

St. Matthew Today

Wed., Aug 28th, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128th year

Jesus—IS—the Word



Friday's Word

By "Conservative," I mean Christians who read the Bible as though it is inerrant. They see it as accurate cover-to-cover.

But this way of reading the Bible can make people less loving, and less

moral.

For example, Deut. 21:18 says that parents with a son who refuses to obey them should haul the kid before the elders at the city gate and have him stoned to death.

You won't find that in modern parenting manuals.

It's a horrendous idea.

It is ancient ignorance.

And it's no way to treat your kid.

But Biblical inerrantists must defend that passage. And since this is part of the Old Testament law, they must even say that killing the child was God's idea.

If you are in a conservative church, ask your pastor about this. He will defend this passage and say killing the child was God's will.

Of course, we should all know better. The passage is not Christian.

It does not reflect the teachings of Jesus or even common decency.

But the conservative pastor feels he must defend the passage and must blame it on God.

Because it is in the Bible.

It is important for us to know that there is a Bible *within* the Bible.

The heart of scripture is Jesus and his teachings.

Anything in the Bible that does not reflect his love cannot be right.

Jesus—IS—the Word!

Biblical inerrancy causes many Christians to be morally indecisive. It is why so many who claim Christ can support "the orange guy."

They have been taught immorality all their lives sitting in pews on Sundays.

Biblical inerrancy can lead to political evil.

(Worship at 11:00.)

Last Sunday

I told you something you have never heard a preacher say: The world is what God intended it to be. It is not a mistake. God did not goof, and God never regretted making us. The world is the hard-knocks school God sends us to—to grow, to learn, to find God. The Adam and Eve story tells us we are cursed, but Jesus tells us we are blessed—even with the pain and suffering in the world. And I'm sticking with Jesus.

This Sunday—Communion

This Sunday's sermon: "We're Free—but Sometimes God Pushes." Yes, freedom is what this is all about. We are free, but never alone. God is with us at every moment. God sees our every move and knows our every thought. And sometimes—God breaks in.

This is what a lot of Christians do not know: God does stuff! God meddles. God intervenes. That's what I will be talking about.

We will gather at the Lord's Table this Sunday.

NDE Class

There is a hell. There has to be. Everybody must go somewhere when they die, and all are not ready for heaven. Some people don't even want heaven, and they surely do not want God. So, says my sister, this week in the NDE class, we will look at "Hell and Other Bad Environs."

Class at 9:45—followed by breakfast.

Speaking of Breakfast

This is "Winston Week." Feel free to help.

Food and fellowship at 10:30.

Singing

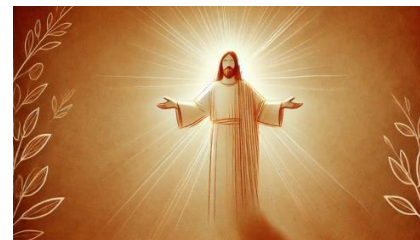
I am happiest when I am singing. I feel closest to God when I am singing.

You know what's going to happen some Sunday soon? We are going to spend the whole worship hour singing—just singing—with a little talk in between.

I long to sing with you Sunday.

See you in church. Do come—if you can.

God Bless—MB



God Bless—MB

saintmatthewumc.com

revmaxb@tx.rr.com



Mary's Corner

Greetings to you, beloved children of God, I cannot remember a time when I have so desperately longed for fall to arrive. Every day, I anxiously check my weather app to see how many days remain until the lows drop into the 70s and the highs into the 80s. As a child, I remember thinking how ridiculous it was that

my parents and grandparents talked so much about the weather. Now, I realize just how important those conversations are. The oppressive heat and humidity we've experienced lately is almost indescribable. The heat radiating from the concrete surrounding us, even long after the sun sets, is stifling. Yesterday, as I drove down Meadowbrook Drive after church, I was humbled by the sheer strength and determination of a young woman I saw walking in the median, holding out her hands, asking for help from passersby. She had no protection from the sun and was barefoot. Creator God, please find her and overwhelm her with healing today.



