

We participate in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), assisting with emergency disaster response, community rehabilitation, refugee assistance, and hunger and poverty issues locally and around the world. St. Matthew's is joining UMCOR's No More Malaria program, established in 2006 with a goal of raising \$75 million in the effort to end death from malaria.

We are currently supporting the work and ministry of Dr. Belinda Forbes, a dentist on mission in Nicaragua. We also participate through our United Methodist Conference covenant relationship with the Iglesia d'Cristo Church in Nicaragua.

### How can I give and receive care at St. Matthew's?

Beyond the simplest action—smiling and offering a warm greeting—Saint Matthew's offers many more formal ways for you to support others in our own church community and around the world. All of the programs mentioned welcome volunteer assistance as well as financial support.

And we're here for you, 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 join 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.

# Saint Matthew's Cares



No one has seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:12

a place for you

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## Methodists Care

(Steve—some words about this, then segueing into St. Matthew's upholding that tradition)

for family members with mental illness address unique needs of members of our congregation. Numerous faith formation and bible study groups are available to help members explore and strengthen their beliefs. And we celebrate with each other at special events, such as our annual Fall Picnic.



## How do we care for those in our surrounding community?

We work to help those in need of food through local food pantries, including Acton, Littleton, and Loaves & Fishes in Devens, and by participating in the annual Concord Area Crop Walk to raise money for area and global hunger projects.

For those in need of housing, Saint Matthew's regularly supports Rosie's Place, Habitat for Humanity, the Boston Share Network, the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, and the Women's Lunch Place. To help those struggling to set up households, members of our congregation volunteer on a regular basis at Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts. Additionally, every winter we collect our spare change in "fuel jars" to donate to A Friend in Need and the Acton Town Social Worker for fuel emergencies.

We support organizations such as Alternative House, Safe Havens, and Hagar's Sisters, offering support to those experiencing relationship violence.

We write letters and call our legislators on a regular basis about issues such as hunger, homelessness, immigration, and relationship violence. And we assist in the work of the Concord Prison Ministry by supplying prison kits with handmade cards from our children. Members of the church also participate in the annual holiday concert at the local minimum-security state prison.

## How do we care for others in our own country and around the world?

Our children lead our efforts with Heifer International, helping families feed themselves by providing livestock and training for families worldwide.

Sales from the Alternative Market during the holiday season help to eradicate poverty, promote sustainability, and build stronger communities around the world. Organizations such as Bread for the World—a Christian anti-hunger advocacy group, SERRV—helping developing countries through fair trade chocolate and gifts, and Tree of Lives—fighting against AIDS in Kenya all benefit from sales at our Alternative Market.

Numerous other organizations around the world receive financial support from St. Matthew's, most coordinated by The Advance, an official program of the United Methodist Church, and Mission Shares, contributing towards the three fundamental areas of World Missions, New England Missions, and Ministry Support.

## How do we care for those in our church community?

Our Shepherd Circles are designed to be sure every member of the St. Matthew's flock is watched over. When a need arises—such as a meal delivery, transportation, childcare, or organizing a memorial service—Shepherds step in to respond and help. Other church members send greeting cards, create prayer shawls, work with our children in religious education and youth groups, and bless us with music on Sundays. Groups offering support for those who are grieving and for those caring



Ciony Eduarte