



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2024

From the Pastor's Desk



Brothers and Sisters of St. Matthew:

What an incredible joy it was to celebrate Easter together as a church family! The resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is truly the cornerstone of our faith, and it was a privilege to come together in worship, reflection, and gratitude for this profound truth. Special shoutout to Larry Kisner for attending all three services! Nobody should have to listen to me preach three times in one day, but somehow he was able to pull it off!

As we bask in the afterglow of Easter, let us remember the hope and promise it brings to our lives each and every day. The resurrection reminds us that no matter how dark our circumstances may seem, there is always the light of Christ shining through, offering us new beginnings, redemption, and eternal life.

Looking ahead, we have another (much less important but nevertheless exciting) event on the horizon: our annual Cake Auction on April 14th. This beloved tradition is not only a deliciously fun way to spend an afternoon, but it also serves a greater purpose. The funds raised from the Cake Auction will go towards supporting our youth mission trip to Kentucky. This trip is an incredible opportunity for our young people to serve others, grow in their faith, and make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. Your participation in the Cake Auction directly contributes to the success of this important mission. And if you're worried about quality control: we promise to supervise any cake Jobe cooks!

I hope this opportunity to spur our young people on in mission is something you can get behind. But I also know that things don't always go according to plan. We might be in a post-Easter world, but sometimes it can still seem like it's Good Friday.

If that's you, please be encouraged by the words of Isaiah 40:31: "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Life won't always be easy, but as we wait upon the Lord and trust in His provision, He will promises to be with us through every challenge we face.

May God bless each and every one of you abundantly in this season of new life and renewal.

God's peace and much 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*



Happy April!! Sunday felt like winter was over. Today, Tuesday, winter has returned. I was raised in Oklahoma. I know we will have alternating summer and winter until at least May, but I always hope it isn't so.

Before I turn the worship page to April, I must take a moment and say a HUGE THANK YOU! to everyone who had a part in making our Holy Week and Easter worship services so meaningful! Special worship services don't just happen. They take hours of planning and preparation, and many willing volunteers to make it happen. Again, thank you!

Our focus for months has been getting ready for Easter. One of my sayings in choir recently has been, "There is life after Easter Sunday." On that note, here are the Scripture readings and themes for April:

April 7—John 20:19-31, the story of Doubting Thomas.

April 14 — I John 3:1-7, how great God's love for us!

April 21 — Diandra is preaching. The Spirit Singer women will sing "Joyful, Joyful" from Sister Act. Robin Murphy is soloist.

April 28 — John 15:1-8, the vine and the branches.

Our tradition for years has been to sing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" to begin our Easter services. This beautiful hymn was written by John Wesley's brother, Charles. When I researched the hymn, I discovered that Charles not only wrote hymns, but he was also a preacher. The following story is from *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert Morgan.

"John and Charles Wesley found themselves out of favor with many fellow Anglican ministers who spurned their fiery evangelistic preaching. Many pulpits were closed to them." Charles' friend from Oxford, George Whitefield was having the same problem. He started preaching outside and ended up preaching to thousands. He invited Charles to join him.

"He made his first attempt in the outskirts of London...to about 500. He returned to the house rejoicing. Soon he was preaching to thousands. 'My load was gone, and all my doubts and scruples. God shone upon my path; and I knew this was His will concerning me.'

A man named Joseph Williams heard Charles preaching and said, "I think I never heard any man labor so earnestly to convince his hearers they were all by nature in a sinful, lost, undone, damnable state; that notwithstanding, there was a possibility of their salvation, through faith in Christ.'

"Charles Wesley still preaches today in much the same way through his ageless hymns which are sung around the world each Sunday. Perhaps his most exuberant anthem is the one he simply called 'Hymn for Easter Day' published in 1739. It originally consisted of *eleven stanzas*. (italics added) The 'Alleluias' were added later, but appropriately, for this is a hymn one never gets tired of singing:

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
 Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
 Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
 Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!"¹*

I hope to see you in worship Sunday as we continue to celebrate Easter!

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum

¹*Then Sings My Soul*. Robert Morgan, copyright 2003, Thomas Nelson Publishers, p.51.



LIBRARY NEWS



April 2024

from Terri



APRIL IS AMISH MONTH AT ST. MATTHEW!

The library has a half dozen new Amish books! Wanda E. Brunstetter has penned the *Amish Cooking Class Series* and we have both *The Seekers* and *The Celebration*. As always Ms. Brunstetter has penned delightful books filled with a great mix of characters.

Anything but Plain by Suzanne Woods Fisher is Lydie Stoltzfus's journey from feeling like a square peg to understanding her diagnosis of a disease uncommon to the Amish.

Shelley Shepard Gray has penned *Happily Ever Amish*. A tale of love for Apple Creek's resident wallflower. We also have the first two books in her latest series, *A Season in Pinecraft*. In *Her Heart's Desire* and *Her Only Wish* two different Amish girls go on vacation to Hawaii & Florida. Stop by the library and try out one of these great new books!

2024 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Eric Autry
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
Cynthia Weldon	Terri Weldon

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

AMISH BOOK CLUB ANYONE!!!

I'm always looking for new things to make the library interactive and fun for our users. So, I've been considering an Amish Book Club. It would be held during the week. We'd discuss the book and enjoy a dessert. If you'd be interested, please let me know so I can determine if there's enough interest.

