



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2023

From the Pastor's Desk



I'm looking forward to my first real opportunities to fail at St. Matthew. What a weird thing to say, right? What could I possibly mean by that? Well, I'm glad you asked!

You see, for the last few months I've been in a bit of a honeymoon phase as your pastor. I've come in, done my best not to be too disruptive or to change too many things, and just tried to do ministry the best I can. And for the most part you've given me the benefit of the doubt, given me space to learn the job and grow, and been okay with most of what we've been doing.

In effect, we've all been okay with the status quo while Pastor Jonathon gets his feet wet.

But now we're starting a new year, and that means I have to be honest with you as your pastor and tell you that there are some areas where we as a congregation are lacking.

Let me be really clear: St. Matthew isn't broken. It's not some sort of mechanism that needs fixing. My job isn't to "fix" the church, it's to ensure that we as a community of Jesus followers are making and growing disciples.

We're really good at PARTS of that. But we're called to be whole disciples, not partial disciples. What I mean by that is that some of us are good at worshiping God, some of us are good at sharing the Gospel, some of us are good at studying God's word, some of us are good at loving our neighbors, some of us are good at showing generosity. But a complete disciple will do all of those things.

And St. Matthew is good at providing opportunities in lots of those areas. I love worshipping with you on Sundays, I love seeing the outpouring of Christian love through our various outreach programs, I love the times I've gotten to pray with you and I love some of the ways I've seen folks in this congregation provide reliable and loving witness to the goodness of Jesus Christ.

But one area is lacking, at least from a church sponsored standpoint: adult Christian education. Only a very small percentage of folks who worship with us or even volunteer with our outreach ministries are part of a Sunday school class, a small group, or other group discipleship opportunities.

I'd like to change that. So I'm cashing in my chips. I'm using whatever good will I've built up, and I'm encouraging us all to actively study God's word TOGETHER. There are two main ways we're going to try to do this in the coming months.

(Cont. next page)

Donuts, Coffee & Jesus

What else could you need?



Sunday School classes for ALL ages starting
at 9:40am on January 8th, 2023!

Worship Online 11am:

www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC or www.stmatthew.org/sermons

Give Online:

www.stmatthew.org/giving

From the Pastor's Desk Cont.

The first is by launching new discipleship classes on Sunday mornings starting January 8th during the new Sunday School hour. If you haven't had the chance yet, please check those out. My friend and mentor Rev. Ben Williams will be teaching a class on his book "This Moment With God" and our very own Anita Poole-Endlsey will be teaching a class on Louie Giglio's "Don't Give the Enemy A Seat At Your Table." In addition, our children and youth- who have already been meeting on Sundays for group discipleship- will be beginning new classes. It's a great jumping on point FOR ALL OF US.

The second opportunity will be our new Midweek program starting in February. On Wednesdays, we'll offer a community meal starting at 5:30 and have classes starting at 6:30. The youth, children, and adults will all have offerings, with the adult offering generally being taught by me.

To kick this even off, we'll be hosting Christian illusionists David and Kylie Knight for our Midweek Launch event on February 8th. Our hope is that by offering this event we'll be able to draw members of the community into relationship and even discipleship with us and build momentum going forward for the year to come.

Listen, I know it sounds weird on paper. Christian magicians? Really? That's going to draw people in?

It's a huge opportunity to fail. It could be that nobody shows up and the community laughs off our attempt to reach out to them. It could be that nobody comes to our free dinners, or that those who do don't stick around to learn about Jesus.

But I firmly believe that whether we experience success or failure, this is what God is calling us to do. To at least try to make and grow disciples. To take risk.

Will you take the risk with me? Will you come and grow in your faith by growing in your knowledge of Jesus? Will you invite those who most need Jesus to come and experience the things that are happening at St. Matthew?

It's an opportunity for you to fail too, I guess. But it's also an opportunity to do something big for the Kingdom. Will you step out in faith with me?



Christian Illusionists David and Kylie Knight's Upcoming Show at St. Matthew

David and Kylie Knight, Christian illusionists, are coming to perform at St. Matthew to help us launch our new Midweek program! David and Kylie Knight are world-renowned Christian illusionists. Their show is a mix of jaw-dropping illusions and powerful messages about Jesus Christ. The Knights have been performing together for over a decade and their show has something for everyone. You're sure to be entertained and amazed.

The Knights are coming as part of our church's initiative to launch discipleship programming on Wednesday nights that not only reaches out into our community to make new disciples, but nourishes and grows the ones we already have.

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30pm

Dinner: There will be a pre-show dinner at 5:30 PM in the fellowship hall. There is no cost for the dinner and it is open to the entire community.

What to Expect: An evening of awe-inspiring and wonder-inducing illusions, punctuated by messages of hope, faith, and fellowship.

