



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2024

From the Pastor's Desk



Brothers and Sisters-

It's that time of year again! As we gear up for the upcoming Holy Week services, there's a certain buzz in the air – a delightful mix of anticipation and reverence. Our incredible staff and lay worship committee, fueled by passion and purpose, has been weaving together experiences that will undoubtedly touch the depths of our souls.

As we approach Easter Sunday, let's not forget the sacred journey of Holy Week – the contemplative fellowship of Maundy Thursday, the reflective darkness of Good Friday, and the ultimate celebration of resurrection on Easter Sunday. Each service

is a piece of the larger narrative, a symphony of stories that invite us into the heart of the divine mystery of our Lord Jesus' death and resurrection.

Our team has been immersed in the creative process, crafting these experiences not just as isolated events but as interconnected moments in a grander, ongoing story of redemption. The music, the words spoken, the silence shared – all carefully curated to draw us into the profound meaning of this sacred time.

But even though this time of year is incredibly important in the life of the church, and even though we have a ton of great people pouring out their hearts and souls to make these services a set of deeply moving experiences, let's not limit the essence of Holy Week to a few days on the calendar. The message of Jesus' resurrection isn't confined to a single Sunday; it's a continuous, unfolding reality that shapes our everyday existence. Our faith is not just a set of beliefs but a way of being, a way of living, a journey that transforms us from the inside out. As followers of Jesus, EVERY SINGLE DAY IS EASTER FOR US.

So, let's ask ourselves: How can we embody the spirit of resurrection not just on Easter Sunday but in the mundane moments of our lives? How can the themes of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday infuse our interactions, our relationships, and our daily walk?

Living resurrection means embracing the divine dance woven into the fabric of our existence – a dance of love, forgiveness, repentance, and renewal. As we gather for Holy Week services, let's not just witness the story; let's enter into it, allowing it to shape our perspectives, attitudes, and interactions.

May this Holy Week be a doorway into a deeper, more vibrant expression of faith – a journey that extends far beyond the walls of our church and into the rhythm of our everyday lives. Let the resurrection narrative be inscribed on our hearts, guiding us in the art of living with purpose, gratitude, and unwavering hope. Jesus' died for you, AND rose for you. Jesus conquered the grave FOR YOU. That divine act of love isn't just worth remembering as a date on a calendar, but is worth dedicating our lives to.

May you remember that every day is Easter.

God's peace and 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, Holy Week, & Easter

Lent is a season of preparation, reflection and penitence leading up to the great celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. This season consists of 40 days, excluding Sundays. For the early Christians, every Sunday was considered Easter Sunday.

Jonathon's sermons during the remainder of Lent with the exception of Palm Sunday, March 24, will be taken from the Gospel of John. They are: March 3—John 2:13-22, March 10—John 3:14-21, March 17—John 12:20-33, March 31—John 20:1-18. March 24, Palm Sunday's scripture is Mark 11:1-11.

Holy Week begins March 24, Palm Sunday. The Maundy Thursday dinner will be 6:30 pm, Thursday, March 28. The dinner is a reminder of Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Reservations are required for this meal, and there is a charge to cover the cost of the food. This cost has not been determined at this time, but watch the website and weekly updates for information.

The Good Friday Tenebrae (Service of Darkness) Service will be 7pm Friday, March 29 in the Sanctuary. During this service, the events of Jesus' final days including the crucifixion are retold while candles are extinguished. The service ends in darkness.

There will be 3 services March 31, Easter Sunday — The sunrise service will begin at 7am. Since Easter is early, Jonothan has decided to have the service in the Sanctuary instead of outside. There are 2 identical traditional services, 8:30 and 11:00. in the Sanctuary. The Spirit Singers will begin the 8:30 and 11 service in the dark with *Mercy Tree*. The St. Matthew children will join the Chancel Choir, piano and trumpets for the anthem, *Hear the News this Easter Morn*. Easter brunch will be between services in Wesley Hall. Please bring food for the brunch if you are able. We need help feeding the multitudes. Sign up sheets for food will be available in the Narthex.

