



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 2024

From the Pastor's Desk



Brothers and sisters of St. Matthew UMC-

I feel that it's best that you hear this from your pastor before you hear it from any other source. The United Methodist Church has made a major decision, eliminating language from our Book of Discipline that bans gay weddings and gay clergy. Part of the follow up legislation also protects conservative clergy and congregations from being forced to perform such ceremonies if it violates their understanding of Scripture or

their convictions.

I get that this is a seismic shift for many of us. But St. Matthew is the same community that it has always been. I know that on any given Sunday you sit in a pew next to someone that may disagree with you on this issue. But you've come to love that person and respect that person and even do ministry with that person. Heck, tomorrow morning this church will distribute 20,000 lbs. of food to folks that desperately need it, and some of our church members doing the work will be conservative and some will be progressive. And yet both will be doing the work of building the Kingdom of God.

When I stood before the Church Council last year and discussed possible changes on the horizon, I'll admit that I did not see things moving so quickly on the issue of human sexuality. But this new legislation does not force you to do anything that goes against your convictions. It just gives others in our denomination the right to practice theirs. Also, just because we've eliminated this language doesn't mean core parts of our Discipline are in danger. Our United Methodist Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith, which outline our main beliefs, are nearly impossible to amend. I remain very firm in my conviction that Jesus' divinity, our doctrine of salvation, and other core doctrines are not up for debate and won't be any time soon.

Continued on next page...

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

From the Pastor's Desk Cont.

I know this decision is going to stir up some strong feelings among us. Honestly, it stirs up strong feelings in me, too. How are we supposed to survive as a church when this issue seems so divisive? How we answer this question will say a lot about who we are as individuals and as God's people. That's why I think we need to lean into what really matters.

Jesus said in John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Our faith has never been about checking boxes or drawing lines. It's about radical, sacrificial love. Love that God has for us, and that we're called to have for God and each other. Look around this congregation – we're a mixed bag of political and social beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences. And that's beautiful! It's a reflection of God's boundless love and grace that we can all be part of the same community, that we can all put our trust in the same Savior.

We don't all see eye to eye on this issue. But we don't have to let it tear us apart. Instead, let's come together, united in our mission to love God and love others fiercely. Let's be known not for our opinions, but for our love – a love that knows no bounds.

In the meantime, let's pray together, seek God's wisdom, and continue to be a beacon of the love and hope that we have through Jesus.

John Wesley, once said: "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may."

We may.

And I hope that we will.

God's peace and much love,

Jonathon

Have questions? Email Jonathon at Jonathon@stmatthew.org



Words About Worship
From the Director of
Music Ministries



Easter Sunday has passed, but the Christian season of Eastertide continues until Pentecost, May 19. The early Christians celebrated every Sunday as Easter. May is one *very* busy month at St. Matthew, and one of my favorite months! We have a reason to celebrate almost every weekend! Friday-Sunday May 3-5, is Family Camp. Jonathon and his family will be at Camp Egan with 50+ of our St. Matthew family. Those of us who will be in worship here Sunday, May 5, have the pleasure of hearing our own Rev. Anita Poole Endsley preach. If you are not going to Family Camp, I anticipate seeing you in your regular Sunday seats. Former St. Matthew organist, Carol Southern is guest organist/pianist. Anita and Ella McDonald are singing *How Great Thou Art*. Ella is leading our singing.

Sunday, May 12 is Ascension Sunday. It is also the Festival of the Christian Home/Mother's Day. At St. Matthew we recognize that Mother's Day doesn't have the same meaning for some women as it does for others. I had a friend who refused to attend worship on Mother's Day. She was unable to carry a child to term, and the idea of honoring women just because they were able to have a child was very painful for her. Not every woman can be a mother, but every one of us *have* or *had* a mother. For this reason, we honor *every* female in attendance. Everyone from the youngest to oldest will receive a flower. Our Children's Ministry is hosting "Muffins with Mom" in the narthex after services. See Katelynn's article for more information.

