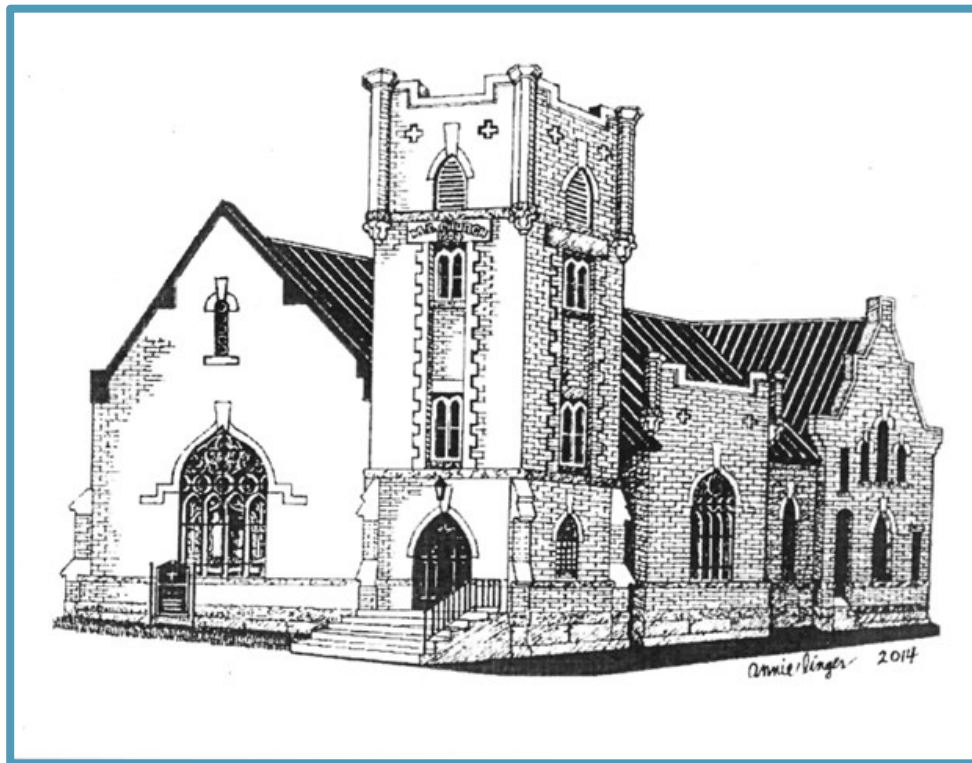


# St. Matthew

## United Methodist Church



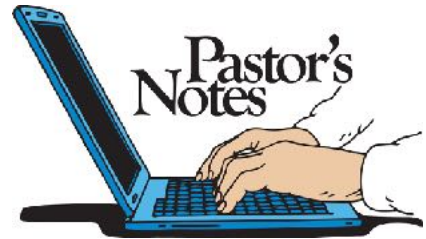
August 2025

# Newsletter

## **PASTOR'S NOTES**

### **1 Chronicles 4:10**

10 Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from hurt and harm!" And God granted what he asked.



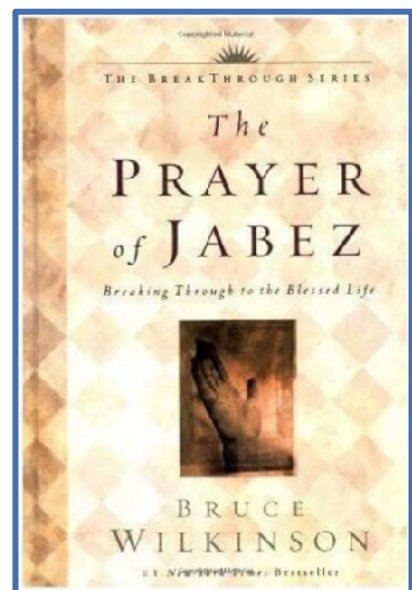
Do you remember the Book, The Prayer of Jabez? It was written a number of years ago by Bruce Wilkinson. I have found myself praying this prayer for our church from memory. As I think about it, I really believe it is very appropriate for us. I remember when it first came out, that I thought it was a pretty selfish prayer for someone to make: "bless me, expand my land, keep Your hand on me, and keep me from pain." I still think it might be a little selfish for an individual to pray, but not for a church to be praying. This is especially true if we qualify the part about enlarging our border.

I don't believe we should think of churches having "turf," but more spheres of influence. We connect with people, and touch their lives. It is the church's mission to reach as many people and lives as possible. We do that through the people who come into our church and also by the people our members and friends know. Just think of the number of people who've been in our church, have been ministered to, and even the number of people we have prayed for. We can always ask God to increase the number of lives we touch, and the ways in which we can be a blessing to our community and the world.

