

Saint Matthew Today

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AND PRAYER CORNER

At Saint Matthew UMC, we believe in open hearts, minds, and doors. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here.

27 May 2026



Thank you to everyone who helped make Pentecost Sunday such a meaningful morning of worship and fellowship together.

We are grateful to Blake, Julian, and Kristi. Blake's solo of "Holy Spirit" was moving, and Kristi's prelude, "The Quest of the Spirit" by David Paxton set the tone for Pentecost.

Thank you to everyone who stayed for our church photo. It is beautiful that God continues to bring us together, across generations, as one church family rooted in Christ's love.

Worship Through Song Sunday

This Sunday, we gather for a special service centered on music, worship, and praise as we celebrate the many ways God's Spirit moves through song and shared community.



St. Matthew UMC
2414 Hitson Ln.
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Can You Believe This?

Scripture: Acts 2:1-12

On Pentecost, the followers of Jesus gathered together, waiting and wondering what would come next. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit arrives like wind and fire, filling ordinary people with courage, clarity, and a message meant for the whole world. Pastor Mary reminded us that the church was born not through human power or perfect understanding, but through God's Spirit moving among people willing to listen and respond.

This moment in Scripture reminds us that faith is not something we carry alone. The disciples came from uncertainty and fear, yet God met them right where they were and gave them what they needed for the journey ahead. The miracle of Pentecost was not simply that many languages were spoken, but that people from different places and backgrounds could finally hear and understand one another. God's Spirit created connection where division once existed. As we continue living into God's call together, we are reminded that the church is still shaped by the Holy Spirit today. We may not always fully understand where God is leading us, but we trust that God continues to open minds, stir hearts, and guide communities forward in love. Pentecost invites us to believe that God still works through ordinary people, still brings hope into uncertain places, and still calls us to share Christ's love with the world.

Take Time to Reflect

- Where have you experienced God giving you courage when you felt uncertain?
- How might the Holy Spirit be calling us to listen more deeply to one another?
- What would it look like for us to trust God's movement in our daily lives?

A Word from the Pastor



I bring you greetings in the name of the Ascended Christ and covered in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

I pray this newsletter finds you well and happy.

Pentecost reminds us that God is still doing unbelievable things. In Acts 2, the disciples experienced rushing wind, tongues of fire, and the power to speak across every barrier. What seemed impossible became the birth of the Church. Just before this moment, Jesus had already begun preparing them. Scripture tells us, "He opened their minds to understand." That same promise is still true today—when we don't understand, God is still

at work.

Pentecost is not just a moment in history—it is a living reality. Through the Holy Spirit, God continues to guide, equip, and transform us. In the Wesleyan tradition, we call this sanctifying grace: God shaping us into who we are created to be. This is not our work; it is God's work. God is working through us by using the gifts God has given us. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Would you like to know and to learn about those gifts? Even in moments of uncertainty, fear, or change, we are not alone. The same Spirit that empowered the early church is eternally active in our lives—through worship, community, and acts of love.

So when faith feels surprising or even impossible, remember this: God is still moving. And we are invited to respond with a simple, powerful word— Yes.

Looking forward to singing with you this Sunday!

Mary



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Kids' News

The Day the Church Found Its Voice

Have you ever been in a room where everyone was talking, but nobody seemed to understand each other? Maybe it happened at school, during a game, or even at home when everyone was excited at once. It can feel confusing when people cannot connect or understand what someone else is trying to say.



After Jesus returned to heaven, his followers gathered together in Jerusalem, waiting and praying. Jesus had told them to stay there and wait for the Holy Spirit. Then something amazing happened. A sound like a rushing wind filled the house, and flames like fire appeared above their heads (Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit came to them, giving them courage and helping them speak in many different languages.

People from all over the world were gathered in Jerusalem that day, and each person could hear the message about God's love in their own language. Some people were amazed, while others joked that the disciples must be drunk because they were acting so boldly and joyfully. Peter stood up and preached to the crowd about Jesus, and his message touched many hearts. About three thousand people were baptized that day. Pentecost became known as the birthday of the church.

Today, the Holy Spirit still helps us share God's love with others. We may not speak different languages as the disciples did, but we can still listen, encourage, forgive, and care for people around us. When we show kindness and love, we help others hear the message of Jesus through our actions.

No matter who we are or where we come from, God's Spirit reminds us that we belong together.

What We Learned

- The Holy Spirit gave the disciples courage and helped them share God's love
- Pentecost is known as the birthday of the church
- Peter preached boldly about Jesus
- God helps people from different places understand one another
- We can share Jesus through kindness, listening, and love

After our lesson, the kids celebrated Memorial Day by making inflatable American flags to take home. It was a fun reminder to be thankful for those who have served and sacrificed for others.

Upcoming Events at Saint Matthew UMC

May 31, 2026 – Worship through Song Sunday

Join us as our service will be focused on singing favorite hymns, praise, and worship songs!

May 31–June 3rd – Horizon Texas Annual Conference

Wichita Falls, Texas

June 2, 2026 – Service of Commissioning and Ordination

(Mary's commissioning service)

Live stream June 2nd, 7 pm, at <https://www.htcumc.org/ac26>

For those attending in person, the event will be held at the Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall in the Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Event Center.

The address is 1000 5th St., Wichita Falls, TX 76301. (ADA Parking is located between the Convention Center and the Ray Climer Exhibit Hall).

Remember, this is my commissioning service. Official ordination will happen (God willing) at Annual Conference 2028. Location TBD.

June 7, 2026 – Cookout and Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

We will have pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs. Please bring desserts if you are able.

