



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 2023

From the Pastor's Desk



ARE WE SHARING GOOD NEWS?

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1

Just because Christ has ascended does not mean that he has stopped working in the lives of those who love him. Because of God's triune nature, we can experience the love and guidance of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. This manifests itself in a few different ways, some in the lives of individual believers and others in the life of Christian community as a whole.

As Christians, we are called to live in concert with God's Spirit. We ought to allow it to guide us, to comfort us, to convict us, and to empower us. A Christian life that is not empowered by the Holy Spirit is not a Christian life at all. Which brings us to one of the scariest things Christians can think about: sharing our faith. We often make the mistake of thinking this is something we do on our own, but when we do it correctly, we're actually allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us. All we do is get out of the way and let God do all the heavy lifting!

But I get it. Sharing faith can be extremely uncomfortable in our modern culture. It was downright scary in the earliest days of the church. One of the things I often remind people of when talking about the risks of mission and service is that the same Spirit that was operating in the lives of the earliest Christians is also working in the church today. The statement "Jesus Christ is Lord" was counter-cultural in its original context. In fact, it seemed to fly in the face of conventional wisdom. The cultural norm was to say that "Caesar is Lord." And most of the available evidence would seem to support this theory- Caesar had power and authority. In fact, Jesus of Nazareth was put to death by the empire that Caesar controlled. Caesar seemed to have won.

But Christians adopted this phraseology for exactly this reason. They knew that Caesar only seemed to have power and authority. Jesus had REAL power and REAL authority. So, to say that Jesus was lord instead of Caesar was to point to the ultimate reality- that Christ had won and the death to which Caesar's empire had condemned him had actually lost. Because Jesus was victorious, we can enter into mission and service boldly.

Of course, it is not really bold to just expect the church to create a program for sharing faith. The least effective way for us to share the Gospel (other than doing nothing) is to just leave it in the hands of clergy members or church staff and hope that (somehow) they'll share the Gospel well enough to make up for our own Gospel spreading deficiency.

I would say that most people don't start truly following God because they intellectually assent to theological tenets. Instead, they begin following Jesus because his love has been shown to them through the actions and words of his followers, often folks who know them, genuinely care about them, and want to invest in them. Love is the greatest apologetic. For that reason, personal relationships are of vital importance for those trying to live out the Christian life in an incarnational way. Jesus built his ministry on personal relationships. By bonding with just a few, he was able to create a movement that changed the world. How cool would it be if- by being just a little bit bold- we could each reach one person and point them toward Jesus? It might not change THE world, but it would certainly change THEIR world. And we don't have Caesar breathing down our neck! So, BE BOLD.

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 July! It seems like yesterday that I was writing about how busy June was going to be. It was, and now we are off to an even busier July! I love being part of an active, vibrant church family where something is always happening!

Sunday, July 2, is our annual Patriotic Sunday. Feel free to wear your patriotic attire. Our opening hymn will be patriotic, and Anita Endsley, Ashley Poole, and Stacey Ruston are singing God Bless America in the 11am service. Holy Communion will be served in both services.

July 9, we will commission our Youth Force participants. Youth Force OKC is resuming for the first time since Covid. Please pray for the youth and adults who will be in service that week.

Lectionary readings for this July are Psalm 13, Romans 7:15-25a, Romans 8:1-11, Romans 8:12-25, Romans 8:26-39 and Genesis 32:22-31.

It's time for the music ministry's annual summer vacation. There will be no rehearsals from June 28 until August 2. During the choir's absence, special music will be provided by Anita Endsley, Ashley Poole, and Stacey Ruston; Karren Brown, Susie Dealy and Jake Roark; Diandra and Joshua Nelson; Ryan Ruston; and our very special VBS Kids! This time away gives the choir members a chance to participate in worship on a more personal level, and to sit with their families for the entire service. It's good to have the time off, but I will be ready to begin again in August!

I know that many of us will be traveling this month. My prayer is that wherever you are, you will take the time to worship God. When you are in town, please join your St. Matthew family in worship. Remember that services are streamed on Facebook and on the church website, www.stmatthew.org. Your presence is important! I saw the following church sign a few years ago, "Visitors welcome. Members expected." It is still true.

See you Sunday as we praise and thank God for our freedom!

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

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



July 2023

from Terri



We're introducing a new Children's Summer Reading Program at St. Matthew this year. The program runs during the month of July. Children 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 wall outside the library. Instructions will be on the table in the library beside the books.

Here is a basic list of rules: a minimum of 4 books must be read; find Terri and tell her what you liked about each book; if you'd rather tell your mom or dad, you can do that and then write a couple of sentences, mom or dad can help, about what you liked about the book; and last but not least mom or dad are required to sign the sheet listing the titles you read.

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 program!!!



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
Joyce Perkins	Donna Rader
Kaye Rhoades	Kalyn Roark
Emily Robinson	Kay Ross
Stacey Ruston	Carolyn Specht
Barbara Wallace	Cynthia Weldon

They are halfway through reading the Bible in a Year!

CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS!!!

