



**St. Matthew United Methodist**

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**October 2023**

*From the Pastor's Desk*



**“Who, What, and Why”- Stewardship 2024**

Brothers and Sisters,

I was once an intern for a church that talked about money EVERY SINGLE SUNDAY. It was soul sucking. After a while it started to feel like the pastor cared more about his congregation’s money than he cared about their souls! So I tend to tread lightly when it comes to things like giving and stewardship, because I never want anybody to feel like the church only values them if they contribute financially. But the church also has a mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and to do that effectively we need to use our resources wisely. So we’ll be launching our stewardship campaign this month and we’ll be focusing on the “Who, What, and Why” of giving.

**Who do we give to?**

**What do we give?**

**Why give in the first place?**

My hope is that this campaign will be an enriching experience that will strengthen our bonds as a church community and provide us with a clear vision for our future.

**Key Dates to Remember:**

Campaign Duration: October 15th - October 29th

The stewardship campaign officially kicks off on October 15th and will run through October 29th. During this time, we encourage each member of our congregation to prayerfully consider their role in supporting our church's mission, whether through time, talent, or financial contributions. Each Sunday during worship we will explore the key themes of the campaign- understanding why we give, what we give, and who it is we’re giving to.

**Worship Online 11am:** [www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC) or [www.stmatthew.org/sermons](https://www.stmatthew.org/sermons)  
**Give Online:** [www.stmatthew.org/giving](https://www.stmatthew.org/giving)

## *From the Pastor's Desk Cont.*

---

### Stewardship Letters and Pledge Cards:

In the second week of October, you can expect to receive stewardship letters and pledge cards in your mailbox. These materials will provide you with more information about the campaign and will guide your decision-making process. We kindly ask that you take the time to prayerfully consider your commitment to our church's mission.

### October 15th: Financial Insight and Vision Casting

Mark your calendars for a special event on October 15<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour, where we will gather for a church wide number crunch! (Sounds fun, right?) During this meeting, we will delve into the financial aspects of our church, providing a transparent view of our current situation. Together, we will explore our mission and cast a vision for our future. Join us to gain a deeper understanding of our financial picture and how it supports our mission.

### October 29th: Consecration Sunday

The culmination of our Stewardship Campaign will take place on October 29th, which we will celebrate as "Consecration Sunday." On this special day, we invite you to bring your pledge cards, signifying your commitment to our church's mission and growth. It is a day to unite our hearts and purpose as we consecrate our resources for God's work in our community and beyond.

We understand that everyone's circumstances are unique, and no pledge is too small. What matters most is your willingness to be a part of our shared journey and commitment to how God is calling us to build his Kingdom.

As we embark on this journey together, we remember the words of 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

We look forward to coming together as a church family, exploring 'Who, What, and Why' as we embark on this Stewardship Campaign. Your participation and dedication are vital in shaping the future of St. Matthew United Methodist Church and drawing more and more people into a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ!

May God bless you abundantly as we embark on this faithful journey.

God's peace and much love,

Jonathon



*Words About Worship*  
*From the Director of*  
*Music Ministries*



Judging by the temperature outside today (90s), no one would believe Fall has arrived. As I am writing this, those round orange orbs that we love so much are being removed from the truck and arranged tastefully all over our church lawn. We will have thousands (2709 full-size pumpkins to be exact) of them, just waiting for someone to come and take them home. We also received Elf Houses and Swan Gourds this year! Arrival of the pumpkins means we will have many guests to entertain and inform. We have heard a lot about how our actions show what kind of Christian we are. We are saved by faith, but our deeds demonstrate our faith. We must live for Jesus so our light will shine. The Pumpkin Patch is a great way to live out the *doing* part of our faith.

Jonathan's October sermons will take a slight departure from the Revised Common Lectionary. His sermons on October 15, 22, and 29 will align with the three Sundays of our financial campaign; **Who do we give to?, What do we give?, Why give in the first place?**. The Campaign will end October 29, with a consecration service. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter. The Spirit Singers will sing **10.000 Reasons** October 29.

**Looking Ahead:**

Sunday, **October 1** is World Communion Sunday. Christians around the world will come to the Lord's table as one to celebrate Holy Communion.

