. Paquita Mason or Sis. Lauren Wilson

A Servant Church
SAINT MATTHEW
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
God's Love for God's People
Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore

MONTHLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

General Zoom Information
Zoom Meeting ID 9736781217
Password - 6781293

Pastor's Bible Study
Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Zoom Meeting ID 9736781217
Password- 6781293

Men's Bible Study
Every Saturday at 8 am for adult and young men
Zoom Meeting ID: 875 0243 0162
Passcode - 497743

Women's Bible Study
Every second Saturday at 9 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 786 035 380
Passcode - 6781293
Phone Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 786 035 380

Nutrition Class
Every third Saturday at 10 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 866 862 387
Passcode - 6781293
Phone Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 866 862 387

Exercise and Spiritual Movement Class
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday at 7 pm.
Zoom Meeting ID: 860 4686 5587
Passcode - 6781293
Video class. No dial-in option.

ASK Women's Ministry
Every fourth Saturday at 9 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 716 275 876
Passcode - 6781293
(929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 716275876

If you are not on the church's email list or text messaging list, please forward your name, cell number, and email address to Pastor Wilson at [sstukes@stmatthewame.org](mailto:ssstukes@stmatthewame.org). You are also invited to join the church's WhatsApp group



Mon. 1/19 – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observed. Church closed. No food pantry.

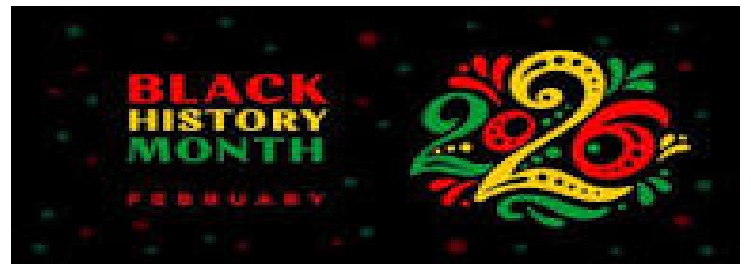
Tues. 1/20 – Inauguration of New Jersey's 57th Governor, Mikie Sherrill at NJPAC at 11 am.

Weds. 1/21 – Wednesday in the Word Bible Study at 12 noon. Generation One Senior Ministry at 1:15 pm.

Sat. 1/24 – Membership Boot Camp at 9 am. All new members and any member is welcome to attend. Please see the flyer for registration.

Sun. 1/25 – Ecumenical Sunday. Divine Worship & G4C Youth Church at 9 am. Rescheduled "**Book Signing Sunday**" from 12 pm – 2 pm. Free flu shots from 11 am – 2 pm.

Mon. 1/26 - Monthly Congregational Prayer Meeting online at 6:30 pm.



Sun. 2/1 – Black History Month begins. **Please wear African attire all month.**

Mon. 2/2 – Mental Health Support Group at 6:30 pm.

Weds. 2/4 – Daniel Fast information session at 7 pm online.

Sat. 2/7 – "**A Day of AME History in Philadelphia**" leaving at 8 am. All new members, any member, & Boot Camp classes that have graduated should attend. Donation is \$35.



Member	Class Number	Class Leader
Bro. Thomas Thornton	4	Bro. Durwin Coppock
Sis. Emma Rhymes	5	Sis. Karen Taylor
Sis. Carol Goodson	8	Bro. Jonathan Ridley
Sis. Laura Taylor	9	Sis. Veronica Morton
Sis. Dorothy Dix	10	Sis. Sherrill Austin
Bro. Euistace Pryor	15	Sis. Verna Leath-Young
Sis. Mary Green	17	Sis. Shanda Johnson Toler
Sis. Karen Newkirk	19	Sis. Tamika Robinson
Evang. Eva Douglas	20	Sis. Marcie Johnson
Sis. Mary Gibson	24	Sis. Veronica Deveau
Sis. Laurie Crowley-Martin	25	Sis. Robyn Sorbino
Sis. Joyce Wooden	33	Sis. Mattie Crowley
Sis. Roxanne Blair	35	Sis. Valerie Tummings
Sis. Theresa Pryor	38	Sis. Michele Murchison
Sis. Arise Brown		

NOTE: Please inform the office if you want your name to appear on the weekly Prayer List.