Pentecost, considered the birthday of the Church, is May 19. The color for Pentecost is red, so if possible, please wear red to church that Sunday. May 19 is also Graduation Sunday. If you have an child or grandchild graduating from high school, or receiving an undergraduate or graduate degree from a college or university, we want to recognize them during the 11:00 worship service May 19. Kalyn Dealy, Director of Student Ministries, is collecting the information. Time is short, so contact her or the church office ASAP!

The Scripture readings for the remainder of May are:

May 12 — Ephesians 1:15-23

May 19 — Acts 2:1-21

May 26 — John 3:1-17

This is a busy, busy time of year. If you are in town, please join your church family in worship. You may be the blessing that someone needs that day.

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum

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

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

Graduation Sunday

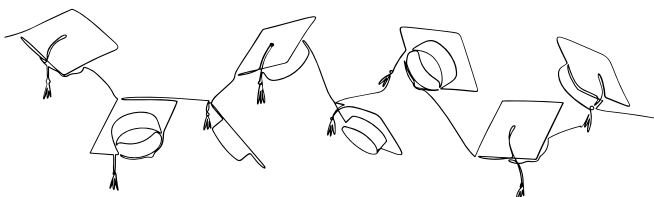
It's that time of the year again! Graduation is upon us and we want to celebrate our seniors! If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or close friend graduating, we want to know!

Whether it is from high school, college, graduate school, etc. we celebrate ALL graduates! On May 19th, we will have a brunch in their honor, then during the 11AM service, we will honor our graduates during the service

Graduates being honored will need to bring their gown to be worn during the service! If you would like your graduate honored in this service, please email Kalyn at youth@stmatthew.com with the following information:

- Graduates Name
- Where they are graduating from
- What their degree is in
- What they plan to do after graduation
- One photo in their cap and gown and a second casual photo

****All graduates who wish to be included need to submit all information by May 12th****



Kentucky Mission Trip

Our Mission Trip is right around the corner!

Keep an eye out for packing list, travel times/itinerary, and other info.

We will have our final Trip Meeting on Sunday, May 19th at 7pm, right after youth.

All youth and parents need to plan to attend!

All paperwork should be COMPLETED. If it is not, Kalyn will be getting with you to get it done! If you have questions, let Kalyn know!



Mystery Trip

Saturday, May 18th is our next Mystery Trip! Plan to leave the church at 9am and return to the church around 3pm.

Wear comfortable clothes, we will be traveling quite a bit!

Upcoming Events:

- May 3-5: Family Camp
- May 8: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- May 12: No Youth
- May 18: Mystery Trip
- May 19: Grad Sunday/Safe Sanctuary Training
- May 26: No Youth

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,
1 Corinthians 1:4

It's ALMOST Summer!!! Our last WOW for this school year is May 8th! We'll celebrate the end of the year with hopefully lots of outdoor play, so please have your kiddo wear tennis shoes.

Muffins with Moms is May 12th, we invite all our church ladies to join us for a muffin as we celebrate you, you are special to us!

We are gearing up for VBS this year! All volunteers for VBS or any other children's ministry and asked to be at our Safe Sanctuary and Trauma Informed training May 19th after the 11am service. Lunch will be provided.

Thanks!
Ms. Katelynn

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**

MAY

5- No Sunday School (FAM CAMP)

8- Last WOW for this school year

12- Muffins with Moms @10am

19- Safe Sanctuary Training



Save the Date for VBS!

July 15-19

Contact Information:
Katelynn Henderson
405.740.4379
children@stmatthew.org

**WEEKLY
ACTIVITIES**

SUNDAYS

Sunday School @ 9:40am
Children's Church during 11am Service

*No Children's Church 1st
Sunday of the Month

WEDNESDAYS

WOW @ 6:30pm-May 8th last for
this school year!

Children & Youth Volunteer Training



It's time again for our Safe Sanctuary training and this year we will be combining it with Trauma Informed Training. We will be meeting after the 11am service on Sunday, May 19th. Everyone who volunteers with children and youth is needed. If you cannot attend, please let Stephanie (nursery), Katelynn (children), or Kalyn (youth) know.



MIDWEEK

@ S T . M A T T ' S

Food, music, and Bible study for all ages every Wednesday @5:30 PM.

