



St. Matthew UMC Newsletter

November 2025



300 N. Air Depot Blvd.
Midwest City, OK 73110



(405) 732-6831



connect@stmatthew.org



www.stmatthew.org

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Philippians 4:6-7

St. Matthew Staff

Rev. Jonathon Clinesmith

Pastor

email: jonathon@stmatthew.org

Stephanie Ballow

Business Manager & Nursery Director

email: businessoffice@stmatthew.org

Kalyn Roark

Director of Programs & Student Ministries

email: programs@stmatthew.org

youth@stmatthew.org

Olivia Mitchell

Director of Children's Ministries

email: children@stmatthew.org

Gayle Tatum

Director of Music Ministries

email: gtatum@stmatthew.org

Susie Larsen

Spirit Singers Director

email: spiritsingers@stmatthew.org

Emily Robinson

Organist

Drew Andrews

Custodian

Worship Online | I am: www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC or www.stmatthew.org/sermons

Give online: www.stmatthew.org/giving

Dear St. Matthew Family,

From the Pastor's Desk



I once heard someone say that Thanksgiving is the one holiday where we set aside our differences just long enough to sit down and argue with our family and argue about our differences. Now, sometimes that's the "no no" subjects of politics and religion. But often times it's to argue about whether the best side dish is stuffing, sweet potatoes, or Grandma's mysterious "salad" that definitely has more marshmallows than lettuce. (For the record, Scripture is silent on the matter... but I think Paul might have said, "Let all things be done in moderation, except for gravy.")

On a more serious note, "thanksgiving" isn't just a one day a year thing in the life of Christians. Gratitude is at the very heart of our faith. The psalmist calls us to "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1). Paul echoes this when he writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 5:18). Thanksgiving is not just a holiday—it's a way of life.

When we pause to take stock, we can see God's hand all around us. This fall, I've been overwhelmed with gratitude for the way our church family has come together. From unloading 3,000 pumpkins in the patch, to sharing meals with neighbors on Wednesday nights, to gathering in worship with joyful hearts—you all have shown what it looks like to serve in Jesus' name. I am deeply thankful for your faithfulness, your energy, and your willingness to keep being the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

Pumpkin Festival and Patch Wrap-Up – Thank you to everyone who worked, baked, and volunteered! The funds raised will go right back into serving our community. I'm so grateful for the kind-heartedness that this church constantly displays. Because of you, people are experiencing the love of Jesus!

Advent Is Coming! – Mark your calendars: Advent begins Sunday, November 30. We'll journey together with hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

As we head into this season of thanksgiving, may we remember that every good thing comes from God (James 1:17). And may we keep finding joy not just in the turkey and the football games, but in the grace that meets us in every moment.

At the end of the day, Thanksgiving isn't just a meal—it's a practice of the heart. So whether you're eating turkey, tamales, or just another round of Grandma's "mystery salad," may you pause long enough to say: "Thanks be to God, for His love endures forever."

Jonathon

Words ABOUT Worship

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
MUSIC MINISTRIES



Oh my goodness! Where did October go? It seems like just yesterday we were setting up the patch and planning for pumpkins and now the front lawn is empty! Last Sunday was Trunk or Treat, and WOW, there were over 350 children registered!! Kudos to Olivia, Kalyn and the youth, and to all who brought candy and/or decorated your trunks!! It is wonderful that so many children and their parents experienced a safe place to enjoy trick or treating and felt your love! Thank you!!

I'm sad to see the pumpkins go. When we have people in the patch it's clear to see that God is all around us. We need to pause long enough to take Him in. God has been very visible in the patch as adults and children alike react to God's Fall bounty.

Sunday, November 2 is our annual All Saints Sunday. Candles may be lit in remembrance of friends and family members who have passed away since November 3, 2024. It is too late to get names in the bulletin, but there will be cards available Sunday for you to fill out if you want to remember someone.

November 9 is Stephen Ministry Sunday. Our Stephen Ministry members will help lead the services, and the Spirit Singers will sing His Eye Is On the Sparrow in the I I am service. Afterwards is our Annual Bean and Stew Lunch, where all proceeds will go towards the Mission Trip in February.

