



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2023

From the Pastor's Desk



As we enter into the season of Lent, I am excited to reflect on the rich heritage and history behind this holy time of prayer, penance, self-denial, and fasting that leads up to the celebration of Easter.

Lent has its origins in early Christian tradition. Historians generally agree that this 40-day period of intentional spiritual discipline emerged shortly following the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. The earliest observances of Lent seem to have focused particularly on the practice of fasting, which makes sense: the Scriptural inspiration for Lent is found in the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness in Matthew 4, preparing to begin his ministry. For this reason, with each passing year, Christians around the world use this time to focus on the hope and grace found in Jesus's life and teachings.

Lent is a reminder that Jesus calls us to join Him in the wilderness so we can "climb the mountain of holiness and meet God there." For some of us, this means adopting a new spiritual discipline, while for others it might mean finding new ways to deny ourselves. While Lent can be seen as a time of somberness, we have the promise of joy to look forward to. For those of us who follow Jesus, the practice of Lent is a time to reflect and prepare for Easter. It's a way for believers to intentionally draw close to God, develop faith, and joyously await the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus' resurrection.

Following spiritual disciplines during Lent offers each of us a tangible platform for taking our own personal faith walks to the next level. We don't have to be perfect, and we don't always need to make all-encompassing, life-altering decisions to get where God is calling us. Sometimes all it takes is a steady and consistent commitment to connecting with God and growing in faith on a daily basis. We can challenge ourselves to be more tuned in to the Bible, engage in more prayer or study, or even set aside a few extra minutes each day to simply sit quietly and practice stillness.

What Jesus did in the wilderness wasn't easy. We remind ourselves of our own weakness and brokenness during this season because, unlike Jesus, we almost definitely WOULD have fallen to the enemy's temptations in the desert. Our sin is very real. But so is our Savior. So, for the next 40 days or so, I would challenge you to focus on him in a new way. Spend more time in prayer, deny yourself of a thing that gives you comfort. Read Scripture, spend time in stillness reflecting. Find a new and refreshing way to walk the path that Jesus would have you walk. And remind yourself of this: though the path may seem gloomy, it's about to light up! The tomb will be empty, and Jesus will be very much alive. It's Friday, but Sunday's coming.

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*



Here is a bit of trivia that might come in handy someday. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. This year, Easter is April 9. The season of Lent consists of the 40 days, excluding Sundays, that precede Easter Sunday. Lent 2023 began Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Lent in the early church was used as a time to prepare new converts to be baptized on Easter Sunday. Today, Lent is a time of repentance, reflection and penitence. 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. 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.

Johnathon’s sermons will continue to follow the Gospel reading from the Lectionary during Lent. Those readings are:

- March 5 John 3:1-17
- March 12 John 4:5-29
- March 19 John 9:1-41
- March 26 John 1:1-45

As part of your Lenten discipline, you could choose to read and study the weekly scriptures ahead of time.

Looking Ahead: Put these dates in your calendar now.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| February 22 - April 8 | The Season of Lent |
| April 2 | Palm/Passion Sunday with procession of the palms |
| April 2 | Easter Eggstravaganza (Egg Hunt for Everyone) |
| April 6 | Maundy Thursday Dinner |
| April 7 | Tenebrae Service 7 pm |
| April 9 | Easter Sunday |
| | 7 am Sunrise Service |
| | 8:30 & 11:00 Identical Traditional Easter Worship |
| | 9:30 Easter Brunch for everyone in Wesley Hall |

Whether you decide to give up something for Lent or take on a new spiritual discipline, I hope you will prayerfully consider what Jesus gave up for you. Easter is a great day, but it loses some of its’ meaning if we don’t experience the journey to the cross with Jesus. See you Sunday.

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



March 2023

from Terri

LENTEN AND EASTER STUDIES AND BOOKS

The library has a great selection of Lenten studies and books on Easter for your use.

