

St. Matthew Today

Wed., May 1st, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128th year

They Know Not What They Do

Friday's Word



I found it in a shop in a small Texas town.

It was a ceramic piece depicting a cross with an American flag. Hanging on the cross beam was a gun in a holster.

The motto: "My God, my gun, my country."

"We sell a lot of those," the

shopkeeper said.

Does the maker of this piece know anything about Jesus? What about the shopkeeper selling it?

And what about those church people who support a man of vengeance for high office.

Do they *know* Jesus?

Can you be a Christian and ignore the heart of the gospel message?

And what is that core message? It is that God loves all of us all the time—no matter who we are or what we've done.

God loves even his enemies. That includes you and me from time to time.

And here's the rest of that core message? We are to love like God loves.

We, too, are to love our enemies.

In Matthew 5:46, Jesus tells us to love those who do not love us.

Hurting people is out.

Vengeance is out.

So, what of those millions of church people who support a man of vengeance for high office?

Have they never heard the Word? Or have they heard it and rejected it?

I think they have never heard it—not from the pulpits in their churches.

This is where we need to remember what Jesus said from the cross:

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

I think many people who claim the name of Christ don't know who they serve or what he stands for.

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We invite your support for *Friday's Word*. See "Give" at the top of our web page.

God Bless—MB

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Help from a Great Preacher

We had a problem.

Mary was preaching elsewhere and I was in the hospital. Mary called my dear friend Rev. Eric McKinney, retired, and he drove up from Georgetown to fill the pulpit. And what a great sermon!

Our deepest thanks to Eric.

We would love for him to preach again—when he is already in town!

My Hospital Stay

When my leg began to swell on Friday, I knew what was happening. I was hospitalized "in screaming pain" last year with blood clots after COVID. It took surgery to remove the clots.

I went to emergency on Saturday, was placed on intravenous blood thinner and prepped for surgery on Monday. A CT scan showed the clot did not extend far enough up to require surgery. I'm back on Eliquis.

I was released late Monday. It is now Tuesday.

Swelling almost gone. A bit weak but feeling fine.

Will be back Sunday.

Mary preaches.

And we gather at the Lord's table.

Breakfast this Sunday

A "Winston Sunday."

Let's have breakfast together—10:30 a.m.

Special Giving Sunday

This is it—May 5—Special Giving Sunday.

You may give extra if you are able. Our church needs extra help in May. If you are not able, do not give extra. The Lord will provide.

God Bless—MB

Administrative Board members, be prepared for a called Board meeting this Sunday after worship. We will discuss it with Board Chair Winston (and others) this Sunday to see if a brief meeting is necessary.



Mary's Corner



Greetings to all,

The great news is that Max is feeling better and will be back with us this Sunday! I am thankful for Eric McKinney and for his message on Sunday. I enjoyed my time at Good Shepherd. They are a loving and affirming congregation, active in their community and with each other. We should invite them to a picnic sometime at St. Matthew.

I am preaching this Sunday and from the way things are going in North Carolina, I will have good news to share from the UMC General Conference. Through the grace of God, this United Methodist Church is moving past meddling in the private lives of its members and clergy. The same grace will get this church back into a place of relevance in the world, sharing the unconditional love of God, and being the hands and feet of the embodied Christ. Thankfully, we will be able to finally do as we have been instructed by Christ, Love the Lord with all our hearts, minds and bodies. And, love our neighbors AND ourselves." Love to all! I hope to see you Sunday.

Kids' News

Our story begins with a conflict between two groups in the early church. The issue involves the case of some widows not receiving enough food during the daily distribution of food.

The twelve call a meeting of all the disciples. They realize they need to focus on prayer and proclaiming God's word rather than serving food, so they ask the community to select seven disciples from among them to serve.

They specify that the "new disciples" must be wise and filled with the Holy Spirit. This proposal pleases the whole community. The community selects seven people and presents them to the twelve, who pray for them and lay hands on them. God's word continues to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increases.

Children may wonder why the disciples needed more help or why they couldn't do it on their own. We might have this problem too. Sometimes children say "Don't help me, I can do it myself!" But sometimes we need the help. It is okay to ask for help and work together to spread God's love.

This shows that the disciples were paying attention; they wanted to provide more help for the community and then moved forward to organize that work.

We are all called to find ways to unite and act in love for one another, each sharing our gifts and talents to benefit the larger goals of the faith. We use our talents at church for the benefit of everyone.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

General Conference

As General Conference wraps up on May 3, please pray for our annual conference delegates, the Council of Bishops, and all the communications and support staff.

Special Giving Sunday

If you are able, we will collect a special offering on Sunday, May 5 to help with our church finances. Your giving is entirely private. There is never any pressure in giving.

New Study: Near-Death Experiences

Sunday mornings from 9:50 - 10:30 am
Starting after Easter, Jackie Brennan will conduct a 6-week study of near-death experiences.

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.

Sunday Breakfast

Served at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Chair/Standing Yoga

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

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>

