

9:00am–9:45am

The Branch Worship
in the Family Life Center

10:00am–10:45am

Sunday School for all

11:00am–12:00pm

Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary

Welcome!

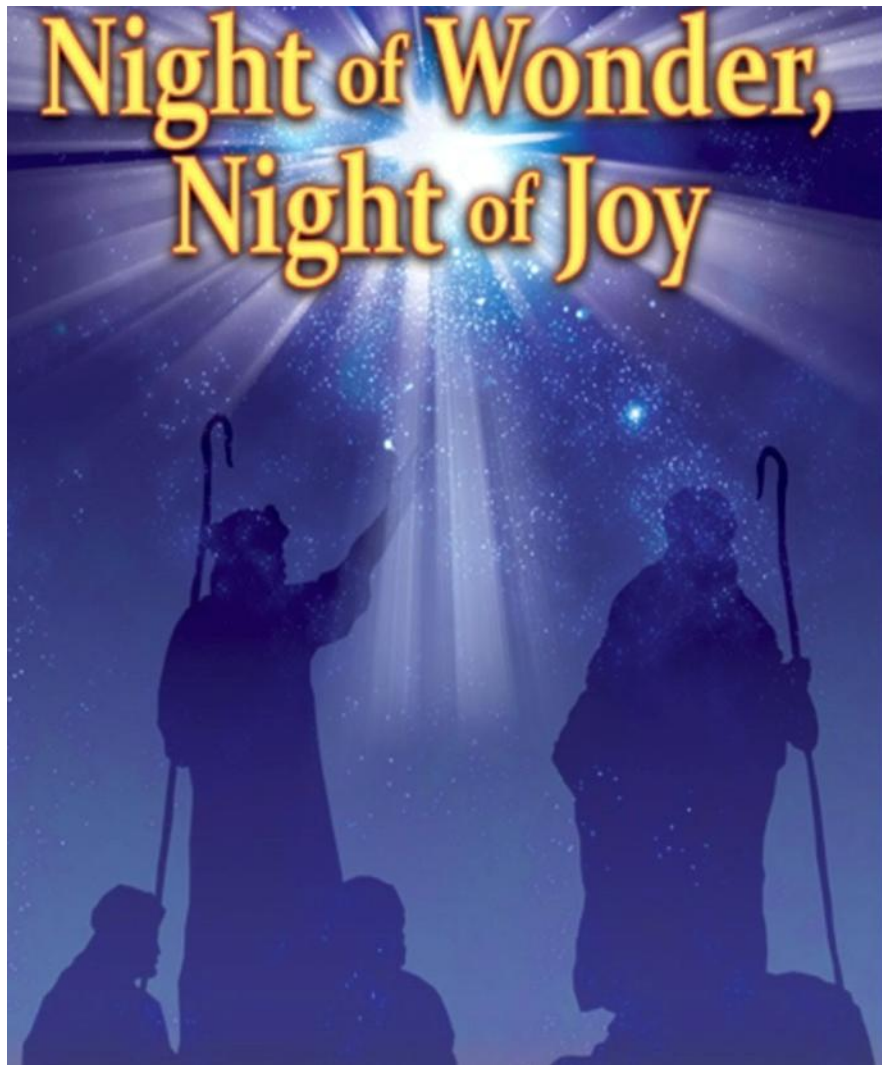
We're glad you are
worshiping with us, and a
special welcome to our
guests.

We trust you will feel the
presence of God among
us and hope you will want
to worship with us again.

For any questions about
becoming a part of the
life of St. Matthew UMC,
please speak with our
pastor or ministry staff.
We believe you will find
St. Matthew a wonderful
place to call your church
home.

Our Mission

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



December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent



St. Matthew
United Methodist Church

St. Matthew Happenings



A Christmas **LOVE OFFERING** for Our Staff

SPRC is collecting a Love Offering to give as Christmas bonuses to our wonderful staff. Please consider donating to help show our staff how much we love them at Christmas and the whole year through.

Please mark your donation as "love offering" and send to the office or place in the offering plate. Deadline for contributions is December 14. Thank you!



**Volunteer for
Children's Church**



**Communion
Volunteer Training**

January 3 | 11 am | Sanctuary



SAVE THE DATE

St. Matthew
in the mountains

February 20-22, 2026

Pleasant Ridge Camp & Retreat Center



9:00am Order of Worship

December 14, 2025

Announcements

Greeting Time

Opening Worship Songs

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Shews

Prayer

Please text prayers and praises by 9:10am to (864) 643-9968

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

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

Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

"Waiting"

Rev. Kurt McPherson

Closing Worship Song

Dismissal & Blessing

The Branch is a family-friendly service. Children's worship packets are available at the welcome table. Please return folders to the table at the end of the service.

A nursery for newborns through 24 months and preschool class for ages 2 through K4 is available starting at 8:45am on the first floor of the Education Building.

Offering boxes are on the Welcome Table.

11:00 am Order of Worship

*Congregation stands, as able

Prelude

“Variations on Puer Nobis”

Michael Burkhardt

Greetings & Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

***Chiming of the Hour**

***Processional Hymn**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH 234

***Call to Worship**

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion!

For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.

Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day,
and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst.

