



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2025

From the Pastor's Desk



Ah, Lent. That time of year when Christians everywhere decide to go on a diet. No chocolate. No coffee. No carbs. (Because clearly, Jesus suffered, so we should too—right?)

But if Lent is just about avoiding sweets, then what are we really doing? Are we growing spiritually, or are we just looking for a faith-based weight loss plan?

Lent isn't just about giving something up. It's about making space for something better.

When Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days, He wasn't just avoiding bread—He was drawing closer to God. He was preparing for His ministry. He was becoming more fully dependent on His Father.

What if we did the same?

What if, instead of just giving up sugar, we gave up bitterness?

Instead of caffeine, we let go of cynicism?

Instead of social media, we fasted from anger and judgment and hating our enemies?

And then—what if we didn't stop there? What if we replaced the things we let go of with something better?

Paul talks about the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). If you've attended St. Matthew more than once then I guarantee you've heard me talk ad nauseam about these fruits. But have you really thought about embracing them?

What if Lent wasn't just about subtracting, but about adding?

Imagine:

Giving up worry and taking on trust.

Letting go of resentment and picking up gratitude.

Surrendering our need for control and embracing faith.

So maybe the real question for Lent isn't just "What should I give up?" but also "What should I take on?"

This season isn't about self-imposed misery. It's about transformation. It's about preparing our hearts for Easter, for resurrection, for the reality that Jesus is making all things new—including us.

May this Lent be a season where we don't just lose something, but gain something far greater.

God's peace and much love,
Rev. Jonathon Clinesmith

Worship Online 11am: www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC or www.stmatthew.org/sermons

Give Online: www.stmatthew.org/giving



Words About Worship
From the Director of
Music Ministries



The Holy Season of Lent

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 5 and continues for 40 days, excluding Sundays. For the early Christians, every Sunday was considered Easter Sunday. Lent is a season of preparation, reflection and penitence leading up to the great celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. A bit of trivia: Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. This year Easter Sunday is April 20. **The traditional Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes will be March 5, 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.**

For centuries, it has been the custom for liturgical Christians to show penitence by giving up something important to them during Lent. It is also permissible to "take on" something such as additional devotions, Bible study, meditation, etc., instead. The important thing is to use the time to develop a more intimate relationship with God. Be thinking of what you will give up, or take on, during Lent this year. Some examples of things given up in the past are ice cream, sugar, red meat, negative comments, Facebook, Coke, Dr. Pepper. Things to take on are extra Bible reading, expanded prayer time, more faithful worship attendance, helping a friend or neighbor who is experiencing difficulty, volunteering for a charity (or your church), joining a Bible study, healthy eating, physical activity...the lists are endless and limited only by your creativity.

Jonathon's sermons during Lent will be taken primarily from the Gospel of Luke. This Sunday, March 2, is Transfiguration Sunday. We will celebrate Holy Communion in both services. The scripture readings for March are:

March 2—Luke 9:28-36

March 9—Luke 4:1-13

March 16—Luke 13:31-35

March 23—1 Corinthians 10:1-13

March 30—Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Looking ahead:

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, April 13 and continues with the Maundy Thursday Dinner April 17 and the Good Friday Tenebrae service, April 18. Our Tenebrae service this year is "The Shadow of the Cross" presented by the Spirit Singers. Please put these services in your calendar now because you will want to participate in every meaningful experience.

We will have three Easter services. The Sunrise service will begin around 7 am. The Early Service will be 8:30, and the Traditional service is at 11. The services will not be identical this year.

**Email gtatum@stmatthew.org
for questions about music ministry.**

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



March 2025

from Terri

LENT AND EASTER BOOKS FOR EVERY AGE

Do you have your Lenten Study picked out? If not, you'll definitely want to do so before Ash Wednesday which is March 5th this year. Fortunately, the library has a great selection of Lent and Easter books for the entire family. A few titles are *Bitter & Sweet* by Tsh Oxenreider. I did this study last year and thoroughly enjoyed it. *The Passion of the King of Glory* by Russ Ramsey, *Jesus Calling for Easter* by Sarah Young, *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs, *The First Easter* by Peter Marshall, *24 Hours that Changed the World* and *Final Words From the Cross* by Adam Hamilton, and *And the Angels Were Silent* by Max Lucado. Kids will want to check out the selection in the Kids Area. One new addition this year is *Jesus Calling Easter Prayers* by Sarah Young. The books will be located on the middle of the table in the library. Stop by and try one or more of these new books as you prepare your heart for Easter.

