



### *From the Pastor's Desk*



April begins with a day of pranks and jokes—April Fools' Day. But as Christians, we follow a path that the world often sees as foolish every day of the year. Think about it:

A crucified Messiah? Foolish.

Loving your enemies? Foolish.

Giving up power instead of taking it? Foolish.

Believing the weak are actually the strong? Foolish.

At least, according to the world's standards.

Forgiving offenses? Giving sacrificially? These aren't strategies for self-advancement. They don't make sense in a world obsessed with power and self-interest. To live this way is to look foolish to the world. And yet, this is exactly the kind of 'foolishness' that changes lives, that brings light into darkness, and that leads to resurrection.

As the sun rises on Easter morning, we gather in the early light to remember a moment that changed everything. The first Easter began in darkness—both literal and spiritual. Jesus had been crucified, laid in a tomb, and hope seemed lost. But when the women arrived at the tomb at sunrise, they found it empty. Christ had risen! Light had broken through the darkness, and nothing would ever be the same again.

Maybe that's why we begin Easter Sunday with a Sunrise Service—because we are resurrection people. We believe in a God who brings life from death, hope from despair, and light that no darkness can overcome. And that same light—Jesus Christ—still shines today. Whatever burdens you carry, whatever darkness you face, the risen Christ offers new life, new hope, and new beginnings.

This Holy Week, we invite you to walk the journey with us—from Palm Sunday's celebration to the solemnity of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and finally to the joy of Easter Sunday. Let us step into the light together and celebrate the One who makes all things new.

#### **Holy Week Schedule**

- **Palm Sunday – April 13**

Join us as we wave palm branches and celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

- **Egg-stravaganza – April 13, 2:00-4:00pm**

A fun-filled Easter egg hunt for families! Invite your friends and neighbors.

- **Maundy Thursday – April 17, 6:30 PM**

A service of reflection on Jesus' Last Supper and his command to love one another.

- **Tenebrae Service – Good Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM**

A powerful service of darkness, remembering Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

- **Easter Sunday – April 20**

- **Sunrise Service – 7:00 AM** Celebrate the resurrection as the sun rises, just as the empty tomb was discovered at dawn.
- **Early Service – 8:30 AM** Join us as we worship the risen Lord with communion!
- **Potluck Breakfast – 9:30 AM** Join us for food and fellowship between our morning services.
- **Traditional Easter Service – 11:00 AM** Celebrate the risen Christ with music, Scripture, and joy!

Holy Week is a time of reflection, remembrance, and rejoicing. We hope you'll join us as we walk through this sacred season together. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

**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*



**Holy Week and Easter 2025**

After the *cold* winter we have experienced, it is great to see the buds on the trees and plants beginning to turn green. Hopefully we have turned a corner, and Spring will arrive at last! With Spring, our thoughts naturally to turn to Easter. Even though it is almost as late as possible this year (April 20), Holy Week and Easter will be here before we know it!

Katelynn needs *many* helpers for the Easter Eggstravaganza on Palm Sunday, April 13. In addition to the Easter egg hunt, there will be a crafts and activities for the children in Wesley Hall. In the past we have had hundreds of children.

**Palm Sunday** is April 13. We will have the traditional Procession with the Palms in the 11:00 services. St. Matt Kids will join the Chancel Choir to sing "Celebrate the King." At the end of the service we will strip the altar in preparation for Holy Week.

Our traditional **Maundy Thursday Dinner** is April 17 at 6:30 pm in Wesley Hall. The menu for Maundy Thursday consists of foods that Jesus and his friends might have eaten: fish, beef, bread, honey, nuts, cheese, olives, dried fruit, fresh fruit. The tables are covered with cheesecloth. Food is eaten out of wooden bowls, and no silverware is used. The only light is provided by candles and natural light. The evening begins with the shared meal, and ends with communion, as we reenact the last supper that Jesus had with his disciples. Reservations are required for this dinner, so we know how much food to buy, and how many places to set. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 7 and under with a \$35 maximum per family. Reservation deadline is Tuesday, April 15.

***The Shadow of the Cross, A Contemporary Tenebrae Service*** will be presented by the Spirit Singers 7pm Friday, April 18. "Tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning shadow or darkness, so this is a service of shadows. During the service candles are extinguished and the light gradually diminishes until the sanctuary is dark. The increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and the hopelessness of a world without God. The Spirit Singers and narrators will present the events of the last week of Jesus' life in word and song. To truly appreciate Easter Sunday, it is necessary to walk with Jesus to the cross.

**Easter Sunday!** This year we have three services **Easter Sunday, April 20**. The **Sunrise Service** will begin at 7am. The **Early Service** with Holy Communion will be at 8:30am, and the **Traditional Easter service** will be at 11am. After the sorrow of Good Friday, it's **great** to look forward to the rest of the story; **He is risen, He is risen indeed!**

**Easter Brunch 9:30-10:30 in Wesley Hall.** Please bring food to share for the brunch. Please bring food by 9:30 so there is enough to feed the multitudes! Help is also needed to set up on Saturday and clean up afterward on Sunday.

