

**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.

BUT  
HE ANSWERED  
and SAID,  
“IT IS WRITTEN,  
MAN SHALL  
NOT LIVE  
by BREAD ALONE,  
but by  
EVERY WORD  
that PROCEEDS  
out of the  
MOUTH of GOD.”



MATTHEW 4:4

**February 22, 2026**



**St. Matthew**  
United Methodist Church

# St. Matthew Happenings

**Lenten Bible Study**  
Sundays @ 5pm | Wednesdays @ 10am



Begins February 22 & 25  
Books will be provided for you!



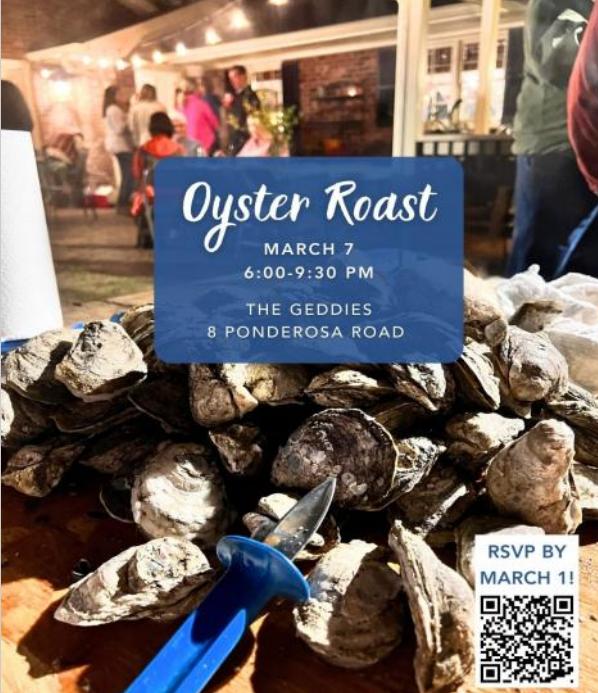
**Basketball Celebration**



DRIBBLE ON OVER FOR AN ICE CREAM  
PARTY TO CELEBRATE A GREAT SEASON!

Sunday **22** February

4:30 PM  
ST. MATTHEW UMC  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER (GYM)  
701 CLEVELAND STREET



**Oyster Roast**  
MARCH 7  
6:00-9:30 PM  
THE GEDDIES  
8 PONDEROSA ROAD

RSVP BY  
MARCH 1!



**life groups**

Life Groups are designed to be a fun and easy way to build meaningful connections within St. Matthew.

Meeting every other month, these small groups will bring together people of all ages and life stages to build friendships, offer encouragement, and grow in faith together.

Whether you participated last year or are thinking about joining a life group for the first time, there's a place for you!

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with one another – life is better when we walk it together.

Sign up by March 8!



## **An Update and Thank You from the Building Committee**

For those of you new to the church, the current charge of the Building Committee was to address a long-standing problem of water intrusion in the Sanctuary that has plagued our congregation for many years.

Our Building Committee has been working together for six years to develop a solution for our church. We partnered with LS3P Architects and Mavin Construction to complete the project. They have been exceptional partners throughout.

Before we give an update on the financials—for a project which, as you can all see, provided a much-needed and appreciated refresh to our wonderful Sanctuary and campus—we would like to express our deep gratitude.

Thank you to our congregation for the tremendous support you have given, not only during this Building Committee's tenure but also through previous campaigns and years of faithful giving to the Building Fund. Your generosity during our current campaign—and the continued contributions we've received even after the campaign concluded—has been nothing short of inspiring. We have continued to receive many generous gifts over the last year.

Thank you to all who participated in this project. So many gave generously of their time and talents.

Most importantly, thank you to all who prayed for Saint Matthew United Methodist Church during this and previous campaigns and iterations of addressing this problem. The Holy Spirit was certainly present throughout this process.

In the end, this was a \$4.2 million project – a very large and somewhat daunting amount. Yet at the end of the day, for this \$4.2 million project, we have a loan amount of only \$210,000. For a church our size, that is nothing short of amazing.

Thank you to the congregation for making this happen. It is truly awe-inspiring. This will be a foundation we can build on as we go forth and do God's work.

We are Saint Matthew - UNITED!

