



Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 342
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Newton, Kansas 67114
Church: 316-283-3310
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www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton

The Messenger



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A Note from Fr. Mike Loyd

AMERICAN

What does it mean to be an American? Are we exceptional, and have we in the United States been blessed beyond our imagination? And if so, what is our obligation and responsibility to our country and to the world? If we Americans are to be an example of a free people for the world, how are we doing? As we celebrate and reflect on our 250th anniversary of independence, what does it mean to be an American?

I find myself going back to a book published in 2002, not long after 9/11, by Chris Matthews, titled *American-Beyond Our Grandest Notions*. Matthews wrote that even at its beginnings, while the colonies were still under the rule of England, there was a growing unique American spirit of rebellion. And Matthews expressed that the colonists also began having an evolving sense of mission and he focused on one of our founders, Ben Franklin. Matthews writes, "To Franklin the mission of America was to be a country where a person could fully become who he or she wished to be." Matthews goes on to write "For Ben Franklin-and for me also-America is and should be a shining beacon that attracts newcomers from all over the world. But Franklin also understood that the American way of life would not be easy. It would take constant work to be true to that mission."

For Matthews that's where he believes

optimism comes in. He writes, "The founding fathers were certified optimists. When they signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, they were literally betting their lives that we would win."

Matthews also described Franklin Roosevelt as the great American optimist. And he was as he guided our country through the Great Depression and World War II and he did it while being afflicted with polio.

It's optimism, belief that anything can be possible in this country, a generous and giving spirit, knowing that government is necessary while being suspicious of too much government. And being a country that welcomes immigrants from other countries, because we know that life can be better for them here than it was in their home countries. It's the school board meetings, the city and county commission meetings, where a person can get up and speak his or her mind knowing that it's his or her right. And not being afraid of the future. Those are the things according to Chris Matthews that makes us exceptional, inspirational, and American. And as we watch the World Cup games, we can see for ourselves that people from other countries still look to the United States as an exceptional place in which a good and generous people known as Americans live.

Fr. Mike



St. Matthew's Vision Statement

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is living into God's vision for us as a beloved community and disciples of Christ.

We are always growing in relationship with God, embracing our neighborhood and our world, and leading through acts of service as a beacon of God's justice and love.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Matthew's is to Welcome, Respect and Care for All People. We accomplish this by following Christ, the perfect example of God's reconciling love, as we promote justice, peace and healing for ourselves and our world.

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2001 Windsor Dr.
P.O. Box 342
Newton, Kansas 67114

Office phone: 316-283-3310
Office e-mail: office.stmatthewsnewton@gmail.com

St. Matthew's office hours:

- Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm
- Fr. Mike's office hours are Monday and Thursday 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

Services: Holy Eucharist 10:15 am every Sunday
Evening Prayer 6:00 pm Wednesday

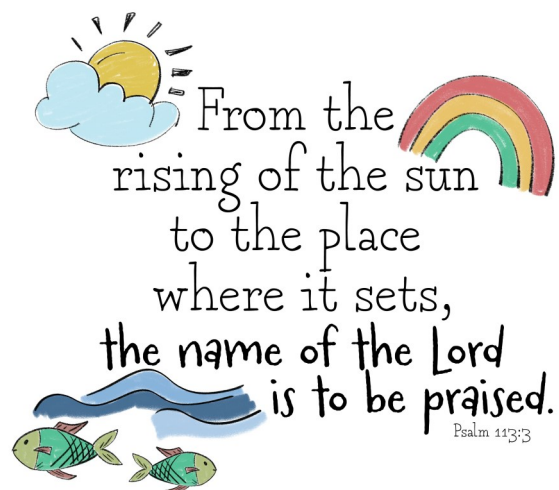
- St. Matthew's Vestry meeting will be Sunday, July 19 after church

A Prayer for the search of a Bishop for the Diocese of Kansas:

**Almighty God, giver of every good gift:
Look graciously on your church, and so
guide the hearts and minds of those who
search for a new bishop to lead the
Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, that we
may receive a faithful pastor, who will
care for your people and equip us for our
ministries; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

Discretionary Fund

This is a reminder that on the first Sunday of each month any loose money in the collection plate goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. This gives the Rector resources to use for when someone asks for help with things like a utility bill, rent, food or gas. Please be generous.



