
St. Matthew Today

Wed., Sept. 20th, 2023

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 126th year

That's Good News

Friday's Word

I find myself in witness to two groups of people:

The first is conservative Christians who break the first commandment. They place another god above the only God there is.

Their god is the Bible.

They see it as inerrant and infallible. It all speaks with equal authority. If Jesus does not agree with a passage in Deuteronomy, then Jesus must shut up and fall in line.

He can rise no higher than, nor say anything different from, what has been said before him.

Inerrancy strips Jesus of his authority to preach a unique message of God's unconditional love and forgiveness for all people.

There is not a biblical inerrantist in the whole world who truly believes Luke 6:27-36—including this word: “[God] is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.”

Conservative preachers seldom preach from *The Sermon on the Mount*.

It is simply irrelevant to them.

But there is another group I find myself in witness to: Christians on the far left.

These folks reject the meanness of right-wing Christianity. They know what love is. They just don't think God does. God is seen as impersonal, uninvolved.

These good folk have taken an overdosed of Bart Ehrman, Marcus Borg, and Elaine Pagels.

They don't believe in a God who *does* anything. And I am calling both extremes, left and right, to a new place—not between.

Not in the middle.

But above.

To a Christianity rooted in the experience of God. The God we meet in experience is the God we know in Christ.

And this God is neither mean nor impersonal.

And that's Good News.

God Bless—MB

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Vacation --- for a change

I may be dressing a little better in weeks to come.

I buy new clothes only when I go on vacation. (I have to have enough clothes to wear for two weeks.) I haven't taken a vacation for many years now, so my wardrobe is a bit bedraggled.

But I just bought out the store.

I am about to go on vacation after this Sunday.

Rev. Eric McKinney and Jane have invited us (me, my sister and preacher friend Rev. Meissner) to stay in their cabin in Vermont. They have invited us for three years. We finally said yes.

I will preach this Sunday.

After that, Mary will preach for two weeks.

We have a concert on Saturday, Oct. 14—three days after we get back. It is all planned. Blake and I will be singing.

And, yes, I am reluctant to sing on a program with Blake. Who wants to hear me with Blake there? (I don't.) But I can't put the whole concert on him.

So, there you are. We will actually sing together on one old hymn: “Softly and Tenderly.”

On the Sunday after that concert—Oct. 15th—the Rev. Beverly Tye, a part of our church family, will be preaching. She will share her spiritual journey in a sermon called *My Walk with God*.

So, we've got wonderful things coming: Mary, the concert with Blake, then Beverly.

And our choir starts up soon—with some new members.

Isn't it great to be in church?

And to know that “we are loved, we are forgiven, we are forever.”

See you Sunday.

GOD BLESS----MB

Media Team Needs You!

The media team seeks volunteers to help run the sound board during Sunday services.

No experience is required — we'll train you!

Information and training:

Saturday, September 30th at 2 pm

See Jason or Mel for more information!

Mary's Corner

Hello dear friends,

I am grateful for the cooler weather, even as I drive through my neighborhood and see all the huge trees downed in last week's storms. With the blessing of lower temperatures, a little rain must fall.

COVID is still moving like a snake through our community. I cannot stress enough the importance of wearing a mask if you have any immune system issues or take any medication that suppresses your immune system. WEAR A MASK. And everyone, please wash your hands often, take your vitamins, and stay home if you are sick. A case of mild COVID calls for 10 days of isolation after testing positive. Let's keep each other safe.

My love to all. I look forward to spending time with you this fall. Mary
pastor@saintmatthewumc.com

Kids' News

We discussed the wonderful creation of God. We have discussed the creation of different plants and animals that inhabit the earth. In Sunday school, the kids were sure He was happy with His creations; then he created man to care for the earth. What if we took time to really appreciate God's creations and care for and appreciate the wonders of creation through the eyes of a child? God created people to be different and unique, just like God created the rest of the world. After God had created the garden full of beautiful plants and trees, God realized the garden needed a caretaker, so He created a person named Adam. The animals in the garden were helpful to Adam but God became aware that the garden required more work than Adam could maintain. The next person God created was called "helper." This reiterates God's divinity within humanity, and our call to work together, side by side, to care for all of creation. God created another person who could work side by side with Adam. Adam named that person Eve. Eve was created to be a partner to Adam, to be in relationship with him and share equally in caring for the garden and the earth.

God used creativity to create beauty and a world of wonder. Help your children know that they are God's children and help them to create beauty in the world around them. None of us can do this alone; by working together, we can be creative helpers of God. See you in church Sunday.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

Ladies of St. Matthew

Please join us for lunch on 9/21/23 at 11:30 am
RSVP by 9/18 to Veta McCulloch - 817-994-1629
vetamcculloch@outlook.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.

Give to Saint Matthew UMC

Please feel free to contribute in any way you can and help us in our efforts to continue spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the community and the world.

Scan the QR code with your phone to securely give online or visit our website at saintmatthewumc.com/give

