

**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.



*Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. 43 Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? 44 When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy.*

*Luke 1:42-44*

**December 22, 2024**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**



**St. Matthew**  
United Methodist Church

# St. Matthew Happenings

## Advent *Reflections*



Today from 6:15 - 7:15 pm

in Room S-103 (First Floor Sanctuary Building; enter through the Church Office)

# WORSHIP

*with us!*

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24TH 5PM

*With reception to follow  
in the parlor*



**RESTORE** your commitment to  
St. Matthew.

**RENEW** your church friendships by  
gathering together.

**REFRESH** your relationship with your Lord  
and Savior by celebrating  
the birth of Christ.

Join us after the Christmas Eve Service in the parlor for  
cookies, hot chocolate, coffee, and conversation.

Cookies and beverages provided by the Hospitality Team





## 9:00 am Order of Worship

**December 22, 2024**

**Announcements**

Rev. Janice Hughey

**Greeting Time**

**Opening Worship Songs**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Kathy and Kevin Harrington

**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**

Luke 1:39-55

**Sermon**

"Promise"

Rev. Kurt McPherson

**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**

Prelude on "Coventry Carol"

Darwin Wolford

**Greetings & Announcements**

Rev. Janice Hughey

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Chiming of the Hour**

**\*Processional Hymn**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UMH 234

**\*Call to Worship**

Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

**We wait as people of God's promise.**

The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

**We listen as people of God's promise.**

Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

**We follow as people of God's promise.**

This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today-God is with us! Amen.

**\*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 shall ever be,**

**world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

The Webbs

**Children's Moment**

Rev. Janice Hughey

After the children's moment, children ages K4-2nd grade may go to Children's Church. Younger children may be taken to the nursery.

**Special Music**

"Breath of Heaven"

Chancel Choir

**\*Psalter**

Psalm 98

UMH 818

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

"Apostles' Creed"

**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**

## Joys & Concerns of the Church

Text joys and concerns by 10:10 am (864) 643-9968

### Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Rev. 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

"Noel Allemande"

Louis Couperin

### \*The Doxology

**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

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH 230

### Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Brian Leach

Liturgist: The word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God**

### Sermon

"Promise"

Rev. Kurt McPherson

### \*Closing Hymn

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH 240

### \*Benediction

### \* Postlude

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Paul Manz

## **The Worship is Over— Let the Service Begin!**

Organist: Charlie Jones

Ushers: Jake Fine, Lee Geddie, Edward Johnson, Van Thomas

Liturgist: Brian Leach

Greeters: Faithful Followers Class

Acolyte: Emery & Lowry Sides

## Scripture

### Luke 1:39-55

<sup>39</sup> A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town <sup>40</sup> where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

<sup>42</sup> Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. <sup>43</sup> Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? <sup>44</sup> When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. <sup>45</sup> You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

#### The Magnificat: Mary's Song of Praise

<sup>46</sup> Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

<sup>47</sup> How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

<sup>48</sup> For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,  
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

<sup>49</sup> For the Mighty One is holy,  
and he has done great things for me.

<sup>50</sup> He shows mercy from generation to generation  
to all who fear him.

<sup>51</sup> His mighty arm has done tremendous things!  
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down princes from their thrones  
and exalted the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel  
and remembered to be merciful.

<sup>55</sup> For he made this promise to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children forever."

# St. Matthew Happenings



*Kindness is  
in your blood*

## Blood Drive

### St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Gym  
701 Cleveland St  
Greenville, SC 29601

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**  
**9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



## Walking Group

Looking to get some steps in? Join our walking group every Monday at 10 am. Meet us at the Cady Shelter as we walk the Swamp Rabbit Trail together.

## PickleBall

ST. MATTHEW

Join us for Pickle Ball weekly in the Gym.

Monday from 1:15-3PM

Wednesday from 2-4 PM



## ACOLYTE AND CRUCIFER SIGN UP



Sign up to serve for Acolyte  
And Crucifer

## 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  
[kmcpherson@stmatthewumc.net](mailto:kmcpherson@stmatthewumc.net)

### Director of Christian Education

Rev. Janice Hughey  
[JHughey@stmatthewumc.net](mailto:JHughey@stmatthewumc.net)

### Youth Directors

Jessica Young & Bridgette Bagwell  
[youth@stmatthewumc.net](mailto:youth@stmatthewumc.net)

### Music Ministry Leader

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

### Church Office Administrator

Leah Einhorn  
[officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net](mailto:officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net)

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



[stmatthewumcgreenville](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewumcgreenville)



[stmatthewumc](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewumc)

# St. Matthew Happenings

## SAVE THE DATES!

**Advent Reflections**— Today 6:15 pm

**Christmas Eve Service**— December 24, 5 pm

**Christmas Eve Reception**— December 24,  
6 pm

**Red Cross Blood Drive**— January 29th

**St. Matthew In The Mountains**— April 11-13

## PRAYERS & PRAISES

- Hilda Collier
- Brenda Barnett
- Pat Wood
- Lois Reid
- Bob Davis
- Susan White's father
- Prayers for our nation
- Prayers for unrest in the world