



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 2023

### *From the Pastor's Desk*



Dear Church Family,

In my August 27<sup>th</sup> sermon “WHY WE PUMPKIN” I basically did my very best to upset every single person in the room about styles of worship. It revolved around the centering idea that there might be music that God listens to...but the music we prefer to listen to probably isn't it. By the end, we had determined together that God doesn't so much care about whether our music is “contemporary” or “traditional”- God wants more.

In the midst of the melodies that fill our sanctuary, there lies a deeper harmony that resonates with the very essence of our faith. It is the song of transformed lives, the symphony of hearts turned towards Jesus. In Romans 12:1-2, the apostle Paul urges us to present ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is the music that truly captures His attention.

When it comes to worship, the question isn't whether the songs are traditional or contemporary, but whether our hearts are aligned with the rhythm of God's grace. We often find ourselves immersed in discussions about the style of worship, the instruments, and the tunes. Yet, these external elements are merely the instruments that play a part in the greater composition of our lives.

Paul calls us to be "transformed by the renewing of our minds." Just as a musical piece can touch our souls and change our emotions, the divine composition of God's Word has the power to transform our lives. This transformation doesn't hinge on whether we prefer classic hymns or modern choruses. Instead, it flows from the intentional pursuit of a relationship with Christ.

Imagine if our lives were harmonious expressions of gratitude, our actions and thoughts united in a melody of love and service. This is the symphony that God longs to hear—the resonance of hearts captivated by His grace. Our worship isn't confined to the moments we spend in the sanctuary; it extends to every facet of our lives. Our work, interactions, and decisions become the notes that compose the music of worship.

As we gather to sing and praise, let's remember that our worship extends beyond the walls of the church building. Just as the rhythm and melody of a song influence the emotions it evokes, our transformed lives reflect the beauty of Christ to a watching world. Our worship becomes a witness, a testament to the transformative power of the Gospel.

**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.*

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So, whether we find ourselves moved by the timeless hymns that have echoed through generations or the contemporary songs that speak to our current experiences, let's prioritize the true heart of worship—offering ourselves as living sacrifices, transformed by the renewing of our minds. This is the music that God truly listens to—the melody of lives surrendered to Him.

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Okay, now that I've gotten all the soap box grandstanding out of the way, let's talk about just a few of the special things that are happening this month in the life of the church.

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, our district superintendent Rev. Dr. Sam Powers will be preaching. We will only have one service that day, the 11AM. This is an excellent opportunity to hear one of our conference leaders preach, so I hope you will do your very best to be there with bells on!

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, PUMPKINS ARRIVE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (Tom, I hope I put enough exclamation points on that.) When we talk about the idea of our whole lives being lived in a way that worship God, we can't escape from the idea of service. One of the best ways we've been making an impact for the Gospel in our community for over 30 years has been through our pumpkin patch and Pumpkin Festival <sup>TM</sup>. We'll need all hands on deck to get thousands of pumpkins off the truck and into the patch. It'll be dirty work, but it will be Godly work!

On September 28<sup>th</sup> the Worship Project will be returning! After a trial run in June, there's been a lot of buzz about making the Worship Project a more permanent thing. For those of you who weren't able to be there, the Worship Project is a great entry point for folks who prefer modern expressions of worship, young adults, and seekers. This semester the Worship Project will meet September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 30<sup>th</sup>. We know that worship goes beyond music, but we also know that pouring our hearts out in praise is a fantastic way to connect with God and center ourselves for the lives God is calling us to live. Invite a friend or two and meet us there at 7PM!



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



Happy Fall Y'all! Welcome to St. Matthew in September! The kiddos are back in school, vacations are over for the most part, and it's time to turn over that new leaf and begin again. I know, that's what we say in January, but it is equally true now. It's time — time to join a Sunday School class, join or begin a small group, time to reestablish a pattern of worship attendance, time to return to, or join, one of the many St. Matthew organizations; UWF, Men's Group, Emmaus, Choir, WOW, Youth Group, Young Adults...It's time!!

Rev. Dr. Sam Powers, our District Superintendent, will be our guest pastor on September 10. **There will be one service at 11:00am.** The title of his sermon is "How Do I Measure Your Worth?" scripture reading is Romans 13:8-14. He is an excellent speaker and I know you will be blessed by his message. Let's fill the pews!

The Worship Project #2 will be September 28 at 7:00pm! The first contemporary worship experience was *very* well received and many people are looking forward to this service! The plan now is to have one Worship Project per month on a Thursday evening. Come and worship!

Scripture readings for September are Matthew 15:21-28 (9/3), Romans 13:8-14 (9/10), Matthew 18:21-35 (9/17), and Exodus 16:2-15 (9/24). Reading the passages ahead of time helps to more fully participate in Jonathon's messages.

Fall at St. Matthew means Pumpkins! Last Sunday we had the opportunity to hear what our pumpkin grants have meant to our community. Our Pumpkins with a Purpose have an impact far beyond our church walls. This year's patch opens around September 25, or when the pumpkins actually arrive. The Pumpkins are scheduled for delivery September 24. The sign up board to work shifts in the patch is now available. It won't be long now!!