Easter Extravaganza is 2 pm Palm Sunday afternoon. Please join in the egg stuffing on March 10th at 2:30! We have leftover candy, but need lots of hands to get the eggs stuffed.

I was asked Sunday about the cloths on the pulpit, Communion table and lectern. These cloths are called permanents. The base color is purple, the liturgical color for Lent. If you look at the cloths starting with the pulpit cloth, you will notice that there is a "road" that leads through Holy Week. The pulpit cloth has a palm branch signifying Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Communion cloth has bread and a chalice representing the Last Supper, praying hands to commemorating Jesus' praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, followed by a crown of thorns. The lectern cloth features 3 empty crosses at the end of the road reminding us of the crucifixion.

In many non liturgical churches, the triumphant entry on Palm Sunday is followed by the cries of He is risen! on Easter Sunday with none of the pain and suffering in between. To me, in order to fully understand and appreciate Jesus' resurrection, it is necessary to walk the journey to the cross with Him.

March is a super-full-jam-packed-month at St. Matthew. I'll see you soon as we prepare to welcome the risen Christ!

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



March 2024

from Terri

That's Amore! New Denise Hunter Novels!

The library has four new books by this month's featured author – Denise Hunter. Two standalone titles and the last two books in her *Bluebell Inn Trilogy*.

The *Bluebell Inn* books, *Lake Season* (already in the library), *Carolina Breeze*, and *Autumn Skies*, center around a historic inn and three siblings. After the death of their parents, they rally together to complete the renovations on the historic inn and make it a successful business. Each book features one of the siblings and their journey to love.

In *Bookshop by the Sea* Sophie Lawson's two siblings are finally independent and she's ready to live her own life. Before she can, Sophie comes face to face with her high school sweetheart who bailed on her without a backward glance. Sparks fly, but can Sophie trust Aiden to stick around this time?

Sadie Goodwin is a stranger to love. Problem is she has to pen a romance novel in order to rescue her sagging sales as a western novelist. As she works to write *A Novel Proposal*, she finds an engagement ring hidden in an abandoned novel. She enlists the help of her neighbor, Sam Ford, to find the owner. As they work together Sam seems like the perfect hero for both her novel and her life.

Stop by and check one or more out today!

2024 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Patty Avery	Donna Bassham
Jamie Clinesmith	Jackie Elk
Rebecca Hartmann	Dayna Heath
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	
Barbara Wallace	Kevin Wallace
Cynthia Weldon	Terri Weldon

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

SPECIAL THANKS!!

Special thanks to Cynthia Weldon for donating a copy of *The Lost Boys of Barlowe Theater* by Jamie Jo Wright. She's the queen of spooky Christian fiction!

CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS!!!

Every pet owner's worst nightmare – your dog is stolen. Read this true story about this stolen dog & the humans he brought together.

EASTER BOOKS FOR EVERY AGE!!!

The library has Easter books for the entire family. There's a great selection of nonfiction Easter books on the back cabinet. A few titles are *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. Fans of Amish fiction will enjoy *The Promise of Easter* by Marta Perry. Kids will want to check out the selection in the Kids Area. Two new additions this year are *The Parable of the Lily* by Liz Curtis Higgs and *Jesus Calling the Story of Easter* (kid's version) by Sarah Young. Stop by and try one or more of these new books as you prepare your heart for Easter.

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

Holy Week

Holy Week is sneaking up on us fast! Take a look below at all the events St. Matthew will be hosting.

- Palm Sunday: March 24th, 2024
- Easter Eggstravaganza: March 24th, 2024 - 2pm

Youth will be helping with the Egg Hunts, so plan to stay at the church all day!

- March 28th: Maundy Thursday Dinner - 6:30pm
- March 29th: Good Friday Service - 7pm
- March 31st: Easter Sunday

SPRING BREAK

Spring Break is about to be in full gear! From the 17th-23rd, we will have no youth! Take time to relax! We will still be having some events, so keep an eye out for details!

