



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June/July 2024

From the Pastor's Desk



Reflecting on the 2024 Oklahoma Annual Conference

Brothers and Sisters of St. Matthew UMC-

I hope this message finds you well and blessed. I am excited to share some highlights from the recent 2024 Oklahoma Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This year's conference was particularly enriching, with a renewed focus on the mission of the church highlighted by numerous reports showcasing the work being done by United Methodists across Oklahoma. From local mission initiatives to global outreach programs, it was truly inspiring to see how our collective efforts are making a positive impact for the Kingdom in communities near and far.

One of the key outcomes of the conference was the successful passage of the annual budget. This budget will fund various ministries, missions, and administrative functions essential to our shared work. We are grateful for the careful planning and stewardship that went into crafting a budget that supports our vision and goals for the coming year. One of the key takeaways for us regarding the budget is that our apportionments continue to be lower than they have been in recent years. This means that, while we continue to participate in shared missions and ministries with our fellow United Methodists in Oklahoma, each of our individual churches are carrying a lighter fiduciary burden than we have in the past.

Another topic of significant interest and concern for many after the General Conference of the UMC in Charlotte, NC last month was the discussion surrounding LGBTQ issues within our church. I want to inform you that at our Oklahoma Annual Conference no new legislation was passed regarding LGBTQ matters. This means that, for the time being, each local church will continue to determine its own policies regarding weddings and other related issues.

For our congregation, this decision allows us to continue discerning our path forward with respect to our beliefs, values, and community needs. It provides us the opportunity to engage in thoughtful and prayerful conversations as we seek to embody Christ's love, holiness, and grace in all that we do. Our trustees have already been prayerfully reviewing our facility use policies regarding weddings, and other committees and leadership teams will be invited for holy conferencing as needed as we continue to discern. But in a very real sense, our community is still the same community that it's always been and is continuing to do the work of Jesus in Midwest City.

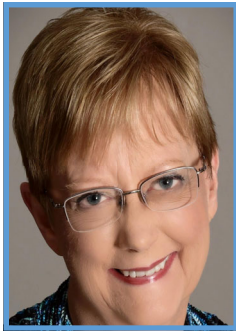
From the very beginning, one thing that I've advocated for is for us to make sure that we're making the main thing the main thing. The main thing for all of us should be making disciples of Jesus Christ. As we move forward, let us remain committed to our mission and vision, trusting in God's guidance and wisdom. I encourage all of us to continue supporting one another, fostering open and respectful dialogue with your brother or sister who might have a differing point of view, and staying grounded in our faith. Together, we can navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead with grace and compassion.

Thank you for your continued dedication and faithfulness. Let us keep our hearts and minds focused on the work God has called us to do, both within our congregation and beyond.

May God's blessings be upon you as we journey together in faith.

God's peace and 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 Summer! This newsletter will cover both June and July, so it has lots of information! It is unbelievable how fast this summer is whizzing along! It seems like Memorial Day was yesterday and we are speeding our way to Pumpkin Sunday the end of August!

Johnathon's Scripture texts for June and July are:

June 9—1 Samuel 8:4-20

June 16—Mark 4:25-34

June 23— Mark 4:35-41

June 30 — Mark 5:21-43

July 7 — 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

July 14 — 2 Samuel 6:1-5; 12b-19

July 21 — Ephesians 2:11-22

July 28 — Psalm 14

Father's Day is June 16. Chelsea Luxen will sing the Lord's Prayer in the 11am service. As we do on Mother's Day, all the men in our congregation will be honored, ages birth to 100+. Children's Ministries will sponsor Donuts with Dads at 10am in the Narthex. Invite all the fathers and father figures in your family to join you.

Diandra Nelson will preach her last sermon as our Young Adult Minister on June 23. She will leave us in July to become Assistant Pastor at New Hope United Methodist Church in Northwest Oklahoma City. Come hear Dia and let her know how very much she will be missed!

Our annual Patriotic Sunday will be June 30 this year. We will sing songs and hymns that honor both God and country. And of course, feel free to wear your red, white blue.