See you Sunday! Please make it a point to be in worship. You are important, and your presence is vital!

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

*Shalom,*

*Gayle Tatum*



# LIBRARY NEWS



September 2023

from Terri



## FIVE NEW SUSPENSE NOVELS!!!

This month we have new suspense books available by both some favorite and some new authors.

Library favorite Colleen Coble has penned *Break of Day*, the finale to her *Annie Pederson Novels*.

Jessica R. Patch won this year's St. Matthew Suspense Contest with *A Cry in the Night*. Now we've added book one - *Her Darkest Secret*. If you loved *A Cry in the Night*, you'll enjoy *Her Darkest Secret*.

There's also a new Jamie Jo Wright novel – *The Vanishing at Castle Moreau*. Jamie always writes a scary suspense book. Her novels are also time slips which are fun to read!

*Dangerous Beauty* by Melissa Koslin is a different kind of suspense novel with a very different type of hero. You'll definitely want to try this one!

And finally, we have *26 Below* by Kimberley Woodhouse. In this book the temperature is dropping and time is running out.

Stop by the library and check out one or more of these great new titles!!!



## 2023 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Eric Autry
Jackie Elk	Rebecca Hartmann
Dayna Heath	Katelynn Henderson
Larry Kisner	Susie Larsen
Beverly Link	Joyce Perkins
Donna Rader	Kaye Rhoades
Kalyn Roark	Emily Robinson
Kay Ross	Stacey Ruston
Carolyn Specht	Barbara Wallace
Cynthia Weldon	Terri Weldon

They are reading the greatest story ever told!

## CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS!!!

Dogs are amazing creatures. Their capacity for love is endless. In *Unlikely Friendships Dogs* by Jennifer S. Holland, you'll read 37 stories showcasing the compassion of canines. These canines have befriended every creature from parakeets to chameleons to turtles to spotted lambs to humans. If you enjoy reading about dogs stop by and check it out!

## MERCI! GRACIAS! THANKS!

A special thank you to Beverly Link for donating the *Sweet Tomorrows* by Debbie Macomber to the St. Matthew Library. This is the final book in the *Rose Harbor Novels*. You'll finally discover what happens to Jo Marie and Mark. Has Mark left Cedar Cover for good? Will Jo Marie find love with her new border? Or will Mark and Jo Marie find their way back to each other? You'll have to check it out to find the answers! Thanks, Beverly, for helping to S-T-R-E-T-C-H our library budget.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Seven kiddos completed the first St. Matthew Kid's Reading Challenge. Congratulations to: Seth Autry, Hollie Boston, Caroline Henderson, Everett Henderson, Dawson Maxfield, Finn Maxfield, and Mollie Smith! And a special thank you to our anonymous donor.

# CELEBRATING EMBODIMENT

BY DIANDRA NELSON



## WHAT'S MY BODY GOT TO DO WITH IT?

THE TRUTH IS NOW MORE THAN EVER; THE CHURCH HAS LOST TOUCH WITH ONE OF OUR MOST ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS - OURSELVES! OUR BODIES DO SO MUCH FOR US, FROM CARRYING US AROUND 24/7 TO SERVING AS THE VESSEL TO INTERFACE WITH OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. **BODIES ARE IMPORTANT!** SO IMPORTANT THAT GOD HIMSELF DECIDED TO GET IN ONE AND CAME TO WALK AMONGST CREATION IN THE BODY FORMALLY KNOWN AS JESUS THE CHRIST. EMBODIMENT IS HOW GOD CHOSE TO MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN TO THE WORLD AND HOW HE IS STILL CHOOSING TO MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN, EXCEPT NOW IT'S NOT JESUS DOING THE EMBODYING... IT'S YOU AND I.



**HINTS WHY WE ARE REFERRED TO AS THE BODY OF CHRIST.**



WHEN WE LOSE TRACK OF HOW TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE OUR BODIES, IT CAN FEEL NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE THE PEOPLE AROUND US; THAT'S WHY I'LL BE SHARING WAYS TO CELEBRATE EMBODIMENT. SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REMIND YOURSELF THAT YOU WERE GIVEN THE SKIN YOU'RE IN FOR A REASON. THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE WAS VERY INTENTIONAL WHEN HE MADE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.



**THIS MONTH'S EMBODIMENT CELEBRATION**



THIS WEEK WE ARE GOING TO CELEBRATE EMBODIMENT BY SPENDING TIME BAREFOOT ON THE LAWN (STAY WITH ME). TAKE TIME TO BREATHE DEEPLY AND FEEL YOUR LUNGS EXPAND AND COLLAPSE, FILLING UP WITH THE OXYGEN YOU NEED AND PUSHING OUT THE CARBON DIOXIDE THAT THE WORLD AROUND US NEEDS TO THRIVE. PAY ATTENTION TO HOW ALL OF CREATION WAS MADE TO LIVE HARMONIOUSLY.