**All Saints Sunday is November 5.** As a part of this yearly commemoration, we light candles in memory of friends and loved ones who have died since November 1, 2021. Please call the church office (405-732-6831) or email Katelynn (katelynn@stmatthew.org) and give her the name and date of death so the names can be listed in the bulletin.

Having all the pumpkins on the lawn means that we will have more guests than usual in our worship services. Please be observant and when you see someone you don't recognize, introduce yourself. It doesn't matter if they are a first time guest or have been here 20+ years. Be friendly!

I'll see you as we minister to others in the Pumpkin Patch and in our worship services.

**Happy Fall Y'all!**

Email [gtatum@stmatthew.org](mailto:gtatum@stmatthew.org)  
for questions about music ministry.

*Shalom,*

*Gayle Tatum*

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

# Alpha Omega News

## It's PUMPKIN Time!

During the month of October, the youth will be working the Pumpkin Patch from 6PM-8PM on Wednesday nights. We will have dinner at 5:30PM and go out to the patch directly after, where we will be working on Pumpkin Festival games and continuing our lesson series on People of the Bible!

## Halloween Lock-In

Our annual Halloween Lock-In will be from October 20th-21st starting at 6PM and going until 9AM on the 21st! We will have plenty of games, food, and fun so make sure and bring a friend! The more the merrier! We will be having a costume contest as well, so make sure and bring/wear a costume!

Other items to bring include, but are not limited to:

Clothes to sleep in

Clothes to wear Saturday

Toiletries

Medications

Pillow

Blankets

Phone chargers

## Pumpkin Festival Set-Up

Make sure and stay after church on October 8th to help set-up for the Festival! We will still be having youth that night, so feel free to hang out for a night of food, fellowship, and games after set-up!

## Pumpkin Festival

October 14th will be here before you know it! The youth will be helping with the Midway again this year and we need all hands on deck! Please let Kalyn know if you won't be able to be there!

## Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 4th: Work Patch
- Oct. 8th: Festival Set-Up
- Oct. 11th: Work Patch
- Oct. 14th: Pumpkin Festival
- Oct. 18th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- Oct. 20-21: Halloween Lock-in
- Oct. 25th: Work Patch
- Oct. 29th: Trunk-Or-Treat

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.

# CELEBRATING EMBODIMENT

BY DIANDRA NELSON



## WORSHIPFUL EMBODIMENT



HAS ANYONE EVER TAUGHT YOU HOW TO WORSHIP?

I DON'T MEAN HAS ANYONE EVER TAUGHT YOU TO SIT QUIETLY IN THE SANCTUARY AND PASS THE OFFERING PLATE WHEN IT REACHES YOU.

**I'M ASKING, HAS ANYONE EVER TAUGHT YOU WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING WHEN WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP?**

IF YOUR ANSWER IS NO - DON'T WORRY! I HAVE BEEN A BAPTIZED-BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER FOR 13 YEARS, AND NO ONE EVER TAUGHT ME!

TO BE FAIR - IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO TEACH SOMEONE ELSE TO WORSHIP BECAUSE OF HOW HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE THE ACT OF WORSHIP IS. ALMOST ANYTHING YOU DO CAN BE CONSIDERED WORSHIP - THAT'S ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PARTS OF OUR FAITH!

PART OF CELEBRATING OUR EMBODIMENT LEARNING TO SEE OUR BODIES AND MINDS AS A TOOL FOR INTERACTING WITH GOD, NOT AN OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF HOLINESS.



HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU ENTER INTO A TIME OF EMBODIED WORSHIP.