Summer Break

Our MidWeek Dinner and programs will end for the summer on May 8th. We will be back August 14th!
This includes WOW and Youth.

Music ministries will be continuing through June.



Knowledge for the Caregiver

Are you someone who might become a caregiver for a loved one in the next year or two? Are you one now? Wondering what you should do for him or her? Where to seek resources? Do you know how to best take care of yourself while tending to this loved one? Join us as we find the answers! Stephens Ministry is hosting Knowledge for the Caregiver on May 13, dinner at 6pm, and the presentation 6:40-7:40pm. Everyone is welcome, please sign up on the sheets in narthex or near the office. See Diana Hughes or Joyce Perkins with questions.



Graduation Sunday May 19

If you would like your graduate honored in the service, please email Kalyn at youth@stmatthew.org by May 12th. See Alpha Omega News page for information on what is needed in email.

May at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

May 2	8am	TEFAP
May 3-5		Family Camp
May 7	6pm	Trustees
May 8		Last MidWeek Meal until August
May 12	10am	Muffins for Moms
May 13		SPRC
May 13	6pm	Knowledge for the Caregiver
May 19	Noon	Children & Youth Volunteer Training
May 30	7pm	Worship Project

Week at a glance

<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>	
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
<u>Monday</u>		<u>Thursday</u>	
9am	Mobile Meals Prep	10am	Mobile Meals
<u>Tuesday</u>		1pm	Moving for Balance
7am	Mobile Meals	6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums
10am	Quilters Sew&Go	<u>Friday</u>	
1pm	Moving For Balance	7am	Mobile Meals Prep
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting	<u>Saturday</u>	
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band	9:30am	Girl Scouts

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 1	Eric Autry
	Everett Henderson
	Bill Mitchell
May 3	Valarie Autry
	Kerry Solomon
May 10	Kelly Stephens
May 11	Doris Bruce
May 13	Matt Mathis
	Mike Rathke
May 21	Princess Arkoh
	Brett Ruston
May 23	Susie Larsen
May 24	Bonnie Moyer
	Mark Murphy
	Walter Tiernan
May 26	Jack Tanksley
May 28	Vickie Kinsey
May 30	Katie Shelton



MEN'S BREAKFAST

At All American Diner
Saturday, May 11 @ 7:30am

Have an announcement that needs to get out to the church? Please email kate-lynn@stmatthew.org. She can make sure it gets in the correct weekly update, bulletin, and if needed announced on Sunday morning!



May 3	Charles & Noreen Tinsley
May 14	Chris & Karen Baker
May 17	Andrew & Robyn Wilson
May 18	Aaron & Susie Larsen
May 21	Bill & Darlene Case
May 22	Ron & Mitzie Dixon
May 23	Dean & DeAnn Wiltfong
May 27	Brian & Becka Ellis
May 28	Jake & Kalyn Roark
May 29	David & Diana Hughes
May 30	Todd & Susie Dealy



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A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 N Air Depot Blvd
Midwest City OK 73110
www.stmatthew.org
405-732-6831

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

MUFFINS FOR MOMS

May 12 @ 10



This is to honor ALL the ladies in our church,
because if by birth or by spirit, in our church
family you are a mom!

St. Matthew Staff

- | | |
|---|---|
| Rev. Jonathon Clinesmith | Pastor |
| e-mail: jonathon@stmatthew.org | |
| Stephanie Ballow | Business Manager & Nursery Director |
| e-mail : businessoffice@stmatthew.org | |
| Diandra Nelson | Young Adult Director |
| e-mail : dnelson@okumc.org | |
| Kalyn Roark | Director of Student Ministries |
| e-mail: youth@stmatthew.org | |
| Katelynn Henderson | Director of Children's Ministries
& Program Director |
| e-mail: katelynn@stmatthew.org | |
| Gayle Tatum | Director of Music Ministries |
| e-mail: gtatum@stmatthew.org | |
| Susie Larsen | Spirit Singers Director |
| e-mail: spiritsingers@stmatthew.org | |
| Emily Robinson | Organist/Pianist |
| Drew Andrews | Custodian |
| Louise Barnett | Financial Secretary |