



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2024

From the Pastor's Desk



Brother and Sisters,

February is here, and we're gearing up for a month of love and togetherness that spans generations. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, Scripture is clear that "love builds up." (1 Cor 8). At St. Matthew, that love doesn't discriminate on the basis of age. We're all about embracing the wisdom of our seasoned members and the energy of our youth, and we understand that both groups are worth building up and are doing vital work for the Kingdom of God in our midst. That being said, let's look at a couple of upcoming events that we can all get behind to support these two special groups of people.

First off, make sure to mark your calendars for February 11th. We've got something special planned for our widows and widowers – a Valentine's event that's all about showing our love for and acknowledging the great strength of the widows and widowers in our community. It's going to be an amazing honor to come together to show these spectacular folks some extra love and care. Our children will be making valentines, our young adults will be helping to cook, and our youth will be helping to serve. What an amazing opportunity for intergenerational ministry!

The following week, on February 18th, is one of my favorite Sundays of the year! Our Youth Sunday service is where our young members take the spotlight, and trust me, you don't want to miss it. It's a chance for everyone to see the faith, creativity, and dedication our youth bring to the table. In some churches, folks skip special Sunday services because they want worship to be the way it always is. But I would HIGHLY, HIGHLY recommend for every one of us that is able comes to this service. These young people are the future of God's church, and it's important that we encourage them in ministry to help nurture them into being who God's ultimately calling them to be. Your support in moments like these make our church family stronger and more vital.

In a community of faith like ours, every generation has something unique to contribute. The symphony of faith is incomplete without the harmonious blending of old and young voices. Isn't that beautiful?

That's because church is supposed to be intergenerational. Psalm 145:4 (NIV): "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts." This verse is like a roadmap for us, reminding us of our responsibility to pass down the stories of God's faithfulness from one generation to the next, with the HOPE that the generations after us will also pass them down.

So, I hope you're excited for the Widow and Widowers Valentine Event and Youth Sunday Service! These are moments where love, faith, and unity take center stage, reflecting the diverse beauty of our incredible church family.

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



Words About Worship
From the Director of
Music Ministries



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continues for 40 days, excluding Sundays. For the early Christians, every Sunday was considered Easter. 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 is early, **Sunday, March 31. The traditional Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes will be February 14, 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.

I will share more information about Lent, Holy Week and Easter in our March newsletter.

Jonathon's sermons during February will be based on the Lectionary readings: Feb 4-Mark 1:29-39; February 11 (Transfiguration Sunday)-Mark 9:2-9, February 25-Mark 8:31-38.

February 18th is Youth Sunday! The youth have been working very hard since Christmas on their service. The sermon is "The Seven Days of Creation." Scripture is taken from Genesis 1:2-42 and 2:1-3. Please come and support our awesome youth!

How are you doing on your 21 consecutive Sundays of worship attendance? Online counts if you are physically unable to attend in person. Remember, it takes 21 repetitions of an action to form a habit. Hang in there! You can do it!

See you Sunday!!

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



February 2024

from Terri

New Cozy Mystery Series!!!

We have a new twenty-five book cozy mystery series from Guideposts call *Mysteries of Lancaster County* available in the library.

The series features three sisters, Elizabeth, Martha, and Mary Classen, who have moved back to Bird-in-Hand Pennsylvania. Together they operate Secondhand Blessings, a delightful gift and thrift shop.

They have no idea while they're stocking their shelves full of handcrafted Amish gifts, scrumptious baked goods, and a plethora of antiques that they are actually filling their shelves with a host of mysteries and surprises the trio of sisters will need to solve.

I hope you'll give this news series a try and that you enjoy all twenty-five books! Stop by and check out a couple today.

2024 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Eric Autry	Valarie Autry
Patty Avery	Donna Bassham
Jamie Clinesmith	Jackie Elk
Dayna Heath	Rebecca Hartmann
Everett Henderson	Katelynn Henderson
Larry Kisner	Chirlee Lang
Susie Larsen	Karen Marichal
Joyce Perkins	Ashley Poole
Kaye Rhoades	Kalyn Roark
Emily Robinson	Kay Ross
Stacey Ruston	Jayna Sims
Carolyn Specht	Kevin Wallace
Barbara Wallace	Terri Weldon
Cynthia Weldon	

They are reading the greatest story ever told!