I love animals and firmly believe God does too. *Angel Dogs – Divine Messengers of Love* by Allen and Linda Anderson introduces you to the power of unconditional love dogs bring into people's lives. Stop by and check it out today!

MERCI! GRACIAS! THANKS!

A special thank you to Stacey Ruston for donating the four books that she received for reading in the Faith, Hope, and Love Inspirational Reader's Choice Contest. They are: *You are the Reason* by Mary A. Felkins, *Harvest Moon* by Denise Hunter, *The Last Way Home* by Liz Johnson, and *Seeking Tranquility* by Amy Schisler. Thanks, Stacey, for helping to S-T-R-E-T-C-H our library budget.

DEFEND AND PROTECT FINALE!

Book 3, the finale, of Lynn H. Blackburn's *Defend and Protect Series*, has finally arrived. *Under Fire* is the story of USSS Special Agent Zane Thacker and Special Agent Tessa Reed. If you've been reading the series, I know you've been waiting for their story. If you haven't now is the time to start. We don't often read about the Secret Service and as those of who've been reading the series know, they do more than just guard the president. Stop by and check out one or more of these books today.

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 Scholarships

Want to help with Youth Force, but don't really want to GO to Youth Force? How about providing a partial or full scholarship for one of our youth? If you feel called to help, please let Kalyn know!

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 Force OKC

July 9th-13th

Youth Force OKC is back! We will be leaving the church around 1:30PM on Sunday July 9th to go eat lunch and then head to the OCU dorms to get checked in! We will be back on Thursday, most likely by noon! Below you will find a tool list and packing list. These are not extensive, and the youth will be getting more information as we get closer! Please let Kalyn know if you have any questions!

Upcoming Events:

- July 2nd: No Youth
- July 9th-13th: Youth Force
- July 27th-29th: VBS

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.

Tool List

- Hammer
- 24ft. Tape Measure
- Flathead Screwdriver
- Phillips head Screwdriver
- Small Gardening tools (Hand rake and small shovel)
- Paint Scraper
- 1" Paint Brush
- 3" Paint Brush
- Paint Roller
- Paint Roller Covers
- Paint Stirrers
- Plastic Coffee Can WITH Lid
- Safety Goggles
- Heavy Duty Work Gloves
- Water Bottle

Clothing List

- Clothes that can get dirty/paint covered
 - Clothes for evening activities
 - Underclothes for each day, plus extras for evening activities (bras, underwear)
 - Something to sleep in
 - Swimsuit (For girls: It must be a one-piece or you will need to wear a dark shirt over your top)
 - Toothbrush
 - Toothpaste
 - Deodorant
 - Shampoo
 - Conditioner
 - Body Soap – Lava Soap is recommended to help get paint off
 - Hairbrush or comb
 - Headband or Hat
 - Bag or holder for dirty clothes
 - Any medications you need to take –
- *these will be given to Kalyn and she will dispense them when needed*

ST. MATT KIDS

JULY NEWS

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

VBS is a month from NOW! Please make sure to invite all your friends. Sign up is live at www.stmatthew.org/stmattkids. We will have 3 days full of fun.

With so many students and teachers traveling during July, we will not be having Sunday School for the next few weeks! We will still have Children's Church through the month of July.

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

JULY

27-29 - VBS

30-VBS Kids Sing during service

AUGUST

12-Back to School Bash at Regional Pool

13- Sunday School Promotion
Breakfast, Bible Presentation and
Blessing of the Backpacks

16- WOW is BACK!



Contact Information:

Katelynn Henderson

405.740.4379

children@stmatthew.org

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

No Sunday School in July!

Children's Church during 11am Service

*No Children's Church 1st
Sunday of the Month

WEDNESDAYS

NO WOW DURING SUMMER!



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. Time! We will need everyone's help to make this event possible! Starting July 23rd we will be turning part of the church into an underwater oasis! If you're able to stay after church and help set-up, we'll use you!
4. 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! We will have a prayer room open during the evenings and would love anyone to come and pray!

Thanks for all you do!

Katelynn

July at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

July 4		Independence Day- Church office closed
July 6	8am	TEFAP
July 6	6:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
July 8	8am	Men's Breakfast
July 9-13		Youth Force OKC
July 27-29	6-8:30pm	VBS

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



Week at a glance

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

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!

July 1	Kevin Wallace
July 2	Susan Campbell
July 3	Todd Dealy
July 4	Justin Fitzpatrick
July 5	Jackie Elk
July 7	Gene Brown
July 15	Ashely Poole
July 17	Kerri Ferguson
July 18	Ron Dixon
July 18	Michael Moody
July 18	Pam Neidhardt
July 19	Conrad Bediako
July 20	Virgil Todd
July 22	DeAnn Wiltfong
July 25	Dawn Anderson
July 25	Carolyn Nolen
July 28	Sadie Clinesmith
July 28	Russell Foster
July 30	Dawson Maxfield



July 5	Tom & Kathy Ellis
July 7	Brett & Stacey Ruston
July 9	John & Debi Alleman
July 9	Charlie & Kelly Stephens
July 12	David & Dayna Heath
July 20	Trent & Kayla Allen
July 21	Bob & Pam Dimski



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 N Air Depot Blvd
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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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