

# SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



## Max's Corner

### Concerns for our Church Family

We remember with love several members of our church family who have recently passed: Dan Mitchell, a faithful member alongside Joyce; Carol Bennett's brother, who had been ill for some time; Patsy Reaves, whose final years were shaped by Alzheimer's; and Eleanor Goodwin, mother of Jim Goodwin, whose graveside service was held Thursday at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Please continue to pray for Dewayne and Sheila Taylor's daughter-in-law, who is facing pancreatic cancer in her early 40s. John Reynolds is recovering, and Mac Salfen is doing better after chemo, though treatment brings its own challenges. We're thankful that Keith Butterfield is more himself these days, and we continue to hold Carolyn Bell in prayer as she adjusts to life in a care facility.

Many in our church family are carrying burdens both seen and unseen. We give thanks that we have a Lord who cares—and that we do not walk alone.

### Discovering God Class

Finally—we face the story of Mrs. Schwartz this Sunday. Be prepared for a challenge.

### Breakfast this Sunday

NO BIG BREAKFAST this Sunday. (Bring donuts. I will, too.) We have Palm Sunday lunch after worship.

### Last Sunday and This

Great service last week with the baptism of three of our children. And listen!—our sound has improved! The new sound board gives us much better sound. This Sunday is Palm Sunday. Dinner after service. A big day. Holy Week begins.

Love to all of you.  
God bless—MB

## Mary's Corner

Good Monday, Church!

The sun is shining, the temperature is climbing, and it feels like spring is finally on its way. Let's enjoy the pleasant days ahead—and maybe the wind will settle down before the summer heat arrives.

Sunday's baptism was a deeply spiritual moment for me. There's something sacred about placing my hand into the water and becoming a vessel of the Holy Spirit. I often find myself wavering between awe and overwhelming joy. If you know me well, you know my joy tends to leak out through my eyes! What a thrilling experience to baptize three young people this week—and Ian back in January. It's clear: we're seeing the beginnings of a youth group, and I'm excited to plan some outings for our kids and their friends. I'll need your help, so stay tuned.

At the same time, I'm preparing funerals—living in the tension between grief and grace. Funerals are bittersweet. What breaks our hearts is the same sacred moment that frees our loved ones into the tangible presence of God. While we mourn, I believe they hear our tears... and God's voice saying, "Welcome home, good and faithful servant."

Grief doesn't leave us—it becomes part of us, and processing it is essential to our well-being. If you or someone you know is struggling with loss, please reach out. I have many resources and am always available to listen or walk alongside you.

And always—pray for one another. Our church family carries joys and sorrows side by side, and the prayers of a faithful, loving community do so much to lighten the burden. God hears us—especially when we lift each other up.

Blessings and love,  
In the name of the risen Christ,  
Mary

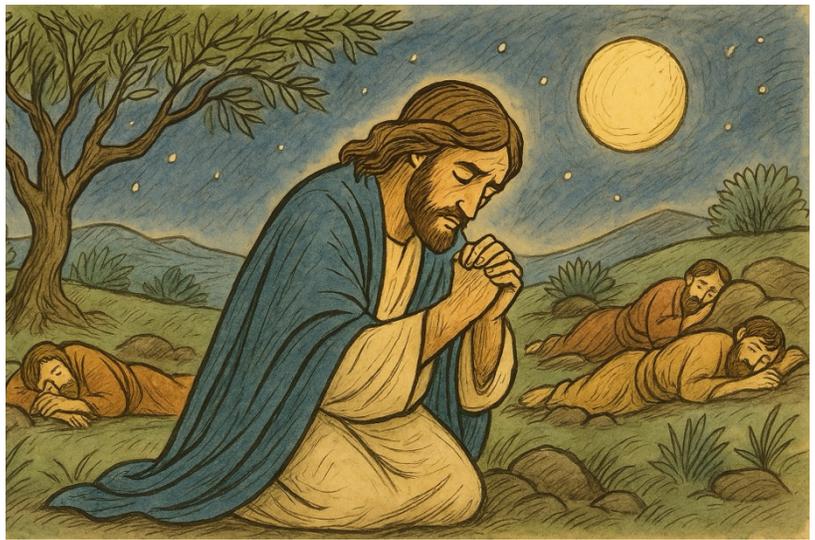


# Kids' News

## A Night in the Garden

This Sunday, we talked about **prayer**—and the story we heard was full of emotion, honesty, and love. It took place in one of the most important places in Jesus's life: **the Garden of Gethsemane**.

After sharing the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus knew that His time on earth was almost over. He went to the garden to pray, and He took Peter, James, and John with Him. Jesus didn't try to hide His feelings—He told His friends that He was sad and troubled, and He asked them to stay awake and pray with Him.



But something surprising happened. Even though Jesus was full of emotion and needed their support, the disciples kept **falling asleep**. Not once, not twice, but **three times**. Every time Jesus returned, they were sleeping.

Still, Jesus didn't get angry. He just kept doing what He came to do: **He prayed**. He asked God to take away the suffering He was about to face, but in the end, He said something really powerful:

***“Not what I want, but what You want.”*** (Luke 22:42)

This story shows us a lot about who Jesus is. He didn't pretend to be okay. He didn't pretend not to be scared. But He still turned to God and trusted that He wouldn't be alone.

## What We Learned

- ✓ Jesus prayed even when He was scared or sad—He showed us that it's okay to bring all our feelings to God.
- ✓ His prayer wasn't answered the way He asked—but He still trusted God's plan.
- ✓ We may not always feel strong, but we can always **choose to pray** and trust that God hears us.
- ✓ We want to be like Jesus—**honest in our emotions**, but faithful in our trust.

