



**St. Matthew United Methodist**

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**November 2024**

## *From the Pastor's Desk*



### **Are You Hatefully Grumbly or Humbly Grateful?**

As we step into November, we're often reminded of our blessings. But in the midst of our busy lives, gratitude can sometimes feel like a tall order. When I was talking to our wonderful choir director Gayle Tatum this week she introduced a new term to me: "hatefully grumbly." What a phrase! How easy it is to be "hatefully grumbly"—burdened by full calendars, packed schedules, and the hustle of changing seasons! Yet, the invitation God gives us is to be "humbly grateful," to pause, to breathe, and to give thanks in the midst of it all.

Our church has so much to be grateful for. Thanks to your help, Pumpkins with a Purpose has once again raised thousands to provide food, shelter, and aid to families in our community. Our Pumpkin Patch and Pumpkin Festival, which you all worked so hard to set up and staff, brought joy and connection to countless people. And that's not to even mention the dozens of other projects that you do on a regular basis that are bringing light into this community, like TFAP, Mobile Meals, children's ministry service projects, and youth missions. It's in these acts of service that gratitude grows—not as a one-time effort but as a habit that shapes our lives.

Pumpkin season is over, which is a chaotic and busy time around these parts. So it might be easy to think the storm has passed. But looking forward, Advent and Christmas await us, seasons that are often just as busy. We can let them become times of frantic preparation, or we can welcome them as opportunities to open our hearts to God's grace and the blessings around us. When we focus on what God has done and continues to do, we find reasons to give thanks every day.

So, what will it be? Will you face this season with a grumbly spirit or a grateful heart? Will you, in the words of Charles Dickens, "Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some?" I hope so. Because you have good reasons. You're loved by God, and his love lasts! As Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."

One thing is certain from my point of view: I am exceedingly grateful for St. Matthew UMC and all that you have done to show the love of Christ to the world around you. You are inspiring! So, let's journey through this season in humble gratitude, lifting each other up, finding joy in the small things, and seeing each day as a gift from God.

I'm thankful for you and what God is doing through you.

God's peace and love,  
Pastor Jonathon

**Worship Online 11am:** [www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC) or [www.stmatthew.org/sermons](https://www.stmatthew.org/sermons)  
**Give Online:** [www.stmatthew.org/giving](https://www.stmatthew.org/giving)



*Words About Worship*  
*From the Director of*  
*Music Ministries*



Oh my goodness! Where did October go? It seems like the pumpkins were just delivered yesterday, and now they have become food for our local farmers' animals! Sunday, October 27 was Trunk or Treat, and **WOW, 640** children came through the line of cars!! I was sad to see the pumpkins go. God was very visible in the patch as adults and children alike reacted to God's Fall bounty. This time of year reminds me of a bicycle going down a steep hill. It starts slowly but just keeps getting faster and faster and faster... You get the idea. From now until after Christmas, life at St. Matthew is very bicycle-like. And, believe it or not, that's a really good thing!

This year, November has three special Sundays. Last Sunday, November 3, was **All Saints Sunday**. During both services, we honored our friends and family who have died since November 1, 2023.

**November 17 is Stephen Ministries Sunday**. Members of Stephen Ministry will assist with worship, and they will provide information about the ministry. **November 24 is Thanksgiving Sunday**. We will sing hymns of thanks in both services. Believe it or not, **Advent begins December 1!**

Jonathon's Lectionary readings for the remainder of November are Mark 12:38-44 (November 10); Mark 13:1-8 (November 17); and Matthew 6:25-33 (November 24).

Since Thanksgiving is November 28, **Worship Project** will be **November 24**. Invite your friends and family to join you for this contemporary worship event!

**Chancel Choir** and **Spirit Singers** will rehearse **Tuesday, November 26**, instead of the Wednesday November 27. Your musicians have been busy preparing for the holiday season. **Chancel Choir and Spirit Singers** are rehearsing the Christmas Cantata, ***This Child, Immanuel!*** (December 22 @ 11 am). The St. Matthew children are busy working on their Christmas program which will be Christmas Eve during the 6pm service.

Remember what I said about the bicycle? Hop on and let's all enjoy the ride! See you Sunday!!

Email [gtatum@stmatthew.org](mailto:gtatum@stmatthew.org)  
for questions about music ministry.

*Shalom,*

*Gayle Tatum*



# LIBRARY NEWS



November 2024

from Terri

## NEW FRANCINE RIVERS SERIES

Francine Rivers penned a five book novella series on the women in the lineage of Jesus. Their stories may have been hundreds of years ago, but they are still vibrant and relative to us today. The five novellas are:

*Unveiled:* Tamar – a woman of hope

*Unashamed:* Rahab – a woman of faith

*Unshaken:* Ruth – a woman of love

*Unspoken:* Bathsheba – a woman who received unlimited grace

*Unafraid:* Mary – a woman of obedience

The books are works of historical fiction about women who really lived and the outline is provided by the Bible. This is a great way to learn about Jesus' female ancestors as well as learning to apply the hope, faith, love, unlimited grace, and obedience God provided them to our own lives. Stop by the library and start reading this new series!