This is a wonderful time of the year to worship and grow closer to Christ. See you Sunday!

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

*Shalom,*

*Gayle Tatum*

# 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

## Easter Activities

-Palm Sunday/Easter Eggstravaganza,  
April 13th from 2pm-4pm.

The youth need to be at the church at 1:30pm to help get eggs hidden. We will be in charge of the egg hunts, so plan to stay until 4:30pm to help clean up. There will be NO YOUTH that evening.

-Wednesday of Holy Week, April 16th

There is NO Midweek Meal, however we are still having youth! Meet at 6:30pm to go Ding-Dong Prayer Dashing!

-Maundy Thursday, April 17th

Tickets are on sale for Maundy Thursday. Doors open at 6pm, dinner starts at 6:30pm.

-Good Friday, April 18th  
Service starts at 7pm.

-Easter, April 20th

Three services: Sunrise at 7am, Early Worship at 8:30am, Easter Cantata at 11:00am. There will be an Easter Brunch at 9:30am. There will be NO YOUTH that evening.

## Joint Youth Night

Sunday, April 6th, youth will be at Sunnyslane United Methodist Church. They received a generous youth room update and are going to have a grand opening!

Please plan to meet at Sunnyslane at 5pm and we will finish at 7pm!



## Interactive Bulletin Board

Check out our interactive bulletin across from the youth room!

This month's theme is "Earth Day"! Take a few minutes to write down some ways to help take care of our Earth!

## Upcoming Events:

- Apr. 2nd: Wednesday Night Youth
- Apr. 6th: Youth @ Sunnyslane
- Apr. 9th: Wednesday Night Youth
- Apr. 13th: Easter Eggstravaganza - NO YOUTH
- Apr. 16th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- Apr. 17th: Maundy-Thursday
- Apr. 18th: Good Friday Service
- Apr. 20th: Easter - NO YOUTH
- Apr. 23rd: Wednesday Night Youth
- Apr. 27th: Sunday Night Youth/Worship Project
- Apr. 30th: Wednesday Night Youth

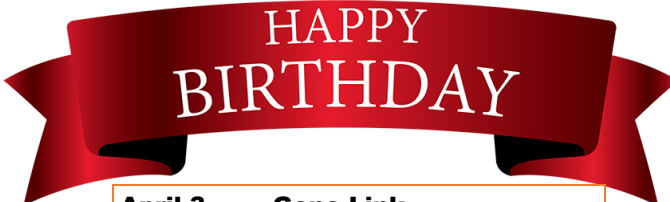


# April at St. Matthew

## Upcoming Events

|          |        |  |
|----------|--------|--|
| April 1  | 6pm    | Trustees                                     |
| April 3  | 8am    | TEFAP  |
| April 12 | 8am    | Men's Breakfast                              |
| April 13 |        | Palm Sunday & Eggstravaganza                 |
| April 16 |        | No MidWeek Meal (programing still happening) |
| April 17 | 6:30pm | Maundy Thursday                              |
| April 18 | 7pm    | Good Friday                                  |
| April 20 |        | Easter                                       |
| April 22 | 7pm    | Lydia Circle                                 |
| April 22 | 6pm    | SPRC   |
| April 24 | 6:30pm | Finance Committee                            |
| April 27 | 6pm    | Worship Project                              |
| May 2-4  |        | Family Camp                                  |

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



|          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| April 3  | Gene Link             |
| April 8  | David Heath           |
|          | Gene Holt             |
| April 9  | Selma Bediako         |
| April 11 | Carm Eastham          |
| April 17 | Keith Endsley         |
| April 18 | Lilyann Keenum        |
| April 23 | Lydia Arkoh           |
|          | Jennifer Maxfield     |
| April 25 | Ricky Clemence        |
|          | Andrew Wilson         |
| April 28 | Del Ramsey            |
|          | Edna Simpson          |
|          | Allyson Wilson Henson |
| April 29 | Jason Henson          |

## Week at a glance

|                |                         |                  |                           |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>  |                         | <b>Wednesday</b> |                           |
| 8:30am         | Worship                 | 5:30pm           | MidWeek Meal              |
| 9:40am         | Sunday School           | 6:15pm           | Spirit Singers            |
| 11am           | Worship (w/ LiveStream) | 6:30pm           | MidWeek Programs          |
| 5pm            | AO Youth Group          | 7:15pm           | Choir                     |
| <b>Monday</b>  |                         | <b>Thursday</b>  |                           |
| 9am            | Mobile Meals Prep       | 10am             | Mobile Meals              |
| <b>Tuesday</b> |                         | 1pm              | Moving for Balance        |
| 7am            | Mobile Meals            | 6pm              | OK Scottish Pipes & Drums |
| 1pm            | Moving For Balance      | <b>Friday</b>    |                           |
| 6:15pm         | Toastmasters Meeting    | 7am              | Mobile Meals Prep         |
|                |                         | <b>Saturday</b>  |                           |
|                |                         | 9:30am           | Girl Scouts               |



|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| April 1  | Luke & Stephanie Southern |
| April 24 | Charles & Patti Brown     |

