



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Busy Season is Over...Now Busy Season Begins?



Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you've had a chance to take a moment or two and breathe in the beauty of this season of ministry. We've been riding the wave of activities, from our bustling pumpkin patch to the heartwarming Pumpkin Festival, and the joy inducing (and somewhat chaotic) Trunk or Treat. It's been exhilarating to witness the love and dedication that you've poured into these events, and the way that you've shown Christ to the community around us.

But here's the thing – while this particular busy season is over, there's another kind of busyness just around the corner. Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are knocking on our doors, reminding us that life never slows down.

In the midst of life's constant motion, let's pause and soak in the truth that God's love for us is beyond measure. The Creator of the universe, the One who knows the number of stars in the sky, cares deeply about our well-being. It's in this truth that we find Sabbath, rest, and self-care as divine gifts.

Educator Parker Palmer put it this way: "I have become clear about at least one thing: self-care is never a selfish act - it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer others. Anytime we can listen to the true self and give it the care it requires, we not only do so for ourselves, but for the many others whose lives we touch."

Self-care isn't selfish; it's an act of love. God has entrusted us with the precious gift of life, and it's our responsibility to care for ourselves in a way that honors this gift. In doing so, we become vessels of love, pouring out grace and compassion to those we encounter.

Walter Brueggeman adds another layer to this idea by reminding us that Sabbath isn't just a pause that refreshes – it's a pause that transforms. When we take time to rest, when we honor our need for stillness, we open ourselves to God's transformational power. It's in those moments of rest that we become vessels through which God's love and healing flow.

I want to leave you with this thought: If you don't have time to pray and read Scripture, you are busier than God ever intended you to be. If you never rest or take Sabbath, you are busier than God ever intended you to be. These are not tasks to check off a list; they are lifelines to the One who knows you intimately, who loves you deeply, and who longs to commune with you.

So, as we approach yet another season of busyness, remember that God's love and care are constant. Embrace the gift of Sabbath and rest as a way to reconnect with the One who is the source of all love and peace. Take a deep breath, slow down, and be present. Because in the quiet moments, we discover the profound truth that we are loved beyond measure.

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



October is quickly coming to an end, and November is approaching full steam ahead. It is hard to believe that the remaining pumpkins will become a feast for some farmer's livestock, and the 32nd Annual Pumpkin Patch will be another fun memory. It's been an interesting year with weather extremes. Good old Oklahoma weather!

November is the month for giving thanks. I challenge you to begin each day with something for which you are thankful. Make a list of these "thanks givings" so you can refer back to them in times of trouble or tribulation. There are many reasons to be thankful if we just open our minds and hearts to them.

For November, Jonathon resumes his sermons from the Revised Lectionary.

November 5 — Revelation 7:9-17

November 12—Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

November 19 — 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

November 26 — Ephesians 1:15-23

This Sunday is All Saints Sunday. We will honor our friends and family who have died since November 1, 2022. It is too late to have them included in the bulletin, but you can still light a candle for them during the remembrance.

Mid Week will not meet November 22 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The fourth Sunday in November is Christ the King Sunday and Advent begins the first Sunday in December. Watch for an announcement soon about the mission opportunities for Advent this year and word from our decorating committee about helping transform St. Matthew for the Christmas season.

I hope you have much for which to be thankful this year. There's an old song that says "Count your blessings, name them one by one, and you will discover all that God has done."

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



November 2023

from Terri

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS – IN THE LIBRARY!

I love reading Christmas books, but it can be hard to find the time during such a busy season. So, here at St. Matthew I showcase our great selection beginning in November. Hopefully that will give us all plenty of time to read some great books!

This year we have nine new additions to our collection: *A Royal Christmas* by Melody Carlson. Melody's annual Christmas novella is always on my must-read list; *A Simple Amish Christmas* by Vannetta Chapman. An Amish girl's reaching the end of her Rumspringa and is unexpectedly called home. Will she choose the English or Amish world; *Christmas in the Crosshairs* is a trio of suspense stories based on Lynette Eason's *Elite Guardian Series*. Nothing says Christmas like a riveting suspense read; *The Christmas Quilt* by Lenora Worth. Collette is eager for Matthew's return now that she's sure he's the man she loves. When he returns home with another woman on his arm, her heart is broken. Will this couple find their way back to each other; *Poinsettia Madness* by Cynthia Hickey is a delightful cozy mystery read. Shelby's ex-fiancé shows back up in town wanting the expensive gifts he'd given her for his new fiancé. Talk about insulting! When he shows up dead Shelby is reluctantly thrust into a group called the Second Mistress Club to find his killer; *All's Fair in Love and Christmas* by Sarah Monzon. A romantic comedy is a must read for Christmas. This office romance throws two coworkers together as they compete for the same promotion by exhibiting who has the most Christmas Spirit. I'm looking forward to trying out this new to me author; *Christmas Camp* by Karen Schaler. Haley's boss thinks she needs an attitude adjustment and ships her off to Christmas Camp to improve her holiday spirit; *Christmas Comes to Morning Star* by Charlotte Hubbard. Will twin sisters Molly and Marietta be blessed with a merry double wedding this Christmas season; *How Snowball Stole Christmas* by Kristen McKanagh. Snowball is the town match maker and this Christmas she has her work cut out for her!

