

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.

15 Jul 2026



As we continue our journey through Love Boldly, Jesus reminds us that a fruitful life begins with a prepared heart. In the Parable of the Sower, the seed remains the same, but the condition of the soil determines whether it takes root and bears fruit. The invitation is not simply to hear God's Word, but to receive it in ways that shape our lives.

Rev. Mary Teague encouraged us to think about the "soil" of our own hearts. Distractions, worry, and shallow faith can keep God's Word from growing, but intentional spiritual practices help us become good soil. Spending time in Scripture, praying with openness, and seeking to understand God's voice are not tasks to complete. They are ways we deepen our relationship with Christ and prepare ourselves to love God and others more fully.

As a church family, we are called to love boldly through lives that are rooted in God's grace. When we make space for God to work within us, our faith naturally bears fruit through compassion, generosity, service, and love. Preparing our hearts today allows God to grow something lasting for tomorrow.



St. Matthew UMC
2414 Hitson Ln.
Fort Worth, TX 76012

saintmatthewumc.com

**July 15: 10:30 am – Wednesday
Prayer Group and Bible Study**

**July 19: Brief One Council
Meeting after Church**

**Aug 9: Back to School Blessings
Sunday**

*But as for what was sown on
good soil, this is the one who
hears the word and
understands it, who indeed
bears fruit and yields.*



A Word from the Pastor

Greetings, Saint Matthew family and friends,

What a blessing this week has been! The rain and the cooler temperatures have been a welcome gift. I found myself standing on my porch, enjoying the 82-degree breeze and thanking God for a moment to simply be still and appreciate His creation.

I am excited to begin our journey toward a deeper and more intimate relationship with God. We begin our first study tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Charlotte Holder will open our time together with prayer, and then we will talk about what we want to study as a group. One option is to begin with Matthew 5, 6, and 7 using a study by Rev. Steve Langford, but this is your time in God's Word, and we want it to be meaningful for everyone.

This newsletter also includes details for the service celebrating the life of our beloved church member, Mack Selfen. Following the funeral at Wade Funeral Home next Tuesday, we will host the family at the church for a light meal. We are especially grateful that Mack's granddaughter, Josie, is preparing desserts for the gathering. I've had her cookies before, and I can assure you they are wonderful.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you've spent some time in God's Word this week or at least begun thinking about how to make that time a regular part of your day. Holy habits don't happen by accident. They grow from setting aside intentional time for prayer, meditation, and the study of Scripture. As we make room for God each day, God fills our lives with the peace, joy, and strength we need to care for ourselves and to love others well.

Finally, don't forget that our Administrative Council will meet briefly after worship on Sunday to make decisions about a few projects for the coming year.

My heart is with each of you this week. You are never far from my thoughts or my prayers.

Grace and peace,
Mary



Kids' News

Walking with God's Spirit

Scripture: Romans
8:5-17

Have you ever noticed someone sitting alone at school or on the playground? Maybe you wanted to go say hello, but you weren't sure if you should. Sometimes we feel a gentle nudge to do something kind, even if it feels a little scary.



In this week's Bible lesson, Paul reminds us that God's Holy Spirit is always with us. The Holy Spirit helps us choose what is good and loving. When we listen to God's Spirit, we begin to notice people who need a friend, someone who could use a smile, or someone who simply needs to know they belong.

Choosing kindness doesn't always mean doing something big. It might be inviting someone to play, sitting with a new student at lunch, helping a classmate, or encouraging a friend who is having a hard day. Those small moments are ways we share God's love with others.

The wonderful news is that we don't have to do it alone. We are God's children, and the Holy Spirit walks with us every day, helping us grow to become more like Jesus. Every act of kindness is another way we can help someone experience God's love.

What We Learned

- God's Holy Spirit is always with us.
- The Holy Spirit helps us notice people who need kindness and friendship.
- Small acts of love can help others know they belong.
- We are God's children, and God is always with us.

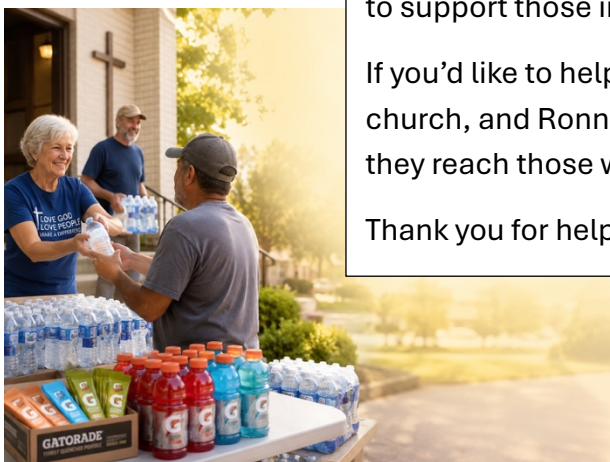
A Word from our Church Family

One of the things I love most about Saint Matthew is that we're surrounded by reminders of God's faithfulness. Some of those reminders come through Sunday worship, familiar faces, and shared laughter. Others come as we remember the people whose lives have shaped this church over the years. Their prayers, generosity, and quiet acts of service continue to bless our church family long after they were first offered.

This has been one of those weeks. As we continue praying for the Selfen family following Mac's passing and for Keith Butterfield and his family, I'm reminded that the strength of Saint Matthew has always been found in faithful people who loved God and loved one another well. Their lives continue to encourage us, and their example challenges us to live our own faith with the same generosity and compassion.

Mary's sermon reminded me that seeds planted in good soil bear fruit. The same is true of a life rooted in Christ. Every kind word, every prayer, every hour spent serving, and every act of generosity becomes part of the story God is writing through this church.

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.



Help Us Care for Our Community

As these hot summer days continue, we're collecting bottled water, Gatorade, and individual Gatorade drink mix packets to support those in need in our community.

If you'd like to help, simply bring your donations to the church, and Ronnie and the outreach team will make sure they reach those who need them most.

Thank you for helping us share Christ's love in a practical way.

