
St. Matthew Today

Wed., August 9th, 2023

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 126th year

Science and Religion

Friday's Word

Some scientists dismiss religion as myth and nonsense.

They may throw a sop to believers, saying religion is a whole other thing, unrelated to science. So, people can believe in God if it makes them feel good.

But science and religion both seek ultimate reality. And there can be only one ultimate reality, not one for science and one for religion.

If scientific truth and religious truth do not agree, one of them must be wrong. I would never believe a lie because it makes me feel good.

Let's get real here.

Not only does God exist, God is the ultimate reality for both science and religion.

At the deep level of quantum physics, science and religion begin to merge. Quantum physics and religious experience are doorways to the same transcendent world.

Why is this?

As physicist Bernard Haisch puts it, "God has made all things from himself." (Let that sink in.)

So, Paul could say, "In him we live and move and have our being."

We are, then, one with God and one with one another.

And Jesus could say, "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me."

He meant that literally.

Many Christians fear that science will one day discover something that will prove God does not exist.

But that's impossible.

Every discovery in science takes us closer to God. It is non-believing scientists who need to fear.

The deeper they dig, the clearer God will become.

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Hey! One week away!

Another concert at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 19.

Yes, I, too, will sing.

God Bless—MB

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FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Sermon: "One World Within Another"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

NOTES

Blake is back (and had a good time in Europe) but will be gone on the 19th, when we have our next concert. That means Shannon and I will be doing the singing, along with Mel Creason, who will sing a song and accompany himself on guitar. (Shannon will sing, among other things, Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You.") We will be doing pop songs with spiritual meaning. Expect a few surprises.

I will preach again this Sunday and Mary will take it the Sunday after the concert—the 20th.

This will conclude a series of sermons in which I have talked about why God wants us to spend time in this world, which is not always an easy place to be.

Some of my friends and I gathered at my house last Sunday evening in remembrance of a couple of people we loved. Our friend, Thomas Coker, died after a ten-year battle with prostate cancer. We also remembered Roy McCasland, who passed a few years ago. Thomas was technically a member of our church and Roy was an active member for many years. We had a good evening. My sister fixed a big meal for nine people. The refrigerator went out the day before. And the air conditioning died the day of the gathering. A little cool lasted in the house for the evening. But sleeping that night was impossible.

Life can be difficult.

Still—God wants us here in this world for a while. We continue to think about why.

Sure hope to see you Sunday.

I'm counting on it.

Don't disappoint me.

GOD BLESS—MB

Mary's Corner

Greetings St. Matthew, Communion was so very meaningful this weekend. Maybe it was because it had been so long since we had been together or maybe it was because Max was back serving us. Either way, I was very moved by the Spirit among us as we accepted this holy sacrament. My spare time this week will be spent preparing and submitting my ordination paperwork (Phase III) to the Board of Ordained Ministry. I know that I asked for your prayers, and I want you to know that I can feel your prayers and your support. As I am answering these questions about my call, about my understanding of God, and about my commitment to the United Methodist Church, I am overwhelmed with how very grateful I am for St. Matthew. You are all the reason I stay committed to this path. My time with you and my time learning from all of you have kept me moving onward and upward through these storms.

Our next Saturday Concert will be August 19th and will feature Max and Shannon. Music starts at 6pm and the potluck dinner starts at 7pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Love to all, Mary
pastor@saintmatthewumc.com

Sunday Breakfast

Breakfast is served Sunday mornings at 10 am. Stay for service at 11 am. Come hungry. Leave fulfilled!

Chair Yoga

Join your friends at our free Chair / Standing Yoga class each Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10 am.

Kids' News

Our lesson was a little different this week! Have you read about the year of the Jubilee? This was a celebration of wrongs and debts. We can all understand that there are people in our community who are having a hard time getting what they need, including basic needs for living, while there are other people that have more than enough. This Bible story tells us to create equality for all people. This is to be celebrated because God created all of us as equals. At the end of seven years, you were to release every creditor that owed you; you were not to collect this from his family, and you were just to release the debt. This was to be celebrated because God created each of us equal and we deserve to be forgiven and free. Jubilee was an act of justice, where at the end of seven years, your debts would be forgiven! This doesn't work today, but we can still bless others with our acts of kindness and generosity.

Our kids were thankful for the "back-to-school" gift cards that were given to them for school supplies and for the kindness of the people that made our back-to-school party possible. Thanks for the hot dogs, movie, and popcorn that our kids got to enjoy. Even Mom and Dad appreciate your generosity of the gift cards! Getting the kids ready for school is expensive and these cards were blessings!

See you in church Sunday for a new lesson!
Blessings, Mrs. Sue, Mrs. Vickie

Second Saturday Concert Series *August 19th at 6 pm!*

Join our very own Shannon Davidson, Mel Creason, and Max Brennan as they entertain us with a selection of "Almost Christian" pop music with spiritual meanings, including selections from Dolly Parton and The Eagles!

Potluck dinner will be served following the concert.

"Please tell your friends. These concerts started out as a fundraising event, but I have enjoyed them so much that I have completely forgotten everything except the overwhelming happiness I am feeling afterward. I know you feel the same way."