2025 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Jackie Elk
Rebecca Hartmann	Dayna Heath
Lacey Kisner	Larry Kisner
Chirlee Lang	Susie Larsen
Ella McDonald	Joyce Perkins
Ashley Poole	Kaye Rhoades
Kalyn Roark	Emily Robinson
Kay Ross	Stacey Ruston
Jayna Sims	Carolyn Specht
Barbara Wallace	Cynthia Weldon
Terri Weldon	

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

CALLING ALL ANIMAL LOVERS!!!

A World of Love for Animals is a compilation of 13 very short stories about a variety of animals who have been rescued. If you have a heart for animals, you'll definitely want to read this short book.

NEW COZY MYSTERY

Jackie Layton has penned *Bite the Dust*, a cozy mystery about a dog walker who stumbles upon the dead body of a client. When the police decide she's the prime suspect our fearless dog walker turned amateur sleuth decides she had better work fast to clear her name and avoid being sent to prison.

NEW NONFICTION TITLE

Luke by Adam Hamilton guides us straight to the heart of the Gospel of Luke. He tells us about the lowly, the marginalized, the broken, the picked on, and the forgotten. The very people Christ instructs us to care for and love. If you're looking for a book to read as you study the Gospel of Luke, then look no further. Just stop by the library and check out *Luke – Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* today.

THREE NEW AMISH TITLES!!!

The library has three new to us Amish books available for checkout by three great authors. If you're a fan of Amish fiction you will want to try *A Faithful Gathering* by Leslie Gould, *The Warmth of Sunshine* by Kelly Irvin, and *Plain Perfect* by Beth Wiseman. Three great books by three very popular authors. If you enjoy Amish fiction stop by and check out one or more of these great novels!

DEBBIE MACOMBER ANYONE?

Two great Debbie Macomber books in one. *Winning Heart* contains two of Debbie's books – *Laughter in the Rain* and *Love by Degree*. Stop by and get this 2 in 1 today!

Alpha Omega News

Sunday School 9:40AM | Sunday Youth 5-7PM | Wednesday Youth 6:30-7:30PM

The purpose of Alpha Omega Student Ministries is to stand on the foundation, with a heart to worship, a mind to reach out, and hands to serve and love.

Want to Volunteer?

We have many opportunities to hang out with our youth and help shape the future leaders of our church! If you are interested in volunteering in the following areas, please let Kalyn know!

- Mystery Trips, Lock-ins, and other special events
- Wednesday Night Activities
- Sunday Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer/Service Activities

Cake Auction

Order Up!

Our annual cake auction fundraiser is right around the corner! Our theme this year is Fast Food restaurants!

Youth will be in charge of choosing a fast food restaurant and then designing a cake to fit that theme! They will also be in charge of decorating a table, so get those creative juices flowing!

All proceeds for the cake auction will go towards missions and other youth events throughout the year.



Thunder Faith Night

Wednesday, March 19th, the youth will be attending the Thunder game for their Faith Night!

We will leave the church at 6pm and return at 10:30pm. Each youth will receive a \$10 food voucher, if you would like to bring more money, you are more than welcome to!

Let Kalyn know ASAP if you will be able to attend!



Interactive Bulletin Board

Check out our interactive bulletin across from the youth room!

This month's theme is "Lucky Charms"! Take a few minutes to write down what your lucky charm is!

Upcoming Events:

- Mar. 2nd: Sunday Night Youth
- Mar. 5th: Ash Wednesday Service
- Mar. 9th: Sunday Night Youth
- Mar. 12th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- Mar. 16th: Cake Auction - NO YOUTH
- Mar. 19th: Thunder Game
- Mar. 23rd: Worship Project
- Mar. 26th: Wednesday Night Youth
- Mar. 30th: Sunday Night Youth

St. Matthew Young Adults



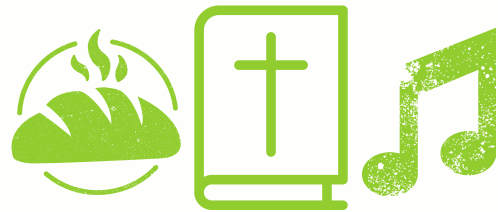
Monday Night Small Group

Join us at 5:30pm on the first and third Mondays for dinner and fellowship with other young adults!