### 2024 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry

Jackie Elk

Dayna Heath

Larry Kisner

Joyce Perkins

Carolejean Reynolds

Kalyn Roark

Kay Ross

Terri Weldon

Eric Autry

Rebecca Hartmann

Lacey Holland

Susie Larsen

Ashley Poole

Kaye Rhoades

Emily Robinson

Cynthia Weldon

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

### BOOK ONE IN A NEW SUSPENSE SERIES!

If you like suspense, you are definitely going to want to read *One Wrong Move*, book one in Dani Pettrey's new *Jeopardy Falls Series*. A security expert and an FBI forensic analyst are caught in a killer's game. Sound exciting? Check it out today!

### THE NAMES OF JESUS

*Awesome!* is a 31-day exploration of Jesus. And the name of the book is a perfect description of our Savior. Each day of this spiritual journey will challenge you to see Jesus as you've never seen Him before. Hopefully it will encourage you to follow Jesus closer than you ever have before. Stop by the library, check it out, and start learning more about Jesus!

### NEW SUGARCREEK AMISH MYSTERY!

So, I'll let you in on a little secret. We didn't have book 10, *Mason Jar Mayhem*, in the *Sugarcreek Amish Mysteries*. I'm pleased to say we have it now! While I was book shopping, I stumbled across this gem and decided we needed it for our collection in the library. If you're a fan of the series, stop by and check it out today!

# ST. MATT KIDS

## NOVEMBER NEWS

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,  
1 Corinthians 1:4

St. Matt Kids are awesome! We just started practicing our Christmas Program, and it's AMAZING! The kids take pride in getting to bring the message on Christmas Eve! They love getting to share Jesus with you all!

As we gear up for the program and get excited about advent, I'd love to see more kids in Sunday School! This is a great time to get more age focused study with some fantastic teachers.

I'm very thankful this fall to have some great volunteers helping make Sunday School and WOW possible! We love our teachers and assistants!

Thanks!  
Ms. Katelynn

AT ST. MATTHEW, OUR MISSION IS TO SHOWER GOD'S LOVE UPON OUR CHILDREN

**SO THAT THEY WILL KNOW:  
GOD LOVES THEM... UNCONDITIONALLY.  
CHURCH IS A WONDERFUL, SAFE PLACE TO BE.  
STORIES OF JESUS.**

WILL YOU ANSWER THE LORD'S CALL AND BE A PART OF THIS MINISTRY?  
CHRIST HAS NO HANDS BUT YOURS.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### DECEMBER

- 18-WOW Birthday Party for Jesus (Last WOW of the year)
- 22-Noon Dress Rehearsal for Program
- 24-6pm Christmas Program

### WANT TO HELP OUR KIDS?

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR  
MORE CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH TEACHERS!  
VOLUNTEER FOR 1  
SUNDAY EVERY OTHER  
MONTH!**

Contact Information:  
Katelynn Henderson  
405.740.4379  
children@stmatthew.org

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### SUNDAYS

Sunday School @ 9:40am  
Children's Church during 11am Service  
\*No Children's Church 1st  
Sunday of the Month

#### WEDNESDAYS

WOW @ 6:30pm



# Alpha Omega News

Sunday School 9:40AM | Sunday Youth 5-7PM | Wednesday Youth 6:30-7:30PM

The purpose of Alpha Omega Student Ministries is to stand on the foundation, with a heart to worship, a mind to reach out, and hands to serve and love.

## Want to Volunteer?

We have many opportunities to hang out with our youth and help shape the future leaders of our church! If you are interested in volunteering in the following areas, please let Kalyn know!

- Mystery Trips, Lock-ins, and other special events
- Wednesday Night Activities
- Sunday Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer/Service Activities

## Cantata Rehearsals

Our youth will once again be the drama for our annual Christmas Cantata!

Cantata rehearsals will be on Wednesdays starting at 6:45pm, right after our lesson.

We will go until 7:30pm for the first few rehearsals, but after that it will be between 8 and 8:30pm when the youth will be finished.

If you have questions, please let Kalyn know!

## Worship Project

This month, our Worship Project will be at 6pm on Sunday, November 24th.

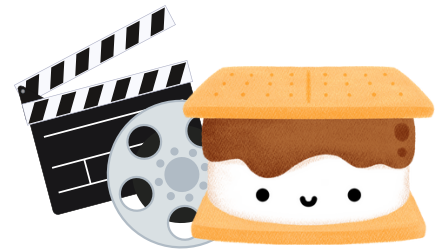
Youth will meet as usual at 5pm for dinner and games, before going to worship at 6pm. We will be finished at 7pm like usual!

