

# St. Matthew Today

Wed., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 127<sup>th</sup> year

## As Real as Gravity

### Friday's Word



I look at the evidence.  
I look at what's there and try to figure out what it means.  
Take the story below—much like the one I told last week. Joel Harper is a well-known personal trainer who has appeared on Oprah, ABC News and PBS specials.  
He rides a bicycle in New York everywhere he goes. One day he was late for a meeting and biking as fast as he could.

He saw, some 60 ft. in front of him, a father, and a little girl. She looked about three. They were playing beside the bike path.

Let Joel tell his story:

*"At the exact moment I reached them, the child darted in front of me. I could not stop or even slow down. I knew I would hit her. But now—I don't know how to say this. I didn't hit her. My bike and I went through her body. Just sailed through her body. I felt I was floating. She went right through me. No one was hurt. It was a physical thing, but it seemed spiritual. I stopped to look back. The dad seemed in shock, as was I. And I was too confused to go back and talk to him. I know it sounds crazy. I hate to put it into words. It is beyond words."*

I have other similar accounts. This is God working, but through the laws of nature.

Science tells us all matter exists as both particle and wave. In the wave state, matter is not solid.

Something like this took place in the resurrection. The dead body of Jesus *dematerialized*.

The burial cloth fell through the body.

The cloth lay flat on the burial slab. That's the way the disciples found it.

The truth can be hard to believe.

It is still the truth.

*God Bless—MB*

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#### For the Hearing Impaired

We have several people in this category.

The new blue-tooth headphones and the machinery to connect them to our sound system will cost \$3,000. This is the estimate from our sound people at Stage4. (They installed both our sound system and our lighting.) We will begin inviting gifts for this purpose immediately—and when we have the \$3,000, we will ask Chuy and his crew to do the work.

#### Breakfast

We are still looking for one or two people to do breakfast for two Sundays in the month. Winston will continue doing two Sundays. Mac and Faith Salfen will do one Sunday. Someone can take either one or both remaining Sundays.

Let me know.

And show up for breakfast this Sunday—10:30 to 10:55. (Finish eating before worship.)

#### This Sunday

Mary was scheduled to preach this Sunday, but her life is complicated now, with Anna, her daughter-in-law, in the hospital. So, I will be back in the pulpit this Sunday.  
Sermon: "The Wonder of It All."

See you Sunday.

Second Sunday of Lent.

It will be Easter before we know it.

But to get to it, we must go through the cross.

God bless—MB



# Mary's Corner



Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ,  
I listened to the service from Sunday as I always do so that I can continually critique and improve my ministry. Ironically, my sermon about scripture did not include me reading the text that was the foundational passage for the sermon. 2Tim 3: 14-17 says,

*"Yet you must go on steadily in all those things that you have learned and which you know are true. Remember from what sort of people your knowledge has come, and how from early childhood your mind has been familiar with the holy scriptures, which can open the mind to the salvation which comes through believing in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for re-setting the direction of a man's life and training him in good living. The scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man of God and fit him fully for all branches of his work."*

*(JB Phillips Interpretation)*

This is the starting block for any rational discussion about sacred text. The other very important scripture is 2Peter 1: 20-21,

*"But you must understand this at the outset, that no prophecy of scripture arose from an individual's interpretation of the truth. No prophecy came because a man wanted it to: men of God spoke because they were inspired by the Holy Spirit."*

*(JB Phillips interpretation)*

These passages are the result of Paul and Peter instructing the followers of Jesus Christ about what to do in the presence of false prophets. They have also been used, out of context, to refute any argument about the accuracy of scripture. We serve a God who loves us and forgives us and who does everything to be with us. At the same time, we have sanctified a book that doesn't proclaim this simplicity of the Gospel in all of its passages. We have to read it, to dive deeply into its history and ours, and we have to question it at every turn: "Is what I am reading the true picture of the Christ?"

Anna is holding her own at the hospital. She is still critical, still fighting an overwhelming infection in her blood, lungs, and spine. God is watching over us and the care we are receiving is first-rate. I depend on the strength I receive from your prayers and love for me and my children. There are no words to adequately describe my gratitude.

Blessings, Mary  
[pastor@saintmatthewumc.com](mailto:pastor@saintmatthewumc.com)

# Kids' News

Our story Sunday was one we could all identify with: Do you remember Jesus as he was traveling through Jerusalem going to the house of sisters, Mary, and Martha? The custom of that day was that you prepare a meal for your visitors.

Martha was busy preparing the meal that they would serve Jesus. Mary, however, was sitting at the feet of Jesus to listen to his teaching. Martha was upset at Mary because she wasn't helping. A woman sitting at the feet of a man was not socially acceptable at the time.

Martha was irritated thinking her sister should be more concerned with helping her prepare the meal, especially since their guest was someone as special as Jesus. Martha complained to Jesus, asking him to tell Mary to help her. Instead, Jesus tells Martha that she is worried and distracted by things that are not important. Mary has chosen what is important, to be close to Jesus and learn about God.

What would you do? We must realize that we all respond to Jesus in different ways. It does not mean that person is wrong. Each of us is called to follow Jesus in different ways.

Hopefully, we will see you at church Sunday.

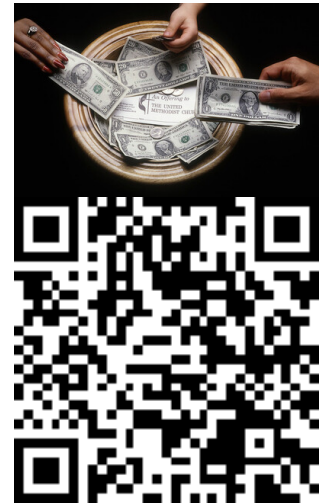
Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

## Scheduled Giving

You can make a special gift or automate monthly giving to Saint Matthew from your checking account or credit / debit card. Contributions in any amount help us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the community and the world.

"Gain all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can." - John Wesley

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



### Ladies of Saint Matthew

Join us for our monthly luncheon on Thursday, March 14th at 11:30 am.

### 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.

### 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.