VALENTINE'S DAY BOOKS

The library has a small selection of romances and cozy mysteries set at Valentine's Day. They are Melody Carlson's *Valentine's Day Trilogy: Once Upon a Winter's Heart, Love Gently Falling, and Your Heart's Desire*. We also have *Deceptive Hearts*, an *Amish Inn Mystery*; *A Fedora Offense*, an *Antique Shop Mystery*; *Pieces From the Past*, an *Antique Shop Mystery*; *Love's Surprise*, an *Inn at Magnolia Harbor Romance*; and *A Port in the Storm*, a *Mystery of Martha's Vineyard*. So if you're looking for a little romance or prefer to do a little sleuthing this Valentine's Day, stop by & check out one of these great books!

PLEASE RETURN YOUR OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS IMMEDIATELY!

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. – 1 John 4:8

2024 is already moving so fast! Sunday School and WOW are back in full swing! Our Sunday School Classes are following the Lectionary with Jonathon's sermons. This is a great way to help your kiddos learn about the bible and discuss what you have been learning as well!

WOW is working on the Apostle's Creed! We are only a few weeks in, but hopefully by the end, you'll be able to hear all our St. Matt Kids saying it with you on Sunday mornings! The best way for your kiddos to learn these things is by having them here each week AND talking to them about what they learned at home!

We also hope you'll join us at 6pm on Saturday, February 17th for a Game Night! Bring your favorite family friendly game! We'll have pizza and fun!

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

FEBRUARY

14-Ash Wednesday-NO WOW,
but we will be joining the Ash
Wednesday Service
17-Game Night @6pm

MARCH

24-Eggstravaganza
31-Easter NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL

WANT TO HELP OUR KIDS?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR
MORE CHILDREN'S
CHURCH TEACHERS!
VOLUNTEER FOR 1
SUNDAY EVERY OTHER
MONTH!

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

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 Sunday

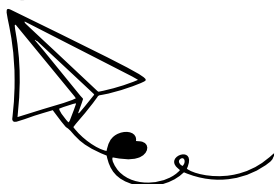
Youth Sunday will be February 18th!
Our theme this year is the Seven Days of Creation!

We will have practice on Saturday the 17th from 9am-12pm.

On Sunday the 18th, youth need to plan to meet in the Sanctuary at 7:30am to prep before the 8:30am service.



We can't wait to have you join us!



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!



Mystery Trip

Saturday, February 24th, the youth will be going on a Mystery Trip!

Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 4th - Joint Youth w/Sunnylane
- Feb. 14th - Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb. 17th - Youth Sunday Practice
- Feb. 18th - Youth Sunday
- Feb. 24th - Mystery Trip