The other parts of this prayer fit very well into the life and ministry of the church. Asking for God's blessing, God's hand to be with us and to guide us, and to keep us from hurt and harm all good things to ask. I believe God wants to bless us, guide us and protect us. That's all part of God's nature and love for us.

Let's see how often we can prayer a similar prayer to Jabez's. Dear Lord we prayer that You would bless us, enlarge our sphere of influence, that Your hand would be upon us to lead and guide us, and that you would protect us.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Jeff <'///><





### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2025**

August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Guest Preacher Tim Conrad	Jesus' Teaching & Healing	Jesus' Teaching & Healing	Jesus' Teaching & Healing	Jesus' Teaching & Healing
	Psalms 32:12-22	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalms 103:1-12	Isaiah 49:1-9
	Luke 12:22-34	Luke 20:9-19	Luke 13:6-9	Luke 13:10-17

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT HAS BEEN HIRED**

We are very excited to announce we have hired a new Administrative Assistant! Her name is Cory Brooks. She is Juanita Alfred's niece. She will start Monday August 11 and will be in the Office 9AM-2PM Monday through Thursday. Pastor Jeff will move back to having Mondays off and will be in the office on Fridays. That way someone will be in the office every weekday.



### **SUMMER HOURS CONTINUE THROUGH AUGUST**



Pastor Jeff will be in the office Monday through Thursday 9am-1pm. Pastor Jeff is always available by cell phone at (315) 705-7982, or you can leave a message on the office answering machine (304) 269-2428.

Sunday School will begin at 9AM, typically concluding around 9:45AM. Worship will be at 10AM, typically concluding at 11AM.

The plan is to go back to our regular schedule in September of Early Worship: 8:30-9:15AM, Sunday School 9:30-10:15AM, Livestream Worship 10:45-11:45AM

## **OUR NEIGHBOR ITEMS OF THE MONTH**



Our Neighbor Items of the month for August are Spaghetti Sauce Peanut Butter, Jelly, and Soup. Please leave items in the bin marked "Our Neighbor" in the annex hallway of our church or deliver them directly to Our Neighbor Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.

## **DESSERT COMPETITION**

Our July Fun & Fellowship Events was a Dessert Competition held on Saturday July 19th. We had a really great time and all the desserts were delicious. There were 11 desserts to sample and vote on, and we had 25 people attend. Our winner was Kaelyn Williams who baked a Chocolate & Cherry Poke Cake. Here are a couple pictures of the food, fun & fellowship:





## **FALL BIBLE STUDY STARTS IN SEPTEMBER**

Fall is just around the corner the corner, so I invite you to be thinking about our next Fall Bible Study. We've had a number of folks participating, and we're looking for the best time to schedule our next study.

Pastor Jeff is willing to have morning and evening sessions if there's enough interest. Let him know if you're interested, and when would be the best time to meet.

Topics could include more "Parables from the Back-side," a study on prayer, the book of Daniel or the Gospel of John. Let's be thinking about this now so we can have everything in place to begin early in September.



## **JOIN THE CHOIR**



The choir will also be starting up again this fall. Their plan is to sing on the first Sunday in September. We have a great group of folks singing and are always looking for more voices. Keith Grubb is our director, and would be happy to talk with anyone interested.

St. Matthew UMC is blessed to have this ministry as it makes such a wonderful addition to our services. We may even have some surprises coming up later in the Fall and Winter.



## **PRAYER LIST**



Ginger Bailey, Scott Walker, Eleanor Kafer, Glen Brown, Sue Caufield, Mike Stout, Janie Tenney, Vickie Heater, Aidan Linger, Amy King, Becky Westfall, Betsy Martin, Bob Bennett, Brad Montgomery, Carol Haan, Dave Lewis, Ginny Lamb, the Vance Family, Mary Anne Lamb, Jimmy Bailey, Joan Hinzman, Jordan Heckert, Julia Bragg, Karen Rathbun, Pat Reckart,

Shirley Burkhart, Ruth Macbeth, Robert Lockhart, Phil Rastle, Marvin Murphy, Amanda Brown, Jim Stutler, Barbara Forinash, Sam Bailey, Cindy Osborn, Jim Turner, C.D. Cole, Bruce Stafford, David Parks, Lucille Hicks, Luke Roselli (MacBeth), Robin Burrough, Vickie Alderson

If you would like to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please call the office at 304-269-2428

## **COMING EVENTS**

**Summer Worship** July & August, Sunday School 9 AM, Worship 10 AM  
**Community Meal** Saturday August 23 at 4PM

**Fall Worship** Starting September 7: Early Worship 8:30AM,  
Sunday School 9:30-10:30AM,  
Worship w/ Livestream 10:45AM  
**UMW** Tuesday September 9 at 1PM  
**Trustees** Wednesday September 10 at 6:30PM  
**Men's Breakfast** Sunday September 14 at 7AM  
**Church Council** Wednesday September 17 at 1PM  
**Community Meal** Saturday September 27 at 4PM