This year we have three new studies for Lent: *Uncovering the Love of Jesus* by Asheritah Ciuciu; *Bitter & Sweet* by Tsh Oxenreider. This is the one I'm reading this year and I've really enjoyed it so far; and *Rediscover Jesus* by Matthew Kelly which was anonymously donated.

There are also two by Adam Hamilton, *24 Hours That Changed the World* and *Final Words From the Cross*. In addition, we have *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by James W. Moore and *Forty Days With the Messiah* by David Winter.

If you feel like it is too late for you to start a study for Lent then how about a book on Easter? Now is the perfect time to start reading. New this year is *The Characters of Easter* by Daniel Darling. We also have *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs and *The First Easter* by Peter Marshall. *The First Easter* is a personal favorite of mine. Peter Marshall was an amazing man, orator, and author.

2023 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Eric Autry
Jackie Elk	Rebecca Hartmann
Dayna Heath	Katelynn Henderson
Vickie Kinsey	Larry Kisner
Susie Larsen	Beverly Link
Karen Marichal	Ella McDonald
Joyce Perkins	Ashley Poole
Donna Rader	Kaye Rhoades
Kalyn Roark	Kay Ross
Emily Robinson	Stacey Ruston
Jayna Sims	Marilyn Solomon
Carolyn Specht	Candace Thompson
Barbara Wallace	Cynthia Weldon
Terri Weldon	

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

FUN NEW ROMANCE!!!

If you enjoy sweet and spunky romances right out of a Hallmark movie, then you definitely want to read *The Happy Camper* by Melody Carlson. Will Dillon choose the handsome hardware store owner or her ex-boyfriend who shows up with roses and a ring?

THREE NEW DEBBIE MACOMBER BOOKS!!!

We have three new to St. Matthew books by popular author Debbie Macomber. They are *Starting Now*, *Blossom Street Brides*, and *Last One Home*. If you've read her other books in the library then you'll definitely want to read these. If you've never read a book by Debbie Macomber then it's time you got started. I don't think she's ever written anything that wasn't great. Stop by and check one out today!

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

Special thanks to Debi Alleman for donating a copy of *The One Year Bible for Women* in the New Living Translation. This will be a great addition to our Bible in A Year collection!

NEW SUSPENSE AUTHOR!!!

Hey, suspense readers, check out *Never Miss* by Melissa Koslin and let me know what you think about this new author!

ST. MATT KIDS

MARCH NEWS

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Mark 10:14

March is quickly upon us! I'm not sure how that happened. It's been great having so many kids during MidWeek dinner and WOW! Our Sunday School classes will be having a new lectionary series this month! Come check out our awesome classes.

Easter Eggstravaganza is right around the corner! During this event we welcome to community for egg hunts, games and maybe to see a little of Jesus' love! Please see Katelynn if you're willing to volunteer!

Spring Break is March 15th there will be NO MidWEEK Meal or WOW!

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

15-Spring Break, NO MIDWEEK

APRIL

2-Eggstravaganza
9-Easter (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Contact Information:
Katelynn Henderson
405.740.4379
children@stmatthew.org

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

Sunday School-9:45am
Children's Church during 11am Service
*No Children's Church 1st
Sunday of the Month

WEDNESDAYS

WOW 6:30-7:30pm

Alpha Omega News

Weekly Activities

Sunday School: 9:40-10:40AM * Sunday Night: 5-7PM * Wednesday Night: 6:30-7:30PM

SPRING BREAK!

March 12th-18th is Spring break! We will not be having youth on the 12th or the 15th for anyone travelling! Everyone stay safe and have a great week!

Upcoming Events

*March 12th: No youth

*March 15th: No youth

*March 31st-April 1st: Easter Lock-in/Mystery Trip

Easter Lock-In/Mystery

Trip:

March 31st-April 1st, we will have our Easter Lock-in! We will be doing an Easter egg hunt, playing Easter games, and of course, all the fun snacks!