Psalm 113:3



St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

16 non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank here in Newton in June.

Please remember those who don't have enough to eat....hunger never takes a vacation or time off.

Back to School in July

We will be collecting School supplies during the month of July for Salvation Army. They will sort and distribute donated supplies shortly after the first of August. There will be a display in the front hall. Thank you.

Soldiers & Shut Ins

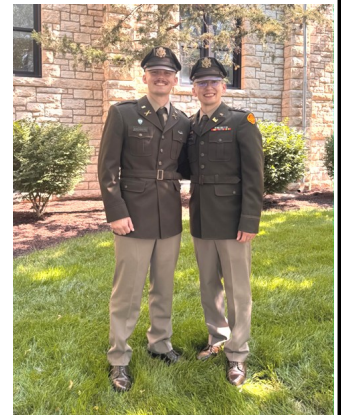
Attention! Attention! Here are a few updates on a few of our Soldiers, and a new one!

Ekerbergs: (sons and daughter in law of Mark and Amy Ekerberg, and grandsons of Jim and Katie Reese).

Conner and Becca were promoted to captain. Conner is at Fort Lenard, Wood, MO.... starting his captains



career course (Triple C). Becca is at Fort Sill, OK., for her captains career course. They will be apart for 6 months.



Creed graduated from K- State in mechanical engineering in May. That same weekend, he was commissioned into the Army.

Creed is home for the summer, and will report to Fort Sill for his basic leadership course in the fall.

Jordan Orr (Jane Orr's son): Jordan is a Naval flight officer, serving at Whidby Island, Washington.

No update available on Ryan Bernard at this time.

Please keep these Soldiers in your prayers.



Altar Guild Team for July

Twila Lockaby, Ruth Cooper,
Scott McCloud, Maggie Snow

Altar Flowers for July 2026

July 5

The Rev. Scott Hankins

"In loving memory of Sam and Vera Hankins"

July 12

Oliver J and Carol Geiger

*"In memory of Inez and Watt Geiger
by their
children and grandchildren"*

July 19

Jim and Katie Reese

*"In memory of Nomi and Royston Reese
and Agnes Lundstrom."*

July 26

Ginger and Steve King

"For blessings received"

If you have any questions regarding Altar Guild or
Altar flowers please contact Margie Knupp at
316-284-1790



Please join
Deacon Barbara Gibson
and company for

Evening Prayer
every Wednesday
at 6:00 pm in the
St. Matthew's
Covey Chapel.

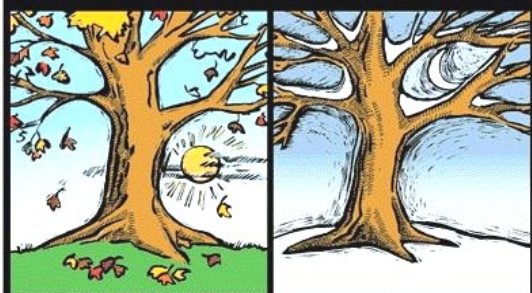
Or join us on Facebook

Everyone is welcome

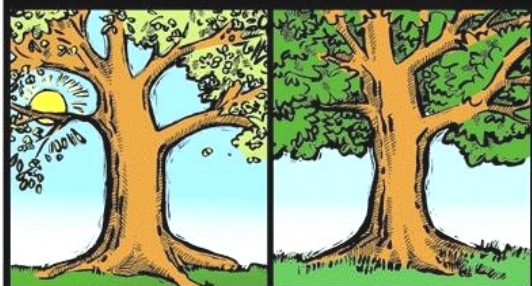
Come take
a few minutes to end your
day with prayer



THERE IS A TIME...AND A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING



A TIME TO WEEP AND A TIME TO LAUGH,



A TIME TO MOURN AND A TIME TO DANCE.

Ecclesiastes 3:1,4



Birthdays, Baptisms, and Confirmations

***Remember to pray for each of these persons
on their special day***

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

July Birthdays

July 9—Juliana Loyd
July 15—Mary Beck
July 19—Lennon Tyner
July 22—Bill Swendson
July 26—Jessica Keenan
July 27—Fred Schroeder
July 29—Sean Hall

July Baptisms

July 9—Jordan Brinkley Orr
July 25—Ashley Lundblom-Hinderliter

July Confirmations

July 14—Haley Sage Southern, Juliana Mae Loyd, Katherine Grace Lindgren, Maddie Stonehouse, Logan Bradley Moulds, Ethan William Moulds, Ellen Elizabeth Moulds, Bradley William Moulds, Elizabeth Ann Moulds

If you know of other birthday, confirmation, or baptism dates that are not listed, please contact the office so they can be included. Thank you.