1. TAKE SLOW BREATHS IN AND OUT, FOCUSING ON MAKING YOUR BREATHS OUT LONGER THAN YOUR BREATHS IN. AS YOU ARE INHALING, PRAY THAT GOD REMOVES DISTRACTIONS. AS YOU EXHALE, THANK GOD FOR BEING PRESENT WITH YOU. IDEALLY, YOU WANT TO DO THIS FOR 5 MINUTES.
2. AS YOU ENTER THE SANCTUARY, TAKE A MOMENT TO FIND YOUR SEAT AND SETTLE IN. MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE. ARE YOU TOO HOT? TOO COLD? DO YOU NEED TO VISIT THE RESTROOM? TAKE A MOMENT TO DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO FEEL RELAXED AND PRESENT IN THE SPACE.
3. WORSHIP THROUGH SONG CAN BE ONE OF A WORSHIP SERVICE'S MOST INVIGORATING OR AWKWARD PARTS. IF YOU ENJOY SINGING AND KNOW THE WORDS, DON'T BE SHY. DO YOUR THING! HOWEVER, IF PUBLIC SINGING SOUNDS LIKE A NIGHTMARE TO YOU, TAKE THIS TIME TO FOCUS ON WHAT IS BEING COMMUNICATED TO YOU THROUGH THE SONG'S WORDS. WHAT IS IT TEACHING YOU ABOUT GOD? FAITH? SALVATION?
4. WORSHIP DOESN'T STOP WHEN THE MUSIC DOES. AS YOU PREPARE TO LISTEN TO THE SERMON, PRAY THAT GOD HELPS YOU TO WORSHIP WITH YOUR MIND, BODY, AND SOUL. TAKING NOTES OR JOTTING DOWN IMPORTANT SERMON POINTS MAY HELP YOU TO STAY ENGAGED IN WORSHIP. IF YOU LIKE TO DOODLE, YOU CAN EVEN CREATE AN IMAGE OF WHAT JONATHAN IS TALKING ABOUT! FIND WHATEVER HELPS YOU TO STAY PRESENT AND ENGAGED WITH THE WORSHIP - THIS MAY TAKE A BIT OF TRIAL AND ERROR.

AS I SAID, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO WORSHIP THE WRONG WAY, BUT HAVING A FEW IDEAS ON HOW TO MAY BE PRECISELY WHAT YOU NEED TO START PRACTICING EMBODIED WORSHIP.







# LIBRARY NEWS



October 2023

from Terri

## NEW SUSPENSE SERIES

Susan Sleeman writes fantastic romantic suspense series. The library recently acquired Susan's seven book *Cold Harbor Series*!

The books focus on Blackwell Tactical. This law enforcement training facility and protection services agency is made up of former military and law enforcement heroes whose injuries keep them from the line of duty. When trouble strikes, there's no better team to have on your side and they would give everything, even their lives, to protect innocents.

The seven books are: *Cold Terror*, *Cold Truth*, *Cold Fury*, *Cold Case*, *Cold Fear*, *Cold Pursuit*, and *Cold Dawn*.

Stop by the library and check out this new series! We have several more of her series as well!

### 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
Barbara Wallace	Cynthia Weldon
Terri Weldon	

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

### FIFTEEN INSPIRING DOG STORIES!!!

Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary has compiled 15 stories about senior dogs finally finding their forever homes. If you enjoy dog stories, stop by and check this one out!

### MERCI! GRACIAS! THANKS!

Thank you to Katey Henderson, for donating *Christmas Baby Rescue*, *Fatal Forensic Investigation*, and *Fatal Code* (Book 2 in *The SNAP Agency Series*). These are the books she received for reading in the Inspirational Reader's Choice Contest. And thanks to Carolyn Specht for donating the *Loved Inspired Suspense* novels to the library every month. Thanks, again, for helping to S-T-R-E-T-C-H our library budget.

### HAPPY HALLOWEEN

We've got two new titles for kiddos: *Little Blue Truck's Halloween* and *Howl for Halloween!* Guaranteed not to frighten anyone. I can't make the same promise about our adult book *Monster* by Frank Peretti. Frank is a master at supernatural thrillers! Stop by and check out our selection of Halloween books.

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

-Philippians 4:4

Fall is kicking off in full force! Pumpkins are here and we are enjoying the cooler (somewhat) temps! We have had over 10 kids in WOW and we're LOVING it! We have been enjoying some of our lessons outside then have lots of time playing on the new playground!

Hard to believe, but last week we started our Christmas Program! We are excited with the new music and fun parts! This year the program will be performed at the 6pm Christmas Eve Family Service. If you'd like your student to be a part, please make sure to have them here for WOW!

Trunk or Treat!  
Sunday, October 29  
6-8pm

Please sign up on the  
Children's Ministry  
Board! We need trunks  
and volunteers!