Thank you from the Building Committee,

J. Michael Wattenbarger

# 11:00 am Worship

\*Congregation stands, as able

**Prelude** "Savior When in Dust to You" Gordon Young

## Greetings & Announcements

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Chiming of the Hour**

**\*Processional Hymn** "O Worship the King" UMH 73

**\*Call to Worship**

Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

**We follow, trusting in God's mercy.**

We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

**We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.**

We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

**We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.**

We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

**We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

**\*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 ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen

## 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** "I Am Thine O Lord" Chancel Choir  
**Psalter** Psalm 31:1-16 UMH 764

**\*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](http://stmatthewumc.net)*

## **Offertory**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Joyce Jones

## **\*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**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

UMH 140

## **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 4:1-11

Marc Murphy

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

"Mercy On The Wilderness Road"

Rev. Kurt McPherson

## **\*Closing Hymn**

"Because He Lives"

UMH 364

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*Postlude**

"O Christ, Thou Lamb of God"

Paul Manz

**The Worship is Over- Let the Service Begin!**

Liturgist: Marc Murphy

Ushers: Jason Cormey, Jake Fine, Mike Shull, Doug Webb

Greeters: Faithful Followers Sunday School

## Scripture

### Matthew 4:1-11

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

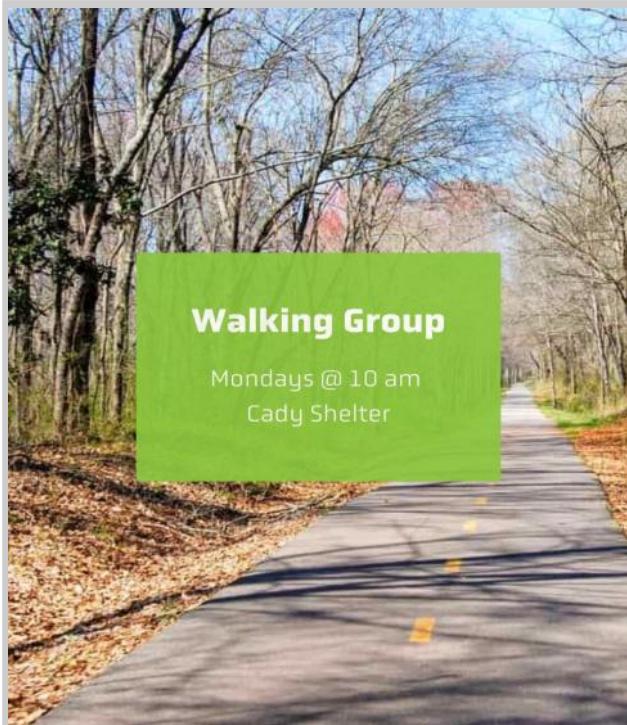
# St. Matthew Happenings



Our youth had fun spreading the love last weekend by baking and delivering cookies to firefighters at Station 3 (who gave us an awesome tour!)



**Volunteer for  
Children's Church**



## 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  
bbagwell@stmatthewumc.net

### Director of Youth & Church Ministries

Jessica Young  
jyoung@stmatthewumc.net

### Music Ministry Leader

Amy King  
akingsings88@gmail.com

### Organist

Charlie Jones  
cjonesfu3x@gmail.com

### Office Administrator

Leah Einhorn  
officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net

# St. Matthew Happenings

**Walking Group** - Mondays @ 10am

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

**Faith & Immigration Justice Small Group** -

Tuesdays @ 6pm

**Women's Bible Study** - Wednesdays @ 5:30pm

**Lenten Bible Study** - Sundays @ 5pm & Wednesdays @ 10am

**Basketball Celebration** - Today @ 4:30pm

**Oyster Roast** - March 7

**70th Anniversary Art Installation** - March 29

**Maundy Thursday Service** - April 2

**Youth Sunday** - April 26

**Confirmation & Graduation Sunday** - May 10

**Baker Creek & Emerald City Salkehatchie** - July 11-18

**VBS** - July 27-31

## Prayers & Praises

Sue Edmonds

Family of Lois Reid

Ethel Sherrill

Linda Thomas

Ann Osborne

Don Smith

Bob Davis

Anna Cobb

Steve Quam

Elinor DeYoung

Brian & Nancy Leach

Mike Shull's mom, Christine

Stacey Thomas

Moyd Family & baby Eli



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