July 2026 Coffee Hour Hosts



July 5 - Scott and Mary Anne McCloud

July 12 - OPEN

July 19 - Chris, Sarah and Ben Teichler

July 26 - Fred Schroeder

Sign up to host coffee hr after church service on Sundays! Show case a favorite dessert, or just bring crackers...surprise us!!

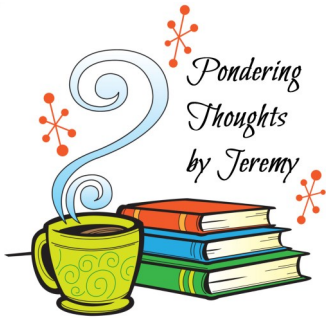
St. Matthew's Prayer Chain



If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**. The information you share will then be passed on to the chain leaders who will pass the information on to their team. The members of the chain will add your request to their prayers. The information you give me is confidential and will not be shared with others outside the prayer chain without your permission.

Other Prayer Requests:

Remember that you can add names to the Prayer List that is read during the Prayers of the People at Sunday worship service. There is a white binder in the church office that you can have any name added to. The names will remain on the list for a month before being removed. If you need continued prayers, just let Charlie know, and the name(s) will remain on the list.



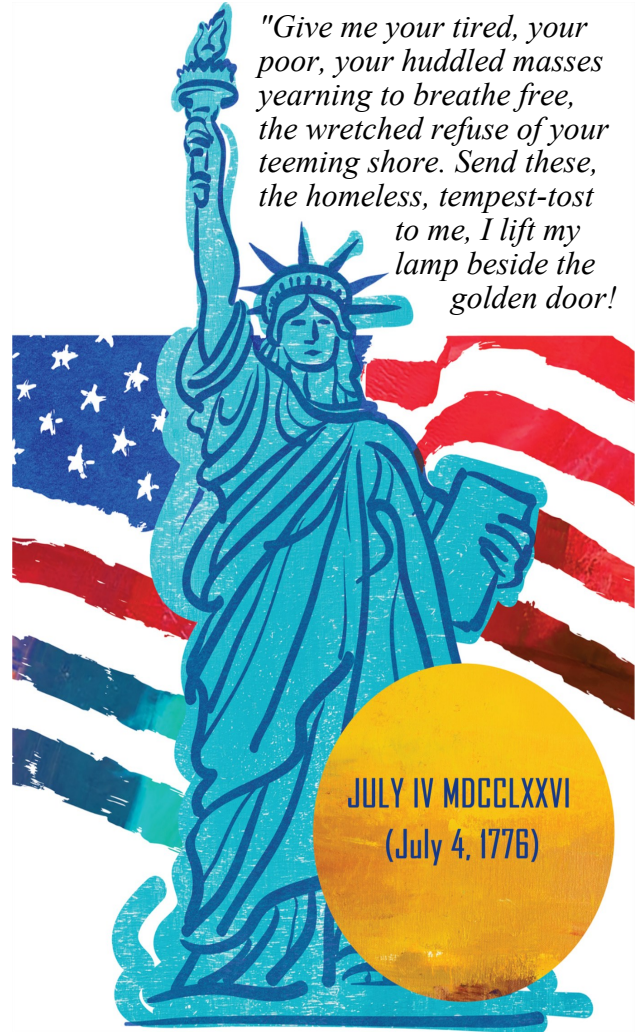
Christians who have read the Bible in its entirety know it does not contain stories of puppies and rainbows. Okay, maybe rainbows. But the fact of the matter is that the Bible is not an easy book to read because some of the content is quite disturbing.

If you have read the Bible, you may have one particular passage in mind that troubles you more than any other. For me, that one passage can be found on 1 Samuel 28:3-15: Saul and the witch of Endor.

What troubles me about this passage: a witch (aka, necromancer, medium, sorceress) conjures the prophet Samuel from the dead to speak with king Saul. Witchcraft, in other words, which is an abominable practice in the eyes of God (Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 19:31, 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:9-12), brings forth a godly man. How is this even possible?