Our Prayer List

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr & Supervisor Phyllis Green, Rev Dr C Carlton & Rev Blanche Woodward, Rev Melvin E & Rev Leslie Wilson & Family, All Persons on Sick & Shut-In List, All Bereaved Families, All Elected Officials, All Persons & Situations On Our Prayer Wall, The Unjustly Imprisoned, Domestic Violence Survivors, Sexual Assault & Abuse Survivors, Cancer Patients & Survivors, All Pastors & Churches of the First Episcopal District AME Church, Churches & Houses of Faith of All Denominations, All Veterans, Gov Phil & Tammy Murphy, Gov-Elect Mikie Sherrill & Jason Hedberg (husband), Lt Governor-Elect Rev Dr Dale Caldwell, All Candidates In Public Office, Rev Dr Ronald Slaughter & his Episcopal Campaign, Sis Linda Callahan, Sis Diane Worley, Sis Kori Cheatham

Recently Bereaved Families

The Family of Bishop Reginald Jackson; Sis Edie Way & Family; The New Hope Baptist Church, Newark Family, Bro Roland Tucker & Family; Sis Yvonne & Arielle Hinds & Family; The Family of Mother Amelia Robinson; Sis Hawaiian Thompson-Epps & Family; Mother Anna Gibson, Sis Felicia Jaycox & Family; Sis Shelley, Sis Shariah Harris & Family; Sis Beulah Sapp, Sis Shuwanna Sapp-Greene, Sis Yasmine Johnson, Sis. Eliza Walker & Family; Sis Jessie Mozell, Sis Tency Eason, Bro Al-Yasim Mozell, Bro Roman Mozell & Family; Sis Eve Newton & Family

Want to know more about the ministry of St. Matthew? Scan this QR code.



The Crockpot (like the bulletin) is your friend.

A crockpot meal can be a great healthy meal in cold winter months. Here's a recipe:

Crockpot Balsamic Chicken

Ingredients

- 6-8 boneless chicken thighs
- 1 white onion chopped
- 2. cans of stewed tomatoes (low sodium if possible)
- 4 cloves of of garlic
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar

Preparation:

- 1. Add some olive oil to the bottom of the crock pot.
- 2. Place the chicken thighs, tomatoes, onion, seasonings, garlic and balsamic vinegar in the crock pot.
- 3. Cover and cook on high for 4 hours
- 4. Top with fresh Kale when you have 30 minutes left.
- 5. Serve over quinoa or brown rice.

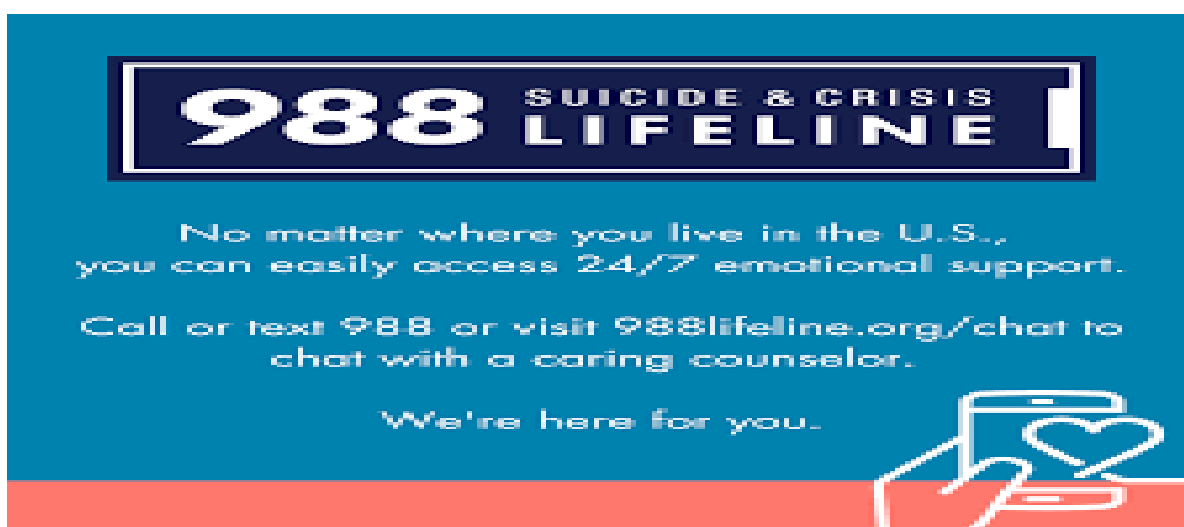


- 6. Voila!
- 7. Freeze leftovers, share with family, friends or at Sunday adult bible study.



From the St. Matthew Health & Wellness Ministry

Main Core Value Of Our Congregation: Radical Hospitality!



LIKE US on social media! The more Likes we have, the more exposure The Church has to the world!

