



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2023

From the Pastor's Desk



Brothers and Sisters-

As we dive into the buzz of recent headlines surrounding the United Methodist Church, it can feel like we're caught in a whirlwind of confusion. All those stories of church splits, lawsuits, and political clashes might leave us scratching our heads, wondering where Jesus fits into all this. So I think it might be beneficial to take a moment to refocus on what the essence of the "church" truly is.

The church, at its very core, is a beautiful community of genuine believers, bound together under the tender Lordship of Christ. It's a place of unity, holiness, and apostolic fellowship, extending its arms wide to embrace all who seek solace in Jesus. In this sacred community, the divine Word is shared by those called to the task, and the sacraments flow like gentle streams, in tune with Christ's own

appointment. The Holy Spirit breathes life into sacred moments, nurturing worship, edification, and the sweet aroma of redemption in the world.

Have you checked out the United Methodist Book of Discipline? It lays out our sacred mission as a church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And how, exactly, are we called to do that? Through selfless service. This mission springs from a place of humility, and guess what? It's not just our gig; it's a dance that countless Christian communities are grooving to worldwide, and that party has been going for thousands of years.

As we waltz along in the United Methodist Church, we humbly embrace our unique qualities, adding flavor to our journey. We're connectional beings, intertwined like threads in a beautiful tapestry. We've got our act together with a disciplined approach, ensuring the Good News spreads far and wide. And get this—we're all about unity with the broader church universal, embracing the beautiful diversity of Christian truths that add color to the grand canvas of faith.

At the summit of United Methodist polity, you'll find two pillars: conferencing and episcopacy. It's like a groovy dance, with the General Conference taking the legislative spotlight and the Council of Bishops rocking the executive moves. Of course, the Judicial Council holds the fort as the guardians of justice.

Now, I know it can get a little complex, but all these mechanisms are designed to equip and organize the UMC so we can live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and advancing God's Kingdom. But guess what? We're not the only ones out there doing God's work. There are countless ways to make disciples, my friends. Our groove just happens to align with our sacred calling, and that's what truly matters.

In the midst of power struggles and church politics, let's keep our eyes on the prize: making disciples of Jesus. We're all about living out Christ's teachings, pouring out our hearts in love for God and our fellow human beings. Let these core principles light up our lives, guiding our every move as we walk together on this incredible journey.

My dear friends, always remember: YOU are the church. It's not just a building or an institution; it's a family of souls called together in a beautiful communion by God. While showing up on Sundays is fantastic, the real deal is when we embody the essence of the church in our everyday lives. Let's be living expressions of Christ's love and reconciliation, both within these sacred walls and out there in the big, wide world.

Stay grounded in the heart of it all, my friends. Together, let's sow seeds of love, grace, and transformation, making this world a brighter and more beautiful place. Let the headlines be the headlines, and let US be the church.

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



Oh my goodness! Where did this summer go?! The first day of school will be here before we know it! Teachers either have reported, or will be soon, and athletes and band students are hard at work. With the extreme heat we have experienced, I am more thankful than ever that we have an air conditioned place to work and to worship!

Jonathon is continuing his messages from the lectionary during August. Emily experienced an advantage of preaching from the Lectionary last week. She was visiting her brother in Missouri and the pastor at his church spoke on the same scripture from the Lectionary that Jonathan used. She was able to hear the same passage from two different perspectives. The readings for August are as follows:

August 6 -- Genesis 32:22-31

August 13—Matthew 14:22-33

August 20—Matthew 15:10-28

August 27—Romans 12:1-8

Reading the scripture ahead of time gives additional insight into the message Jonathon wants to convey.

There are two special Sundays in August. **Blessing of the Backpacks** will be in the 11am service, August 13. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship for the blessing. Mrs. Katelynn has included more information in her article on the St. Matt Kids' page.

August 27 is **Pumpkin Sunday**. We will hear about the impact that our Pumpkin Grants have in our community. The way time is flying, the pumpkins will be here in no time at all! The festival is not as early as it as it was last year, October 14, 9-4. Good news for OU fans, it is not OU Texas!! Be thinking about where you want to serve this year.

