

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.

01 Jul 2026



What's God Up To in Ordinary Times?

Most of life is lived in ordinary moments. We move through familiar routines, carry responsibilities, and sometimes face long seasons of waiting or uncertainty. Yet Scripture reminds us that God is not absent in these everyday moments. God's steadfast love never ceases, and God's mercies are made new every morning, offering hope even when we cannot yet see what God is doing.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus notices a woman who had lived with suffering for eighteen years before healing her on the Sabbath. While others focused on rules and expectations, Jesus saw a beloved child of God and responded with compassion. Her story reminds us that God's work is often unfolding long before we recognize it. Even in seasons that seem ordinary, God is present, faithful, and at work in ways we may not yet understand.

As followers of Christ, we are invited to trust God's faithfulness in every season. We do not have to wait for extraordinary experiences to encounter God's presence. Through worship, prayer, acts of kindness, and the daily rhythms of discipleship, God continues to shape us, strengthen us, and lead us forward with hope.



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**July 5: Communion Sunday and
America's Birthday Party**

**July 12: One Council Meeting
immediately after services.**

*But while he was still some
distance off, his father saw
him and his heart went out to
him, and he ran and fell on
his neck and kissed him...*

Luke 15: 21-22



A Word from the Pastor

I am writing this newsletter after watching several videos that tell the story of the peace, harmony, and pure joy surrounding the World Cup matches. These videos highlight the hospitality Americans have shown to our neighbors from around the world as they visit the United States. I cannot fully describe the joy I am feeling or the hope that fills my heart as I witness people setting aside their differences and leaving behind their fears. I have watched people shake hands, hug, cry, laugh, and truly celebrate our shared humanity in all its God-given diversity.

For so long, our attention has been drawn to stories of division, fear, and conflict. This international tournament has reminded us that darkness does not have the final word. It has allowed the light to shine into our lives once again. We are discovering that people everywhere face many of the same challenges, and we all long to overcome them together.

There is a movement taking place, a renewed way of seeing both our nation and ourselves. We are not defined by the evil that exists in the world. We are called to be a force for goodness that stands against it. God created each of us in God's image. We are beloved children of our holy Creator. As John 1:5 reminds us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Jesus also tells us in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." My prayer is that God will help us live as people of that light, giving us the courage to welcome others with hospitality and to replace fear with love.

I am grateful for Rev. Beverly Tye and her sermon last week about Ordinary Time. We can be confident that Jesus Christ is always at work, even in seasons that seem ordinary. We have prayed for a miracle that might change the world, and perhaps we are beginning to see one unfold on a soccer pitch, as people from every nation come together in peace and friendship.

There are also new and exciting things happening here at Saint Matthew. We will continue gathering for breakfast each Sunday at 10:30 a.m., followed by worship at 11:00 a.m. Beginning Wednesday, July 15, we will also launch a weekly Bible study at 10:30 a.m. Our dear sister, Charlotte Holder, will begin each session with intercessory prayer, and together we will explore Scripture through thoughtful study, conversation, and faithful reflection. I look forward to sharing those Wednesdays with you.

We are also preparing to begin a Grief Support Ministry. Our first support group gathering is planned for Saturday, August 15, at 11:00 a.m. This will be one of several support groups we hope to offer, both at the church and in other locations. More information will be coming



soon, and I am excited to see how God will use these new ministries to care for our community.

Don't forget our Sunday afternoon sandwich picnic and homemade ice cream social! We look forward to an afternoon of good food, fellowship, and fun. If you are able, please bring homemade ice cream or another favorite dessert to share. After lunch, we will put away the fellowship hall tables in preparation for a deep cleaning of the fellowship hall floor.

Finally, my dear siblings in Christ, please continue praying about the campus improvements we discussed on Sunday morning. Julianne's presentation gave us many wonderful ideas for refreshing God's house. My hope is to combine fundraising efforts with grants from outside organizations so that we can lessen the financial burden on our congregation. It all begins with prayer. Prayer costs nothing, but it changes everything.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Mary

Kids' News

God Will Provide

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-4

Have you ever faced something so hard that you could not see the way forward?

This week's story from Genesis 22:1-14 is one of the most difficult stories in the Bible. God asked Abraham to do something that seemed impossible. He asked Abraham to trust God with his son Isaac, the child God had promised him. Abraham did not understand how this could make sense, but he trusted God. Together, Abraham and Isaac traveled to a mountain to worship God and make a sacrifice.

As they climbed the mountain, Isaac noticed something was missing. They had the wood and the fire, but there was no animal for the sacrifice. Isaac asked his father where the lamb was. Abraham answered, "God will provide." At the last moment, God stopped Abraham and provided a ram instead. Isaac was safe, and Abraham named that place "The Lord Provides."



This story does not teach us that God wants to hurt us or scare us. It teaches us that even when life feels impossible, God is still with us. We may not always understand what is happening or see the answer right away. But we can trust that God sees us, loves us, and provides what we need.

God's provision may not always look the way we expect. Sometimes God provides help through another person. Sometimes God gives us courage, patience, wisdom, or peace. Sometimes God opens a path we could not see before.

What We Learned

- God is with us in difficult moments.
- Faith does not mean we always understand everything.
- God provides in ways we may not expect.
- We can trust God's love, even when the path ahead is unclear.

A Word from our Church Family

There was so much to be thankful for this past Sunday.

A heartfelt thank you to Rev. Beverly Tye for sharing such an encouraging message about trusting God in the ordinary moments of life. Her reminder that God is always at work, even when we cannot yet see the outcome, was one many of us needed to hear.

We're also grateful to Lynette Coleman-Falck for her beautiful rendition of 10,000 Reasons. Her gift of music helped prepare our hearts for worship and reminded us of God's faithfulness.

One of the things that makes Saint Matthew so special is the variety of gifts God has brought together in this church family. Whether someone is preaching, singing, serving behind the scenes, welcoming visitors, or caring for one another, every gift helps us become the church God is calling us to be.

Thank you as well to the team at Julianne's Design for sharing ideas about refreshing our bathrooms and shared spaces. Their presentation gave us plenty to think about as we consider how to make our church even more welcoming for our members, our guests, and our community. As you reflect on the ideas, please share your thoughts. We want to hear what you think as we prayerfully discern the next steps together.

Would you like to share a word with our church family in next week's newsletter? We'd love to hear from you. Email pastor@saintmatthewumc.com.

