



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 2023

From the Pastor's Desk



Early in our marriage, Jamie and I had the honor of serving as missionaries in the Yucatan Peninsula in southern Mexico. It was an eye opening two years. During that time, we developed relationships with some of the most amazing and Christ-like people you could imagine. We got to see how the Christian witness manifested itself in a culture unlike our own, and wouldn't you know it? THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES.

One of the most startling had to be the way that local followers of Jesus worshipped. Of course, just like in the United States, no two individual churches worshipped exactly the same way. But it was common to see hours long sermons (some of you might die!), long amounts of time spent in spontaneous prayer, and, of course the singing of hymns.

Now, when I say we sang some hymns, don't imagine that it looked like a well-practiced choir spinning out near perfect harmonies while we all turned to the right page in our hymnals. Don't even imagine folks on a guitar or keyboard belting out tunes with the worship lyrics projected on a screen for all to see. Instead, imagine what it would be like if everyone in the church was handed a tambourine or maraca regardless of their sense of rhythm, or if every person in the church sang as loudly and passionately as they could regardless of their ability to carry a tune or sing on key.

That's how they worshipped. It was different. It was strange to me. It took a while for me to get used to. It challenged my understanding of what worship was supposed to look like.

But it was beautiful, and Jesus loved it.

On June 8th, we're starting a new program called the Worship Project. It's an experiment for right now, but the ultimate goal will be for St. Matthew to have a monthly worship service that features modern styles of worship. I can almost guarantee that it will be different than what a lot of us are used to. It might even be as jarring for some of us as what I experienced in Mexico.

You might be saying "but aren't Gayle and the choir doing a good job?" Nope, they're not doing a "good job." They're doing a GREAT job! But we're offering a different style of worship because we know different people connect to the Lord in different ways.

A mature Christian is able to worship regardless of the musical style, in any place or environment, because they know that worship IS NOT ABOUT THEM. But a lot of folks who are seeking to connect with Jesus for the first time aren't attracted to hymns from a few hundred years ago and don't understand the nuances of our church traditions when they walk in off the street.

So we're going to try something new. It might not work. We might fall flat on our faces.

But we will try our very hardest to worship God with all that we have.

And it might be beautiful, and I bet Jesus will love it.

Please join us on June 8th, and invite anyone you might know who you think might benefit from connecting with Jesus through this style of worship. Thanks!

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



“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy...” Porgy and Bess sang about a time when things were laid back and summertime meant time off from the business of activities. At St. Matthew nothing could be further from the truth! Summertime at St. Matthew is one happening after another, and that is a VERY good thing!

Last Sunday we welcomed 5 new members into our church family. These young people just completed 16 weeks of intensive study of the Bible, the Christian faith, and our Methodist theology. As their first act of service as members, Abby Dixon, Reanna Dixon, Maddie Ellis, Mason Ellis and Clifton Punter will serve Holy Communion during the 11am service Sunday, June 4.

Something new is coming! “The Worship Project: A Modern Worship Experience” is coming to St. Matthew Thursday, June 8th at 7pm. In Wesley Hall. For information about this new worship event, see Jonathon’s article in this newsletter. It’s exciting!!

On July 2nd, Jonathon will have been our pastor for one year. During this year, he has chosen to base his sermons on the Gospel readings in the lectionary. During this second year, he will mix things up and choose other lectionary readings from the Psalms, the Old Testament, and the Pauline Letters, primarily the Book of Romans to begin.

Scripture Readings for June are June 2: Matthew 28:16-20 “The Great Commission,” June 9: Matthew 9:9-18, 18-26, June 16: Matthew 10:16-23, and June 25: Romans 6:1b-11.

July 2nd will be our annual Patriotic Sunday. The Scripture reading is Psalm 13.

At times you might think that it doesn’t make any difference whether you attend worship or not. You would be wrong. If occasionally things aren’t going well or you are just down in the dumps, you need worship to feed your soul. On the other hand, if everything is going great, you are full of the spirit and feel on top of the world, others need you in worship to help lift their spirits. You are important to your St. Matthew family! If you are in town, *please* come worship in whatever way is best for you! Also, please remember that even if you are going out of town, the church needs your tithes and offerings to continue in ministry. Air conditioning is not really a luxury in Oklahoma in June and July. Please mail or drop your tithe off before you leave. Or sign up for automatic giving.

