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# St. Matthew Today

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Wed., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 127<sup>th</sup> year

## #10 on the “Big Ten” List

### Friday’s Word



Some legislators want *The Ten Commandments* posted on walls in Texas schoolrooms.

I have a concern about #10. It lists a man’s wife as one of his possessions.

Thou shalt not covet your neighbor’s house, or your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Note that the wife is not first on the list.

The house comes first.

But she is (we give thanks) above the ox and the donkey. And just above the slaves. Still, the wife is *owned*, just like the slaves and the ox and the donkey.

This old attitude remains enshrined in the traditional marriage vow. The father says, “I give this woman to be married to this man.”

Dad passed ownership to the husband, usually with a little money or a few sacks of grain to sweeten the deal.

I’m not sure we want to solidify this image of marriage in the minds of our children. There are too many boys and men who think this way already.

The “Big Ten” are a great and ancient moral code, but they don’t belong on classroom walls.

Nor do the teachings of Jesus, for that matter. Keep church and state separate.

But it is interesting that the legislators pushing *The Ten Commandments* never suggest posting words from *The Sermon on the Mount*.

And why not?

They don’t believe them.

Jesus told us to seek no revenge, to love our enemies, and to be kind to those who are unkind to us. The Jesus way is not on the Christian Nationalist agenda. +++

Sermon Sunday: *The Double-Minded Christian*.

Tune in. I may be talking about you. 11:00 a.m.

## God Bless—MB

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#### Service for Curtis

It is (as I write this) Monday evening and I am preparing for the memorial service for Curtis Anderson (husband of Linda) at Shannon Rose Hill on Tuesday at 2:00.

Our love to Linda and family.

Curtis has moved from illness to a full life, a great family reunion, and abundant joy.

We give thanks to God.

#### Last Sunday

Good to have Mary back and preaching for us. (“Best sermon I ever heard,” said Annette Wells.)

Julian’s solo was a “showstopper”—not the best term for a worship service, but you know what I mean.

We do have music!

#### This Sunday

My sermon will be *The Double-Minded Christian*, based on a verse from the short letter of James, the 21st of the 27 books in the New Testament.

This is Communion Sunday.

The choir will sing the lovely Twyla Thorp anthem, *How Beautiful*, twice—once at anthem time and again as accompaniment to the serving of Communion.

After worship this week, there will be an All-Council Meeting to discuss plans for the year.

#### Those of the Female Persuasion

Women! Do not forget the Saint Matthew Women United luncheon a week from this Thursday—Feb. 8—at 11:30. Lunch provided.

#### Life Running Early This Year

Everything—Ash Wednesday—Holy Week—Easter. All early this year. Ash Wednesday worship—the beginning of Lent—is two weeks away. Wed., Feb. 14, 7:00 p.m.

See you Sunday.

All of you, I hope.

**God bless—MB**



# Mary's Corner



Greetings beloved community,

I am recovering well from my sinus infection and will be back to my usual self in time for Curtis "Andy" Anderson's memorial service. You will not get this newsletter until after the service, but I know you are praying for Linda and for their family as they go through this difficult time. I know Linda is grateful for this church and for the love and care we show to each other.

I am hoping that the sermons from Father Richard Rohr's books are meaningful to you. I want to be relevant to you and to what is happening in your lives. I also want to avoid putting you to sleep ☹️ If you have any topics you want to know more about, please let us know. It is important to Max and me that we are preaching about the things that matter to you, along with the things God leads us to preach.

This Sunday, February 4, 2024, is All Council Sunday right after church. If you are on a church committee, please plan to attend. If you are not on a committee, show up and we will find a place for you to serve. We will be talking about 2024 plans and our 2024 budget.

I pray you have a peaceful week, enjoying the few days of sunshine and moderate temperatures.

My love to all, Mary  
[pastor@saintmatthewumc.com](mailto:pastor@saintmatthewumc.com)

## **All Council Meeting**

After service this Sunday, all church committees will collectively gather in The Fellowship Hall for an All-Council Meeting to discuss plans for the year.

## **Follow us on social media!**

Following the church on social media allows members to participate in digital outreach efforts. Share SMUMC posts, invite friends to our events, and contribute to spreading the church's message to a broader audience.

## **2023 Records of Giving**

Records of Giving were sent earlier this month. If you have not received yours, please contact the Financial Secretary by phone (817.680.5959) or email ([vitekdr@gmail.com](mailto:vitekdr@gmail.com))

## **Ladies of St. Matthew**

Luncheon on Thursday, February 8th at 11:30 a.m.

## **Methodist Discipleship Class**

Details coming soon! Over 6 weeks we will meet via Zoom. The class is for those who are new Methodists, or who did not grow up in the church.

## **Chair Yoga**

Free Chair/Standing Yoga class each Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10 a.m.

## **Sunday Breakfast**

A light breakfast is served each Sunday at 10 a.m.

# Kids' News

This week we discussed the Parable of the Mustard Seed. The kids knew exactly what a mustard seed is; last year they each received one.

They were amazed to realize that this tiny seed could grow into a tree that is 8 to 10 feet tall.

Sometimes we imagine the kingdom of God as being a time and a place in the future. Jesus said God's kingdom is here on earth right now!

Jesus encouraged his friends then, and us today, to make sure we are all working to bring about God's kingdom. God's kingdom comes into being with tiny and almost invisible things — a tiny, almost invisible, seed turns out to have an enormous effect.

Do something this week to show someone God's love. Make a pay-it-forward gesture that shows God's love through you. You could do something nice for a friend or a neighbor or do something to show appreciation for a member of your church. By loving others, you show God's love through you.

We hope to see you in church Sunday. We will review the most important thing — that you help someone feel cared for. Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

# Go Beyond.

Central Texas Conference laity are invited and encouraged to be a part of LEAD 2024: A Four-Part Leadership Training & Development Series for laity in Finance, Trustee, S/PPR and Nominations and Leadership Development roles.



## **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](http://saintmatthewumc.com/give)