2023 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Eric Autry
Jackie Elk	Rebecca Hartmann
Dayna Heath	Larry Kisner
Susie Larsen	Beverly Link
Joyce Perkins	Ashley Poole
Donna Rader	Kaye Rhoades
Kalyn Roark	Emily Robinson
Kay Ross	Carolyn Specht
Cynthia Weldon	Terri Weldon

They are reading the greatest story ever told!

CURL UP WITH A COZY READ

A crime solving quilting group sounds like a great read. Join the members of Nimble Thimbles in *A Patchwork Murder* as they use an old quilt to solve the death of their friend who was murdered 15 years ago. Just one word of caution - Kathy and Beverly don't be getting any ideas about starting a new group of crime solving quilters at St. Matthew!

KID'S CHRISTMAS BOOKS

I've been busy collecting Christmas books for the Kid's Corner in the library. Look for *Little Blue Truck's Christmas*; *Jingle Bell Pups*; *God Bless Our Christmas*; *The Time of Christmas*; *A Charlie Brown Christmas*; and *Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas*. Plus, we have plenty of other great Christmas books waiting to be checked out!

TWO NEW LYNETTE EASON BOOKS!!!

Countdown - the long-awaited conclusion to Lynette Eason's *Extreme Measures Series* – is now available in the library. If you haven't read books 1-3, we also have those for checkout. If you need a short quick read try Lynette's novella, *Dark Prophecy*. It's great!

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

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 School
- Sunday Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer Activities

It's time for our Chili Lunch and Labor Auction!

Get ready for a fun twist at this year's chili lunch! Join us for our exciting chili cook-off where anyone can enter their chili recipe and compete against the famous David Bain Chili recipe. Here's what you need to know to enter:

- Register your chili for \$10
- Notify Kalyn of your entry by November 5th

Don't forget to bring your appetite and wallet! Cash will be used to vote for your favorite chili recipe and donations will be accepted. Your donations will help support our youth missions, lessons, and updates.



Labor Auction: Silent Style

We have some exciting changes to our Labor Auction This year!

This year's labor auction will take on a new form! Instead of a traditional large auction, we'll be hosting a silent auction with various services up for bidding, such as babysitting, gardening, and painting.

All proceeds from the auction will go towards funding our Out-of-State Mission Trip to Kentucky next summer.

We had an awesome time at our Halloween Lock-in! Check out more of our pictures on Facebook!



Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 12th: David Bain Chili Cook-Off
- Nov. 26th: No Youth

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.

ST. MATT KIDS

NOVEMBER NEWS

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

We have been having so much fun in our children's ministries! It's always more fun with more friends! We had 11 kids in Sunday School last week, and I can hardly hold my excitement!

St. Matt Kids have been asked to bring the message at our 6pm Christmas Eve Service! We will be doing our Children's program then! I have been stressing to the kids what an important job it is! Practice has already begun and will continue during WOW and Sunday School times. PLEASE have your children attend! We also hope you will work on the music with them at home! If you need the music, please see me and I'll send you the link!

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

DECEMBER

- 13-WOW Birthday Party for Jesus (Last WOW of the year)
- 23-9am Dress Rehearsal for Program
- 24-6pm Christmas Program

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 Youth Present

Chili COOK OFF

And Labor Auction

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 12TH**
AFTER THE 11AM SERVICE
IN WESLEY HALL

**-Donations
Accepted
-Vote for your
favorite chili
using cash
-Youth Labor
Auction to follow**

Do you think you make the best chili? Think you can beat the ever famous David Bain Chili Recipe? Let's put you to the test! Our first ever chili cook-off fundraiser will be held after church in Wesley Hall! To enter your Chili, see Kalyn Roark. There is a \$10 entry fee for chili and the winner will be decided by cash votes!

\$10 TO ENTER YOUR CHILI!

For more information:

youth@stmatthew.org
(405) 732-6831

MUST ENTER BY NOVEMBER 5TH, 2023

November at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

Nov 6	6:30pm	SPRC
Nov 7	6pm	Trustees
Nov 12	Noon	David Bain Memorial Chili luncheon
Nov 14	6:30pm	Finance
Nov 16	6:30pm	Charge Conference
Nov 22		NO MIDWEEK
Nov 23		Thanksgiving Office Closed
Nov 30		Worship Project



Nov. 1	David Okoe
Nov. 8	Scotty Barnett
Nov. 10	Michael Bediako
	Joshuah Kisner
Nov. 11	Diane Mathis
Nov. 15	Jayna Sims
Nov. 16	Joshua Arkoh
	Chris Bain
	Jordyn Mullings
Nov. 17	Kaye Rhoades
Nov. 19	Becka Ellis
Nov. 21	Kat Ferguson
Nov. 23	Venita Hoover
Nov. 25	Seth Autry
Nov. 30	Jamie Clinesmith

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

Week at a glance

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
10am	Quilters Sew&Go	Friday	
1pm	Moving For Balance	7am	Mobile Meals Prep
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting	Saturday	
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band	9:30am	Girl Scouts



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, Nov. 4th @ 8am



Nov. 7	Brock & Brooklynn Wallace
Nov. 14	Ron & Dianna Hancock
	Mike & Carol Rathke
Nov. 25	Kerry & Marilyn Solomon



We are looking for a coordinator as well as cooks for our MidWeek Meals. We're asking cooks to do one meal a month, but if we get enough it would be once every 6 weeks! Please see Katelynn with questions.



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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.*



**Ice Angels are in
need of winter gear
for the homeless.**

Please contact Kay Ross

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