



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2024

From the Pastor's Desk



St. Matthew Family-

My hope is that this newsletter finds you experiencing abundant blessings as we prepare to dive into a brand new year together. This last year was a wild ride, and I can't help but grin thinking about all the ways our community poured out love and kindness and drew people to Jesus. Seriously, you're all rock stars!

And let's talk about the season of Advent and our Christmas Eve services! It was an amazing experience worshipping together during that special time of year. The joy, the connection, the spirit of it all – it was next level. I'm still buzzing from it!

So, here we are, at the dawn of a fresh year. My hope is that we're all ready for more adventures, more laughter, and more of that goodness this community is all about. Most importantly, I hope we're ready to share Jesus with the world around us in even bolder ways.

We've got a lot of things planned to help make that happen, some of which begin this month. The first that I'd like to highlight is an all church study beginning at the end of January called "The Gift of Empathy." This study asks us to "imagine a world where everyone's go-to way of relating is empathy." That's the world The Gift of Empathy study aims to make a reality, equipping us to "relate in empathetic ways that make a difference in people's lives."

I think as church folks, we're often good at sympathy- that is, feeling concern for someone without becoming personally involved. But we sometimes struggle with empathy- that is, looking at the world from someone else's perspective to experience what they're feeling, and then expressing our understanding in ways that brings real help and healing.

If there's anything this world needs more of, it's empathy. The same kind of empathy Jesus showed us by becoming a mortal person and walking in our shoes, experiencing our human trials and tribulations, and overcoming them on our behalf.

Gift of Empathy Class opportunities:

Adults- Wednesdays at 6:30 beginning January 31st; Sundays at 9:40 beginning February 4th. Sign up in the narthex!

Youth- Sundays at 5:30.

Another thing I'd like to highlight is our new class on personal finance for young adults, which will be meeting on Wednesday nights at 6:30 starting January 10th. On the surface, this may not seem like much of a spiritual class. But if there's anything that young folks need it's the tools to manage their personal finances. So this is a great class to invite people to that AREN'T part of the church, giving them an easy entry point.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment of personal privilege to invite you to our next Worship Project, which takes place on January 25th. This modern liturgical worship service continues to build momentum, and we've got some big plans for it going forward. Anyways, there's a ton going on St. Matthew and I'm excited for all of it! I hope you're excited too.

God's peace and much love,

Jonathon

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



LIBRARY NEWS



January 24

from Terri

Special thanks to the generous library patrons who stepped up and selected names from the Library Christmas Tree! 2023 was a banner year with 19 great books added to the library!

Debi Alleman donated 3 books. *Wildflower Falls*, Book 4 in Denise Hunter's *Riverbend Romance Series*, *Facing the Enemy* by DiAnn Mills, and *A Polluted Font*, Book 16 in the *Chronicles of Hugh de Singelton, surgeon*.

Karren Brown donated 2 books. *The Lies We Believe*, Book 1 in Lisa Harris' *Shadow Stalkers Series*, and *Blind Trust*, Book 3 in Natalie Walters' *Snap Agency Trilogy*.

Kathy Ellis donated 2 books. *Forged in Steele* and *Made of Steele*, Books 3 and 4 in Susan Sleeman's *Steele Guardians Series*.

Diana Hughes donated *The Heirloom* by Beverly Lewis. The long-awaited prequel to *The Shunning*.

Diane Mathis donated 3 books. *The Dark Guest* by Sarah Hamaker. This is Book 1 in her *Cold War Legacy Trilogy*, *Must Love Flowers* by Debbie Macomber, and *Meet Me In The Margins* by Melissa Ferguson.

Beverly McDaniel donated 2 books. *Fragile Designs* by Colleen Coble and *Protecting Her Witness* by Sarah Hamaker. Both are stand along titles.

Joyce Perkins donated *Heroes in the Crossfire*. This book contains four novellas by Lynn H. Blackburn, Lynette Eason, Elizabeth Goddard, and Lisa Harris.

Marilyn Solomon donated *Shadows at Dusk* by Elizabeth Goddard. This is Book 2 in her *Missing in Alaska Trilogy*.

Carolyn Specht Donated *Hearts of Steele* by Elizabeth Camden. This is Book 3 in her *Blackstone Legacy Trilogy*.

Cynthia Weldon donated 2 books. *Double Take* by Lynette Eason. This is Book 1 in her *Lake City Heroes Series* and *The Blackout Book Club* by Amy Lynn Green.

Anonymous donated *Driving Force* by Kate Angelo. Book 1 in the *Elite Guardians Collection*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

<i>Eric Autry</i>	<i>Valarie Autry</i>
<i>Jackie Elk</i>	<i>Dayna Heath</i>
<i>Larry Kisner</i>	<i>Susie Larsen</i>
<i>Joyce Perkins</i>	<i>Kaye Rhoades</i>
<i>Kalyn Roark</i>	<i>Emily Robinson</i>
<i>Kay Ross</i>	<i>Carolyn Specht</i>
<i>Barbara Wallace</i>	<i>Cynthia Weldon</i>
<i>Terri Weldon</i>	

They just completed reading the entire Bible!

