

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.

10 Jun 2026



Thank you to everyone who helped make Bring a Friend to Church Sunday such a joyful day. From welcoming guests to sharing fellowship around the table, you helped create a space where people could experience the love of Christ and the warmth of our church family.

This was also a week of celebration. We give thanks for Mary's commissioning at Annual Conference and for the many people who helped lead worship, share their musical gifts, prepare food, and create opportunities for fellowship. Each person helped make this week a meaningful reminder of God's faithfulness and grace.

As I reflect on the week, I am simply thankful. Thankful for the people who invite friends, prepare meals, share their talents, lend a hand when needed, and make room for others. Those acts may seem small on their own, but together they help make Saint Matthew the welcoming and caring church family we know and love.



St. Matthew UMC
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Love Boldly

Scripture: 1 John 3:17–18, 1 John 4:17–18, Ephesians 3:17–19

God's love changes us. It roots us in grace, frees us from fear, and calls us into deeper relationships with one another. Love is more than something we believe or talk about. Love becomes visible when we show compassion, extend hospitality, serve our neighbors, and choose to care for one another in meaningful ways.

The love of Christ gives us the courage to move beyond what is comfortable and familiar. When we trust that we are fully known and fully loved by God, we can open our hearts to new relationships, new opportunities to serve, and new ways of growing together as disciples. Perfect love casts out fear because God's love is already at work within us.

As a church family, we are called to live that love boldly. We do this when we welcome others, strengthen our community, share our gifts, and participate in God's work around us. Christ's love is not something we keep for ourselves. It is something we receive, embody, and share with the world.

Take Time to Reflect

- Where do you see God's love already at work in your life and relationships?
- How is Christ inviting you to move beyond fear and love more boldly?
- What opportunities do you have this week to share God's love through hospitality, service, or encouragement?

A Word from the Pastor



I greet you with love and peace as I begin this new season as your appointed senior pastor at St. Matthew United Methodist Church. This calling is not by accident but the result of God's faithful leading—from nursing 30 years ago to this moment of pastoral leadership and continued journey toward ordination as an elder in full connection.

Our theme, “Love Boldly,” grounded in 1 John 3:17–18, reminds us that love is more than words—it is action. As a congregation, we are called to live out our faith through compassion, generosity, and radical hospitality.

At St. Matthew, that means creating a place where all are truly welcome,

where Christ's table is open to everyone, and where healing begins for those who have felt excluded or unloved.

Together, we will practice a theology of reconciliation and inclusion—seeking out, restoring, and embracing our neighbors. We will move beyond comfort into connection, loving not just in speech but in truth and action.

As beloved children of God, may we grow into a church family that reflects the bold, fearless love of Christ—reaching beyond our walls to share that love with the world.

My first “official” day in the office will be Wednesday July 2nd. I will be moving in the day before but will be able to see folks on the 2nd by appointment. I hope to spend Thursday visiting folks who watch our services from home. At least those who live in the meteo-plex.

Please call

the church office for an appointment. Tuesday and Fridays will be my days off. And Saturday will be prep day for Sunday morning and the other activities of the week

I am so very excited to be able to focus completely on St. Matthew and the ministries God has for us.

Love to all,
Mary



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Kids' News

So Abram Went



Have you ever started something new without knowing exactly what would happen next? In our Bible story this week, God spoke to a man named Abram and asked him to leave his home and travel to a new land. God promised to bless Abram and make him a blessing to others. God did not give Abram a map or explain every detail. God simply told him to go. So Abram went.

That short sentence tells us something important about faith. Abram did not have all the answers, but he trusted God enough to take the next step. Along the way, Abram stopped to worship God and remember the promises God had made. He trusted that God would guide him wherever the journey led.

Sometimes we face new situations, too. We might start a new school year, make a new friend, join a team, move to a new place, or try something we have never done before. We may not know exactly what comes next, but we can trust that God is with us wherever we go.

God promised to bless Abram so that he could be a blessing to others. We can do the same through kind words, helping hands, encouragement, and care for the people around us. When we share God's love, we help others know they are seen, valued, and loved.

No matter where life takes us, God walks beside us. We do not have to know every step ahead. We can trust God, take the next step, and follow where God leads.

What We Learned

- God can guide us even when we do not know exactly what comes next.
- Faith often means taking the next step before we have all the answers.
- God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others.
- We are never alone because God goes with us wherever we go.