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**

**OCTOBER**

Oct. 14-Pumpkin Festival  
Oct. 29-Trunk or Treat

**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

PUMPKIN  
*Festival*

**DONATIONS NEEDED**

The festival needs your donations! We are looking for:

- Pop, Water, and Capri Suns-
- Gently used Toys and Stuffed Animals-
- Baked Goods-
- Small and Large Prizes-
- Handcrafted Items-
- Nice items such as jewelry, glassware, dishes, pictures, antiques, knick-knacks, and anything of good quality-
- CANDY-

Donations can be brought to the church starting October 8th.

We need YOUR help to spend



It's pumpkin time at St. Matthew and once the pumpkins have all been sold and the festival has been cleaned up, the real fun begins. The Pumpkin Grant Committee has the privilege of awarding grants to worthwhile organizations throughout Eastern Oklahoma County. Non-profit organizations throughout Eastern Oklahoma County have the opportunity to complete an application for a grant anytime between October 1st and **December 31st**. Grant recipients will be notified of acceptance or denial by January 31st, 2024.

**! Now, here is where we need your help. !**

The **FIRST** thing we need you to do is notify organizations that you have a connection to that these grants are available.

The **SECOND** is to write a letter of support for the organization. This is really not that difficult, you do not have to be directly involved in the program, but you need to have a general understanding of what the organization does

**THIRD**, help them fill out the application and get it submitted prior to the deadline.

Applications are available by calling the church office at **405-732-6831** or by emailing **[businessoffice@stmatthew.org](mailto:businessoffice@stmatthew.org)**.

If you have any questions please call Todd Dealy at **405-919-3525**.



# October at St. Matthew

## Upcoming Events

Oct. 3	6pm	Trustees
Oct. 5	8am	TEFAP Truck
Oct. 8	Noon	Pumpkin Festival Set-up
Oct. 14	9am-3pm	Pumpkin Patch Festival
Oct. 26	7pm	Worship Project
Oct. 29	6-8pm	Trunk or Treat



For a more complete list of events and activities visit [stmatthew.org/calendar](http://stmatthew.org/calendar)

## Week at a glance

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

Oct. 1	Bob Dimski
Oct. 3	Susan Good
Oct. 4	Pam Dimski
Oct. 6	Brian Ellis
	Donna Rader
Oct. 7	Linda Miller
Oct. 8	Stacey Ruston
Oct. 11	Steve Martin
Oct. 12	Chris Baker
	Michelle Phelps
Oct. 13	Marilyn Solomon
Oct. 14	Gayla Wilson
Oct. 15	Debra Hynek
Oct. 16	Gretchen Fitzpatrick
Oct. 17	Alyssa Ramsey
Oct. 18	Ebenezer Quartey
Oct. 19	Austin Voss
Oct. 20	Rebecca Hartmann
Oct. 23	Verne Miller
Oct. 25	Mia Liu
	Deanna Nessel
Oct. 28	Hannah Calhoun
Oct. 29	Chelsea Luxen
	Ella McDonald
Oct. 30	Norene Tinsley

# WE NEED CANDY!

AS WE PREPARE FOR FESTIVAL AND TRUNK OR TREAT, WE NEED ALL THE CANDY! PLEASE BRING INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY TO EITHER KATELYNN OR KALYN.



Happy Anniversary!

Oct. 2	Paul & Linda Smith
Oct. 8	King & Doris Bruce
Oct. 23	Frank & Scotty Barnett
Oct. 27	Keith & Michelle Phelps



## St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

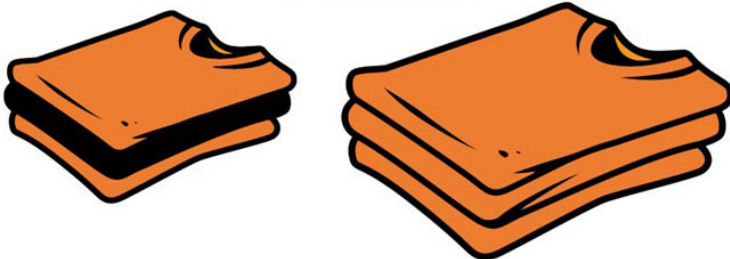
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.*

## Share Your (Pumpkin) Shirts!

**Put new life into those Pumpkin Patch shirts that are too big or too small! Drop them into the collection bin by the office or in the Narthex so that they can be reused by someone else! All sizes, styles, and ages of shirts are welcome!**



### St. Matthew Staff

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