

9:00 am –9:45 am

The Branch Worship
in the Family Life Center

10:00 am -10:45 am

Sunday School for all

11:00 am -12:00 pm

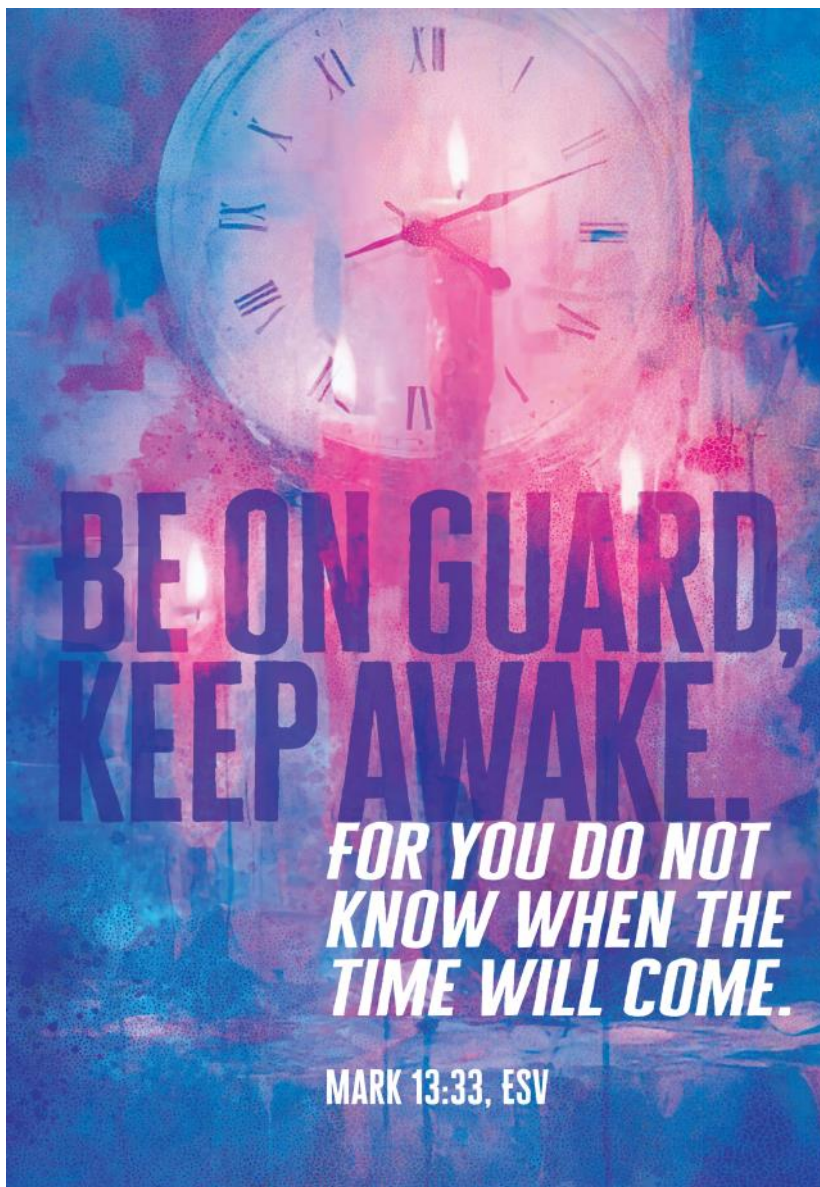
Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary

Welcome!

We're glad you are worshipping with us. A special welcome to our first time guests. We trust you will feel the presence of God among us and hope you will want to worship with us again soon. For any questions about becoming a part of the life and work of St. Matthew, please speak with one of the pastors. We think you'll find St. Matthew a friendly place to make your church home.

Our Mission

To build life-changing relationships with God, one another, and our community.