NEXT, TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT HOW YOU GOT WHERE YOU ARE. WHAT OPPORTUNITIES, HEARTBREAKS, AND EVENTS WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE YOU WIND UP RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE? NOW TAKE A MOMENT TO TRY AND FIND GOD'S HAND IN ALL OF THAT.

WHAT MAKES YOU THE PERFECT FIT FOR REACHING THE COMMUNITY AROUND YOU?

HOW HAS YOUR BODY HELPED YOU TO SERVE GOD?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WORSHIPED GOD WITH YOUR MIND, SOUL, **AND** BODY?

CLOSE OUT YOUR TIME ON THE LAWN BY WAVING AT SOME NEIGHBORS + THANKING GOD FOR THAT GREAT BOD OF YOURS.

# ST. MATT KIDS

## SEPTEMBER NEWS

“Parents, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4)

When was the last time you had joy like a child? What about faith like a child? After receiving his LONG awaited 3rd-grade Bible, Everett has been reading it every night! He found his own Bible reading plan listed in the Study Bible and has been diving in!

I have a major confession in that Everett has been reading his Bible more than I have! Why is that...well, there is a long list of excuses, does this sound familiar? I also hear lots of excuses on why we can't make it to church on Sundays or Wednesdays. As parents, it's easy to get entangled in the busyness of our lives and our children's various activities, especially in the whirlwind of sports and other commitments. However, there are moments when we should pause and reflect on whether we are truly guiding our children along the right path in life...or stop and see our children can be guiding us!

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

#### SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6-MidWeek Meals resume  
Sept. 24- Pumpkin Unloading

#### 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

# Mark Your Calendars!

## The pumpkins are coming, the pumpkins are coming!

The pumpkins are coming! Starting at the end of September, we kick off our biggest event of the year: PUMPKINS! We need all the help we can get, so make sure and keep these dates on your calendar! Start thinking about when you can volunteer in the patch as well! The more hands, the more successful the patch and festival!

### Upcoming events:

9/24 - Pumpkin Unloading

10/8 - Festival Set-up

10/14-Pumpkin Festival!

**Interested in helping in the festival, but don't know where to start? There are volunteer cards in the narthex! Grab one and turn it into the office, or give it to one of your festival chairs: Susie Dealy, Karren Brown, or Kalyn Roark!**



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 School
- Sunday Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer Activities



## Pumpkin Unloading

The pumpkins are coming, the pumpkins are coming! After church on the 24th, we will be unloading pumpkins into the patch! Please plan to stay after church and unload pumpkins. We will NOT have youth that evening, so everyone can go relax and shower! This is a large undertaking, so we need as many hands as possible!



## Mystery Trip

There's no better way to capture that feeling of adventure and spontaneity that we are all seeking than by going on a mystery trip with the youth! You may not know where we are going, but we will definitely have a wild time!

September 16th  
Leaving: 8:45AM  
Returning: 2:00PM  
Cost: \$11

See Kalyn for details and questions!

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.

## Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 3rd: NO YOUTH
- Sept. 13th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- Sept. 16th: Mystery Trip
- Sept. 24th: Pumpkin Unloading
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# September at St. Matthew

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 4		Labor Day—Church Office is closed
Sept. 5	6pm	Trustees
Sept. 6	5:30pm	Midweek is back!
Sept. 9	8am	Men's Breakfast
Sept. 10	11am	One Service
Sept. 24		Pumpkins Arrive
Sept. 28	7pm	The Worship Project



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	<b>Saturday</b>	
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band	9:30am	Girl Scouts

Sept. 1	Chad Shelton
Sept. 3	Larry Kisner Kim Moody Carolejean Reynolds
Sept. 4	Dot Lambert
Sept. 6	Anita Endsley
Sept. 7	Joan Tiernan
Sept. 8	Necia Miller
Sept. 9	Eugenia Davis
Sept. 10	Jim Lang Deanna McIntire
Sept. 12	Ryder Fitzpatrick
Sept. 13	Chirlee Lang
Sept. 14	Debi Alleman
Sept. 15	Morgan Baker Caroline Henderson
Sept. 17	David Keenum
Sept. 19	Ruth Wilson
Sept. 21	Cam Allen Finn Maxfield
Sept. 23	Hannalicia Robinson Cynthia Weldon
Sept. 24	Jim Wilbur

### Trustees Update: Playground is complete!

We were so pleased that we were able to complete this project for our church members. We are also grateful for all the donations of funds from our congregation.

Special Thanks to Katey Henderson for her vision and perseverance to provide such a blessing for our children and youth.

Picture taken by Dana Heath who also volunteered her time. Pictured below left to right:

David Heath, Bill Case, Scott Moody, Aaron Larsen & Keith Phelps.



Sept. 1	Matt & Diane Mathis
Sept. 3	Walter & Joan Tiernan
Sept. 4	Keith & Anita Endsley
Sept. 23	Jim & Chirlee Lang
Sept. 25	David & Jackie Elk



## St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*The Mission of The United Methodist Church  
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.*

### St. Matthew Staff

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<b>Drew Andrews</b>	Custodian
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