

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.

17 Jun 2026



Love Boldly: Who Will Help Us?

As Jesus traveled from town to town, teaching, healing, and proclaiming the good news, he looked upon the crowds with compassion. He saw people who were weary, searching, and in need of care. In response, Jesus told his disciples that the harvest was plentiful, but the workers were few. His words remind us that God's work in the world continues, and that Christ calls ordinary people to participate in sharing hope, love, and grace with others.

Rev. Mary Teague reflected on how often we assume ministry is for someone else, someone more experienced, more gifted, or more qualified. Yet throughout Scripture, God repeatedly calls ordinary people to serve. The disciples were not chosen because they had all the answers. They were chosen because they were willing to follow. God continues to work through people who offer their gifts, their time, their prayers, and their presence in service to others.

As a church family, we are invited to consider how God may be calling us to love boldly beyond these walls. Whether through prayer, hospitality, service, encouragement, generosity, or simply showing up for someone in need, each of us has a role to play in God's mission. When we trust that God will equip us for what lies ahead, we can respond with faith and confidence, saying, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."



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Helping Hands at Saint Matthew

A special thank you to these young helpers who spent part of their Saturday caring for our church flower beds. Their joyful hearts and willing hands helped make Saint Matthew even more beautiful and welcoming. We are grateful for the ways they remind us that people of every age can share God's love through service.

A Word from the Pastor



In Matthew 9:35–38, Jesus looks out at the crowds with deep compassion, recognizing people who are “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Then He says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” His response is simple yet powerful: pray for workers.

But here is the surprising truth—Jesus doesn’t stop at prayer. In the very next moment, He calls His disciples and sends them out. Those who prayed became the answer.

This scripture reminds us that God still works the same way today. We often pray for help, healing, and change—but God may be calling us to be part of the answer. In Wesleyan theology, this reflects God’s grace at work within us, equipping and empowering us to join in God’s mission. Grace is never passive; it moves us outward in love.

From the first disciples to us today, God continues to call ordinary people to do extraordinary things. We are invited to serve, to give, to pray, and to love boldly in a world that desperately needs hope.

As a church, we are stepping into this calling through new opportunities, including a prayer ministry where all can both receive and offer care.

So when you pray, listen closely—God may be saying, “Now go.”

Thank you for continuing to be faithful to God. Your devotion is evident on your faces. Blake’s rendition of “Come as You Are” brought us all back to the place where God waits patiently for us. The place where the only thing we can experience is the love of God. The knowledge that “Earth has no sorrows that Heaven can’t heal” is so very wondrous. I am eager to share this knowledge with those wandering through life living with their sorrows instead of being healed.

This Sunday is Father’s Day. We will recognize and celebrate all the dads among us, and those who are no longer here. Join us in body or in spirit, in a pew or on the screen. Either way, know that you are loved by God and by the family of Saint Matthew.

Veta McCullough is recovering very well from a broken hip she suffered this past Saturday. She will be out of the office for a few weeks. We are working on an alternative plan for the next two weeks. After July 2nd, I will be in the office Monday, Wednesday, Thursday afternoon and Friday mornings.

My love to all,
Mary



Kids' News

When Sarah Laughed



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

- Abraham welcomed strangers with kindness and hospitality
- Sarah laughed because God's promise seemed impossible
- God kept the promise and gave Sarah and Abraham a son named Isaac
- God can bring hope and joy when we least expect it
- Nothing is too difficult for God



A Word from our Church Family

One of the most meaningful moments in worship this past Sunday came as we welcomed Angelia Hardy into membership at Saint Matthew. Surrounded by family, fellow members, and friends in faith, Angelia was embraced by the community that walks alongside her each week. Moments like these remind us that the Church is more than a place we attend. It is a family of faith where people are welcomed, supported, and encouraged as they grow in their relationship with Christ.

This moment reflected the message Pastor Teague shared from Matthew 9. Jesus looked upon the crowds with compassion and called ordinary people to join in God's work. Every person who offers a prayer, extends a welcome, shares a meal, serves a neighbor, or encourages a friend becomes part of that calling. Together, we help one another experience the love of Christ in tangible ways.

We give thanks for Angelia and for all who continue to share their gifts, prayers, and presence in the life of our church. As we continue learning to love boldly, may Saint Matthew remain a place where every person can find belonging, experience God's love, and discover opportunities to serve alongside others in faith.

