
St. Matthew Today

Wed., Oct. 18th, 2023

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 126th year

Friday's Word

Someone said to me recently, "I am a staunch conservative."

I told them their secret was safe with me. I would not embarrass them by telling anyone.

It's not something to brag about. The Gospel does not lean to the right. Unconditional love and forgiveness are not conservative concepts.

But I do sympathize with folks who claim the name "conservative."

They may not can help it.

A study from New York University suggests that the conservative brain is wired to resist change.

Researchers say there is a "spike" in brain activity when we make an error.

We respond by doing things differently. But not so for "conservatives." The "error spike" is lower.

Conservatives have a more rigid cognitive system, one more resistant to seeing error and more drawn to the status quo.

And the conservative mind is less responsive to evidence.

"So," say the authors of the study, "conservatives are not likely to be convinced by logical persuasion."

Conservatives have a mental comfort zone from which they will not move.

Tell conservatives that the image of Christ in the book of *Revelations* does not agree with the teachings of Jesus, they cannot hear you.

Tell them gay people are just people who happen to be gay, they cannot understand.

So, homophobia and racism live on—because "we have always done it that way."

++

If you have been thinking about giving us a visit—do it this Sunday. Give witness to what you believe. Worship at 11:00.

God Bless—MB

saintmatthewumc.com

revmaxb@tx.rr.com

The Concert Last Saturday

The meal alone, prepared by Cindy Wheeler, was worth the effort to make it to church last Saturday.

Guests were amazed at how well we eat!

The Linda Parker table decorations also got good reviews.

It really was a good evening.

Retired UM minister, Mary Gean Cope posted pictures on Facebook and said the concert was a "strong worship experience."

And Sunday Morning

Is there such a thing as a perfect worship service? If there is, we had one last Sunday. Rev. Beverly Tye told of her loss of faith at 21 and her return to faith years later—brought about by a flat tire. ("God can be sneaky," Bev says.)

And Blake reprised *You Raise Me Up* from the concert.

And Kristi!!! She certainly blew the soot out of the proverbial organ pipes last week! Everything she did got a round of applause.

And This Sunday

I've been out of the pulpit for three weeks now. I'm ready to return.

Sermon title: *Jesus Invented Woke*

Choir rehearsal—usual time.

Choral anthem: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Women Meeting Thursday

Read Mary's note. She will tell you all about it.

And in three weeks, Mary has a special sermon based on the vision our Bishop shared with ministers in a meeting last Saturday.

It's getting exciting around here.

I do hope to see you Sunday.

GOD BLESS—MB

Mary's Corner

I am so very grateful for the message we received Sunday morning from Rev. Beverly Tye. What a blessing to hear her story and to listen as she shared her faith journey with us. We are blessed to have several retired UMC ministers in our congregation and I enjoy getting to come to church and get "fed" on such great gospel messages. Max is back in the pulpit this week and I am positive he will have some great vacation stories for us.

I got my COVID and influenza vaccines on Monday. Other than a sore right arm (flu shot) I have not had any problems with the vaccines. Please, please make an appointment at your local pharmacy or physician's office to get these vaccines and any others you may qualify to receive. The RSV vaccine and shingles vaccine are two other important immune system boosters that may be offered to you. You know your body well enough to know how many vaccines you can handle at once. My only suggestion to you is to drink plenty of water before and immediately following your vaccines. Eat a hearty, healthy meal and get plenty of rest. Taking care of your immune system with good food, water and sleep, is the first step to successfully avoiding illness. If you need help obtaining any of these three things, please reach out to me. Another vital part of a strong immune system is having a powerful sense of belonging. This is where our congregation excels. We shower each other with love and joy. We work very hard to welcome everyone and to get to know each other. The fellowship we enjoy makes us healthier and happier. Keep up the good work! My love to all of you. Get outside this week in the sunshine and beautiful weather. Looking forward to seeing you this Sunday! Mary
pastor@saintmatthewumc.com

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



Kids' News

As usual, I always arrive early for church. This Sunday I was delighted to see a little girl, her mom, and her grandpa on the playground. Mom was pushing the little girl on the swing. I just sat and watched them for some time, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to say hello. As I walked toward them, Audrey, the little 23-month-old girl, ran toward me! She was so happy, I invited her to Sunday school to also play inside, but mom had to leave. I am sure they will be back!

We have been traveling with Abraham and Sarah as they journey to a new home. Sarah is 90 and Abraham is 100. These are hardly the ages you would expect to become parents. Sarah laughs as she did when she learned that she would be a mother; this time, her laughter was from joy as she learned she would be a mother. Sarah names her son "Isaac", which means "laughter". Through this story, we realize that God is faithful, and God keeps his promises. God wants us to be faithful and keep our promises.

Noah and I were busy in Children's church as we painted artwork to take home to Mom. After church, Noah was checking out the playground before going home. Grandma Liz was very patiently waiting!

We will continue our journey with Abraham this week; will you join us?

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

Ladies of St. Matthew

The Ladies of St. Matthew luncheon is Thursday 10/19 at 11:30. RSVP to Veta McCulloch at 817-449-2063 or TEXT ONLY 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.