Zoo Volunteer

During Spring Break, our youth will have the opportunity to volunteer at the zoo! Keep an eye out for more information, coming soon!

Upcoming Events:

- Mar. 3rd - Joint Youth w/Sunnyslane
- Mar. 13th - Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- Mar. 24th - Easter Eggstravaganza
- Mar. 28th - Maundy Thursday
- Mar. 29th - Good Friday Service
- Mar. 31st - Easter: 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

Easter is right around the corner and that means it's Eggstravaganza time! We love opening our doors to the community, and need everyone's help to make this program possible. We have leftover candy, so we'll be having an egg stuffing gathering March 10th @ 2:30pm. We'll need all hands for the event on March 24th 2-4pm. Please see Katelynn to sign up for the activities!

The children are singing with the choir at BOTH Easter services 8:30 and 11am. We will be practicing on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings! Please try to have your kiddos here to learn the song. WOW kids have been working hard on the Apostles Creed, and will soon have it down!

Thanks for all your support of St. Matt Kids.

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

20-NO WOW Spring Break
24-Palm Sunday &
Eggstravaganza
27-NO MIDWEEK MEAL, but
we will have WOW and
practice with Choir
31-Easter

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



MEN'S BREAKFAST

At All American Diner
Saturday, March 9 @ 7:30am



EGGSTRAVAGANZA EGG STUFFING

PLEASE COME HELP US PREPARE FOR
EGGSTRAVAGANZA! JOIN IN THE EGG STUFFING
PARTY, SUNDAY, MARCH 10 @2:30PM



ST. MATTHEW UWF ANNUAL BEAN AND STEW LUNCH

March 3, 2024
Noon

UWF will gladly accept
donations of homemade
stew, soups and beans.
Sign up in narthex.



**TEFAP Food Truck is
Thursday, March 7.
Volunteers needed
at 8am!**



March at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

March 3	12:30pm	Bean & Stew Lunch
	1:30pm	Church Council
March 5	6:30pm	SPRC
March 7	8am	TEFAP
March 9	7:30am	Men's Breakfast
March 12	6pm	Trustees
March 20		NO MIDWEEK-SPRING BREAK
March 23		All Church Clean-up
March 24	2-4pm	Eggstravagnaza
March 28	6:30pm	Maundy Thursday
March 29	7pm	Good Friday
March 31		Easter

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 1	Joe McDonald
	Sandi Patterson
	Emily Robinson
March 2	Kathy Szopinski
March 4	Diana Hughes
	Robin Murphy
March 6	Ryan Henderson
	Alexander Shelton
	Paul Specht
March 7	Daniella Kisner
March 8	Kim Hynek
	Ron Jones
March 9	Joil Goff
March 10	Brooklynn Wallace
March 12	Abbagail Dixon
March 13	Mary Ellen Esk
March 15	Jobe Clinesmith
March 17	Art Baird
	Kalyn Roark
March 18	Doris Roberts
March 19	Taryn Wilson
March 20	Debbie Creager
	Greg Hoover
	Theresa Todd
March 21	Patti Brown
	Jerry Coober
	Brennan Murphy
March 23	Carolyn Specht
March 26	Kaia Endsley
March 27	Victoria Adame
	Jacob Roark
March 30	Leonard Szopinski
March 31	Cindy Mikeman

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.



MIDWEEK
@ S T . M A T T ' S

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

Happy Anniversary!

March 2	Carl & Gayle Tatum
March 19	Cameron & Jennifer Maxfield



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.*



Let's make our church shine for Easter with a spring clean-up on March 23rd (Saturday), between 8:00-12:00. We need your help, please, to make this a success. Wearing clothes and sneakers/boots you don't mind getting dirty and bringing gloves are encouraged. Contact Richard Stephens at 405-215-2570 or rstephensok@gmail.com if you have suggestions on inside or outside areas that need improving or questions.

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