

St. Matthew Today

Wed., Feb. 14th, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 127th year

As Real as Gravity

Friday's Word



A friend said a woman who worked with her had a strange story to tell.

I called the woman.

She and a friend were traveling around England in a hired car. At some point, a lorry (as the English call a truck) pulled out from a side street.

It was just, suddenly, *there*, right in front of them.

No chance to stop.

No chance, even, to hit the brakes.

But there was no impact.

Their car went right through the truck.

It went *through*.

One vehicle passed silently through the other.

In a flash, the women saw the inside of the truck.

They saw the red plaid shirt the driver wore.

They couldn't take it in. Something that could not happen had just happened.

Shaken, confused, they continued their journey.

And it took some courage to even share this story with friends.

It's—uh—*unbelievable*.

So, why am I sharing it with you?

Because I have six other accounts like it from all over the world.

And I am looking for more.

I want to talk to a few physicists. (Are there any reading this?)

Whether they believe the accounts or not, I want them to suggest what is happening.

Is this an example of quantum tunnelling?

(Look it up.)

Why am I interested?

First of all, if real, God did it.

Second, something like this, I believe, happened at the resurrection.

The body of Jesus *dematerialized*.

The cloth covering the body fell through the body, leaving the image we now see on the Shroud of Turin.

The resurrection was a quantum event.

Also unbelievable.

But as real as gravity.

God Bless—MB

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ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M.

It's a simple service.

My message is short.

Some lovely music.

Imposition of the ashes and prayer at the rail.

Let God do whatever God wants to do in our lives this Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.

And repentance.

And thanksgiving for forgiveness.

Last Sunday

We will remember it as Keith Butterfield's 97th birthday. We had a good time celebrating after worship. (We'll do it for you, too, when you reach 97.)

Some folks thought I ran two women off during the sermon. I didn't. That was just Vita and Linda stepping out to help with the birthday party.

What a job the choir did with just five people up there. No—I could hear no lack. Our tenor had to sing bass. Mary sang tenor.

Yes—we need a bass.

I want Blake to have what he needs.

Our choir is a bit of a marvel.

It sounds better than many larger choirs.

And it is a worship blessing.

This Sunday

Mary preaches for the next two weeks.

Do you remember all those questions Mary had to answer in prep for ordination? She will preach a couple of her answers in these sermons.

My next sermon is called "Jesus Got It Right." How do we know?

Does anyone know what God is like? Know for sure?

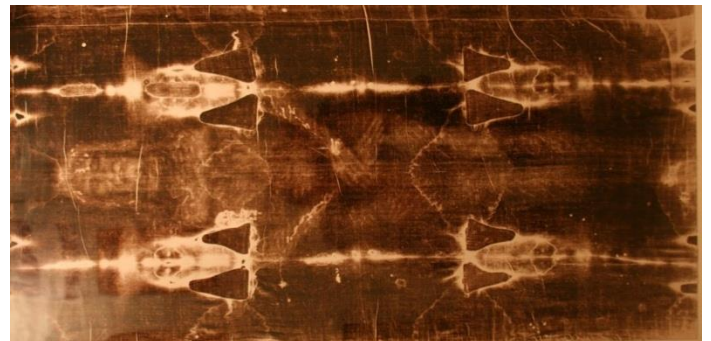
I say yes. But HOW can we know—for sure?

Remember breakfast.

(Do we have any others to help with this?)

See you WEDNESDAY! Perhaps? I hope.

God bless—MB



Mary's Corner



Greetings dear church and friends of the church!

Rev. Beverly Tye came through her surgery with a good report from the surgeon. We pray now for continued and quick healing for Beverly. We also pray for adequate pain control. She faces many months of rehabilitative therapy and I know she will be strengthened by your love and support. It was great to see the Maxwell's this past Sunday. And it was great to celebrate

Keith's birthday! We have a real live WWII veteran in our midst folks. Dan Kessler took Keith out to the Joint Naval Reserve Base where Keith was honored with a cake and small celebration. The pictures are in this newsletter. I've never seen Keith smile so brightly. We love you sir, and are grateful for your service.

Many of you will receive this newsletter on Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday. This first day of Lent is a high holy day in much of the Christian faith tradition, Methodists included. As Max said on Sunday, we will come together to receive the mark of the cross on our forehead, indicating that we are the followers of Jesus Christ. The ashes represent our mortality. The entire exercise is intended to ask God for forgiveness and profess our devotion to God. While I will say the words, "you are forgiven," I am only the messenger. I am not worthy to forgive you, only our Lord is worthy. I am humbled to be involved in the process. This is one of the reasons I am drawn to Methodism, this focus on the tradition of Lent. These next forty days are ours to use as we can to further God's kingdom and strengthen our relationship with the One who loves us most.

Until tonight, Mary
pastor@saintmatthewumc.com

Chair/Standing Yoga

Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10 a.m.

Sunday Breakfast

Every Sunday at 10 a.m.
A light breakfast and fellowship.

Lent runs through March 28

Lent is a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays). It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Maundy Thursday — the day before Good Friday.

Media Team Volunteers!

Saturday, March 9th at 2 p.m.
Anyone who would like to learn more about what happens behind the scenes for sound and video is encouraged to attend an open training session in the sanctuary. Please contact Mel or Jason for more details.

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.

Kids' News

In our Bible story this week, Jesus had been teaching to large crowds and decided to take some time away with His disciples. Jesus and the disciples took a boat out on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was tired from teaching and ministering, so he went to the front of the boat and fell asleep.

Soon, a storm struck. The boat shook and the disciples were afraid. They went to Jesus for help but were surprised to find him soundly asleep. They thought, how can anyone sleep when there is a chance their boat might flood, and they might all drown? But Jesus remained calm.

Jesus got up and calmed the storm. He then asked the disciples why they were scared, as if their feelings of fear were unnecessary. The disciples were amazed.

We too, might feel amazed about this story — what amazing power Jesus has! What a gift it is to know there is someone like Jesus who can be present with us in the midst of life's storms!

Speaking of gifts, we had something for you on Sunday. Valentine's Day is this week! Maybe those things will still be there Sunday.

See you in church!

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue



Did you know?

You can set up secure monthly giving to Saint Matthew UMC directly from your checking account or credit/debit card.

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. Thank you and God bless.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit our website
<https://saintmatthewumc.com/give>

