

## Past and present programs

at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church include:

- Sunday School for all ages—infant through adult
- Adult Education Classes, such as:
  - Why Do We Worship Like That?*
  - Stories to Puzzle and Provoke*
  - The Way of Jesus*
  - Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*
  - Fifty Shades of Faith*
- Fellowship Groups for Youth, Men, and Women
- Support Groups for Mental Illness Caregivers and Those in Grief
- Music Groups for Singers, Handbell Ringers, and other Musicians
- Prayer Shawl Group for Knitters and Crocheters
- Numerous Local and Global Ministries

We want our programs to be a reflection of the needs of people in our surrounding communities. What are your suggestions for new programs? What support would be helpful to you, your friends, your neighbors? We are just a contact away: in person, by phone, by e-mail, or via our website. For details on our current programs, visit our website or call the church office.

*Please visit with us!*  
*We have a place for you.*



Growing in Faith—Walking in Love

**Saint Matthew's  
United Methodist Church**



435 Central Street  
Acton, MA 01720  
978-263-2822

**[www.saint-matthews.org](http://www.saint-matthews.org)**  
**[office@saint-matthews.org](mailto:office@saint-matthews.org)**

Fall through Spring:  
Worship at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.  
Summer:  
Worship at 9:15 a.m.

Fall through Spring:  
Sunday School for all ages—  
infant through adult—at 9:15 a.m.

# The Saint Matthew's Community



a place for you



Growing in Faith—Walking in Love

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United Methodist Church**





## What makes St. Matthew's a place I would want to be?

Looking for refuge, or for healing, or community, or challenge and growth, or support in parenting or living justly, or to explore your beliefs more deeply? At St. Matthew's, we value all of those things. Here you'll find engaging worship and preaching, a variety of small groups, and caring, supportive people who are ready and pleased to join with you in the unfolding of your life.



## What if I don't necessarily believe everything in the Bible or how the United Methodist Church interprets it?

That's okay. We're more interested in helping each other live deeply than in agreeing on doctrine. We welcome all people—old and young, gay and straight, rich and poor, all together and falling part, devout and agnostic—with friendly and loving hearts. Most of us have a pretty progressive theology.

## What if I don't have faith or my faith isn't very strong?

We believe the faith of Jesus' followers is not a static set of beliefs; it's a movement, a growth process, a journey, a "pressing on." Jesus says, "follow me." He gets up and goes. He leads us on a path of transformation. Our goal is not just to sit here, it's to keep growing in faith and the strength that comes with that faith.



## What will be expected of me when I visit St. Matthew's?

There's no wrong way to worship. The purpose of the worship service is to be present with God and one another, not to put on a performance. It's like we're sitting around a campfire with God, partly to get the warmth, and partly just to be together. You can participate as much as you want or just observe. Nobody will put you on the spot or expect you to fit in. There are no hoops to jump through, no membership requirements or prerequisites. We're interested in what you care about and what your life is like. We'll honor your path, whatever it is. We're all on our own journeys, sometimes all messed up and sometimes looking pretty good. We just expect you to be living life. Just like us.

## What if I'm not sure my kids will behave appropriately?

Children are truly a blessing from God and are most welcome here. Jesus wanted the children right there with him, and so do we. But if that makes you uncomfortable, we have options. We provide activity bags for kids during worship. We offer a baby/toddler nursery during Sunday morning services, as well as a Quiet Room for families with babies and children of all ages. It's located in a corner of the sanctuary so you can see and hear without others hearing your child.



## Walking into a new place can be stressful. How can I put my mind at ease with visiting?

Here, there's no pressure to fit in; we're all just being ourselves. All of us believe that every person deserves to be valued, respected and loved. We are a gentle community of people who care about love, spiritual growth, and social justice. Relax. We just want to offer you some time and space to worship God and be yourself.