Traditionally Chancel Choir and Spirit Singers take the month of July off. This gives us a chance to hear our talented soloists, plus it gives choir members a chance to spend the entire service sitting with their families. Our musicians for June 30-August 4 are Ryan and Stacey Ruston, Chelsea Luxen, Anita Endsley and Ashley Poole, VBS Kids, Maddie Ellis, and Ella McDonald.

If you are traveling this summer, remember you can watch the 11:00 am service live on the St. Matthew FaceBook or YouTube pages, or later on our website, stmatthew.org. If you attend a different church on your travels, please look for new ideas and share them with our staff. Don't forget to include youth and children's ministries, too.

Have a joyous and safe remainder of the summer. It will be over before you know it. Please Join your St. Matthew family for worship when you are in town.

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



June/July 2024

from Terri

KID'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM!!!

It's time for the second Kid's Summer Reading Program! The program runs during the month of July. Kids in Pre-K through 5th grade are eligible to participate. Kiddos who complete the program will receive a \$10 Chick-fil-a gift card thanks to an anonymous donor! The program is limited to the first ten children who sign-up.

A selection of books to choose from are available in the middle of the library table. Participants are required to read from the selected books to be eligible. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the wall outside the library. Instructions will be on the table in the library beside the books.

The rules are much simpler this year. All you have to do is read a minimum of 4 books; write the titles on the form in the library and have your mom, dad, or grandparent sign the sheet. Place a star by your favorite book. That helps me know what to purchase in the future.

At the end of the month, you'll receive your gift certificate.

Stop by the library and sign-up. A very special thank you to our anonymous donor. And let's make this a fun and successful second year to the program!!!

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!

MERCI! GRACIAS! THANKS!

One of Carolyn's contest books was the 2nd in a series. She ordered and donated 3 more books so the library could have a four-book set! The books are the *Last Chance Fire and Rescue Series* by Lisa Phillips. They are: *Expired Return*, *Expired Promise*, and *Expired Vows*. Wow, I love having a series donated. Thank you so much, Carolyn!

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

Thanks to Katelynn, Stacey, and Carolyn for reading in the FHLCW Reader's Choice Contest. Thanks to their generosity we have 13 new books!

Katelynn read and donated *Sylvia's Mother* by Jennifer Lynn Cary; *The Amish Bachelor's Bride* by Pamela Desmond Wright; *Critical Alliance* by Elizabeth Goddard; *Better Watch Out* by Natalie Walters; and *The Secret to Happiness* by Suzanne Woods Fisher.

Stacey read and donated *A Million Little Choices* by Tamera Alexander; *One Southern Summer* by Heidi McCahan; *Senior Sisters* by Nancy Moser; and *Something I Haven't Told You* by Pearl Ada Pridham.

Carolyn read *Expired Hope* by Lisa Phillips; *The Decision* by Christina Rost; *Tracked Through the Woods* by Laura Scott; and *Ranch Showdown* by Tina Wheeler.

CELEBRATE DAD!!!

The library has two new books you can share with your dad. They are *My Dad and Me* by Kirsten Irving and *Thank You, God, for Daddy* by Amy Parker. Make sure you check one out, and share it with your dad this Father's Day!

Alpha Omega News

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

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 Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer/Service Activities

Swim Night

Our youth swim night will be on Saturday, June 29th from 6pm-8pm. Dinner will be provided!

Ladies need to wear a one piece swimsuit or a shirt over their suit and boys need to wear a shirt with their swim trunks.

Please see Kalyn for details and address.



Sunday Night Youth

Sunday night youth is going to look a little bit different in June and July!

We are going to have a short lesson series's on Spiritual Disciplines, we are going to have themed nights, and we are going to be playing tons of games!

So plan to still come to youth from 5pm-7pm during the summer!

Lazarus Community Service Day

Join us on Saturday, June 22nd as we assist at the Lazarus Community: a mission for the homeless of Oklahoma City.

We will be preparing food bags, helping with organizing supplies, and general building cleaning.

We will be leaving the church at 9:30am and returning by 2:30pm. Please let Kalyn know if you will be going!

We are also collecting donations to help support their bags of non-perishable foods. Use the QR code below to find their Amazon wishlist.