Sunday, December 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent

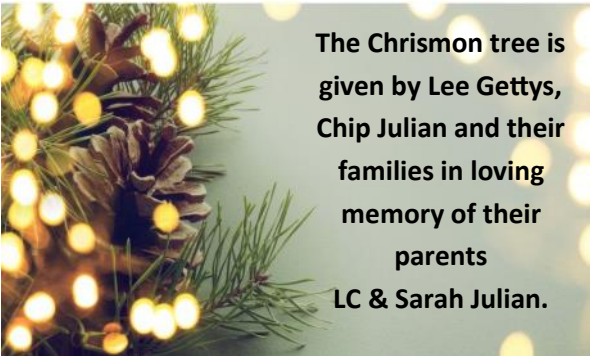


St. Matthew
United Methodist Church

St. Matthew Happenings



Order forms are available on greeter tables.
Deadline to get orders in is December 13th.



**The Chrismon tree is
given by Lee Gettys,
Chip Julian and their
families in loving
memory of their
parents
LC & Sarah Julian.**

Christmas Cantata Sunday Dec. 10th

Join us on Sunday, December 10th in the 11:00 am worship service as the Chancel Choir presents a cantata of beautiful Christmas music and narration to welcome the birth of our Savior this Christmas season. Our children and youth choirs will be singing along with meaningful narration by Maya Powers and Bartley Sides. Invite family, friends and our community to join us for this special Christmas worship service.



Triune Mercy Meal Service Day

Last chance in 2023 to serve hungry homeless folks at Triune Mercy Center. Saturday, Dec. 30 at 11:30am. Let Claire Winkler know if you want to help:
Claire.winkler@charter.net.

END OF YEAR DONATIONS

December brings the end of our calendar year and a flurry of donations as we complete our giving for 2023. If you have any questions regarding the status of your 2023 pledge, call Denise Sudderth at 901-5873 for your current donation information.

Donations may be delivered to the church through December 31st. If the office is closed, put your donation in an envelope and drop it in the slot in the office door. Any donations mailed and postmarked by December 31st will be tax-deductible for 2023.

If you intend to make a stock gift, please make your stock transfer by December 20th to ensure that the transfer is completed before year-end. If you are planning to make a stock gift, contact Bob Davis at 918-3398 or Denise Sudderth at 901-5873 so we will know to expect your stock transfer.

Thank you for your faithful support in 2023.



9:00 am Order of Worship

December 3, 2023

Announcements

Greeting Time

Opening Worship Songs

Advent Wreath Lighting

Tamara Burke

Stewardship Moment

Prayers

To ensure your prayer requests are received accurately, please text joys or concerns to (864)643-9968

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

Keep Awake

Kurt McPherson

Holy Communion

Closing Worship Song

Dismissal & Blessing

The Branch is a family-friendly service. Children's packets are available at the welcome table. All papers, stickers & pipe cleaners may be taken home. Please return the folders to the table at the end of the service. A nursery for infants-K4 is available starting at 8:45 am on Sunday mornings.

Offering boxes are on the welcome table.

11:00 am Order of Worship

**Congregation stands, as able*

Prelude

My Lord, What a Mornin’

Hobby

Greetings & Announcements

(Please sign in on the pew pads)

Janice Hughey

***Passing of the Peace**

***Chiming of the Hour**

***Processional Hymn**

Awake, O Sleeper

UMH 551

***Call to Worship (Unison)**

Marc Murphy

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

All: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

All: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

All: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

All: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

Leader: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through him might be saved.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

***Gloria Patri**

UMH 70

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Advent Wreath Lighting

Mike & Betty Shull

Anthem

Carol For Advent

Chancel Choir—Steve Quam on flute

***Psalter**

Psalms 80

UMH 801

***Affirmation of Faith**

“Apostles’ Creed”

UMH 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Stewardship Moment

Joys & Concerns of the Church Text joys and concerns by 11:10 am (864)643-9968

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer *(Unison)* Kurt McPherson

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering *(other options to give: text the word GIVE to 864-659-1812, or online at StMatthewUMC.net.)*

Offertory O Come, O Come, Emanuel Ferguson
(during this time, please pass the attendance sign in pad found at the end of pew)

*The Doxology UMH 95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving
*Hymn of Preparation Great Is Thy Faithfulness UMH 140

Scripture Reading Mark 13:24-37 Marc Murphy
Liturgist: The word of God for the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Keep Awake Kurt McPherson

Holy Communion UMH 12

*Closing Hymn Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH 196
*Benediction
*Postlude Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers Ashdown

(Children’s activity folders are available in baskets at the side doors of the Sanctuary)

The Worship is Over— Let the Service Begin!