***Gloria Patri** (*Unison*)

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

Sarah & Don Smith

***Affirmation of Faith** (*Unison*) “The 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

Please text joys and concerns by 11:10am to (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

You may give your offering in one of three ways: place check or cash in the offering plate, text the word "GIVE" to 864-659-1812, or give 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

Christmas Cantata

"Night of Wonder, Night of Joy"
Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram
Narrators: Maya Powers, Bartley Sides
Orchestra:
Robyn Campbell, Flute
Charlie Jones, Pianist
Blake Lawson, Trombone
Phil Parsons, Trumpet
Dillon Smith, Clarinet
Nick Wilson, Horn

Chancel Choir

*Benediction

* Postlude

"Variations on Puer Nobis"

Michael Burkhardt

The Worship is Over– Let the Service Begin!

Liturgist: Patton Fiske

Acolytes: Andrew Clemmons and

Jacob Powers

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

Greeters: Trinity Sunday School

"The Chrismon tree is given again this year by Lee Gettys and Chip Julian and their families in loving memory of Lee and Chip's parents, LC and Sarah Julian."

Scripture

Matthew 11:2-11

Messengers from John the Baptist

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah^[a] was doing, he sent word by his ^[b] disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone^[c] dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet?^[d] Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

St. Matthew Happenings

CAROLS *on cleveland*

DECEMBER 17 | 6-7 PM

an evening of carols, cookies, crafts,
& hot cocoa on our front lawn

all are welcome!



St. Matthew
United Methodist Church

701 Cleveland St., Greenville, SC 29601
stmattthewumc.net

bring a coat
to donate to
Safe Harbor
& be entered
to win a raffle
prize!

Blue Christmas

December 21 | 5pm | Sanctuary

The beauty of the Christmas season sometimes reminds us of the people we have lost or the losses we have suffered.

Blue Christmas is a gentle, reflective service for anyone carrying grief, stress, or heaviness with them this Christmas season.



get involved!

VOLUNTEER

bake cookies, greet visitors, help with crafts, bring a fire pit or tent, setup or cleanup, donate a coat

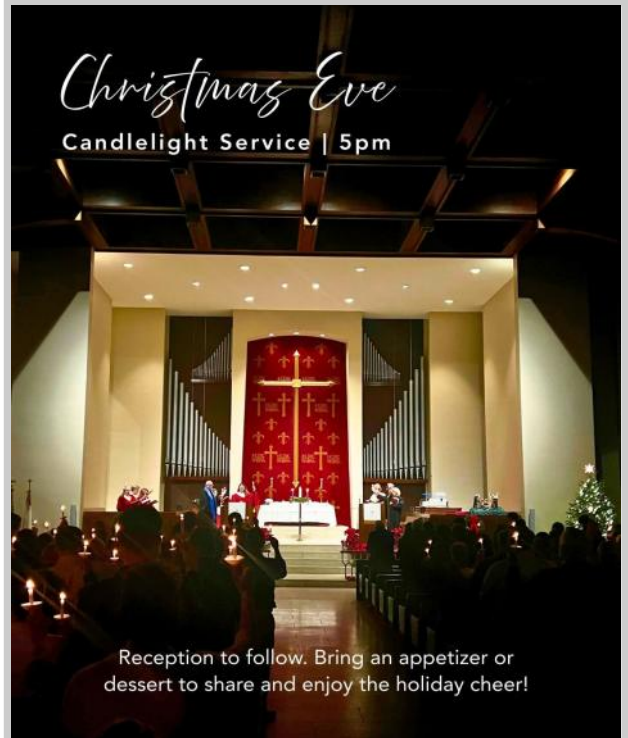


SPREAD THE WORD

carols on cleveland is a free community event - invite your friends, neighbors, and coworkers!

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service | 5pm



Reception to follow. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and enjoy the holiday cheer!

Contact Us

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

Stay In Touch

Find the calendar link at the bottom of our website homepage.

Sign up for our weekly e-blast for the latest updates. Call the office to receive a paper copy.

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Kurt McPherson
kmcpherson@stmatthewumc.net

Director of Children & Church Ministries

Bridgette Bagwell
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Director of Youth & Church Ministries

Jessica Young
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Music Ministry Leader

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Organist

Charlie Jones
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Office Administrator

Leah Einhorn
officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net



stmatthewumcgreenville



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St. Matthew Happenings

Walking Group - Mondays @ 10am

Pickleball - Mondays @ 1-3pm & Wednesdays @ 2-4pm

Women's Bible Study - Tuesdays @ 5:45pm

Advent Study - Sundays @ 6pm

& Wednesdays @ 10am

Christmas Cantata - Today

Carols on Cleveland - December 17 @ 6pm

Blue Christmas Service - December 21 @ 5pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Reception -
December 24 @ 5pm

Combined Worship - December 28 @ 10am

Red Cross Blood Drive - January 14, 2026

Youth Ski Trip - January 16-19, 2026

St. Matthew in the Mountains - Feb. 20-22, 2026

VBS - July 27-31, 2026

Prayer Requests

Sue Edmonds

Ethel Sherrill

Stacey Thomas

Bob Davis

Steve Quam

The Dempsey Family

Brian & Nancy Leach

Don Shoemaker

Jody Webb & her dad

Linda Thomas

The Wood Family

Elinor DeYoung

Ann Osborne

Lois Reid

Hall Turner, Sarah Smith's
brother

Amy King's mom

Ann Cunningham, Ellen

Jordan's sister