

# St. Matthew Today

Wed., Jun 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128<sup>th</sup> year

## Accept No Substitutes



### Friday's Word

Steven Weinberg said, "Without religion, good people would do good things and bad people would do bad things."

"It takes religion," he said, "to make good people do bad things."

The late Nobel laureate was a renowned physicist and devout atheist.

I don't often agree with him. But I agree that religion can make good people do bad things.

Nonbelievers are often kinder toward people with differences than Christians.

They are often accepting of gay folks and advocate for equal rights for women and people of all races and religions.

Give me a gracious atheist over a mean Christian any day.

But what makes some Christians mean?

The Bible.

That is, the Bible read by people who don't know how to read it.

People who absolutely refuse to put Jesus first.

There are Old Testament passages that say people with disabilities must be kept away from worship.

A blind or a crippled person will defile a holy place. They don't count as people.

Paul tells women to be submissive to men and to be quiet in church. They have a second-class existence.

The Book of Revelation paints God as warmonger, bloodthirsty, and vengeful.

In reading the Bible, we must always turn to Jesus for the final answer.

If we put Jesus first, we will know when Paul gets off track. We will know when a passage of scripture falls short.

Jesus is the standard.

He tells us that God loves all of us equally and unconditionally.

If Jesus is Lord, let him be lord of the scriptures also. Accept no substitutes.

*God Bless—MB*

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#### Good Service Last Sunday

Beverly Tye's parting sermon was fine and gracious. Already we are looking forward to her first visit back after her move.

Lovely duet from Blake and Shannon—but what's new?

I'm writing this hurriedly on Sunday afternoon just before I leave for the Annual Conference in Round Rock. It's not so easy a trip, considering my bum knee. But it's not that hard either.

Get back on Wednesday afternoon.

I will be preaching on Sunday.

#### Big Event!

Dwayne and Sheila Taylor—in this church for 31 years—will renew their vows in a service this Saturday—June 15—at 2:00 in the afternoon.

You—all of you—are invited.

Light refreshments after.

And lots of joy.

It's 50 years together.

And we give thanks.

(Shannon will bring the music.)

#### Breakfast This Sunday

It's a "Winston Sunday."

Food and fellowship at 10:30.

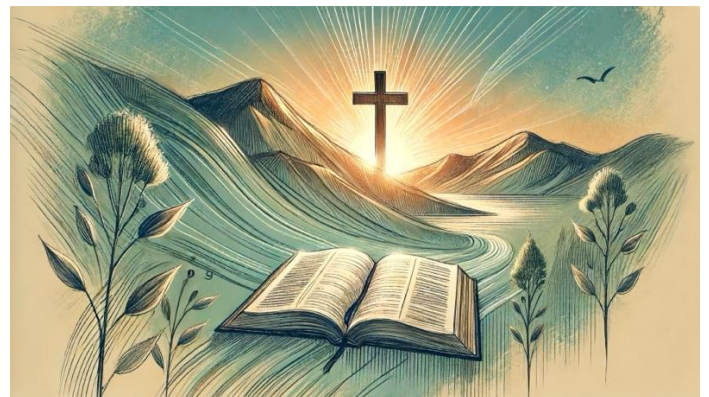
Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday and Sunday.

Hope you are with us for worship.

Don't make me have to come looking for you.

#### 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

We said "so long" on Sunday to our dear friend, mentor, and retired pastor, Beverly Tye. While it was difficult to see her leave, I know it is temporary. She is a short drive by Texas standards, only four hours to Blanco, Texas. We will miss Beverly, but she has promised to visit and to keep in touch. Reverend Tye's sermon on Sunday morning was meaningful to me. I had not considered myself someone called to 'kiss a frog.' She was spot on in her description of frogs and in their place in the minds of humans, not very attractive, do not invoke joy, etc. But the sound made by the tree frogs in my yard just after the sun goes down is very soothing to me. It is a sound I can listen to for hours as I let the stress of my day peel away. Maybe God intended frogs to be heard and not seen.

We have our first summer concert scheduled at Saint Matthew on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Musicians Cassandra Kirby and Nicholas Garza will be performing for us. Cassandra and Nicholas are great friends of Blake's and are well-known artists in the local music scene. The concert is free of charge and an offering will be collected to support the ministries of Saint Matthew.

Don't forget the ladies' luncheon tomorrow with crafting beginning at 10 am and lunch at 11:30.

Blessings to all, Mary



## Dwayne and Sheila Taylor Wedding Vow Renewal Saturday, 2 pm at St. Matthew UMC

Join us in celebrating the renewal of wedding vows for Dwayne and Sheila this Saturday at 2pm. Everyone is warmly invited to attend this joyous event and share in the love and commitment of this special couple.

# Kids' News

Sunday, we met a wonderful peacekeeper by the name Abigail. Her husband, Nabal, was a man of great wealth; he had 3000 sheep, and a thousand goats. Nabal was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

David sent out ten young men to keep the shearers safe for Nabal. David told his young men to greet Nabal and ask for food in return for their safety. Nabal grew very angry and refused to give them any food for the protection. The young men returned to David to give him Nabal's response. David said to his men, gird on your sword. Every man girded on his sword; David also girded on his sword. David took about 400 men. But one of the young men told Abigail. When Abigail learns what happened, she quickly gathers supplies and food for David and his men. She then finds David and apologizes on behalf of her husband. Peace is established and David praises Abigail for her good judgement. Abigail's act allows David and his men to experience peace through good judgement.

This story demonstrates the importance of peacekeeping efforts and provides us an example of what not to do if our gestures are not met in friendly ways. We have some exciting plans for Sunday. Hope to see you in church!

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

### Ladies of St. Matthew Luncheon

Please join us on Thursday, June 13th. Contact Veta McCulloch for more info!

### Church Cleanup

If you're able to help us clean the church, we are meeting Thursday at 4pm. Cleaning supplies are provided!

### Sunday Breakfast

Join us for Sunday breakfast and fellowship at 10:30 am.

### 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>

