

St. Matthew Today

Wed., Jul 17th, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128th year

“Did God Kill Ananias and Sapphira”—this Sunday



Friday's Word

I asked the question last time:
“Did God kill Ananias and Sapphira?”
I got several interesting answers—
but I want more. Read the story in Acts
5:1-11. Send me an e-mail with your
opinion.

Feel free to explain why you say “yes” or “no.”
I will read some of the e-mails in my sermon this Sunday
(without giving your name.)

Truth is, the question is not hard to answer. And I will give
you the definitive answer in my sermon this Sunday at
11:00.

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We have an interesting study of NDEs, just starting Sunday
mornings, taught by my sister, Jackie.

I will chime in at times.

The class meets at 9:45 and will run for four Sundays.

Each week we will hear from someone who has had a
near-death event.

Expect to be lifted and encouraged by this study.

And here is really good news: It is followed by breakfast!

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The 4-week NDE study will be followed by an extended
study of my not-yet published book, *Discovering God*.
The book is continually changing as I work on it. It will be out
by next Easter.

The study will be part of my closing work on the book.
Discovering God covers over 100 remarkable and moving
encounters with God.

We will discover in this study that God's love for us
exceeds anything we could ever imagine.

And God is closer to us than most people believe.

So: study at 9:45 every Sunday morning.

And Sermon Sunday: *Did God Kill Ananias and
Sapphira?* 11:00 and after.

God Bless—MB

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Service for Julie

The memorial service for Julie Maxwell will be this Saturday
at 1:00 pm, followed by lunch for family and friends. Julie was a
beloved member of this church and cherished by her husband,
Tracy, and her friends.

We hope you can be present.

NDE Study Off to a Good Start

We had 23 present for the first session at 9:30 am last
Sunday. This will require us to move to the larger classroom
next door for the remaining three or four sessions.

Each week someone who has had a near-death experience
will share their story with the class.

This NDE study will be followed by an extended study of my
to-be-published book, *Discovering God*. This study will also
meet at 9:45 am each Sunday.

Breakfast This Sunday

It's a “Winston Sunday.”

We had all 23 people from the NDE class join breakfast last
week.

Food and fellowship at 10:30 am.

This Sunday

This is it: the sermon that will answer the question: *Did God
Kill Ananias and Sapphira?*

See you in worship.

God Bless—MB

I have forgotten the date of our upcoming concert (and it is
too late at night to call anyone to find out).

We will remind you on Sunday.

Or Jason or Mary may mention it in this newsletter. It is
coming. And it will be great.





Mary's Corner

Greetings dear church and extended church family,

Blessings to all of you in the name of Jesus from Matthew 25. Blessings upon blessings to you for being who Jesus describes in Matthew 25. Our church is not the picture painted in the comments of Kaitlin Shelter that I read to you on Sunday morning. Our church is an affirming, welcoming, loving congregation that stands with arms wide open to our community. We do many things for our colleagues at Eastside Community Assistance. I do not doubt your engagement or your willingness to be the hands, feet, mouth, and resources of Jesus Christ to the least of these in our neighborhood. And then I stood before you on Sunday morning and asked you to consider doing more. I listed several things that we could do: groceries for folks who cannot buy food; a place to be when the temperatures are dangerously cold and maybe even when they are dangerously hot; a safe space for folks recovering from the trauma of addiction and/or abuse. There is a Title I elementary school just down the street from us. Those kiddos could use a friendly neighbor, I am almost certain. We could make an appointment with the counselor at the school to determine exactly how we can help.

I cannot do this alone, though, and I don't want to do it without you. School starts in about 30 days. I am tentatively scheduling a meeting for August 4th after church at 12:30. Please plan on bringing a sack lunch with you to church. We will fellowship and discuss some feasible plans. Blessings to all, Mary

Kids' News

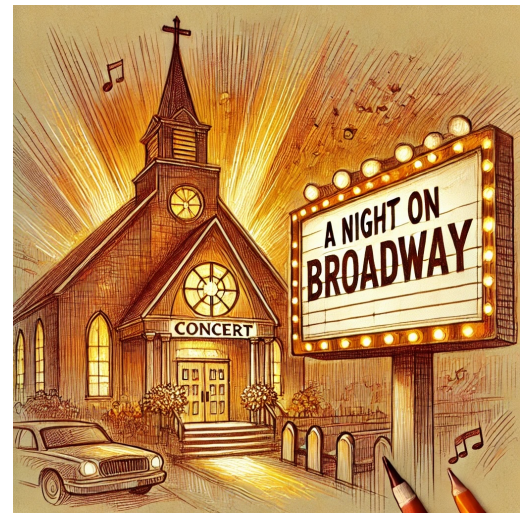
This week, we met Mephibosheth. Do you remember him? He was the son of Jonathan, who was King Saul's son.

Jonathan and David were best friends when they were young. Jonathan helped David escape when the king wanted to kill him. David and Jonathan made a promise that they would always protect each other's families.

Many years later, after David is established as King, he sends for a man named Ziba, who had been a servant in King Saul's household. Ziba asks if there are any survivors from Jonathan's household. He learns that Jonathan has a son who is disabled. New kings often killed family members of the old king because they were afraid they would try to take the kingdom. Instead, David invites Mephibosheth to eat at his table each night, like a member of his family. David gives Mephibosheth the property that would have been his as Jonathan's son.

We all need to know that we have a place to belong through God's love. Because we want to show faithful love back to God, we must be like David and welcome and show love to those God loves. See you in church on Sunday.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue



Join us for "A Night on Broadway" Saturday, August 10th at 7 pm



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You can help us pass on a legacy of spiritual nourishment and community by including Saint Matthew UMC in your estate planning. Learn more about estate planning on our website. saintmatthewumc.com/info/estate-planning