Why You Should Come: This is a rare opportunity to see world-class illusionists in an intimate setting. But it's also a chance for us to invite folks to church in an unimposing way. It's a great opportunity to invite neighbors, friends, and even strangers to experience something awe-inspiring that also points them to Jesus.



Words About Worship
From the Director of
Music Ministries



Happy New Year! Great things await St. Matthew as we enter this new year. With your help, we can assist more of our neighbors with their utilities, feed more hungry people, help clothe the homeless, take more meals to the homebound and elderly... The list is infinite. It just needs you to make it a reality. Speaking of you, there are new opportunities for you to grow in your discipleship and Christian faith. Look in this newsletter to find new Christian Discipleship classes (ie Sunday School) beginning January 8!

Beginning this Sunday, January 8, the Early Service is moving back to 8:30am. This move was made to allow them to participate in the Christian Disciple classes, 9:40-10:40am.

Before I turn the corner and leave 2022 behind, I want to thank everyone who had a part in making our Advent and Christmas season great! It takes a village to provide meaningful worship and everyone who participated in any way in the Advent services, the Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve services, the Christmas Day service and the New Years Day service....THANK YOU! You made Christmas happen for many people.

Have you written New Year's Resolutions? One challenge I have for you is to be intentional in your worship attendance. I don't like to think about it this way, but worship attendance is a habit. It takes 21 repetitions to form a habit. So, why not set a goal to attend worship 21 weeks in a row? The flip side of that coin is that if we miss, we have to start over on the 21 in a row. In addition to blessing your church family with your presence, you will find yourself blessed by others around you in worship. If you are out of town you can choose a church in your location to attend. Bring us the bulletin. We are always interested in what other churches are doing.

Another good intention for 2023 is to join the Bible in a Year group. Terri Weldon can tell you all about it. Everyone who has done this has only great things to say about it. Immersing ourselves in God's Word should be the intent of every Christian.

Jonathon is continuing his sermons based on the Common Lectionary in January. This Sunday, January 8, is Matthew 3:13-17, the Baptism of Jesus. Spirit Singers are singing Down to the Water to Pray in the 11 service.

Have you been thinking about joining one of our music groups? This is a great time to act on your intent. Now that Christmas is behind us, we will begin working toward Lent and Easter. There is never a dull moment with our musicians! You will be welcomed with open arms.

It's a great time to **Begin!!** Let's begin this new year with purpose and a determination to set St Matthew, Midwest City and the world on fire with our spirit and enthusiasm!! I'll see you Sunday as we celebrate a season of New Beginnings!

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

Happy New Year!
Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



January 23

from Terri

I want to give a shout out and special thanks to the library patrons who stepped up and selected names from the Library Christmas Tree!

Debi Alleman donated *Deception*, Book 4 in Patricia Bradley's *Natchez Trace Park Rangers Series*.

Karren Brown donated 3 books. *The Catch*, Book 3 in Lisa Harris' *US Marshals Trilogy*; *Lake Season*, Book 1 in Denise Hunter's *Bluebell Inn Trilogy*; and *The Orchard*, a stand-alone Amish novel by Beverly Lewis.

Kathy Ellis donated *Suppression & Suspicion*, by Mel Starr. This is Book 15 in The Chronicles of Hugh de Singleton, surgeon.

Diane Mathis donated 3 books. *The Jam and Jelly Nook*, by Amy Clipston, the conclusion of the *Amish Marketplace Series*; *Dark of Night*, by Colleen Coble, Book 2 in her *Annie Pederson Trilogy*; and *Riverbend Gap* by Denise Hunter, Book 1 in her *Riverbend Romance Series*.

Beverly McDaniel donated 2 books. *Critical Threat* by Lynette Eason, Book 3 in her *Extreme Measures Series*; and *Concrete Evidence* a stand-alone suspense novel by DiAnn Mills.

Joyce Perkins donated *Critical Alliance* by Elizabeth Goddard, Book 3 in her *Rocky Mountain Courage Trilogy*.

Marilyn Solomon donated 2 books. *Mulberry Hollow*, by Denise Hunter, Book 2 in her *Riverbend Romance Series*; and *Body of Evidence* by Irene Hannon, Book 3 in her *Triple Threat Trilogy*.

Carolyn Specht Donated *Crossfire* by Lynette Eason, Book 2 in her *Extreme Measures Series*.

Cynthia Weldon donated *Targeted*. This book contains 3 novellas by 3 fantastic authors – Lynette Eason, Lynn Blackburn, and Natalie Walters.

Anonymous donated *Nerves of Steele* by Susan Sleeman, Book 2 in her *Steele Guardians Series*.