## Holy Week Services & Events

- APRIL 13-PALM SUNDAY & EGGSTRAVAGANZA
- APRIL 17-MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER @ 6:30PM (TICKETS REQUIRED)
- APRIL 18-TENEBRAE SERVICE @ 7 PM
- APRIL 20 EASTER SUNDAY:
  - 7 AM SUNRISE SERVICE
  - 8:30 EARLY SERVICE EASTER WORSHIP
  - 9:30 EASTER BRUNCH
  - 11:00 TRADITIONAL EASTER WORSHIP



Registration is open now until April 21st!

# 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!



## 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!



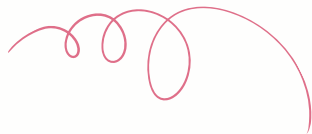
**MIDWEEK**  
@ST. MATTHEW



## The Worship Project

Join us on Sunday, April 27th at 6pm for a Modern Worship Experience!

There will be food, fellowship, and worship! You won't want to miss it!



## Holy Week

Holy Week is growing closer! Check out all of the activities:

- April 13th: Palm Sunday/Easter Eggstravaganza, 2pm-4pm
- April 16th: NO MIDWEEK MEAL, we will still have classes!
- April 17th: Maundy Thursday, doors open at 6pm, Dinner is at 6:30pm
- April 18th: Good Friday Service, 7pm
- April 20th: Easter Sunday - Services at 7am, 8:30am, and 11am



**holy week**

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

Director of Student Ministries: Kalyn Roark

# ST. MATT KIDS

## APRIL NEWS

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Mark 10:14

It's Easter time!!! It's all hands on deck for Eggstravaganza, April 13! We'll be opening our doors to our community and need everyone's help making the event a success. Please let Katelynn know if you can help.

St. Matt kids will be joining the Chancel Choir on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> to sing Celebrate the King. Please have your student here by 10:15am for rehearsal. April 27<sup>th</sup> will be our last Sunday School for the 2024-2025 school year. Family camp is May 2-4 and Muffins with Moms on May 11.

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

#### APRIL

13-Eggstravaganza  
20-Easter (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)  
27-Last Sunday School

#### MAY

2-4-Family Camp  
11-Muffins for Moms  
14-Last MidWeek  
18-Graduation Sunday  
21-Fellowship Safari

Contact Information:

Katelynn Henderson

405.740.4379

[children@stmatthew.org](mailto:children@stmatthew.org)

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### SUNDAYS

Sunday School-9:40am until April 27  
Children's Church during 11am Service  
\*No Children's Church 1st  
Sunday of the Month

#### WEDNESDAYS

WOW 6:30-7:30pm





St. Matthew United Methodist  
A place to grow in Christ

JOIN US FOR

# EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

APRIL 13, 2025  
2-4PM

300 N. Air Depot  
Midwest City 73110



Free!

## Egg Hunt | Games

Event is free, but registration is required

Pre-register at [www.stmatthew.org/stmattkids](http://www.stmatthew.org/stmattkids)





## 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.*

### St. Matthew Staff

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Rev. Jonathon Clinesmith</b>   | Pastor  |
| e-mail: <a href="mailto:jonathon@stmatthew.org">jonathon@stmatthew.org</a>              |   |
| <b>Stephanie Ballow</b>   | Business Manager & Nursery Director                     |
| e-mail : <a href="mailto:businessoffice@stmatthew.org">businessoffice@stmatthew.org</a> |   |
| <b>Kalyn Roark</b>  | Director of Student Ministries                          |
| e-mail: <a href="mailto:youth@stmatthew.org">youth@stmatthew.org</a>                    |   |
| <b>Katelynn Henderson</b>   | Director of Children's Ministries<br>& Program Director |
| e-mail: <a href="mailto:katelynn@stmatthew.org">katelynn@stmatthew.org</a>              |   |
| <b>Gayle Tatum</b>  | Director of Music Ministries                            |
| e-mail: <a href="mailto:gtatum@stmatthew.org">gtatum@stmatthew.org</a>                  |   |
| <b>Susie Larsen</b>   | Spirit Singers Director                                 |
| e-mail: <a href="mailto:spiritsingers@stmatthew.org">spiritsingers@stmatthew.org</a>    |   |
| <b>Emily Robinson</b>   | Organist/Pianist  |
| <b>Drew Andrews</b>   | Custodian   |
| <b>Louise Barnett</b>   | Financial Secretary                                     |