Jonathon's lectionary readings for November are:

Nov. 2—Luke 6:30-31

Nov. 9—Luke 20:27-38

Nov. 16—Isaiah 65:17-25

Nov. 23—Colossians 1:11-20

Nov. 30—Romans 13:11-14

We hear a lot about thankfulness and thanksgiving during November. The last few years there has been a movement on social media to do 30 days of Thanksgiving. With the government shut down and all the hardship that it brings, it seems harder this year to find a reason for gratitude. Regardless, I challenge you whether on FaceBook or just on your own, to write at least one thing every day for which you are thankful. St. Matthew will continue to provide assistance as long as we can. If you are financially able to help, please do. If you need help, please ask!

On Sunday, November 23 we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday. That evening at 5pm we will have our Hanging of the Greens. Please bring finger food to share as we transform our Narthex and Sanctuary for Christmas!

Thanksgiving is November 27. The Choir and Spirit Singers will rehearse on Tuesday, November 25. There is no Midweek meal on Wednesday, November 26. November 30 is the first Sunday in Advent, and Worship Project is at 6pm.

Your musicians have been busy preparing for the holiday season. Chancel Choir and Spirit Singers are busy rehearsing the Christmas Cantata, Hope Has Dawned, Noel (December 21 @ 11 am). Our youth will present the drama portion of the cantata again this year!

See you Sunday!

Gayle Tatum

Email gtatum@stmatthew.org for
questions about Music Ministry

ST. MATT KIDS

NOVEMBER NEWS

"O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." -Psalm 104:24

Happy November, friends! It has been so beautiful to see our church family come together during the month of October to love and serve our community. It is a blessing to see members of all ages get excited about loving our neighbors!

As we transition into our next season, we look forward to preparing for our annual St. Matt Kids Christmas Program. This year, our program will be called, "A Quiz Bowl Christmas". We are so excited to begin preparations for the program! If your child is interested in participating in the program, please reach out to children@stmatthew.org or 832-341-9473 for more information. We will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, November 5th during W.O.W.

in God's love,
Miss. Olivia

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

NOVEMBER

5-rehearsals begin for the Christmas program (during W.O.W)
26-NO MIDWEEK or WOW

DECEMBER

21-dress rehearsal for the Christmas program (12:30 pm in the sanctuary)
24-The Christmas Program (6:00 pm)

Contact Information:
children@stmatthew.org

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

Children's Church during 11 am Service
*No Children's Church 1st
Sunday of the Month

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Meal at 5:30 pm
WOW at 6:15 pm

AΩ News

Sundays 5-7PM

Wednesdays 6:15-7:15PM



Upcoming Events

November 15
-Mystery Trip

November 23
-Hanging of the Greens, 5pm

November 30
-Worship Project, 6pm

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, please let Kalyn know!

- Mystery Trips, Lock-ins, and other special events
- Wednesday Night Activities
- Sunday Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer/Service Activities

MYSTERY TRIP

November 15, 8am

November 15th we will be going on a Mystery Trip! Plan to LEAVE the church at 8am and arrive back around 3pm!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

November 23, 5pm

During our youth time, we will be setting the sanctuary up for Advent and Christmas! Please join the youth and congregation as we decorate!

NO YOUTH

November 26

There will be NO Midweek Activities November 26 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday! Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

WORSHIP PROJECT

November 30, 6pm

The Worship Project will be November 30 at 6pm. We will STILL have youth starting at 5pm with dinner and a game! See everyone then!

INTERACTIVE BULLETIN BOARD

What Are You Thankful For?

Check out our interactive bulletin board and tell us what you are thankful for!

St. Matthew Young Adults



Monday Night Small Group

Join us from 6pm-8pm on November 3rd and 17th this month for dinner and fellowship with other young adults!

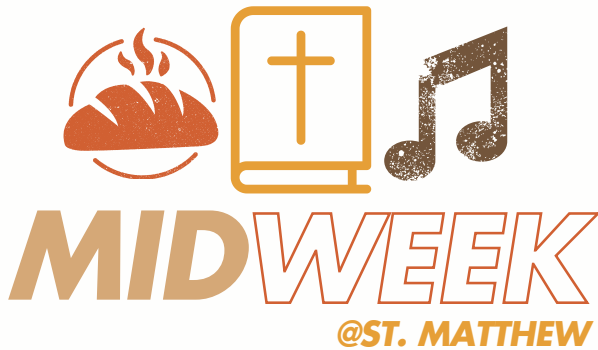
Friendsgiving

Join us Monday, November 17th at 6pm for our Friendsgiving! Please bring a side dish or dessert if you are able! We will have a sign-up sheet for those able to bring something!