Organist: Charlie Jones	Children’s Church Helpers: Stacey & Landon Thomas
Liturgist: Marc Murphy	Ushers: Mike Shull, Anna Cobb, Tom Anderson
Crucifer: Tyson Fine	Greeters: Aldersgate class
Acolytes: Carley & Chase Fine	

11:00 am Scripture

Mark 13: 24-37 (NRSV)

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he ^[a] is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; ^[b] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

St. Matthew Happenings



Friday December 8th 6:00—9:00pm

Parents take advantage of this opportunity to get out and do some Christmas shopping or simply spend some quality time with your spouse! Let us take care of your children between 1yr to 6th grade, from 6:00 - 9:00pm, to include dinner, crafts, games and movie.

No set cost, but donations would be appreciated.

Drop off will be in the Education Building.

Sign up is required. Contact Janice at jhughey@stmatthewumc.net



SPRC is asking again this year for a Love Offering to be taken up to give to our 13 employees as a Christmas Bonus. We will collect the Love Offering now through Dec. 17th. When you make the donation please mark on your check or online that it is for the Love Offering.

This is a wonderful way to show our staff how much they are appreciated.



Pastor Kurt will be leading an Advent Bible Study at 5:00pm on Sunday evenings on December 3rd, 10th and 17th.

In addition, Janice will be leading an Advent Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10am. Dec 6th, 13th & 20th. Titled: "The good, the bad & the ugly"



Church Calendar

Find the calendar link at the bottom of the homepage:
[*stmatthewumc.net*](http://stmatthewumc.net)

Weekly Email

Sign up for weekly updates to stay informed. (Call the church office to receive a paper copy.)
[*stmatthewumc.net*](http://stmatthewumc.net)

Giving

Set up one-time or automatic giving for your tithes and offerings: [*stmatthewumc.net/give*](http://stmatthewumc.net/give)

Contact Us

St. Matthew UMC
701 Cleveland Street
Greenville, SC 29601
864-242-1966
[*stmatthewumc.net*](http://stmatthewumc.net)

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Kurt McPherson
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Director of Christian Education

Rev. Janice Hughey
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Youth Directors

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[*youth@stmatthewumc.net*](mailto:youth@stmatthewumc.net)

Music Ministry Leader

Amy King
[*akingsings88@gmail.com*](mailto:akingsings88@gmail.com)

Church Office Administrator

Tamara Burke
[*officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net*](mailto:officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net)

Find the full staff directory on our website at [*stmatthewumc.net/about-us*](http://stmatthewumc.net/about-us)



[*stmatthewumcgreenville*](http://stmatthewumcgreenville)



[*stmatthewumc*](http://stmatthewumc)

St. Matthew Happenings

SAVE THE DATES!

Choir Rehearsal—Dec. 6th 6:30pm

Christmas Choir Rehearsal—Dec. 9th 10am—noon

Christmas Cantata—Sunday Dec. 10th

Advent Bible Study—Sunday evenings or Wednesday mornings (see ad insert)

Parent's Night Out—December 8th

Carols on Cleveland—December 19th

Triune Mercy Center Meals—December 30th

St. Matthew in the Mountains—March 8-10th, 2024

PRAYERS & PRAISES

- Susan White as she begins radiation therapy.
- Drake Moyd as he recovers from surgery.
- Betsy Boaze's daughter as she battles infection with her recent surgery.
- Continued prayers for Bob Davis' strengthening.
- Prayers for unrest in Israel and the Middle East.