In *The Story of God Bible Commentary*: 1-2 Samuel, Paul Evans recognizes that "this is one of the most bizarre texts in Scripture" (p. 281). Due to this surreal encounter between Samuel and Saul, some scholars have tried to explain away the difficulty of this text by suggesting that the witch was impersonating Samuel or that it was the power of God and not the power of necromancy that brought Samuel forth because "evil powers could not command the righteous dead to appear from the grave, since they were in the care of God" (p. 281).

I have spent a few sleepless nights ruminating with this passage, and I still cannot explain what took place in Endor three thousand years ago. But one thing I have learned over the years is that I do not need to have the answer. Living with mystery is sometimes better than having it all figured out.



"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Are you enjoying a happy time?
Praise God.

Is life becoming difficult?
Seek God.

Are you experiencing a quiet moment?
Worship God.

Are you suffering great pain?
Trust God.

Are you unsure what to do?
Ask God.

Are you overwhelmed with joy?
Thank God.



The Sacred Pace of Rest

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, "You can't hurry compost for the same reason you can't hurry love and you can't hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace." In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed.

Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God.

In a culture that prizes speed and productivity, stepping away may feel counterintuitive. Yet it is in these still moments that our souls are restored and made fertile for growth. The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.



LET'S FILL UP THE ST. MATTHEW'S FOOD PANTRY/ BLESSING BOX

Don't forget that you can add items to the Blessing Box anytime. Just picking up an extra can or two when you are at the grocery store is appreciated. Please keep the weather in mind when donating an item. It's hot! Thank you for doing your part to help our neighbors.



?? Bible Quiz ? ?

About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on.



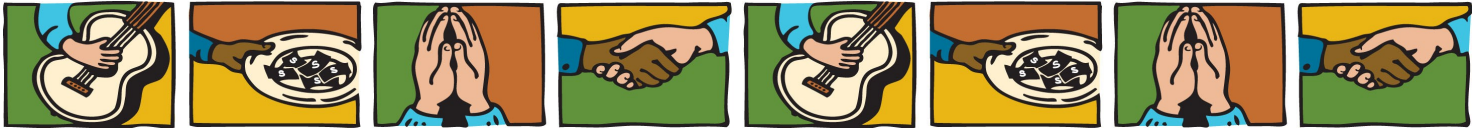
A well-known verse describes their progress: "So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to _____."

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| A. be protected | C. serve |
| B. work | D. live |

Answer: B (Nehemiah 4:6, ESV)



Don't
Forget
Your
Pledge
This Summer



Here is the worship schedule for July. Please let the office know if you would like to sign up to read, usher and/or count. We can always use more hands! ***If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please find a substitute.*** Thanks for your service!

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Season	6th Sunday after Pentecost	7th Sunday after Pentecost	8th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Vestry Meeting</i>	9th Sunday after Pentecost
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist Healing Service	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara
LEM& Acolyte	Maggie Snow Ruth Cooper	Karen Wall Ruth Cooper	Elizabeth Hill Karen Wall	Fred Schroeder
Lector—Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Mary Anne McCloud	Elizabeth Hill	Bonnie Jones
Lector—Psalm	Mary Upton	Rick Glover	Darlene Hall	Jeremy Kitto
Ushers (2)	Mary Upton	Elizabeth Hill	Melissa Keenan	Mary Upton
	Rick Glover	Bonnie Jones		Mary Werner
Counters (2)	Margie Knupp	Elizabeth Hill	Fred Schroeder	David Simmonds
	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Margie Knupp	Mary Anne McCloud
Altar Flowers	The Rev. Scott Hankins <i>"In loving memory of Sam and Vera Hankins"</i>	Oliver J and Carol Geiger <i>"In memory of Inez and Watt Geiger by their children and grandchildren"</i>	Jim and Katie Reese <i>"In memory of Nomi and Royston Reese and Agnes Lundstrom."</i>	Ginger and Steve King <i>"For blessings received"</i>
Coffee Hour Hosts	Scott and Mary Anne McCloud	OPEN	Chris, Sarah and Ben Teichler	Fred Schroeder
Organist Flutist	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Kelli Glann Sarah Teichler

Evening Prayer: every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm in the St. Matthew's Covey Chapel