I also participated in a ministry called Under the Bridge yesterday. This not-for-profit organization works every Sunday to prepare hot meals and bags of snacks for people living in and around downtown Fort Worth who have limited or no access to shelter, clean water, and food. You've heard me speak about this ministry before, and several of you have prepared and individually packaged snacks to be transported to these events on Sunday afternoons. For that, I am deeply grateful. As I worked yesterday afternoon in the air-conditioned kitchen, helping to prepare and package nearly 300 hot meals for our friends living on the streets, it occurred to me that quite a bit of the work could be done in advance during the week. My mind began to wander, and I came up with some ideas about how the folks at Saint Matthew UMC could further support this ministry. I have some interesting thoughts, and I'll be discussing them with you during upcoming services.

On Sunday morning, as I turned the corner on Hitson (on two wheels because I was running late 😊), I noticed a new sign next to the one that read "United Methodist Church one block." The new sign said, "Spraying for West Nile virus in progress in this zip code." My first thought was, "Mosquitoes don't congregate by zip code!" I was both



startled and concerned. The mosquito spray used to combat the West Nile virus contains DEET, a known carcinogen. Because I was running late on Sunday, I forgot to mention this during the service, but it's important to know that DEET is deadly to mosquitoes and dangerous

for small animals. It can also cause serious health issues in individuals with respiratory or lung conditions. Please be mindful that being outdoors after dark may not be safe until the West Nile spraying has been completed. We live in interesting times and an interesting area. The amount of concrete in our neighborhoods has overwhelmed the ability of trees to help regulate the temperature. Now, at dawn and dusk—the most pleasant times of the day to be outside in August—the mosquitoes become predators, and we are their prey. Finally, just after sunset, the mosquito trucks come out to spray the neighborhood. Max's sermon was about timing—how God knows what we will experience in our lives, when we will have those experiences, and how He sends us into this world for such a time as this. God is with us, in us, and working through us. I just pray that there are no mosquitoes in heaven.

Continue to faithfully keep one another in prayer, and put feet and hands to your prayers at every opportunity. Love and blessings to you in the name of the risen Christ,
Mary

Kids' News



This week, we learned about one of my favorite ladies—Lydia! She was quite an unusual woman for her time. Lydia had her own business selling purple cloth, and she was the head of her household. Since purple cloth was expensive, she most likely sold it to wealthy people, making her a wealthy woman herself.

One day, as she was praying by the riverbank, Paul came by. Before meeting Paul, Lydia was not a follower of Jesus. However, she showed great courage by becoming a person of faith. Her heart opened to hearing Paul's trusted words, and she even invited Paul to stay at her home. This was the beginning of Lydia's journey in helping to spread the message of Jesus to her family and others.

Lydia started a small church in her home and likely used her status to offer leadership and gifts to the early church. Because of her courage to follow Jesus, the church grew, and many people became followers of Jesus.

It takes courage to try something new, just like Lydia did by following Jesus. It also takes courage to welcome new people into your circle. Can you be courageous like Lydia? Could you invite new people to church and make everyone feel welcome when they come to visit? See you in church on Sunday.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

Did you know?

We offer online giving through PayPal. Your gift can be drawn directly from a checking or debit account on any schedule you choose. Gifts of any amount help us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our community and the world via our online ministry.

Scan the QR code with your phone or visit our website to give:
saintmatthewumc.com/give



Join the Choir!

After a refreshing summer break, our beloved choir is returning, and we need your voice! Whether you're an experienced singer or just starting out, we welcome both men and women to join us in making a joyful noise.

First Practice: Sunday, September 15th at 9:30 AM

No experience? No problem! The only requirement is a willingness to lift your voice in song and praise. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a warm, welcoming community and to contribute to our worship services.