2024 CHALLENGE

Looking for a great way to start the new year? How about reading the Bible in 2024? Sign up for the Bible in a Year program & we'll keep you on track. You can read your Bible with a daily reading plan or the library has copies of *A Bible In A Year*, or use an app. Sign up on the list on the bulletin board outside the library or contact Terri via Facebook or at Westieplace@cox.net to sign up.



Words About Worship
From the Director of
Music Ministries



Happy New Year!! Great things await St. Matthew as we enter this new year. With your help, we can assist more of our neighbors with their utilities, feed more hungry people, help clothe the homeless, take more meals to the homebound and elderly... The list is infinite. It just needs you to make it a reality.

Before I turn the corner and leave 2023 behind, I want to thank everyone who had a part in making our Advent and Christmas season great! It takes a village to provide meaningful worship and everyone who participated in any way in the Advent services, the Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve services, the Christmas service on December 31st...THANK YOU! You made Christmas happen for many people.

The Lectionary readings for January are: January 7—Genesis 1:1-5, January 14 — 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 11-20, January 21 — Mark 1:14-20, January 28 — 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. Get a head start by reading the scripture ahead of time.

Have you written New Year's Resolutions? One challenge I have for you is to be intentional in your worship attendance, in person if physically possible, online if not. I don't like to think about it this way, but worship attendance is a habit. It takes 21 repetitions to form a habit. So, why not set a goal to attend worship 21 weeks in a row? The flip side of that coin is that if we miss, we have to start over on the 21 in a row. In addition to blessing your church family with your presence, you will find yourself blessed by others around you in worship. If you are out of town you can choose a church in your location to attend. Bring us the bulletin. We are always interested in what other churches are doing.

The Worship Project is going strong into the new year. The next service is January 25 at 7pm in Wesley Hall. Plan now to attend, you'll be glad you did!

Another good intention for 2024 is to join the Bible in a Year group. Terri Weldon can tell you all about it. Everyone who has done this has only great things to say about it. Immersing ourselves in God's Word should be the intent of every Christian.

Did you sing in choir in high school or college? Do you love to sing? This is a great time to join the choir. Now that Christmas is behind us, we will begin working toward Lent and Easter. There is never a dull moment with our musicians! You will be welcomed with open arms.

It's a great time to begin this new year with purpose and a determination to set St Matthew, Midwest City and the world on fire with our spirit and enthusiasm!! I'll see you Sunday as we celebrate a season of New Beginnings!

Happy New Year!!

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum

Alpha Omega News

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

Youth is Back!

Sunday Night Youth is back, starting January 7th! Come join us for dinner, fellowship, and games! All youth ages 6th grade through 12th grade are welcome! We would love to see you!

Wednesday Youth kicks-off on January 10th, starting with midweek Meal at 5:30pm! Classes for all ages start at 6:30pm!

Interested in what we will be talking about? Check out our current lesson series to the right!

Snack Supper Sign-Ups

Interested in Serving the youth, but aren't sure how to get started? Look no further than signing up to feed the youth! We are looking for people to provide dinner for our Sunday night youth Meetings! There is a sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board, or let Kalyn know if you are interested or if you have questions!



Current Lesson Series

Sunday Nights:

The Gift of Empathy

Wednesday Nights:

Heroes of the Bible

Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 7th - Youth Back
- Jan. 14th - Joint Youth w/Sunnylane
- Jan. 17th - Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- Jan. 27th - Movie Night Fundraiser

Visualizing 2024 Goals

By: D.Nel

I have never been very good at goal setting. This year, I overcame my naturally quite pessimistic outlook and took goal setting seriously. How did I go about doing that? Well, I'm glad you asked! I made vision boards.

It was such a fulfilling practice to focus on my goal setting, pray over the upcoming year, and dream about what this new year has for me. SO I WANT TO SHARE THIS PRACTICE WITH YOU. Like most of the things I share with you, there are better ways to set goals; I'm just introducing you to the idea; feel free to adapt this and make it your own.

This activity could also be done with children or grandchildren: if you do that I want to see pictures!

Supplies

1 to 3 8x10 Canvases

Glue or Tape - Modpodge if you want to get really fancy

Scissors

Paint

Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils

A Printer

It's going to feel like making a collage in elementary art class! But don't worry, it's supposed to feel that way.

The first thing you want to do is pick a category; it can be anything you want to focus on improving this year

1. Spirituality
2. Health
3. Finances
4. Family
5. Travel

Anything can be a category, and remember, these are just for you, so don't worry about what anyone else will think.

Next, you will go on Pinterest or Google and start typing in keywords associated with the category. I'll use travel as an example.

Travel → Airplane

You'll print the photo out and attach it to the vision board for that category.