While you are traveling this summer, please pick up a copy of the bulletin and any other cool ideas you see from other churches. We are always looking for new ideas.

See you Sunday!

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum

LIBRARY NEWS



June 2023

from Terri

JUNE'S FEATURED AUTHOR – IRENE HANNON

The library has a great selection of books by three-time RITA award winner Irene Hannon. Irene writes both romantic suspense and contemporary romance. Few authors win the RITA three times. It is the “Oscar” of romance fiction.

Her latest suspense trilogy is *Triple Threat*, and consists of *Point of Danger*, *Labyrinth of Lies*, and *Body of Evidence*. The trilogy revolves around the three Reilly sisters. And my sister says it is a VERY good series.

Other suspense series available in the library by Ms. Hannon are: *Code of Honor*, *Men of Valor*, *Private Justice*, *Guardians of Justice*, and *Heroes of Quantico*. Since each series is a trilogy that gives you an additional fifteen books to enjoy.

If you prefer romance to suspense Irene has a wonderful series, *Hope Harbor*, and the library has several of the titles from this series for your reading pleasure.

Stop by the library & check out one – or more – of these great books. You'll be glad you did!

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	Barbara Wallace
Cynthia Weldon	Terri Weldon

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

ATTENTION DOG LOVERS!!!

The library now has a copy of *Wonder Dogs* by Maureen Maurer with Jenna Benton. It is true stories of extraordinary assistance dogs. If you enjoy reading about amazing canines stop by the library & check it out!

FOUR NEW BOOKS!!!!

Do you know what makes a church librarian happy? Free books! And thanks to Carolyn Specht volunteering to read in the Faith Hope and Love Reader's Choice Awards (FHLRCA) we have four new suspense books. She read and generously donated *Shielding the Tiny Target* by Deena Alexander, *Word of Honor* by Hallee Bridgeman, *Inheritance of Secrets* by Robin Patchen, and *Texas Ranch Target* by Virginia Vaughan. Two of her four donations – *Word of Honor* and *Inheritance of Secrets* – are finalists in the Romantic Suspense Category. The winner will be announced this summer and I'll be sure to let you know who wins! Be on the lookout for more FHLRCA books. Katelynn Henderson and Stacey Ruston also read in the contest. I'll publish the names of their books soon.

TRY AN ANTIQUE SHOP MYSTERY!

ST. MATT KIDS

JUNE NEWS

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

3 John 1:4

Summer is here!!! While we aren't having WOW this summer, we still have lots of fun happening on Sunday mornings! Join our awesome Sunday School classes from 9:45-10:45 each week...donuts are included!

We're gearing up for an AWESOME VBS program July 27-29, put it on your calendar now! Remember even with school is out, church is still an important part of any kiddos life, please make an effort to attend!

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

JUNE

19-Donuts with Dads

JULY

27-29 - VBS

AUGUST

12-Back to School Bash at Regional Pool

Sunday, June 18 @ 9:30am

Donuts with Dads

Join us as we celebrate the men in our church! All are invited!

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

NO WOW DURING SUMMER!

Alpha Omega News

Wednesday Summer Break!

From May 24th-August 9th, our Wednesday Night Activities will be on Summer Break! We ARE STILL having Sunday Night activities during the summer, so make sure to join us!



Youth Force OKC

Youth Force OKC will be from July 9th-14th this year.

Our theme is The '80s! A packing list, as well as more information will be coming soon, so keep an eye out!

Upcoming Events:

- June 4th-9th: Youth Service Week
- June 18th: NO Youth, Father's Day
- July 9th-14th: Youth Force

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.

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

Youth Service Week

June 4th-9th

Our Youth Service Week is back! For one week this year, we will be going out and volunteering in our community! Our times look a little different this year, some are earlier in the day, some are in the evening! If your child needs a ride, we will have someone picking kids up, so please let Kalyn know as soon as possible! We will also be providing dinner each night!