Mobile Meals at St Matthew

HOMEMADE KING CAKE FUNDRAISER

Jan 1st - Feb 13th

Small
\$10

Regular
\$20

PROCEEDS HELPS
FEED THOSE IN NEED

To order

405-795-4530

www.stmatthew.org/kingcake

mobilemeals@stmatthew.org

300 N Air Depot Blvd Midwest City, Ok 73110

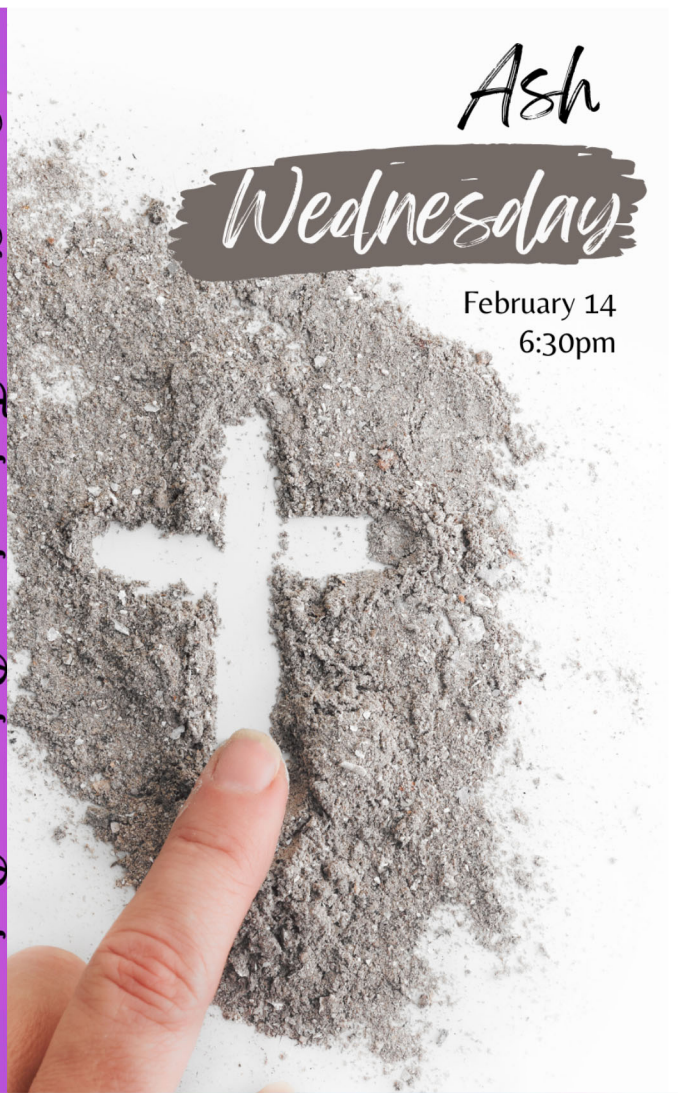
Strawberry
Cherry
Lemon
Apple
Blueberry

Cream Cheese
Traditional
Praline
Peach

Ash

Wednesday

February 14
6:30pm



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE FAMILY GAME NIGHT,
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH AT 6PM! WE'LL HAVE PIZZA,
FUN AND OF COURSE GAMES!

LET KATELYNN KNOW BY FEBRUARY 14TH IF YOU PLAN
ON ATTENDING! [KATELYNN@STMATTHEW.ORG](mailto:katelynn@stmatthew.org)



February at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

Feb 1	8am	TEFAP
Feb 10	8am	Men's Breakfast
Feb 11	Noon	Widow and Widowers Lunch
Feb 14	6:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Feb 17	6:30pm	St. Matt Kids Family Game Night
Feb 18		AO Youth Sunday
Feb 29	7pm	Worship Project

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

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

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
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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
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Saturday

9:30am	Girl Scouts
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Feb 2	Mitzie Dixon
Feb 3	John Alleman
Feb 5	Stephen Williams
	Max Wilson
Feb 6	Gayle Tatum
Feb 12	Charlie Stephens
Feb 13	Justin Ballow
Feb 15	Patty Avery
Feb 17	Edward Esk
Feb 18	Michele Foster
	Dayna Heath
	Carl Tatum
Feb 22	MaryAlice Evans
Feb 23	Natalie Kemp
Feb 24	Tyler Ramsey
	Ashely Wallace
Feb 25	Rebecca Arkoh
Feb 27	Brock Wallace
Feb 28	Donna Bassham



MIDWEEK
@ ST. MATTHEW'S

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

Help Needed!

We are in need of helpers for our Wednesday Night MidWeek Meal. We have been serving around 70 people every week, many are community members in need.

To keep this program running, we need help with set-up and clean-up. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from Jonathon's office.

Happy Anniversary!



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!

Feb 2	Robert & Cam Allen
Feb 11	Tom & Sandi Patterson
	Steve & Gayla Wilson



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.*

Happy Valentine's Day

St. Matthew is having a W&W (widows & widowers) Valentines Luncheon on Sunday, February 11th at 12:30 in Wesley Hall. Please rsvp to the church at 405-732-6831 to let them know you will be attending and have them take your entrée choice (Lasagna or Chicken Alfredo). We want to extend our love and appreciation for you.



St. Matthew Staff

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|---|---|
| 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 |