

SAINT MATTHEW TODAY

Kids' News



It was the first day of the week, the day of Jesus' resurrection. Two of his disciples were walking together, talking about everything that had happened. As they walked along the road, Jesus came and joined them. But somehow, they did not recognize him.

As they talked, the disciples shared the story of Jesus, not realizing they were speaking to him. When they reached the village of Emmaus, Jesus acted as if he were going on ahead. But they urged him to stay and join them for a meal. When they sat down at the table, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. It was a familiar moment, something they had seen before. And in that moment, they finally recognized him.

Jesus had been with them all along. This reminds us that Jesus is still with us today. He is with us when we gather, when we share meals, and when we care for one another. Sometimes we recognize him not in words, but in the quiet, meaningful moments that feel full of love and peace.

What We Learned

- Jesus is with us, even when we don't recognize it right away
- We can notice Jesus in simple, familiar moments
- Sharing and caring for others helps us see God's love
- We are never walking alone

Ladies of Saint Matthew

The Ladies of Saint Matthew UMC will gather for their regular potluck luncheon on Thursday, April 16. Preparation will begin at 11:30 AM, with lunch to follow at noon. All are welcome to join for a time of fellowship and shared meal.

Congregational Business and Ministry Meeting

St. Matthew will hold a Congregational Business and Ministry Meeting on Sunday, April 26th, immediately following worship. All are encouraged to remain as we gather to share in the life and direction of our church.

We give thanks for the many ways God's love is shared through the life of our church.

We give thanks for Rev. Mike Love and Susan for their presence among us during this season. Through their leadership, care, and steady faith, they have helped guide us with grace and compassion. We are grateful for the ways they have walked alongside our congregation, offering encouragement and reminding us of Christ's constant presence.

We are thankful for the ways our church continues to come together in worship, fellowship, and service. Each week, through music, prayer, and shared life, we experience the love of God in meaningful and lasting ways.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for where we have been and hope for where God is leading us. We give thanks for each person who shares their gifts so faithfully, helping us experience the joy and presence of Christ together.

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A word from Mary

I pray for love and peacefulness to fill your hearts and lives continuously through the power of the resurrected Christ.

I am recovering well from my knee surgery last week. Thank you for your prayers and support. This one has been a bit easier than the first, as I remember it, and the pain has been well controlled with over-the-counter medications. I am grateful to God for the excellent care I received during the surgery and since returning home.

We will have a guest preacher this weekend, **Hannah Newcomer Sliva** (pronounced “sleeva”), Associate Director of the TCU Wesley Foundation. The Wesley Foundation is a ministry of the United Methodist Church serving college campuses across the United States. Hannah has had a variety of experiences on her way to being called by God into full-time ministry, including serving as a youth minister, a 4th and 5th-grade teacher, a 6th-grade choir director, and a foster care specialist.

Hannah is currently in the Master of Divinity program at TCU's Brite Divinity School. She believes God called her to the Deacon track because “the church has to leave its walls.” She also shares, “God is always there through prevenient grace, making ready whatever is next for my life.” Hannah is involved in a program through Princeton University called the Polaris Program, where she is writing a theology of aging. You can learn more about her work here:

A Theology of Aging with Hanna Newcomer Sliva - part 1. She believes God created us to experience life “in its full capacity, anticipating joy always.”

<https://youtu.be/Z80S3HsktnA?si=gHd0OWO-d3IM3Pk>

Please join me in making Hannah very welcome at St. Matthew. She will preach for us this week and possibly again in the future. I am so thankful for this support at this time in my ministry. God has put us all here together at the perfect time to be the love of God in our world, and I am excited to be in this ministry with you.

Blessings,

Mary

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