

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.

19 August 2026



Over the past several weeks, we have been exploring what it means to **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and now, Lead Courageously**. This final invitation reminds us that courageous leadership does not begin with confidence, influence, or having all the answers. It begins with a life rooted in God's love. As we spend time in Scripture, prayer, worship, and spiritual practices that draw us closer to Christ, God shapes our hearts so that we are ready to respond when He calls us to lead.

Jesus invites us to seek a different kind of righteousness, not one earned by following rules, but one that grows from hearts aligned with God's own heart. When we hunger for justice, extend mercy, make peace, and love our neighbors, our lives begin to reflect Christ's love in ways that quietly transform our homes, our church, and our community. Courageous leadership is not reserved for a few. It is the calling of ordinary disciples who trust God enough to take the next faithful step.

Psalms 46 reminds us that even when the world feels uncertain, God remains our refuge and strength. Before we rush into action, we are invited to "be still and know" that God is with us. As Saint Matthew continues seeking God's purpose in east Fort Worth, we are reminded that we do not lead alone. Christ goes before us, strengthens us when we grow weary, and calls each of us to participate in His work with faith, hope, and courage.



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

saintmatthewumc.com

Aug 29: 5:00 pm – Eastside

Ministry Jazz Concert Contribute to the food ministries of Eastside Community Assistance while enjoying hot jazz music and cold ice cream sundaes. 5p-7p at Meadowbrook/Poly UMC

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psalm 46:10

Aug 30: Worship Through Song

Sunday Join us as our service will be focused on singing favorite hymns, praise and worship songs, and sacred text.

Oct 24: 10:00 am - Coffee and Conversations Grief Support Group In the church parlor. Coffee will be served. Please feel free to bring a snack to share. More details to follow! Facilitated by Mary Orndorff, LCSW, LMFT, CEDS



A Word from the Pastor

Blessings of peace and good health be upon each of you as you read through this church newsletter. Every week, our Media Manager, Jason Hardy, works hard to write and edit the St. Matthew Weekly News. All of this after his full-time job is finished for the day. Before Jason, it was Judy Schneider who did this work. The newsletter is a lifeline to this congregation for many people who would otherwise have very little contact with St. Matthew. I am grateful for those of you who read and support this publication. I want to get comments and suggestions from you regarding ways to make this more effective and meaningful. Please email me at mary.teague@saintmatthewumc.com with your ideas.

We could also use some contributors to the content. If you have a skill for writing and/or reporting, please reach out to me. We could add devotions, personal testimonies (briefly, please), updates on happenings in the neighborhood, and other input that I have not named. Do not miss this opportunity to be a part of this vital outreach to our community.

In our Wednesday Bible study, we've been exploring *righteousness*—not simply as rule-keeping, but as the deep alignment of our hearts with the heart of God. As Rev. Steve Langford reminds us, the Hebrews sought righteousness through the laws of Moses. Yet in Matthew 5:3–12, Jesus expands that understanding, describing righteousness as the attitudes and actions that shape us into people who love as God loves, serve from integrity, and practice mercy and justice in our relationships. This is righteousness that God forms within us, not something we achieve on our own. **And this matters for courageous leadership.**

Because God makes us righteous, God also empowers us to lead with courage. Nehemiah shows us what this looks like. When he heard of Jerusalem's devastation, his heart broke. His grief led him to fasting and prayer—because courageous leadership begins by bringing our heartbreak to God. Even when fear rose within him, Nehemiah moved forward, praying again before answering the king. Courageous leadership surrenders personal plans and seeks God's wisdom first. Nehemiah inspected the damage himself, planned realistically, and rallied God's people toward restoration. Courageous leadership looks like sharing God's vision with others.

Finally, courageous leadership looks like following the Psalm of David, 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God. Being still and seeking God's wisdom are the true beginning of courageous leadership.

Next week, we'll continue Nehemiah's story. For now, remember Psalm 46: *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

We have lots of events and activities planned for the remainder of the year! Check the calendar section of this newsletter and our website, saintmatthewumc.com for details.

My love to all! Stay cool and hydrated. Mary



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Kids' News

Finding a Quiet Place

Have you ever been so busy having fun that you didn't notice something amazing?

Maybe you were playing outside and almost missed a beautiful butterfly. Or maybe you were talking so much with your friends that you didn't hear a bird singing nearby. Sometimes when life gets busy, it's hard to notice what's happening around us.



In this week's Bible reading, God's people heard these words: "Be still, and know that I am God." That doesn't just mean sitting quietly. It means slowing down enough to remember that God is always with us, even when life feels busy, noisy, or a little scary. When we take time to pray, read the Bible, or simply sit quietly for a moment, we make room to notice God's love and guidance.

Being still helped God's people remember they didn't have to face life's challenges alone. The same is true for us. When we pause and spend time with God, He gives us courage to do the right thing, help others, and face each new day with confidence.

Family Challenge

Take a "God Pause" together each day this week.

Find one quiet minute. Put away your phones, turn off the TV, take a deep breath, and simply thank God for being with you. Then share one place where you noticed God's love that day.

Talk About It

- When do you find it hardest to be still?
- Where do you notice God when you slow down and pay attention?
- How can spending time with God help you be brave and kind?

Read

Psalm 46:10

Prayer

Dear God, Thank You for always being with us, even when life feels busy or confusing. Help us slow down, listen for Your voice, and trust that You are our refuge and strength. Give us courage to love others, help those around us, and follow You every day. Amen.



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.