A CLASSIC!!!

Have you ever read *A Man Called Peter* by Catherine Marshall? If you haven't, I highly recommend you read the book. Peter Marshall was the chaplain of the United States Senate and a pastor at a church in Washington D.C. He was a phenomenal preacher. An interesting bit of info, the book was adapted into film and nominated for an academy award for cinematography. And while the movie is good, the book is always better!

A SOLDIER AND HIS DOG!!!

When Rob Kugler came back from Afghanistan life wasn't the same. A year of his life was gone and his brother had lost his life in the war. The one thing that brought him joy was his chocolate lab Bella. But unfortunately, Bella develops cancer and her prognosis isn't good. Rob decides to take Bella on one last journey across country. Read the book and take the journey with them.



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

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

Service Night

Sunday, April 28th, the youth will be going out into the community to serve. We will most likely be helping God's Love in Action Ministries, who we have helped before.

Plan to arrive at the church at 5pm for dinner and leaving the church at 5:30pm. We will be back around 8:30pm.

It's About to Get Wild!

Our Cake Auction will be here before we know it! Join us Sunday, April 14th right after the 11am service for a Wild Time! This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, with all proceeds going towards our missions. We can't wait to have you join us!



Youth need to plan to be at the church at 9:30am to get cakes placed and get tables set up. Kalyn will also be at the church for an hour or two the night before if you want to drop things off then!

Upcoming Events:

- April 14th - Cake Auction
- April 17th - Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- April 28th - Service Night

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.

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

Thank you to all the helpers for Eggstravaganza! We were able to celebrate Easter with over 65 kids from our community.

Also, a HUGE thank you to our awesome St. Matt Kids for participating in the Easter Service (and their parents who had them there so early)!

With the warmer weather, we'll be enjoying the playground a lot more, so make sure to wear shoes they can run in on Wednesday nights.

Over the next few weeks at WOW we'll be finishing our lessons on the Apostles' Creed and focusing on The Lord's Prayer. Please bring your kiddos to join the fun!

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**

APRIL

14-Youth Cake Auction

MAY

5-Family Camp No Sunday School

8-Last WOW until August

12-Muffins for Moms During Sunday School

**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



Lodge or in the Creekside cabins this year. ***Please note that again this year, Friday dinner is on your own.***



If you would like to help a family attend with a financial gift, it would be greatly appreciated. Any gift, large or small, would be helpful and make a difference for others. Thank you for your support of this "St. Matthew Family" tradition!

Family Camp 2024

May 3-5

Egan Camp & Retreat Center

Family Camp is right around the corner! The "Family" is our St. Matthew family, and everyone is invited to join us at beautiful Camp Egan in Tahlequah, OK for the weekend (Friday night—Sunday afternoon). There will be Worship, Duck Races, Games for everyone, and a big party on Saturday night. Other activities include hiking, biking, canoeing, crawdad fishing, fishing, basketball, ping pong, games, puzzles, and much more. It's a great place to enjoy nature.

Registration is open, and continues as long as space is available. A down payment of 50% of the total cost is due at registration.

We will be staying in Holliman



April at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

April 4	8am	TEFAP
April 8	6:30pm	SPRC
April 13	8am	Men's Breakfast
April 14	Noon	Cake Auction
April 22	6:30	Finance
April 23	7pm	Lydia Circle
April 25	7pm	Worship Project
May 3-5		Family Camp



April 2	Janet Todd
April 3	Gene Link
	Sammy Todd
April 8	David Heath
	Gene Holt
April 9	Selma Bediako
April 11	Carm Eastham
April 13	Rose Devanney
April 14	Hailey Cummings
April 17	Keith Endsley
	Bonnie Horton
April 18	Lilyann Keenum
April 19	Charles Tinsley
April 23	Lydia Arkoh
	Jennifer Maxfield
April 25	Ricky Clemence
	Andrew Wilson
April 28	Del Ramsey
	Edna Simpson
	Allyson Wilson Henson
April 29	Jason Henson

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

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.



Thanks to church members and Carl Albert students who volunteered their time Saturday for the church's Spring Clean-up.



Eggstravaganza was a success and wouldn't have been possible without all your help!

April 1	Luke & Stephanie Southern
April 16	Paul & Carolyn Specht
April 24	Morgan & Foster Baker
	Charles & Patti Brown



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A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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.*

WELCOME TO THE ZOO!

JOIN THE AO YOUTH FOR THEIR ANNUAL CAKE
AUCTION FUNDRAISER ON APRIL 14TH, 2024,
RIGHT AFTER THE 11AM SERVICE.

It's about to get WILD!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS YOUTH MISSIONS.



St. Matthew Staff

Rev. Jonathon Clinesmith	Pastor
e-mail: jonathon@stmatthew.org	
Stephanie Ballow	Business Manager & Nursery Director
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Diandra Nelson	Young Adult Director
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Kalyn Roark	Director of Student Ministries
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Katelynn Henderson	Director of Children's Ministries & Program Director
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Gayle Tatum	Director of Music Ministries
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e-mail: spiritsingers@stmatthew.org	
Emily Robinson	Organist/Pianist
Drew Andrews	Custodian
Louise Barnett	Financial Secretary