

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 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent



St. Matthew
United Methodist Church

St. Matthew Happenings

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.



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service | 5pm



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



**Communion
Volunteer Training**

January 3 | 11 am | Sanctuary



**Volunteer for
Children's Church**





9:00am Order of Worship

December 21, 2025

Announcements

Greeting Time

Opening Worship Songs

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Cloughs

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 1:18-25

Sermon

"Faithful Followers"

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

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Joel Raney

Greetings & Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

*Chiming of the Hour

*Processional Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

UMH 238

*Call to Worship

You know what time it is,

how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

the night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness

and put on the armor of light.

*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

The Lynches

Children's Moment

After, children ages K4-5th may go to Children's Church. Younger children may be taken to nursery or preschool.

Special Music

"Silent the Night"

Chancel Choir

*Psalter

Psalms 17:1-7,15

UMH 749

*Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*) "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

"Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep"

Alec Wyton

*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

Matthew 1:18-25

Mike Shull

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Faithful Followers"

Rev. Kurt McPherson

*Closing Hymn

"The First Noel"

UMH 245

*Benediction

* Postlude

"Joy to the World"

Gordon Young

The Worship is Over– Let the Service Begin!

Liturgist: Mike Shull

Acolyte: Emery Sides

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

Greeters: Growing in Faith 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 1:18-25

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

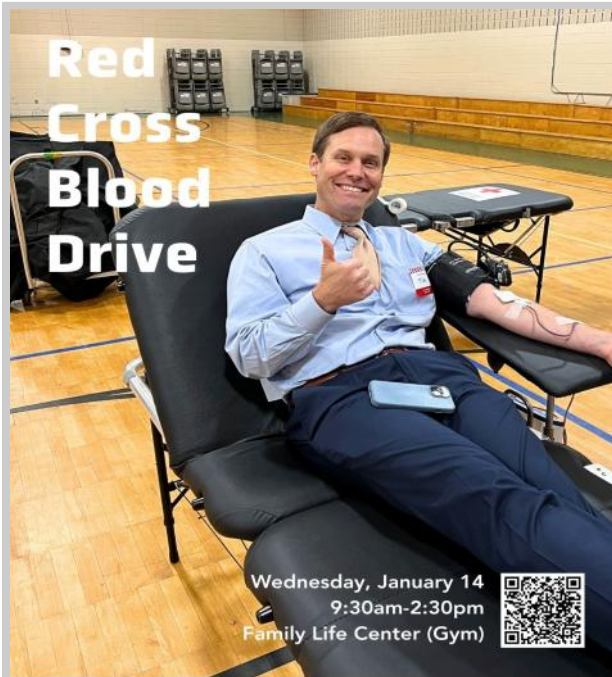
¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son,^[b] and he named him Jesus.

St. Matthew Happenings

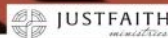
Red Cross Blood Drive



Wednesday, January 14
9:30am-2:30pm
Family Life Center (Gym)



Faith & Immigration Justice



Small Group led by Church & Society

There is a lot of fear and confusion due to misinformation and conflicting viewpoints around immigration. As a church family, let's learn about this topic so we can know more about immigration policy that is both just and in line with our faith and be better neighbors.

This small group will meet on Tuesdays from 6-7:30pm at The Brookshires (7 Quail Hill Drive) beginning January 20 through March 10.

Reach out to Blake Brookshire with any questions!

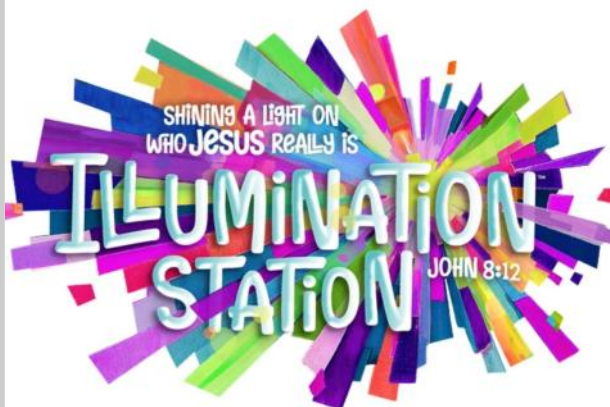
SIGN UP COMING SOON

St. Matthew *in the mountains*

February 20-22, 2026

Pleasant Ridge Camp & Retreat Center

Save the Date!



Vacation Bible School

July 27-31, 2026

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

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Leah Einhorn
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stmatthewumcgreenville



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St. Matthew Happenings

Walking Group - Mondays @ 10am

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

Blue Christmas Service - Today @ 5pm

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

Church Office Closed - December 24 & 25

Combined Worship - December 28 @ 10am

Church Office Closed - Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

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

Doyle Yates

Jody Webb & her dad

Don Shoemaker

Linda Thomas

Ann Osborne

Lois Reid

Hall Turner, Sarah Smith's
brother

Brian & Nancy Leach

The Wood Family