Midweek

Join us on Wednesdays at 5:30pm for dinner, then at 6:15pm for our Midweek Programming! We have some excellent lessons prepared for us and we would love to have you! **There is NO MIDWEEK on November 26th.**



YA Service Project

Join the Young Adults for a Service Project on November 8th. Please plan to be at the church at 9am and work until Noon.



The Worship Project

Join us on Sunday, November 30th at 6pm for a Modern Worship Experience!

There will be snacks, fellowship, and worship! You won't want to miss it!



LIBRARY NEWS



November 2025

from Terri

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS – IN THE LIBRARY!

I love reading Christmas books, but it can be hard to find the time during such a busy season. So, here at St. Matthew I showcase our great selection beginning in November. Hopefully that will give us all plenty of time to read some great books!

This year we have several new additions to our collection. *The Christmas House* by Beverly Lewis. LaRue Alexander has first dibs on this book, Beverly Lewis is the queen of Amish books and her novella about a young Amish woman who is running a Christmas Buggy Tour business for Englisher tourists is a smashing success. Will she find love with the young man her father found to help her with the tours? We also have two new Debbie Macomber novels. *A Ferry Merry Christmas* and *A Christmas Duet*. Debbie writes a new Christmas book every year and I've never read one that I didn't enjoy. There's a new addition to the *Sugarcreek Amish Series*. Nancy Mehl has penned *When Angels Whisper*. Cheryl Miller is determined to solve the thefts taking place in Sugarcreek. One reviewer said this story is "sweet, mysterious, and faith filled." *The Mistletoe Countess* by Pepper Basham is delightful! I'm personally not a fan of historical romances and I LOVED this book. If you enjoy it let me know. It's the first book in a series. *The Twelve Days of Snowball* by Kristen McKanagh is our third book in the *Snowball Series*. Snowball takes her job as "official kitty" at the Weber Haus Victorian B&B very seriously. *Christmas in Wisconsin* is an Amish romance by Linda Byler. Lydia is the 50 something school teacher at the Amish school. When she's snowed in at a student's home and welcomed into their family it makes her long for someone to share her life with. Is it too late for Lydia to find love?

Thanks to Carolyn Specht there are several *Love Inspired Suspense* Christmas books to choose from as well. So, make sure you stop by the library and checkout our entire collection of Christmas novels. There are far more than mentioned here!

2025 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Jackie Elk	Rebecca Hartmann
Dayna Heath	Lacey Kisner
Larry Kisner	Susie Larsen
Ella McDonald	Joyce Perkins
Ashley Poole	Kalyn Roark
Emily Robinson	Kay Ross
Jayna Sims	Carolyn Specht
Barbara Wallace	Cynthia Weldon
Terri Weldon	

They are reading the greatest story ever told!

NEW LYNETTE EASON BOOK!!!!

Final Approach - the long-awaited conclusion to Lynette Eason's *Lake City Heroes* – is now available in the library. If you haven't read books 1-3, we also have those for checkout. Need something shorter? Try Lynette's novella, *Dark Prophecy*. It's great!

ADVENT STUDIES

Advent starts on Sunday, November 30th. So now is the perfect time to start thinking about an advent study to enrich your understanding of the birth of Christ. The library has a great selection and you'll find them located in the basket in the middle of the library table and on the backbar.

KID'S CHRISTMAS BOOKS

There's a great selection of kid's Christmas books in the library. Look for *Little Blue Truck's Christmas*; *Jingle Bell Pups*; *God Bless Our Christmas*; *The Time of Christmas*; *A Charlie Brown Christmas*; and *Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas*. Plus, we have plenty of books on the Nativity and *Clopper, the Christmas Donkey*. Come check one out!

STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

NOVEMBER 2025



Holiday Blues

The holiday season is upon us and soon we'll be planning Thanksgiving meals, buying Christmas presents, and enjoying time with family and friends.

However, many of us experience "holiday blues," stress and depression during this time of year. According to the American Psychological Association, 89% of US adults feel stressed during the holiday season (<https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2023/11/holiday-season-stress>). Much of the stress comes from past experiences, grieving the loss of loved ones, pressure to overspend on gifts and meals, or loneliness and isolation. This year is particularly hard with the government shut down and so many people not able to work.

