

# St. Matthew Today

Wed., May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128<sup>th</sup> year

## The Great Miscalculation

### Friday's Word



Paul told the Corinthians, "We will not all die."

He was saying that many of them would still be living when the Lord came again.

But everyone Paul was writing to died.

And so did Paul.

Paul was so certain Jesus was returning soon that he advised people not to marry (I Cor. 7:32+).

No reason to bother. Jesus was coming soon.

We are glad to say most Christians ignored him.

(Except the Shakers. They are all gone. There were no children to continue the faith.)

This was the great miscalculation of the early church—the idea that Jesus would soon return.

But instead of dropping an obviously faulty idea—the church hung on to it.

For 2,000 years!

And all that time, preachers have been telling people Jesus is coming soon.

For 2,000 years!!!

And this idea is based on another equally bad idea: that this world God has made is evil, cursed, hopelessly broken.

So God wants to shut it down. End it—as soon as possible.

But the first creation story tells us God looked at his creation and declared it "good."

And in the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us we are all "blessed," even with all the pain we may live with.

And God keeps sending us here—into his world.

It's like the school all souls must go to. This world is where we have the freedom to grow in grace and understanding.

The world has a purpose.

The world serves God's purpose.

Sorry, all you end timers.

I don't think God is calling it quits any time soon. Stop the nonsense.

The Lord has already come. He is with us now.

*God Bless—MB*

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#### PENTECOST

##### With Dinner!

Pentecost is one of the BIG THREE—Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

No, it doesn't have the pull of the other two—but it should. It is our Big Red Day—the only Sunday officially designated for red paraments. (We sometimes keep them up a few weeks—just because they are beautiful.)

Wear something red—if you have it. (If not, don't worry.)

We have lunch after worship—and we all bring. (If you can. If you can't, don't worry.) Bring something good. I'm hungry.

The sermon on Sunday will be: "There Is Power Available."

##### But—No Breakfast!

On dinner days, the kitchen is busy with dinner preparation. So no breakfast this Sunday. Eat that egg before you leave home. (Or stop by the Golden Arches.)

##### A Production Number

The Anthem last Sunday was HUGE.

With a guest playing bass guitar.

And several people—including Mary Teague—doing solos.

And we had quite a few guests for Mother's Day.

We thank God for inhabiting our worship and filling our hearts with joy.

##### God Bless—MB

ON MY MIND—the folks we love who are sick and others who have lost loved ones. May God's grace and comfort be with those who need it most.



# Mary's Corner



Greetings, dear Church, in the name of the risen Christ.

I had so much fun Sunday morning with the song that we sang, and with the time that we spent together before church having breakfast together. For some reason, everything seems lighter. The decisions of the general conference this year have made a way for everyone to be at the table of our Lord. There are no words for me to adequately express what that kind of freedom means. I am grateful to you for your continued love and support.

I'm also very grateful to those who showed up Saturday to clean the church. Nan and Winston cleaned the entire church in two hours. It doesn't seem like a huge task, however, only two people showed up. We'll have a sign-up sheet on Sunday to get a more organized and consistent schedule for cleaning the church.

Anna is progressing well after having a major surgery on Monday. She was up walking today with physical therapy. I look forward to spending time with you again this weekend. I miss you between these Sundays, Mary.

## **Potluck Lunch after Worship**

We will have lunch after worship. Please bring something if you are able. There will be plenty of food, so please stay even if you don't bring a dish.

## **Sunday Breakfast**

There will not be a breakfast this week as we prepare for our lunch.

## **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.

## **Chair/Standing Yoga**

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

# Kids' News

This week, we met Paul, who was a tax collector. Paul decided he wanted to join the disciples when he arrived in Jerusalem, but they doubted Paul's sincerity as a disciple of Jesus. Up until his experience of meeting the Lord on the road to Damascus and his experience of blindness and healing, Paul was an enemy of Christianity and a persecutor of those who practiced the faith. The disciples do not trust that Paul has changed. Barnabas brings Paul to the apostles and serves as a witness that Paul has changed. Paul makes a large impact on the new church. The church grows in strength and reverence for the Lord, as well as the number of people. This growth is attributed to the Holy Spirit.

Since it was Mother's Day, the boys planted flowers in a pot to take home. These were even more special because each one made their handprint, cut it out and, with Miss Vickie's help, glued it on the flower pot. This made their Mother's Day gift even more special. Hopefully, you had a wonderful Mother's Day. See you in church on 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>

