

St. Matthew Today

Wed., Jun 19th, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128th year

A Consistent Theology



Friday's Word

How consistent is your theology? Do you have any contradictions in it?

Do you believe some things that do not fit with other things you believe?

You may say in the words of scripture that "God is love."

You may believe that deeply and sincerely. But do you also believe that God does some things that are not loving?

And if you believe that God is love but does unloving things, how do you work that out?

Jesus told us in Luke 6:35 that "God is kind to the ungrateful and to the wicked."

He doesn't modify this in any way. He is telling us that God treats everyone with love all the time.

This is the nature of God—to love and love only.

Do you believe this?

Or do you believe 1 Samuel 15 where God orders the destruction of the Amalekites.

God is quoted as saying, "Go attack the Amalekites. Do not spare them. Kill both man and woman, child and infant."

If God did this, God is not love. God is not kind to everyone all the time.

So, what is your choice?

What image of God do you choose?

You can't choose both. The two images of God are contradictory.

Back to my first question: Do you have a consistent theology?

Or is your theology—your belief system—just a mixed up mess?

If it is a mess, I have a suggestion for you: Just accept what Jesus taught us about God. Accept it completely.

God is love. God loves even his enemies. God is kind to the ungrateful and to the wicked.

Let Jesus have the final word. He alone is Lord.

Accept no substitutes.

God Bless—MB

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Love and Prayers

Ronnie Sullivan's mom passed away last weekend. She was 90 and had been in poor health for a long time. She spent these last years in the home with Ronnie and Mary and under their care. This is a big change in their lives and a deep loss.

The service will be later in Abilene.

The Pastoral Knee

I went to the orthopedic doctor Monday. Nothing is broken or torn. The doctor surmised a bone spur broke loose, affecting the arthritis. The knee seems to be healing slowly. I may be on a walker and preaching from a stool for a few weeks, but not permanently.

Things happen after 40.

And I've been "after 40" for some time now.

Breakfast This Sunday

It's a "We-bring Sunday."

My pigs will be in blankets.

Food and fellowship at 10:30.

This Sunday

"Accosted By the Truth"—that's my sermon Sunday. What happens when an atheist is suddenly confronted by God? I'll share two stories with you.

Last Sunday I felt the need to do a little educational work—filling you in on the way the United Methodist Church is put together and telling you a little about our recent Annual Conference.

We are in the "Horizon Conference" now, under Bishop Ruben Saenz.

And we're proud of it.

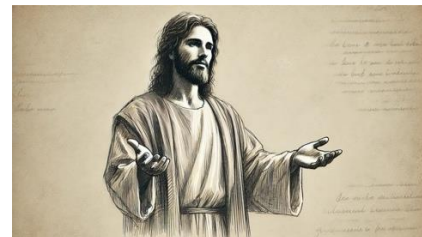
A Good Time

DeWayne and Sheila Taylor's 50th wedding celebration was a joyful occasion. We give thanks for them and their family.

Beautiful duet from Blake and Shannon last week: Good, Good Father. Julian sings this Sunday.

Prepare your hearts. We will worship the Lord.

God Bless—MB





Mary's Corner

Hello, dear family and friends of the church,

I am profoundly grateful for all of you and for the outpouring of love on Sunday. You always know the right things to say, or not say. Grief is a hard thing to handle alone, but it does not require a lot of words. Just making space for someone to feel what they are feeling is enough. We are programmed to “do” the gospel, bring food, clothes, water, give money and time, volunteer at the church, sing in the choir... But walking with someone through grief only requires presence. I can confidently say that you are all skilled at conveying your love with your eyes, your hugs, and your presence. You bring me great comfort. I talked to someone on Sunday about a grief support group at the church. Nothing formal, and we can offer a virtual option along with the option to meet at the church. Please let me know if you are interested and we will find a day/date that works.

Don't forget our concert on June 29th! The doors open at 6:30 pm and the music will begin at 7:00 pm sharp. Get there early for a seat. Bring a friend. Our musicians, Nicholas and Cassandra will be singing music in honor of LGBTQ+ Pride month. It will be a great time. We will fellowship for a short time afterward with light refreshments, aka “snacks.” 😊

The funeral mass for Ronnie's mother, Crispina Monrrial, takes place on Monday, July 1st at 10 am in Abilene, Texas at Saint Vincent Catholic Church 2525 Westview Abilene, TX. Crispina's daughters make our Eastside Community Assistance enchilada dinner every year in December to raise money for outreach. Please do not feel obligated to travel to Abilene. Just your thoughts and love are greatly appreciated. Ronnie will be back in church when she is ready to see everyone. She sends thanks for your prayers and support through this difficult time.

May the Lord be with you, Mary

Ladies of St. Matthew Luncheon

We're taking a break for the summer. No luncheons in July or August. Ladies meet again on Sept 12!

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.

Kids' News

Our lesson Sunday was one of my favorites from when I was a child, I can remember my Mom reciting it to me. It represents God as a shepherd who is always with us. He protects the sheep and keeps us on a proper path in God's Good name. When we are in distress, God uses his rod and staff to protect us as he uses these to protect the sheep as a shepherd. This reminds us that God is always with us, even in times of trouble. God cares for every one of us and will always be with us.

We had a wonderful craft ready for Father's Day, but to our dismay, we were missing kids! I enjoyed having Bridget there to help us with our craft. Hopefully, we will see you in church on Sunday.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

Community Concert Nicholas and Cassandra



June 29th - Doors open 6:30 pm – Show at 7:00 pm

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>