Chancel Choir returns to worship in the 11am service August 6. The Spirit Singers will sing in the 11am service on August 13! It has been nice to have some time off, but I am ready to have our musicians together again! If you can carry a tune and sing in harmony with others, you are welcome to join the choir. We will begin working on the Christmas Cantata very soon! Rehearsals are 7:15-8:30pm Wednesdays in the Choir Room (across from the restrooms in the north hall.) A nursery is provided for preschool age children.

I hope you have enjoyed your summer and are ready to get back into the routine that Fall brings.

See you Sunday!

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

Summer is almost over! We had an amazing time at VBS, and want to keep the momentum going! August starts off with our Back to School Bash at Reno Swim and Slide August 12! Sunday School is going to be kicking off on August 13th 9:40am! Join us as we meet the teachers and have some donuts!

During the 11am service, we'll be blessing our backpacks for the upcoming year, so all students should bring their backpack. We'll also be recognizing those promoting to 3rd grade and some of our other students who haven't received a bible yet. WOW starts back August 16th at 6:30pm. Make a point to have church a priority this school year!

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**

AUGUST

12- Back to School Bash at Regional Pool

13- Sunday School Promotion Breakfast, Bible Presentation and Blessing of the Backpacks

16- WOW is BACK!

**THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR VBS
VOLUNTEERS!
YOU MADE IT
POSSIBLE! 25
KIDS KNOW THEY
CAN TRULY TRUST
GOD!**

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 starting back August 16 @
6:30pm

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

Alpha Omega News

Upcoming Events:

- Aug. 6-11th: Rush Week
- Aug. 12th: Back to School Bash
- Aug. 13th: Blessing of the Backpacks/Bible Presentations
- Aug. 16th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash

Wednesday Nights are BACK!

Starting August 16th, plan to join us for Wednesday Night youth from 6:30-7:30PM! Our Wednesday Nights in the Fall will look at people in the Bible, starting with Jonah! We can't wait to see you!



Rush Week

August 6th-11th

It's back to school time, which means welcoming our new youth with our annual Rush Week! Each night, we will have dinner, then an amazing activity before ending the evening! Rush Week will go from 6:00PM-8:30PM each night so plan to attend! If you have a youth going into the 6th grade, or any youth from 6th grade through 12th grade, please come join us! We would love to have you!

Rush Week Schedule

Sunday: Service Project

Monday: Welcome and Game Night

Tuesday: Game Night at Autumn House

Wednesday: Messy Games

Thursday: Minute-To-Win-It

Friday: Water Night

Saturday: Back to School Bash (7:30-9:30PM)

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 Kalya know!

- Mystery Trips, Lock-Ins, and other special events
- Wednesday Night Activities
- Sunday School
- Sunday Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer Activities

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.



PEACE

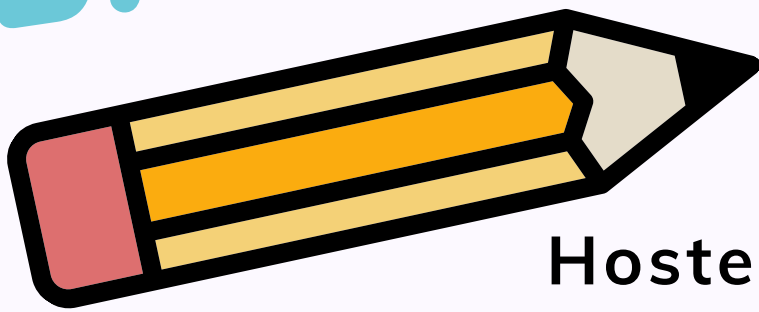
OUT

SUMMER

Join us for a

BACK  SCHOOL

Bash!



Hosted by St. Matthew UMC

Saturday, August 12th, 2023

Reno Swim and Slide

7:30PM-9:30PM

Snacks will be provided!

Plan to join us for our other
upcoming events!