## Movie Night and S'mores!

Come and bring a friend to our movie and s'mores night on November 10th from 5pm-7pm!

Bring blankets, chairs, pillows, and wear comfy clothes! Plan to be outside weather depending!

If you have a movie request, let Kalyn know!



## Interactive Bulletin Board

Check out our fall themed interactive bulletin across from the youth room!

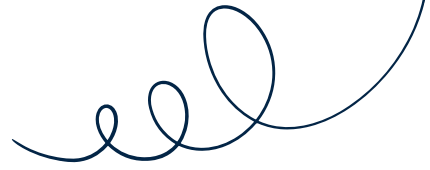
This month's theme is Thankfulness! Take a few minutes to write what you are thankful for on one of the leaves!



## Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 10th: Movie and S'more Night, 5-7pm
- Nov. 13th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- Nov. 24th: Worship Project, 6pm
- Nov. 27th: No youth

# St. Matthew Young Adults



## Monday Night Small Group

Join us at 5:30pm on the first and third Mondays for dinner and fellowship with other young adults!



## Friendsgiving

Join us on Monday, November 25th at 6pm for our Young Adult Friendsgiving!

We ask that if you can, to please bring a side or a dessert; we will provide the turkey!

RSVP to Kalyn as soon as possible so we have a good count of how much food to make!



## Wednesday Night Young Adults

Join us on Wednesday at 6:30pm for our Midweek Programming! Olivia has some excellent lessons prepared for us, we would love to have you!



Join our GroupMe to keep up-to-date with all our upcoming events

Director of Student Ministries: Kalyn Roark

# November at St. Matthew

## Upcoming Events

Nov 5	6pm	Trustees
Nov 7	6pm	Trustees
Nov 24	6pm	Worship Project
Nov 27		NO MIDWEEK
Nov 28		Thanksgiving-Office Closed



For a more complete list of events and activities visit [stmatthew.org/calendar](http://stmatthew.org/calendar)

## Week at a glance

### Sunday

8:30am	Worship
9:40am	Sunday School
11am	Worship (w/ LiveStream)
5pm	AO Youth Group

### Monday

9am	Mobile Meals Prep
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### Tuesday

7am	Mobile Meals
10am	Quilters Sew&Go
1pm	Moving For Balance
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band

### Wednesday

5:30pm	MidWeek Meal
6:15pm	Spirit Singers
6:30pm	MidWeek Programs
7:15pm	Choir

### Thursday

10am	Mobile Meals
1pm	Moving for Balance
6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums

### Friday

7am	Mobile Meals Prep
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### Saturday

9:30am	Girl Scouts
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Nov. 1	David Okoe
Nov. 8	Scotty Barnett
Nov. 10	Michael Bediako
	Joshuah Kisner
Nov. 11	Diane Mathis
Nov. 15	Jayna Sims
Nov. 16	Joshua Arkoh
	Chris Bain
	Jordyn Mullings
Nov. 17	Kaye Rhoades
Nov. 19	Becka Ellis
Nov. 22	Tom Hendricks
Nov. 23	Venita Hoover
Nov. 25	Seth Autry
Nov. 30	Jamie Clinesmith



Please help paint the church's interior Narthex walls. On November 8 from 1-3pm, we will need help prepping for painting. We'll paint November 9 from 10am-1pm. All paint and supplies will be provided and experience not necessary. Contact Richard Stephens, 405-215-2570, to volunteer.



Nov. 7	Brock & Brooklynn Wallace
Nov. 14	Mike & Carol Rathke
Nov. 25	Kerry & Marilyn Solomon



## St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 N Air Depot Blvd  
Midwest City OK 73110  
www.stmatthew.org  
405-732-6831

*The Mission of The United Methodist Church  
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.*



**Ice Angels are in  
need of winter gear  
for the homeless.**

**Please contact Kay Ross**

### St. Matthew Staff

**Rev. Jonathon Clinesmith** Pastor  
e-mail: [jonathon@stmatthew.org](mailto:jonathon@stmatthew.org)

**Stephanie Ballow** Business Manager & Nursery Director  
e-mail : [businessoffice@stmatthew.org](mailto:businessoffice@stmatthew.org)

**Kalyn Roark** Director of Student Ministries  
e-mail: [youth@stmatthew.org](mailto:youth@stmatthew.org)

**Katelynn Henderson** Director of Children's Ministries  
& Program Director  
e-mail: [katelynn@stmatthew.org](mailto:katelynn@stmatthew.org)

**Gayle Tatum** Director of Music Ministries  
e-mail: [gtatum@stmatthew.org](mailto:gtatum@stmatthew.org)

**Susie Larsen** Spirit Singers Director  
e-mail: [spiritsingers@stmatthew.org](mailto:spiritsingers@stmatthew.org)

**Emily Robinson** Organist/Pianist

**Drew Andrews** Custodian

**Louise Barnett** Financial Secretary