

**Canceled until November 30th-Lectionary Study With Pastor Phil**

Join us on Zoom for fellowship and inspiration as we study the Bible and share together on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. If you want to join, here is the information to do so by video and/or phone. Everyone is welcome!

**URL - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89538823099>**

**Meeting ID - 895 3882 3099**

**Dial by phone 1-346-248-7799 (Same Meeting ID)**



**The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is available**

Would you like to provide Altar Flowers on a Sunday Morning? The sign up sheet is available in the Narthex on Sunday mornings, or you may contact the church office to sign up. Remember to give the date and names of those in whose honor or memory flowers are given. The cost is \$20 for our standard arrangement. Thank you for gracing our sanctuary with beauty!

**2023 Sweets and Treats Sign-up**

If you would like to provide sweets and treats for any Sundays in 2023, please sign up in the Narthex and you can invite your friends and family to join us for coffee and fellowship.

**NURSERY CARE**

We are now offering nursery care on Sunday mornings in the upstairs nursery room. Our childcare staff has passed a background check and you can feel safe leaving your under four year-old children in their care.

**Make a Choice to Grow In Your Faith!**

**Children's Sunday School**

**Ages 4 years-5th grade**

Immediately following children's time during service.

**Ages 6th grade and up**

In the Upper Room at 9am, the last three Sundays of the month.

**Adult Education Programming**

**9 am Sunday Mornings**

**Classes**

**Spiritual Gifts**

with Tracey Braden

In person and by Zoom - Contact us for Zoom information

**Guided Meditation**

with Stephanie Osborne

Get in touch with yourself, God, and the movement of the Spirit!



**Our Second Harvest Food Item for November is**

**Canned and Dried Fruit**

**Thank You for your donations!**

**Welcome to Central St. Matthew  
United Church of Christ**



Where ever you are in your life journey, you are welcome here! CSM is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, progressive church where all people are welcome regardless of race, gender, religious background or sexual orientation.

CSM was created when two historic New Orleans congregations, Central Congregational Church with its African-American heritage and St. Matthew Evangelical and Reformed Church with it's German heritage united to become Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ. CSM embodies the rich cultural diversity that makes New Orleans unique. Our mission is to bring New Orleans together through loving God, embracing diversity, and creating community.

**We are glad you chose to worship with us today!**

**Today at CSM**

**Giving Sunday**

- 9:00 a.m.** - Adult Sunday school (Old Chapel)
- Guided Meditation (Upstairs Behind Sanctuary)
- Youth Group (Upper Room)
- 10:00 a.m.** - Worship Service in person and via Livestream
- Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m.** - Sweets & Treats

**This Week**

**Monday, November 20th**

- Staff Meeting @10am
- Board of Trustees Meeting (Zoom) @ 6pm

**Wednesday, November 22nd**

- Piano Tuning @ 9am
- Zoom Prayer Group @ 10am

**Thursday, November 23rd**

- **Thanksgiving - OFFICE CLOSED**

**Friday, November 24th**

- **OFFICE CLOSED**

**Saturday, November 25th**

- AA Meeting @ 9am

**Do you need prayer? Go the prayer request page live on our website!**

**<http://www.centralstmatthewucc.com> and follow the instructions.**

**The office will receive your request and we will pray for you.**

Please continue to be in prayer for Evelyn Pittman, Helen Green, Willard Hill, Julie Gardner, Jim Bonds, Glenda Saunders, and Wilson Boveland.

## Upcoming Sundays

**Today - November 19th** - Giving Sunday  
Oak St. Po Boy Festival in the afternoon

**November 26th** - Peter Collins Piano Recital

**December 3rd** - First Sunday of Advent - Please join us as we begin our Advent journey. We will be lighting the first Advent candle which represents **HOPE**.

Tree Trimming - Everyone is invited to join us as we prepare our sanctuary for the Christmas season. **We hope you will plan to stay and join us in the fun and fellowship!**

**December 10th** - Second Sunday of Advent - We will light the second candle of Advent, representing **PEACE**.

### Giving Sunday November 19th Joyful Generosity - 2024 Stewardship

This year our Stewardship Theme is "Joyful Generosity." We are asking everyone to consider their giving to CSM for 2024. On This morning we are collecting Pledge Cards. You will find a copy of the card and an envelope in your bulletin. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to CSM for 2024, fill out the card, keep your portion of the card and place the other part in the envelope and put it in the offering plate, return it to the church office, or complete the online form on our website's giving page.

### Thanksgiving Baskets

This year, we are planning to give \$75 gift cards in lieu of **Thanksgiving Baskets** for people in need. You may donate any amount toward the cards by placing an offering in the plate or online by designating your gift for Thanksgiving Baskets. Thanks to all who gave! **We had hoped to get 15 gift cards, but were able to get 20!** Contributions will still be accepted.

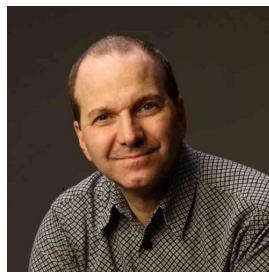


### Piano Recital

**Sunday, November 26th - 3 p.m.**

This fall, pianist New Orleans-based Peter Collins, has initiated his extensive recital project, *The Sonata Series: Repertoire of the First Viennese School*.

Spanning five years, the series will include the complete piano sonatas of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, as well as the important sonatas of Haydn. The second recital of the season will take place at Central St. Matthew UCC at 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 26. To view the first season's schedule please visit [petercollinspianist.com](http://petercollinspianist.com).



## Volunteers Needed

### Board of Christian Education's - Fall 2023 Special Events

This Fall we need your support to make our Special Events a big success! Please consider volunteering for a team to lend a hand at extending *RADICAL HOSPITALITY* to our community and to plan programs to enrich our worship experience. **No special skills are necessary, just a willing spirit and helping hands.** See below for upcoming opportunities. Please contact Arlean Fermanis via [afermanis@gmail.com](mailto:afermanis@gmail.com) or the church office at [office@centralstmatthewucc.com](mailto:office@centralstmatthewucc.com).

**Sunday, November 19 – Oak Street Po-Boy Festival (after church):**

Hand out water, Games, open restrooms. Help needed with planning and setup, leading games, and breakdown.

**Sunday, December 17 – Living Nativity Reimagined (during church):**

Help needed to plan this special event in the life of our church. All voices appreciated.

### Write in the Advent Devotional!

Advent begins December 3rd and once again, we are writing our own Advent Devotional! Our theme is "How does a Weary World Rejoice?" A sign up for those who would like to participate by writing a brief devotional for one of the 24 days of Advent is in the Narthex on the welcome table. Devotionals will be posted online each day and it's a great way to share your inspiration and to get to know one another better.



### Christmas Poinsettias

**You may purchase a Poinsettia to grace our sanctuary during Advent**

– Please sign up in the Narthex or by contacting the church office. Poinsettias may be given "in memory" or "in honor" of someone you love. Names will be listed in the bulletin. Cost for each plant is \$10, pay by check to CSM with poinsettia in the memo, or pay cash and put poinsettia on the envelope. Be sure to specify if you want the plant in someone's memory or honor. After plants have graced the sanctuary you may take them home or give them as a gift. Thank You!



### Living Nativity Planning

We are doing something a little different this year with our Living Nativity, and we are inviting all who are interested to join our planning team. Our initial meeting will be after worship on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> followed by a meeting via Zoom one evening the following week. We will finalize our plans in person Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. All are welcome, bring your ideas and your enthusiasm for this special event. Contact Arlean Fermanis if you have any questions or if you are unable to make the initial meeting and want to take part in the planning.