

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.

26 August 2026



Courageous faith does not always begin with certainty. Sometimes it begins when we allow God to show us what matters, remain open to where the Spirit is leading, and trust that we do not have to carry the work alone. Nehemiah's story reminds us that God can take concern, prayer, and a willing heart and turn them into faithful action.

The same is true for us. Following Christ draws our attention beyond ourselves and helps us see the people God has placed around us in a new way. We begin to notice neighbors, relationships, and opportunities that might otherwise be easy to overlook. Discipleship becomes more than what we believe. It becomes the way we listen, welcome, serve, and make room for others.

God has already moved toward us in love through Jesus Christ. We respond to that grace by becoming people willing to move toward one another. As we pray, grow together, and listen for God's direction, may the Spirit give us courage for the work before us and hearts ready to participate in what God is already doing.



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

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.”

Nehemiah 4:6

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

Living in the Ways of the Spirit: Loving Boldly, Serving Joyfully and Leading Courageously

I wish you peace and cooler temperatures this week. Looks like we may get a little reprieve this week: 99 degrees instead of 108! But the mornings are getting noticeably more comfortable. I won't say cooler, but more comfortable. Stay inside as much as possible during these last days of summer. The air quality is not good, and the heat can make you very ill very quickly.

For the past several weeks, we have followed the story of Nehemiah—a leader whose courage reshaped an entire community. Nehemiah began far from home, serving as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. When he learned Jerusalem lay in ruins, his heart broke. That grief led him to prayer, and prayer led him to action. Even afraid, Nehemiah asked the king for help, surrendered his plans to God, and stepped boldly into leadership.

When he arrived in Jerusalem, Nehemiah assessed the damage himself. He gathered the people, shared a vision, and invited everyone to take part. Scripture tells us, “the people had a heart to work,” and together they rebuilt a 2.5-mile wall in just 52 days. Courageous leadership doesn’t eliminate obstacles—it adapts, inspires, and finishes what it starts.

76112

Today, our call is not to build a wall, but a **bridge**—a bridge between our congregation and the 44,000 neighbors who share the 76112 zip code. This richly diverse community includes thousands of children and seniors living below the poverty line. Hunger, limited resources, and daily challenges shape their lives. We cannot solve every need alone, but like Nehemiah’s people, we can take responsibility for our part of the wall.

We can strengthen our partnership with Bill J. Elliott Elementary, host meals for nearby streets, and work alongside the 33 churches in our zip code. Most importantly, we can deepen our own spiritual formation, building a strong bridge between ourselves and God—one that empowers us to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

For the people of Saint Matthew have a heart to work. Blessings to all, Mary

Nehemiah started with prayer. Will you join me every Tuesday at 1pm in prayer for our ministry with Bill J Elliott? And for these 3 streets that face our church, Acapulco, Bermejo and Castillo.



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

saintmatthewumc.com

Kids' News

Helping is a Way to Lead

Have you ever helped someone without being asked?

Maybe you picked up something they dropped, sat with someone who was alone, or helped at home when you saw there was work to do.

That kind of helping is a way to lead.

In the story of Moses, several people saw someone who needed help and chose to act. Moses' mother protected him. His sister watched over him. Pharaoh's daughter found him and cared for him.

None of them did everything. Each person simply did what they could.

You can do that, too.

This week, look for one person who could use your help. You do not have to do something big. Just notice, be kind, and take the next step.

God can use your helping hands to make a difference.

Family Challenge

As a family, look for one way you can help someone together this week.

Talk About It

- When have you helped someone recently?
- Why can helping sometimes take courage?
- Who might need your help this week?

Read

[Exodus 1:8-2:10](#)

Prayer

Dear God, Help me notice people who need a helping hand. Give me courage to be kind and to help when I can. Use my hands to share Your love. 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.