If you have magazines or newspapers hanging around, you can also use those!

You'll keep doing this until your boards are full to your liking! I enjoy arts and crafts, so in addition to putting pictures on my boards, I also painted them and glued on other bits and bobs I had lying around the house, like ribbons, buttons, and Polaroids.

The goal is for you to look at these boards every day, so be intentional with everything you put on them.

This next step is optional, but after you finish your boards, you can write a prayer that relates to it. This is something you'll pray for every day! (if you want help with this, come and see me!)

Finally, put the boards somewhere that you'll remember to look at them every day. Mine are in my study!

I updated my morning routine to include time to look at my vision boards and say the prayers I wrote for them; every morning, as I'm waiting for the kettle to boil, I spend time in intentional prayer over my goals!

I hope that your 2024 is a year full of intentional prayer and achieving your goals!

I'm rooting for you!

**“Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice!”**

Philippians 4:4

It's a new year! A fresh start! Name a better way to start your year than with Jesus! With Sunday School, Children's Church and WOW we have lots of opportunities for our St. Matt Kids to get to know Him better!

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

Sunday School-9:40am

Children's Church during 11am Service

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

WEDNESDAYS

WOW 6:30-7:30pm

**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

JANUARY

10-MidWeek is BACK!

Contact Information:

Katelynn Henderson

405.740.4379

children@stmatthew.org

Want to help St. Matt Kids' Out? We're looking for more Children's Church teachers! Volunteer to help during a church service!

January at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 10 5:30pm MidWeek Dinner & Programing Starts Back!
 Jan. 11 6:30pm SPRC
 Jan. 13 8am Men's Breakfast
 Jan. 28th 2:30pm Baby Shower for Chelsea Luxen

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Jan. 1 Robert Allen
 Charles Brown
 Jan. 2 Hal Miller
 Candace Thompson
 Jan. 3 Susie Dealy
 Zachary Lang
 Kay Ross
 Jan. 6 Linda Smith
 Jan. 7 Carol Marsh
 Brantley Neidhardt
 Jan. 12 Lynn Bunting
 Jan. 14 Jenette Milburn
 Jan. 16 Miles Adame
 Jan. 21 Betty Seglem
 Jan. 22 David Hughes
 Jan. 24 Katelyn Ackerman
 Jan. 26 Ronnie Creager
 Jan. 27 Deanna Thomas
 Jan. 30 Rachel Evans

Week at a glance

Sunday

8:30am Worship
 9:40am Sunday School
 11am Worship (w/ LiveStream)
 5pm AO Youth Group

Monday

9am Mobile Meals Prep

Tuesday

7am Mobile Meals
 10am Quilters Sew&Go
 1pm Moving For Balance
 6:15pm Toastmasters Meeting
 7pm Okie Dokie Banjo Band

Wednesday

5:30pm MidWeek Meal
 6:15pm Spirit Singers
 6:30pm MidWeek Programs
 7:15pm Choir

Thursday

10am Mobile Meals
 1pm Moving for Balance
 6pm OK Scottish Pipes & Drums

Friday

7am Mobile Meals Prep

Saturday

9:30am Girl Scouts

UMC Marketplace

Want to help St. Matthew while you do your online shopping? Join the UMC Marketplace through iGive at <https://www.gcfa.org/umc-market>.

Many of your favorite retailers are on there such as Walmart and Kohl's and St. Matthew gets a percentage of every purchase!



MidWeek
 Volunteers Needed!

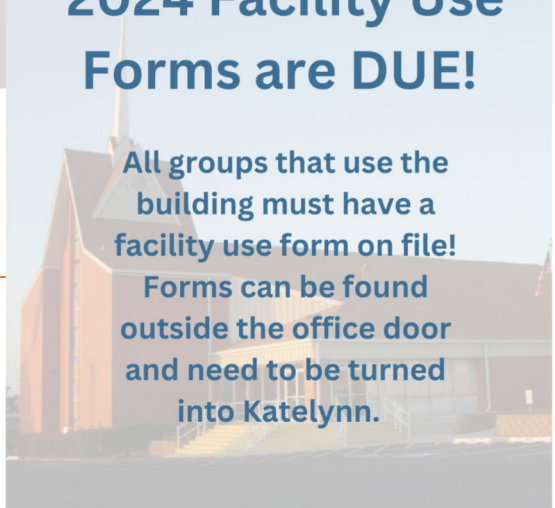
We need volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up on Wednesday evenings! It takes many hands to make the program work!

Happy Anniversary!

- Jan. 4 Tom & Necia Miller
 Jan. 12 David & DesiRae Keenum
 Jan. 26 Edward & Mary Ellen Esk

2024 Facility Use Forms are DUE!

All groups that use the building must have a facility use form on file! Forms can be found outside the office door and need to be turned into Katelynn.





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
405-732-6831

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



MIDWEEK
@ S T . M A T T ' S

Back this week!
Dinner - 5:30pm
Programs - 6:30pm

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