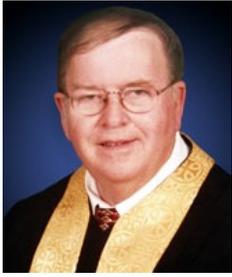


# SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



## Max's Corner

Our love and prayers go out to Vicky Valenzuela and her family following the death of her brother, age 31. The service will be held on Thursday at Nueva Vida Funeral Home in Arlington. Please keep Vicky, Jose, and their family in your prayers during this difficult time.

### Last Week and This Week

Thanks to everyone who supported the concert last week! We raised over \$1,300, and we're deeply grateful to our friends at All People's Unitarian Church for presenting the program.

This Sunday is All Saints Sunday, a day to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us. I consider it one of the most meaningful Sundays of the year.

Sermon: *We Know; Stop Guessing*

We actually know a lot about what happens after death—we don't have to guess. And what we know is more wonderful than we can imagine.

Our choir will sing *Awake, My Heart* by Jane Marshall, one of the most gifted hymn and anthem composers of the 20th century. A Methodist from Dallas, she passed away in 2019 at the age of 94. *Awake, My Heart* remains one of her most beloved works.

### Pastor's Class

Last week's discussion on "Does God get angry?" was outstanding! Join us again this Sunday at 9:45 a.m. for another great conversation, followed by breakfast.

### Breakfast this Sunday

It's a "Winston Sunday"—bring something to share if you'd like! Breakfast begins at 10:30 a.m.

We also set a new record last week for the lowest attendance of the year: 45 in worship. Now that the record has been set, let's all show up this Sunday and beat it!

On a personal note, I expect to receive a date soon for my knee surgery, which will take place before Christmas. And next Tuesday, I'm scheduled for cataract surgery—they tell me that with my new lenses, I might even be able to pick up Chicago on a clear day!

See you Sunday.

God Bless—  
MB

## Friday's Word

I've just watched the news, so I'm not in a great mood. We have, at least for now, lost our democracy. We are an authoritarian nation.

No checks and balances remain. One group of people has all the power, and they are answerable to no one.

We know the character of many of those who lead us. A recent nominee withdrew under pressure because of emails that surfaced.

He disparaged minorities and confessed he "had a Nazi streak." He still has a government job.

And there's Stephen Miller, a power behind the throne, who dumped a friend when they hit ninth grade.

"I can't be your friend anymore," he told the kid. "You have Hispanic heritage."

Miller designed the deportation program.

Usually, people like this have no shot at national power. Their character flaws—their meanness—would disqualify them.

Now, these people rise to the top—because the top is corrupt.

Some people call us a Christian nation. But a Christian nation would not divert money from food for starving children to make the rich richer.

We are not a Christian nation. But we are, to a great extent, a conservative Christian nation.

Conservative, inerrantist, "Fundamentalist."

This kind of Christianity has a mean streak.

Consider the willful mistreatment of gay people.

That meanness is now at the center of our national life.  
+++

What are you doing on Sunday? We could use your support.  
11:00 a.m.

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# Mary's Corner

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

The weather this week is finally turning toward fall, and I am ready for cooler temperatures! I'm praying for an extended season of crisp mornings and warm afternoons. We usually get two perfect fall days before the cold sets in—so Lord, let it be! A few beautiful days of calm and color are blessings we could all use right now.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Saturday night concert at Saint Matthew. Lazarus, performed by the All People's Church Choir, was beautifully done and deeply humbling in its message. It reminded us of the many families struggling right now as food stamp benefits are cut during the government shutdown. This loss of support is especially hard on children and seniors.

Now more than ever, your donations are vital to organizations like the Tarrant Area Food Bank, Eastside Ministries, and any local food pantry you choose to support. If you are able, please bring shelf-stable food to the church, and I will make sure it reaches Eastside Ministries. In the coming weeks, I will share a list of items for the Thanksgiving bags we prepare each year for Eastside.

If you know anyone in our congregation who may need assistance, please let us know—we have a Benevolence Fund set aside for just such needs. This is an urgent time, and as followers of Christ, we are called to respond. Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors in need. Bless you for your faithfulness and compassion.

This Sunday is a special one for Saint Matthew. We'll observe All Saints Sunday, a day to remember those who have gone before us in faith. Please submit the names of anyone you would like memorialized during worship by emailing [pastor@saintmatthewumc.com](mailto:pastor@saintmatthewumc.com). And don't forget—it's also Daylight Saving Time weekend, so we get to "fall back" one hour and enjoy a little extra rest!

Finally, our hearts are with Vicky Valenzuela and her family following the tragic loss of her brother, John Moore, Jr. There will be a viewing and meal this Thursday at the funeral home in Arlington. I will contact those who can help provide food for the family. Please continue to lift Vicky, Jose, and their loved ones in prayer during this difficult time.

Blessings to all,  
Mary

# Upcoming Events

 **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 expense

Scan to Give Online



# Kids' News

## *The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector*

One day, Jesus told a story to help people understand what it means to pray with the right kind of heart. Two men went to the temple to talk to God. One was a Pharisee—a religious leader who followed every rule—and the other was a tax collector, someone most people didn't like.

The Pharisee stood proudly and prayed about himself, saying, "God, thank you that I'm not like other people." But the tax collector stood far away, bowed his head, and prayed quietly, "God, have mercy on me. I need Your help." Jesus said it was the humble tax collector—not the proud Pharisee—whose prayer pleased God. (Luke 18:9–14)

Jesus wanted His followers to understand that God listens to honest hearts, not proud ones. When we brag or think we're better than others, we close our hearts to God's love. But when we admit our mistakes and ask for His help, God fills us with grace and forgiveness.

### **What We Learned**

- ✓ God listens to prayers that come from a humble heart.
- ✓ We don't have to pretend to be perfect—God already knows us and loves us.
- ✓ True strength comes from admitting we need God's help.
- ✓ When we lift others up instead of ourselves, we reflect God's love to the world.