If you recognize yourself in any of these situations, Stephen Ministers can help. Please call Diana Hughes (405-850-9678) or Susie Dealy (405-919-3625). All phone calls and discussions between you and your Stephen Minister are STRICTLY confidential.

A Stephen Minister can be available to you for a short period of time – just to help get you through November and December – or longer if you need it.

We are here to listen to you, pray with you and be a sounding board without judgement.

REMEMBER!! If at any time you feel you are going to harm yourself or others, immediately contact the Suicide Hotline, 988.

Current Stephen Ministers

Stephen Leaders

Diana Hughes
Susie Dealy

Stephen Ministers

Kathy Ellis	Emily Robinson
Travis Barnett	Dave Hughes
Beverly McDaniel	Carolyn Specht
Debra Hynek	Joyce Perkins



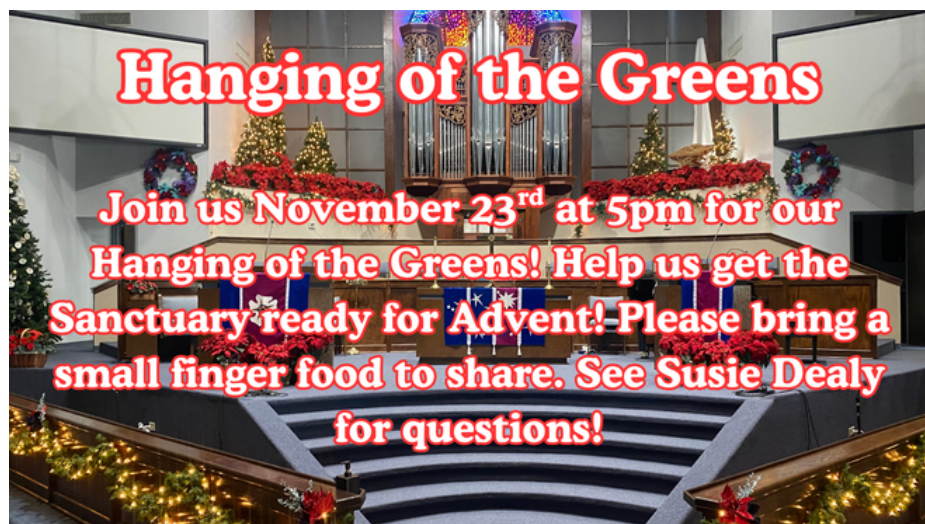
November at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

November 2	8 and 11am	All Saints Sunday
November 4	6pm	Trustees
November 6	8am	TEFAP
November 8	9am	YA Service Project
November 9	8 and 11am	Stephen Ministry Sunday
November 9	12pm	UWF Bean and Stew Lunch
November 15	8am	AO Mystery Trip
November 15	8:30am	Boy Scouts
November 17	6pm	YA Friendsgiving
November 23	5pm	Hanging of the Greens
November 25	7pm	Lydia Circle
November 30	6pm	Worship Project

HAPPY
birthday

November 5	Adam Larsen
November 8	Scotty Barnett
November 10	Michael Bediako
	Joshua Kisner
November 11	Diane Mathis
November 15	Jayna Sims
November 16	Joshua Arkoh
	Chris Bain
	Jordyn Mullings
November 17	Kaye Rhoades
November 19	Becka Ellis
November 22	Tom Hendricks
November 23	Venita Hoover
November 25	Seth Autry
November 26	JoAnn Howell
November 30	Jamie Clinesmith



HAPPY
Anniversary

November 7	Brock & Brooklynn Wallace
November 10	Easton & Kaylie Ramsey
November 14	Ronald & Dianna Hancock
	Mike & Carol Rathke
November 17	Tyler & Clarissa Clanahan
November 25	Kerry & Marilyn Solomon



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

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

Week at a Glance

For a more complete list of events and activities, visit
www.stmatthew.org/weekly-activities

Sunday

8:30am Worship
11am Worship (w/Livestream)
5pm AO Youth

Monday

9am Mobile Meals Prep

Tuesday

7am Mobile Meals
12:45pm Moving for Better Balance
6:15pm Toastmasters Meeting
7pm Okie Dokie Banjo Band

Wednesday

5:30pm Midweek Meal
6:15pm Spirit Singers
6:30pm Midweek Programming
7:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday

10am Mobile Meals Prep
12:45pm Moving for Better Balance
6pm OK Scottish Pipes and Drums

Friday

7am Mobile Meals

Saturday

9:30am Girl Scouts