2022 was a banner year – we had **16** new books donated! This is our best year ever. Thanks everyone for your generosity! You added some fantastic books to our collection!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Jackie Elk
Rebecca Hartmann	Dayna Heath
Susie Larsen	Wendee Perceful
Joyce Perkins	Emily Robinson
Kay Ross	Carolyn Specht
Junetta Tabor	Cynthia Weldon
Terri Weldon	

They just completed reading the entire Bible!

2023 CHALLENGE

Looking for a great way to start the new decade? How about reading the Bible in 2023? Sign up for the Bible in a Year program & we'll keep you on track. You can read your Bible with a daily reading plan or the library has copies of *A Bible In A Year*, or use an app. Contact Terri via Facebook or at Westieplace@cox.net to sign up.

Alpha Omega News

Weekly Activities

Sunday School: 9:40-10:40AM * Sunday Night: 5-7PM * Wednesday Night: 6:30-7:15PM

DON'T FORGET!

Starting January 4th, our Wednesday Night Activities will be from 6:30-7:15PM, in preparation for our upcoming Midweek launch!

Starting January 8th, Sunday School will be from 9:40AM-10:40AM! On January 8th we will have a Sunday School kick-off with donuts, coffee, and fellowship!

Hello 2023

Ding-Dong Prayer Dash

We are going Ding-Dong Prayer Dashing on January 11th! We are going to try to have Carla Hinton out from the Daily Oklahoman again, so please try to be here! Make sure and wear your youth shirt!

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday will be on January 22nd! We will be working on our sermon and worship on Sundays and Wednesday in January. Our theme this year is "Our Royal Inheritance" based off Luke 15:11-32. Please try to attend youth nights so we can make sure we are prepared!

We will have a dress rehearsal on January 21st, at 6:00PM. Please plan to attend! We will have lunch at the church once we are finished!

The Purpose of Alpha Omega Youth is the stand on the foundation, with a heart to worship, a mind to reach out, and hands to serve and love.

ST. MATT KIDS

JANUARY NEWS

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5: 17

A New Year is here and there are so many exciting opportunities coming to St. Matthew! While the children's programs have been going strong, there is now an opportunity for parents while your kids are learning, you can too! We hope to have full Sunday School and WOW Classes! Our 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class will be starting back up...so we have classes from 3 years-old to adult!

If you don't show your kids that worship and discipleship is important who will?

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

JANUARY

4-WOW is Back!
29-Safe Sanctuary Training for ALL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH Workers

FEBRUARY

8- Midweek Kick off!

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

WOW 6:30-7:30pm

January at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

Jan 5	8am	Mobile Meals Truck Unloading
Jan 7	5:30pm	Progressive Dinner
Jan 15	Noon	Church Decorating
Jan 17	6:30pm	Finance Committee
Jan 22		Youth Sunday
Jan 29	Noon	Safe Sanctuary Training

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



Week at a glance

Sunday

8:30am	Worship
9:40am	Christian Discipleship Classes
11am	Worship (w/ LiveStream)
5pm	AO Youth Group

Monday

1pm	Mobile Meals Prep
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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
7pm	AO Youth Group
7:15pm	Choir

Thursday

10am	Mobile Meals
1pm	Moving for Balance
6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums

Friday

7am	Mobile Meals Prep
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Saturday

9:30am	Girl Scouts
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The annual Epiphany Progressive Dinner is **January 7th** and open to all St. Matthew Adults.

It will begin with appetizer at 5:30pm. If you plan on attending, please text Susie Dealy at 405-919-3625 to RSVP and receive the addresses. Bring a main dish and either an appetizer or dessert.

Pumpkin Grants!

Know of a ministry outside of our church budget that's spreading the love of Jesus to Eastern Oklahoma County? Pumpkin Grants are open until February 15th! See Pam Dimski or the church

Jan 1	Robert Allen Charles Brown
Jan 2	Hal Miller Candace Thompson
Jan 3	Susie Dealy Zach Lang Kay Ross
Jan 7	Carol Marsh Brantley Neidhardt
Jan 11	Natalie Casula
Jan 12	Lynn Bunting
Jan 14	Janette Milburn
Jan 16	Miles Adame Katryna Rudoph
Jan 21	Betty Seglem
Jan 22	David Hughes
Jan 24	Katelyn Akerman
Jan 26	Ronnie Creager
Jan 26	Anthony Kemp-Johnson
Jan 30	Rachel Evans



Jan 4	Tom & Necia Miller
Jan 12	David & DesiRae Keenum
Jan 26	Edward & Mary Ellen Esk

The Christmas Post Office is **CLOSED!** Please grab your cards by January 8th or they will be gone.



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.*

Donuts, Coffee & Jesus

What else could you need?



Sunday School classes for ALL ages starting
at 9:40am on January 8th, 2023!

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	
ViaFaith McCullough	Young Adult Director
e-mail : viafaith.mccullough@stmatthew.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