BUT... we will also be going on our mystery trip we had to cancel! On April 1st, we will be leaving around 9AM and heading out! We will be back around 3:30 PM, and will make sure the youth text parents to let them know our ETA!

Below you will find a list of what to bring:

- Clothes to sleep in and wear on Saturday
- Chargers for phones
- Any medications you may need
- Toiletries (Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, hairbrush)
- \$20 for the mystery trip; please pay what you are able to help cover costs
- Closed-toed shoes
- A jacket, in case it is cool

The Purpose of Alpha Omega Youth is the stand on the foundation, with a heart to worship, a mind to reach out, and hands to serve and love.



Young Adult Small Groups Thursday Nights

CONTACT
DIANDRA
FOR DETAILS
DHELSON@OKUMC.ORG



MIDWEEK

@ S T . M A T T ' S

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



St. Matthew United Methodist
A place to grow in Christ

JOIN US FOR

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

APRIL 2, 2023
2-4PM

300 N. Air Depot
Midwest City 73110



Free!

Egg Hunt | Games

Event is free, but registration is required
Pre-register at www.stmatthew.org/stmattkids

Volunteers NEEDED! See Katelynn to Sign up!

UWF Blue Cart Mystery

Have you ever noticed a stray blue book cart in the hall near the library and wondered what it's doing there? It is there holding a treasure trove of books recommended for our UWF ladies. These books challenge us to read books that broaden our knowledge of people and places that are foreign to many of us, so we can learn about the cultures and needs of people around the world. There are also books to provide spiritual guidance and prayer aimed especially at women in various stages of their lives.

These books are meant to be borrowed and returned to this blue cart. A sign out sheet provides the checkout procedure.

One of the newest additions is a book that I highly recommend: "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" Before reading this book, I had no idea that a race of blue-skinned people existed right here in the US. The heroine of the story shows raw courage in making sure these neglected and often misunderstood people are provided with books...books that can carry us anywhere—even back home. Enjoy!

Joyce Perkins

March at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

March 2	TEFAP Truck
March 6 7pm	SPRC Meeting
March 7 6pm	Trustees
March 7	Election
March 11 8am	Men's Breakfast
March 12	Daylight Savings Time starts
March 15	Spring Break-NO MidWeek Meal or Classes

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



Week at a glance

Sunday	
8:30am	Worship
9:40am	Christian Discipleship Classes
11am	Worship (w/ LiveStream)
5pm	AO Youth Group
Monday	
1pm	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 Classes, WOW and AO Youth Group
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

Men's Breakfast
March 11th @ 8am
All St. Matthew men are welcome.
Special guest Ben Williams!

Election Volunteers
We have another opportunity to welcome our community at the upcoming election. We got lots of complements and several questions about our church and services during the February election! See Katelynn to volunteer for March 7th!

- Mar 1** Joe McDonald
Sandi Patterson
Emily Robinson
- Mar 2** Kathy Szopinski
- Mar 4** Diana Hughes
Robin Murphy
- Mar 6** Ryan Henderson
Alex Shelton
Paul Specht
- Mar 8** Kim Hynek
Ron Jones
- Mar 9** Joil Goff
- Mar 12** Abbagail Dixon
- Mar 13** Mary Ellen Esk
- Mar 15** Jobe Clinesmith
- Mar 17** Art Baird
Kalya Roark
- Mar 18** Doris Roberts
- Mar 20** Debbie Creager
Greg Hoover
Theresa Todd
- Mar 21** Patti Brown
Jerry Coover
Brennan Murphy
- Mar 22** Barbara Stroup
- Mar 23** Carolyn Specht
- Mar 26** Kaia Endsley
- Mar 27** Torie Adame
Jacob Roark
- Mar 30** Leonard Szopinski
- Mar 31** Cindy Mikeman



Save the Date!
Family Camp
May 5-7
The entire St. Matthew Church family is invited!

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



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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.*



*The worshippers at St. Matthew are our ministers.
These are the staff members who support them:*

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 |