Wednesday Night Young Adults

Join us on Wednesday at 6:30pm for our Midweek Programming! Olivia has some excellent lessons prepared for us, we would love to have you!



MIDWEEK
@ST. MATTHEW



The Worship Project

Join us on Sunday, March 30th at 6pm for a Modern Worship Experience!

There will be food, fellowship, and worship! You won't want to miss it!

Join our GroupMe to keep up-to-date with all our upcoming events

Director of Student Ministries: Kalyn Roark

ST. MATT KIDS

MARCH NEWS

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Mark 10:14

March is quickly upon us! I'm not sure how that happened. It's been great having so many kids during MidWeek dinner and WOW! Come check out our awesome classes.

Easter Eggstravaganza is right around the corner! During this event we welcome to community for egg hunts, games and maybe to see a little of Jesus' love! Please see Katelynn if you're willing to volunteer!

Spring Break is March 19th there will be NO MidWEEK Meal or WOW!

AT ST. MATTHEW, OUR MISSION IS TO SHOWER GOD'S LOVE UPON OUR CHILDREN

**SO THAT THEY WILL KNOW:
GOD LOVES THEM... UNCONDITIONALLY.
CHURCH IS A WONDERFUL, SAFE PLACE TO BE.
STORIES OF JESUS.**

WILL YOU ANSWER THE LORD'S CALL AND BE A PART OF THIS MINISTRY?
CHRIST HAS NO HANDS BUT YOURS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

19-Spring Break, NO MIDWEEK

APRIL

13-Eggstravaganza
20-Easter (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Contact Information:

Katelynn Henderson

405.740.4379

children@stmatthew.org

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

Sunday School-9:45am
Children's Church during 11am Service
*No Children's Church 1st
Sunday of the Month

WEDNESDAYS

WOW 6:30-7:30pm

March at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

March 4	6pm	Trustees
March 5	6:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
March 6	8am	TEFAP
March 8	8am	Men's Breakfast
March 16	Noon	AO Cake Auction
March 19		Spring Break-NO MIDWEEK
March 23	Noon	Pumpkin Patch & Festival Meeting
March 23	6:30pm	Worship Project
March 30	Noon	UWF Bean & Stew Lunch

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Week at a glance

For a more complete list of events and activities visit stmatthew.org/calendar

Sunday		Wednesday	
8:30am	Worship	5:30pm	MidWeek Meal
9:40am	Sunday School	6:15pm	Spirit Singers
11am	Worship (w/ LiveStream)	6:30pm	MidWeek Programs
5pm	AO Youth Group	7:15pm	Choir
Monday		Thursday	
9am	Mobile Meals Prep	10am	Mobile Meals
Tuesday		1pm	Moving for Balance
7am	Mobile Meals	6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums
1pm	Moving For Balance	Friday	
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting	7am	Mobile Meals Prep
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band	Saturday	
		9:30am	Girl Scouts

March 1	Joe McDonald
	Sandi Patterson
	Emily Robinson
March 2	Kathy Szopinski
March 4	Diana Hughes
March 6	Ryan Henderson
	Alex Shelton
March 7	Daniella Kisner
March 8	Kim Hynek
	Ron Jones
March 10	Brooklynn Wallace
March 12	Abigail Dixon
March 13	Mary Ellen Esk
March 15	Jobe Clinesmith
March 17	Art Baird
	Kalyn Roark
March 18	Doris Roberts
March 20	Debbie Creager
	Greg Hoover
	Theresa Todd
March 21	Patti Brown
	Jerry Coover
	Brennan Murphy
March 23	Carolyn Specht
March 26	Kaia Endsley
March 27	Tori Adame
	Jacob Roark
March 30	Leonard Szopinski
March 31	Cindy Mikeman

TEFAP Food Truck!

All hands are needed Thursday, March 6th for TEFAP! Volunteers are needed at 8am. The church parking lot will be closed off starting at 9am, and all cars will need to park in the back or next door.

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

Happy Anniversary!

March 2	Carl & Gayle Tatum
March 19	Cameron & Jennifer Maxfield
March 25	Kim & Debra Hynek



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 N Air Depot Blvd

Midwest City OK 73110

www.stmatthew.org

*The Mission of The United Methodist Church
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*



St. Matthew Staff

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