

# SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



## Max's Corner

The MSB Gospel Choir was a great success! We had 100 people present, and after paying the choir, we were still able to give a generous gift to Eastside Ministries. Thank you to everyone who helped,

attended, and gave. Your love truly makes a difference.

## Pastor's Class

For the next two weeks, I'll be sharing something very personal—my remarkable experience during Communion a few years ago. This will be the first time I've discussed it with a group. You'll even receive a copy of the closing chapter from my book. Join us at 9:45 AM, followed by breakfast.

## Breakfast This Sunday

It's a "We-Bring" Sunday, so feel free to pitch in! Breakfast begins at 10:30 AM.

### Worship This Week

Mary will be preaching, Kristi will be out, and Blake will fill in.

## Community Spotlight

Tickets are on sale for *Rent* at the Grand Prairie Uptown Theater this Saturday at 2:00 PM. Julian, Shannon, and Josh are in the production—don't miss it! Visit the Uptown Theater Events Calendar (Prekindle Tickets) and click on "Rent" to purchase.

See you Sunday!

God Bless—  
MB

## Friday's Word

Getting Jimmy Kimmel back is a small victory.

And it's a step in the right direction.

But the Heart of Darkness has three more years of vengeance and chaos. We can hope that some members of his cult will see the light. But so far, not many. It's hard to leave a cult. Good people get drawn in. It's like good kids who join sides with the bully in high school.

They may even realize how mean the bully is, but they are on the power side. The Heart of Darkness once said, *"To exercise power is to instill fear."* That's what bullies do. That's what dictators do. They make people afraid of them.

We are now a nation run by bullies, and they govern by instilling fear. And, so far, it's working. Heads of corporations are afraid. University leaders are afraid. Heads of big law firms are afraid. Teachers in classrooms are afraid. The brazen, lawless use of power to instill fear is working so far.

But that's—so far.

It cannot continue.

Because the trajectory of God's creation is toward love, not fear. The foundational principle of the universe is love. God, who is the source of all things, is love.

You can stand in the river with arms stretched out to stop the water, but the water will overwhelm you. You can oppose the foundations of existence only so long. Finally, there is no power against God's grace.

*"Perfect love," says John, "casts out fear."*

It will get darker for a while. Then comes the sun.

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# Mary's Corner



Hello, dear friends and family of Saint Matthew UMC,

I am still humming the songs from our concert on Saturday, the 20th. What a beautiful evening it was—filled with music, fellowship, and a wonderful meal afterward. I am so grateful to everyone who helped make the event possible. The church looked so welcoming, and our guests commented repeatedly on the warmth and friendliness they experienced here. It was truly a night of community building. Thank you for your hospitality.

Our next concert will take place on Saturday, October 25th, at 6:00 PM, with a meal to follow. This free event will feature the choir from All People's Church on Sandy Lane as they present *Lazarus*. I'm looking forward to an evening of music and fellowship with their choir and church family. Events like these are especially meaningful as we continue to strengthen connections with our neighbors and other congregations. Together, we become stronger.

I will be preaching this Sunday and hope to see you there.

Love and prayers,

**Mary**

# RENT at the Uptown Theater

We are excited to share that our very own **Julian, Shannon, and Josh** are part of the cast of the groundbreaking rock musical **RENT**, presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council!

**RENT** follows a group of young artists and friends living in New York City's East Village during the late 1980s. As they face poverty, love, identity, and the HIV/AIDS crisis, they hold onto creativity, connection, and hope. With a powerful score and unforgettable characters, **RENT** is a celebration of community, resilience, and living fully—no day but today.

September 19–28

Uptown Theater, Grand Prairie, TX

Tickets & Info:

[prekindle.com/events/grandprairieartscounciluptowntheater](https://prekindle.com/events/grandprairieartscounciluptowntheater)

**Julian's understudy performances will be held Sept. 20 at 8 PM and Sept. 27 at 2 PM.**  
Come out and support Julian, Shannon, and Josh!

Content Advisory:

**RENT** contains mature themes, including depictions of poverty, addiction, and illness (HIV/AIDS), as well as strong language, references to drug use, and LGBTQIA+ stories. These elements are essential to the show's message of love, resilience, acceptance, and community, but may not be comfortable for all audiences. Viewer discretion is advised.

## Upcoming Events

🎵 **All Peoples Church Choir**

Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM

All Peoples Church Choir performs *Lazarus*.

🍽️ **Thanksgiving Meal**

Sunday, November 23, 2025

🎵 **Western Hills Ensemble Choir**

Friday, December 5, 2025, at 6:00 PM

This concert benefits the Western Hills Choir for their 2026 competition expenses.

# Kids' News

## God Provides Help for Moses

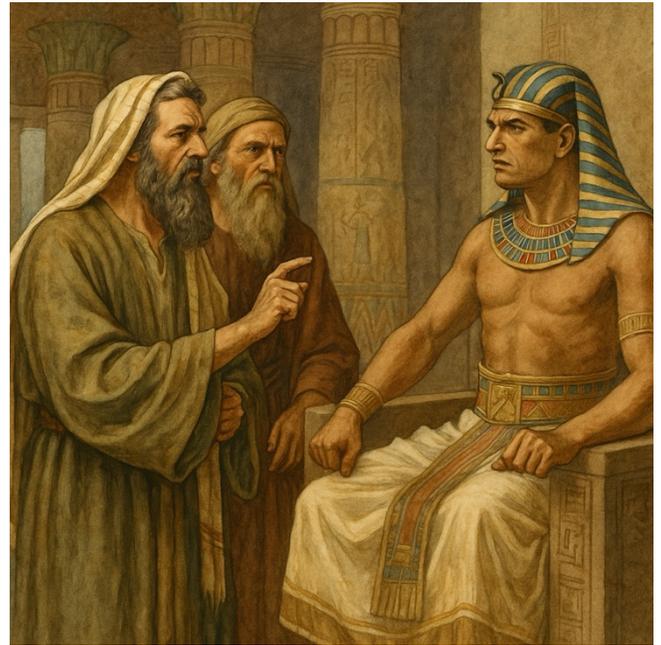
Last week, we heard how God spoke to Moses through a burning bush that did not burn up. In that moment, God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. But Moses was unsure of himself. *“O my Lord, I have never been eloquent... I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”* (Exodus 4:10)

God answered by sending Moses' brother, Aaron, to help. *“You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth... He shall speak for you to the people.”* (Exodus 4:15–16)

Together, Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh with God's command. *“This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let My people go, so that they may hold a festival to Me in the wilderness.’”* (Exodus 5:1)

But Pharaoh's heart was hard. *“Who is the Lord, that I should obey Him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go.”* (Exodus 5:2)

Instead of listening, Pharaoh increased the work of the Israelites, making their suffering worse. Yet God was not finished. Through mighty acts—the plagues—He showed His power until Pharaoh finally allowed the Israelites to leave. That moment became the foundation of the Passover, a lasting reminder of God's deliverance.



## What We Learned

- ✓ God calls us even when we feel weak or unprepared.
- ✓ He provides help—just as He gave Moses Aaron to speak.
- ✓ Human pride may resist, but God's power cannot be stopped.
- ✓ God's deliverance is worth remembering and celebrating.

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