Sunday June 4th: God's Love in Action

5:00PM-8:00PM

Monday June 5th: Skyline Urban Ministry

4:00PM-7:00PM

Tuesday June 6th: OK Kids Korral

5:30PM-8:30PM

Wednesday June 7th: Gardening

1:00PM-6:30PM

Thursday June 8th: TBD

TBD

Friday June 9th: TBD

TBD



We are so excited to have VBS back this year! We will be doing a shortened program while we get our feet wet again. That being said, we will still need a lot of help from everyone.

Our theme this year is Anchored and we will be turning the church into an underwater wonderland as we show kids **God is Faithful!**

While we do need helpers with the kids, there are many other ways to help even if

working with kids isn't your gift!!! Below is a volunteer card to let us know what areas you're willing to serve in!

The VBS programming will be July 27th and 28th from 6-8:30pm. We will have a dinner for our volunteers each night before we begin. The evenings will kick off with Music & More then students will travel with their "crews" to Deep Bible Adventures, Anchors Away Play and Sea Crafts. We'll end those days back in our Coral Reef for a closing.

On Saturday, July 29th, we will have a celebration dinner for all our participants and their families. The students will then perform some of the songs they've learned and then we'll enjoy Water Night Fun! We then hope everyone will join us at the 11am service, as the kids will be performing their music!

It's going to be a fun time and we can't wait to see how God moves!

Registration will be open mid-June! Email or call Katelynn with any questions!

Katelynn@stmatthew.org

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Kid's Score Me!

- I'll help with setup July 23~26
- I'll donate monetarily
- I'll pray for VBS Leaders and Participants
- I'll help with volunteer dinners July 27 & 28
- I'll help with VBS Celebration Dinner July 29

Kid's Are Cool!

- I'll help during VBS July 27
- I'll help during VBS July 28
- I'll help during VBS Water Night July 29
- I'll help with setup July 23~26
- I'll donate monetarily
- I'll pray for VBS Leaders and Participants

June at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

June 1	8am	TEFAP Truck
June 4-10		AO Youth Service Week
June 5	7pm	SPRC
June 6	6pm	Trustees
June 8	7pm	The Worship Project
June 18	9:30am	Donuts with Dads

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



June's special offering is going to our AO Youth Program!

Week at a glance

<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>	
8:30am	Worship	6:15pm	Spirit Singers
9:40am	Christian Discipleship Classes	7:15pm	Choir
11am	Worship (w/ LiveStream)	<u>Thursday</u>	
5pm	AO Youth Group	10am	Mobile Meals
<u>Monday</u>		1pm	Moving for Balance
1pm	Mobile Meals Prep	6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums
<u>Tuesday</u>		<u>Friday</u>	
7am	Mobile Meals	7am	Mobile Meals Prep
10am	Quilters Sew&Go	<u>Saturday</u>	
1pm	Moving For Balance	9:30am	Girl Scouts
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting		
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band		

June 1	Stephanie Alleman
June 2	Vella Barnett
June 3	Mason Ellis
June 4	Darlene Case
June 5	Kensli Calhoun
June 5	Ray Hugonin
June 10	Gretchen Kidd
June 13	Trent Allen
June 13	Beverly Link
June 15	Kevin Nelson
June 17	Justin Foster
June 21	Karren Brown
June 25	Lindsey Evans
June 25	Junetta Tabor
June 26	Brian Bediako
June 27	Joelle Pray
June 29	Ann Bain
June 29	Cara Elbah
June 30	Lucas Ballow
June 30	Cameron Maxfield

Have an announcement that needs to get out to the church? Please email katelynn@stmatthew.org. She can make sure it gets in the correct weekly update, bulletin, and if needed announced on Sunday morning!



June 4	David & Kaye Rhoades
June 6	Virgil & Theresa Todd
June 9	Austin & Taylor Voss
June 11	Justin & Stephanie Ballow
June 11	Michael & Alex Moody
June 11	Del & Wendi Ramsey
June 12	Kevin & Barbara Wallace
June 26	Gene & Peggy Holt



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.*



*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 |