9:00 am -9:45 am
The Branch Worship
in the Family Life Center

10:00 am -10:45 am Sunday School for all

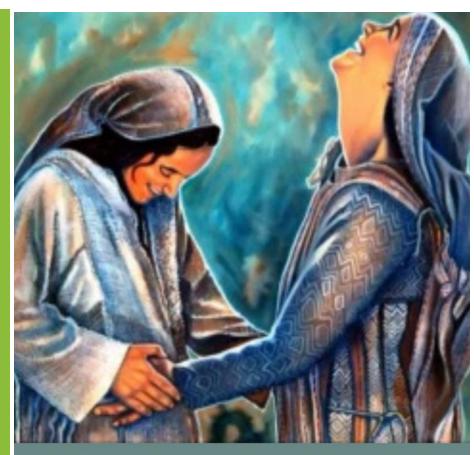
11:00 am -12:00 pm Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Welcome!

We're glad you are worshiping 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

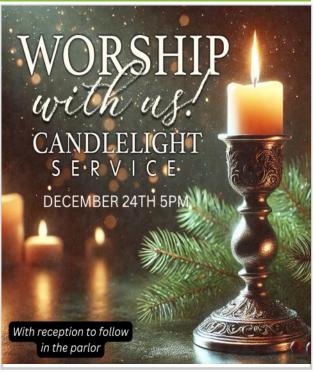
December 22, 2024 4th Sunday of Advent



St. Matthew Happenings



Today from 6:15 - 7:15 pm in Room S-103 (First Floor Sanctuary Building; enter through the Church Office)









9:00 am Order of Worship

December 22, 2024

Announcements Rev. Janice Hughey

Greeting Time

Opening Worship Songs

Lighting of the Advent CandlesKathy 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 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

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

^{*}The Doxology

Scripture

Luke 1:39-55

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

⁴² 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. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

The Magnificat: Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶ Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

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

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

⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.

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

⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful.

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

St. Matthew Happenings



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.





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.



Join us for Pickle Ball weekly in the Gym.

Monday from 1:15-3PM

Wednesday from 2-4 PM





Sign up to serve for Acolyte

And Crucifer

Church Calendar

Find the calendar link at the bottom of the homepage: stmatthewumc.net

Weekly Email

Sign up for weekly updates to stay informed. (Call the church office to receive a paper copy.) stmatthewumc.net

Giving

Set up one-time or automatic giving for your tithes and offerings: stmatthewumc.net/give

Contact Us

St. Matthew UMC 701 Cleveland Street Greenville, SC 29601 864-242-1966 stmatthewumc.net

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Kurt McPherson kmcpherson@stmatthewumc.net

Director of Christian EducationRev. Janice Hughey JHughey@stmatthewumc.net

Youth Directors

Jessica Young & Bridgette Bagwell youth@stmatthewumc.net

Music Ministry Leader Amy King akingsings88@gmail.com

Church Office Administrator Leah Einhorn officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net Find the full staff directory on our website at stmatthewumc.net/



stmatthewumcgreenville



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