Upcoming Events:

- June 9th - No Youth
- June 16th - No Youth
- June 22nd - Service Day
- June 23rd - Youth, 5-7pm
- June 29th - Swim Night
- June 30th - Youth, 5-7pm



St. Matthew UMC
July 15-19
6:00-8:30pm

**Entering pre-K through
graduating 5th grade**

VBS is just a few weeks away! As we gear up a few things are needed!

1. KIDS! Know any students that might want to join us? Help them get registered at www.stmatthew.org/stmattkids. The most common way to get someone to join us by word of mouth so tell your friends and neighbors!
2. Prayers! Please be praying for the students now, that they will be ready to hear the exciting news! Pray for the leaders that they will be ready...and especially pray for your director :)).
3. Volunteers! We'd love for you to come help! See Katelynn if you are able to participate. If you do not have a background check on file with the church, Katelynn will give you paperwork to complete that!

Thanks for all you do!

Katelynn

SUMMER BREAK!

PLEASE NOTE OUR MIDWEEK PROGRAM AND
SUNDAY SCHOOLS ARE ON BREAK DURING THE
MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE EVERYONE BACK IN AUGUST.



*We will miss you
Diandra!*

**Congratulations on your new
position as Pastor of
Community Engagement at
New Hope UMC. Thank you for
all you've done at St. Matthew!**



**Change of day for
Independence Day!
Volunteers needed
TUESDAY, JULY 2nd!**



POP MACHINE

After MANY years, our Pop Machine will now cost \$1.00 per can! This increase will cover the cost of the drinks, but also will help AO Youth and the Utility Assistance Fund.

June & July at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

June 21-23		YA Summer Spark
June 25	6:30pm	Finance Committee
June 27	7pm	Worship Project
July 2	8am	TEFAP
July 4		Office Closed-Independence Day
July 9		Trustees
July 15-19	6-8:30pm	VBS
July 25	7pm	Worship Project

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Week at a glance

<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>	
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
<u>Monday</u>		<u>Thursday</u>	
9am	Mobile Meals Prep	10am	Mobile Meals
<u>Tuesday</u>		1pm	Moving for Balance
7am	Mobile Meals	6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums
10am	Quilters Sew&Go	<u>Friday</u>	
1pm	Moving For Balance	7am	Mobile Meals Prep
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting	<u>Saturday</u>	
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band	9:30am	Girl Scouts

Happy Anniversary!

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

June 4	David & Kaye Rhoades
June 6	Virgil & Theresa Todd
June 11	Justin & Stephanie Ballow
	Del & Wendi Ramsey
July 5	Tom & Kathy Ellis
July 7	Brett & Stacey Ruston
July 9	John & Debi Alleman
	Charlie & Kelly Stephens
July 12	David & Dayna Heath
July 20	Trent & Kayla Allen
July 21	Bob & Pam Dimski

Have an announcement that needs to get out to the church?

Please email kate-lynn@stmatthew.org. She can make sure it gets in the correct weekly update, bulletin, and if needed announced on Sunday morning!

June 1	Stephanie Southern
June 2	Vella Barnett
June 3	Mason Ellis
June 4	Darlene Case
	Tom Ellis
June 5	Kenzli Calhoun
	Ray Hugonin
	Shawn Newsom
June 10	Gretchen Kidd
June 13	Trent Allen
	Beverly Link
June 15	Kevin Nelson
June 17	Justin Foster
June 21	Karen Baker
June 25	Lindsey Evans
	Junetta Tabor
June 27	Joelle Pray
June 29	Ann Bain
	Cara Elbah
June 30	Lucas Ballow
	Cameron Maxfield
July 2	Susan Campbell
July 3	Todd Dealy
July 5	Jackie Elk
July 7	Gene Brown
July 15	Ashley Poole
July 17	Kerri Ferguson
July 18	Ron Dixon
	Michael Moody
	Pam Neidhardt
July 19	Conrad Bediako
July 20	Virgil Todd
July 22	Joshua Nelson
July 25	Carolyn Nolen
July 28	Sadie Clinesmith
July 29	Russell Foster
July 30	Dawson Maxfield



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

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.*



St. Matthew Staff

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Emily Robinson

Organist/Pianist

Drew Andrews

Custodian

Louise Barnett

Financial Secretary