Sunday School Kick-off and Blessing of the Backpacks

Celebrate the start of a new year by joining us for breakfast with your Sunday School teachers on August 13th for all 3yrs-12th grade from 9:40AM-10:40AM. Also bring your backpack to be blessed during the 11am service!

W.O.W. Kick-Off

W.O.W. is kicking off the new school year on August 16th from 6:30-7:30PM! Midweek Meal will start back on September 13th at 5:30PM!

August at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

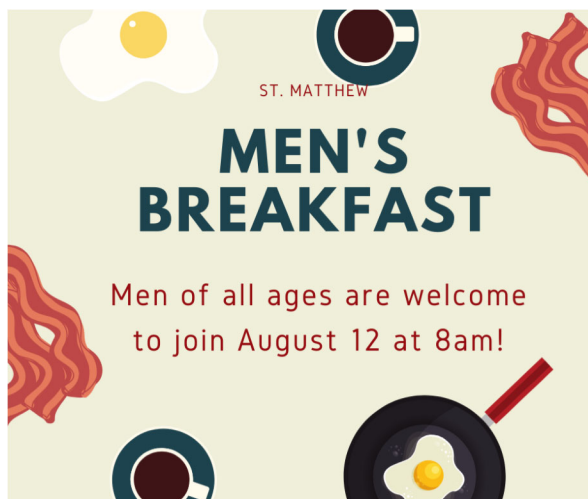
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| Aug 6-11 | 6-8:30pm | AO Youth Rush Week |
| Aug 12 | 8am | Men's Breakfast |
| Aug 12 | 7:30pm | Back to School Bash |
| Aug 13 | 9:40am | Sunday School Kick off |
| Aug 13 | 11am | Blessing of the Backpacks and Bible Presentations |
| Aug 16 | 6:30pm | WOW and AO Youth Back! |
| Aug 21 | 7pm | SPRC |
| Aug 22 | 6:30pm | Finance |
| Aug 27 | | Pumpkin Sunday |
| Aug 27 | 2:30pm | Murphy Baby Shower |



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

Week at a glance

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday | |
| 8:30am | Worship |
| 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 | |
| 6:15pm | Spirit Singers |
| 6:30pm | WOW & AO Youth |
| 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 |



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|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Aug 1 | Scott & Kim Moody |
| | Brennan & Marissa Murphy |
| | Leonard & Kathy Szopinski |
| Aug 3 | Ronnie & Debbie Creager |
| Aug 11 | Russell & Michele Foster |
| Aug 12 | Eric & Valarie Autry |
| Aug 19 | Michael & Selma Bediako |
| | Gene & Beverly Link |
| Aug 21 | Tim & Diane Wincapaw |

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Aug 1 | Frank Barnett |
| | Kathy Harris |
| Aug 3 | Jan Hall |
| Aug 5 | Terri Weldon |
| | Steve Wilson |
| Aug 6 | Anna Shelton |
| Aug 7 | Louise Barnett |
| | Joyce Perkins |
| Aug 8 | Stephanie Ballow |
| | Katelynn Henderson |
| Aug 10 | Makilah Nelson |
| Aug 12 | Mariyah Kisner |
| | Calvin Merson |
| Aug 14 | Mark Dimski |
| | Kathy Ellis |
| Aug 15 | Susan Wilson |
| Aug 18 | Karren Brown |
| | Dianna Hancock |
| | Aaron Larsen |
| Aug 19 | David Rhoades |
| | Taylor Voss |
| Aug 21 | Tom Patterson |
| Aug 22 | Beverly McDaniel |
| Aug 24 | Marie Jordan |
| Aug 26 | Diane Wincapaw |
| Aug 27 | John Howell Jr. |
| Aug 28 | Scott Moody |
| | Carol Rathke |
| Aug 29 | Peggy Holt |
| Aug 31 | Brooklyn Mullings |



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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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.*



This month's Special offering is for our Children's Ministry! The offering will help with our annual "drink and prayer" Sonic gift cards for local teachers. We are also collecting school supplies through the month of August!

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 |