This week, we had 10 amazing kids in class, and we celebrated something beautiful—the **baptisms of Jade, Remy, and Erik!** What a meaningful moment as we prepare for Easter.

Julie Ann helped sort and match eggs from last year (we now have a full basket of empty eggs!). Nan and I went shopping, and thanks to some generous helpers, we've got plenty of treats to fill them. And yes—the Easter Bunny confirms there will be **lots of eggs and two golden eggs!**

Blessings,  
Miss Vickie and Miss Sue

**Important! The Easter Egg Hunt starts promptly at 10:00 AM on Easter Sunday—don't be late!**

Thank you to everyone who has already brought eggs and candy for our Easter Egg Hunt—we're off to a great start! We still need lots more plastic eggs filled with candy, and we'd love your help. Please consider donating each week between now and Easter Sunday so we'll have enough for all the children to enjoy.

# Friday's Word

## *"Looks Like It's True"*

I don't want to offend anyone. People of all faiths have a chance at heaven.

There is truth in all the great religions. We all belong to God, and God loves all of us equally.

But evidence suggests that the essentials of Christianity are true.

However hard some may fight it, it looks like the Shroud of Turin is the real thing. A new cutting-edge X-ray dating technique sets the Shroud at the time of Christ.

The argument may be over. For the image on the Shroud tells the complete story of the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus.

It is like a snapshot of the body of Jesus at the very moment of the body's transformation.

The Shroud tells us that the body de-materialized. As the Shroud fell through the body, it recorded the bones in the hands and the bony sockets of the teeth. These are visible on the Shroud image.

The image is over the blood, which means the blood went on first. And we know it is human blood. Someone died and was raised 2,000 years ago. The only candidate is Jesus.

If I were not a believer, I would hate to face all the evidence that Jesus is, in fact, Lord. Just His appearance to people of many faiths in religious experiences and NDEs would shake my unbelief.

I want to live reality.

I want the truth and nothing but the truth.

And all the evidence I am aware of points to the truth of the primary claims of Christianity.

The primary claims. Not the nonsense claim that people of other faiths go to hell.

Sunday is Palm Sunday.

Choose reality in your life.

*God Bless—MB*

[saintmatthewumc.com](http://saintmatthewumc.com)

[revmaxb@tx.rr.com](mailto:revmaxb@tx.rr.com)

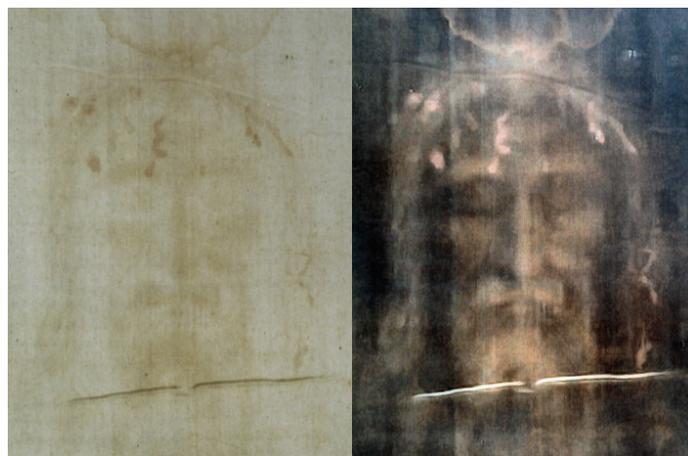
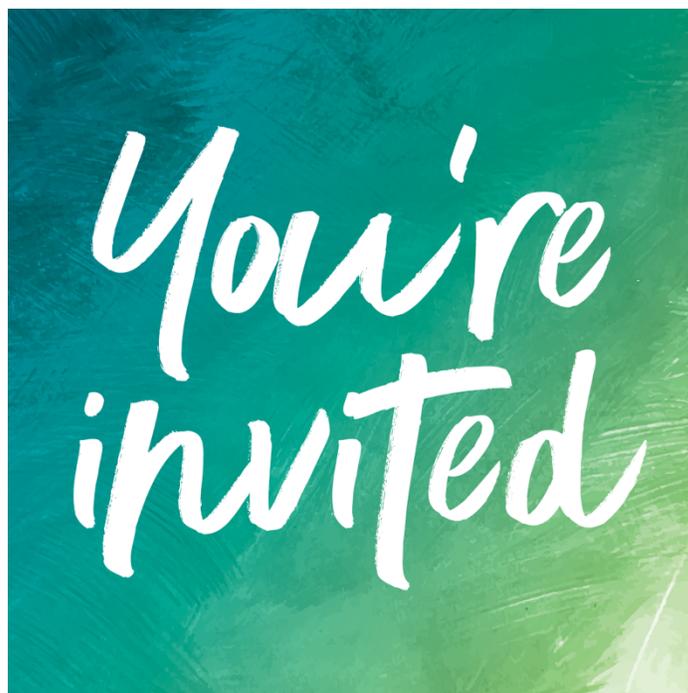


Photo credit to Dianelos Georgoudis (CC)



### **Did you know?**

**Chair Yoga is offered Tue., Thur., Fri. at 10:00 AM**

Looking for a gentle way to improve flexibility, balance, and strength? **Chair Yoga** is a low-impact exercise perfect for all ages and abilities, providing the benefits of yoga while seated or using a chair for support. Whether you're recovering from an injury, managing mobility challenges, or simply looking for a relaxing way to move, this class is for you!

The St. Matthew Women's Group will meet this Thursday, April 10 at 12:00 noon in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome! Come for fellowship, conversation, and connection. We'd love to see you there!

Join us for Holy Thursday and Good Friday next week. Light supper before service at 6:00 pm, service begins at 6:30pm.

Easter Egg Hunt begins promptly at 10am on Easter Sunday. Don't be late!

Scan to give online

