

# St. Matthew Today

Wed., Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128<sup>th</sup> year

## *The Lies Must Stop*



### Friday's Word

Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, live in fear now. They keep their kids home from school.

Some schools are closed, as are businesses, because of bomb threats.

These immigrants were invited here to fill factory jobs. One boss said they are hard-working and dependable.

Their lives have become a nightmare, and the town is in chaos.

We heard it first at the debate. It sounded funny, indeed, ridiculous: Haitian immigrants are stealing people's cats and dogs and eating them.

It sounded crazy.

It was crazy.

But they keep repeating the lie. The leaders of the Orange Cult keep the lie going.

They know it's a lie.

They know it is hurting people—innocent people, including children.

Ah! But these are Black people. Black children.



So, the leaders of the Orange Cult just do not care. Certainly, the Orange Man himself cares about no one but himself.

But what about his followers? What about the many Christians who have gone orange?

It is pure evil to deliberately hurt innocent people, to promote a lie that makes families hide in fear.

Do Christians who have fallen into the cult not care? Can they no longer tell the difference between good and evil?

I think much of the church has failed. It has harbored racism, debased women, and ostracized gay people.

Much of the church does not teach the inclusive love of Jesus Christ. This leaves people vulnerable.

"If we stand for nothing, we will fall for anything."

The lies must stop.

People are being hurt.

### Max's Corner

#### Choir Practice Resumed

The choir will look bigger this Sunday because it is! There are three new members!

The choir enjoyed lunch together at the Dixie House after church last Sunday.

They will grace us with their first anthem of the new church year this Sunday: *Fairest Lord Jesus*.

Expect some lovely singing.

#### NDE Class

We have two more sessions—this Sunday and the next. (There will be additional classes later when the room is prepared for showing a couple of NDE videos.)

When my sister's class ends, I will begin a study of my book, *Discovering God*. So, we will continue lessons at the same time each week.

Class at 9:45—followed by breakfast.

#### Speaking of Breakfast

Winston provided a beautiful breakfast last week. This week, it is a "We-Bring" Sunday. It's up to us eaters. Feel free to help. We serve a lot of people each Sunday.

Food and fellowship at 10:30.

#### This Sunday

Mary will not be with us. She will be in New York to perform the memorial service for John McCormick, a member of St. Matthew and a dear friend of Mary's who knew her before he came to the church. John was around 90 at his passing and lived in another state. The flowers will be in his memory this Sunday.

Sermon this Sunday: *What We Got Wrong about Salvation*. We should not have gotten it wrong because Jesus always had it right.

Jesus always gets God right.

Things are going well in our church, but we are burdened by the illness of beloved members. Keep our sick fold in your prayers.

I would rejoice to see you Sunday.

God bless,

MB

*God Bless—MB*

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# Mary's Corner

## Blessings and peace to all in the name of the Risen Christ,

My heart is heavy as I write this newsletter. Bill and Linda Parker have made the incredibly difficult decision to pursue comfort care for Bill. He has chosen hospice and was placed on service today, September 17, 2024. I know that

you all join me in understanding that this is not the last time we will see Bill, while also living with the grief that he will not be here with us. Bill is one of the people I imagine to be most like Jesus—always forgiving, always loving his neighbor, always serving others. Linda will need her church family now more than ever, and I have promised Bill that we will take care of her.

While the timing is hard, there are still many things happening in our community that need mentioning. First, the Bill J. Elliott Elementary School blanket drive starts



October 6th and runs through October 18th. We are providing warm children's coats for this drive. Please begin bringing the coats we've discussed, starting this Sunday. We will collect all warm clothing items until October 18th. Also, Saint Matthew Women United are providing breakfast for the teachers on September 25th. If you are contributing to the breakfast, please have your contribution at the church by September 24th. We had our first choir practice on Sunday morning, and our new members, along with our wonderful existing singers, are making us sound better than ever. After church on Sunday, at our annual choir luncheon, a couple of the new members volunteered to organize a fall activity for the church—either a "Trunk or Treat" or a table at the Bill J. Elliott Elementary Fall Festival on October 24th. More to come on that soon.

Unfortunately, the AC unit at the church has completely shut down. Brian McCosky has worked diligently this week to find a dependable AC company to replace the broken air handler and heat pump unit. We cannot avoid replacing both, but Brian was able to save the congregation about \$5,000 from the original estimate we received. We are truly blessed to have volunteers in our congregation who dedicate so much time and effort to keep us running.

It seems like I have asked for a lot in the past few weeks—food and money for Eastside Ministries, clothes and coats for the elementary school, volunteers for various projects, and now, financial support for AC replacement. I want to be clear that while I am asking, I also feel incredibly blessed. I am blessed because I am in fellowship and service to this congregation, and each of you reminds me of Jesus—always loving your neighbor, always forgiving, and always serving others. There is no church like this one, and I am deeply grateful for you. My cup overflows.

With love,  
Mary

# Kids' News

This week, we talked about how God is creative and how we are God's masterpiece, created in Jesus Christ to do good things. Psalm 139:1-18 teaches us that God made each of us unique and special. This scripture brings comfort and peace as it helps us understand how deeply we are known and loved by God. It reminds us that we are created with care and purpose, and that we are wonderfully made. The psalm describes how God has been involved in our lives since the very beginning, and how He is always with us, guiding and loving us every step of the way.

Even in difficult times or when we feel scared, we can remember this psalm and be reassured that God is always with us, and His love never fails. Let's carry these powerful words with us as a reminder of our value and God's never-ending love.

Join us this Sunday as we continue to explore the meaning of this psalm and how it applies to our lives.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

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