

9:00am-9:45am

The Branch Contemporary
Worship in the Family Life
Center (Gym)

10:00am-10:45am

Sunday School for All

11:00am-12:00pm

Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary

Welcome!

We are so 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.

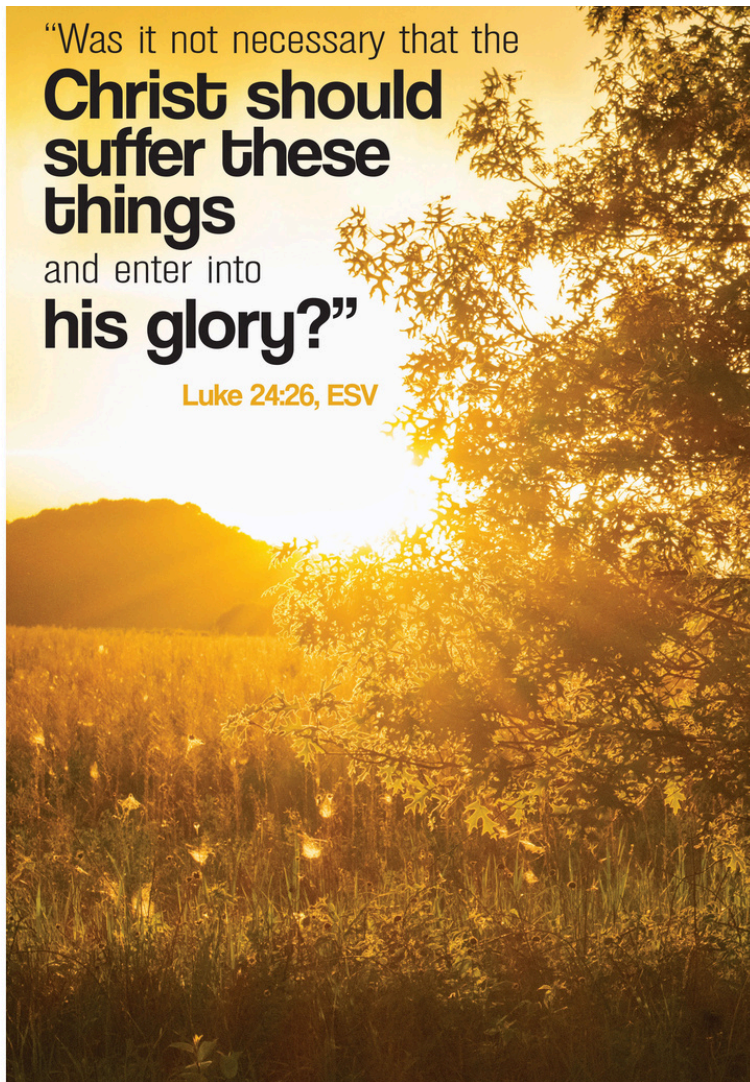
For any questions about
becoming a part of the
life of St. Matthew UMC,
please speak with our
pastor or ministry staff.
We believe you will find
St. Matthew a wonderful
place to call your church
home.

Our Mission

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

“Was it not necessary that the
**Christ should
suffer these
things**
and enter into
his glory?”

Luke 24:26, ESV



April 19, 2026



St. Matthew
United Methodist Church



Youth Sunday
April 26



thank you!

Our recent blood drive was a huge success: 20 donors and 27 units collected. It's a blessing to be able to open our facilities to support life-giving missions like the American Red Cross. Thanks to all our donors!

"Your time, effort, and generosity truly made a difference, and because of compassionate partners like you, the Red Cross is able to provide life-saving blood to patients and families in need. Your commitment to hosting this drive means more than words can fully express."

-Diana Canty, Red Cross



Faith & Florals

Women's Ministry Event

Women of all ages (and youth girls) are invited to join us for **Faith & Florals** – an afternoon of floral design, meaningful fellowship, and a devotion as we reflect on the beauty of growing in God's grace.

Create your own stunning bouquet with a hands-on class guided by Tiffany Sweeting of JoMars Florist. Class is \$40/person and includes florals and a vase to take home.

Join us! Sunday, April 26 from 2-4pm at Jennie Carrington's (15 Collins Crest Court.)



Sign up by Sunday, April 19
(spots are limited!)



Blessing of the Animals

May 3 | 2-3pm | Front Lawn
Animals of all kinds welcome!



9:00am Order of Worship

**Congregation stands, as able*

Announcements

***Greeting**

***Opening Worship Songs**

Pastoral 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

Luke 24:13-35

Sermon

"Astounded"

Rev. Kurt McPherson

***Closing Worship Song**

***Blessing**

*Children's worship packets and offering boxes can be found on the welcome table.
Please return worship packets at the end of the service.*

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

11:00am Order of Worship

**Congregation stands, as able*

Prelude

“Baroque Trumpet”

Gordon Young

Announcements & *Passing of the Peace

***Chiming of the Hour**

***Processional Hymn**

“Christ Is Alive”

UMH 318

***Call to Worship**

Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week inundated with news reports, social media posts, and reels that inundated us with information, worry, and stress.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.

We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.

We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.

Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

May the good news of the Resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God! Amen.

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

Special Music

“Whisper to My Heart”

Chancel Choir

***Psalter**

Psalms 40:1-11

UMH 774

***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 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.

Pastoral Prayer

Please text prayers and praises by 11:10am 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.

Offering

You may give your offering in one of three ways: place check or cash in offering plate, text "GIVE" to 864-659-1812, or give online at stmatthewumc.net

Offertory

"Mussette"

Gordon Young

*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

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

UMH 133

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:13-35

Terhune Sudderth

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Astounded"

Rev. Kurt McPherson

*Closing Hymn

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

UMH 454

*Benediction

*Postlude

"Bachiana on an Ancient Chorale"

Gordon Young

Assistive listening devices are available for anyone who may benefit from hearing assistance during the service. Please see an Usher in the Narthex to receive one.

Acolytes: Kinley Muirhead & Emery Sides

Crucifer: Frances Carrington

Greeters: Growing in Faith Class **Ushers:** Jake Fine, Lee Geddie, Edward Johnson, Don Smith

Scripture

Luke 24:13-35

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."

³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.



mission
opportunity

Help us provide lunch for 50 youth and staff at Greenville Juvenile Detention Center (GJDC) on Friday, May 8 from 10:30am-12:30pm.

Food will need to be delivered to Betsy Boaze by 9:30am or to GJDC at 10:30am on May 8. Anything not requiring refrigeration can be delivered to the church office by 3:30pm on May 7.



Sign up to donate food!



Faith & Immigration Justice

"What We Learned"

Scripture & Facts from Small Group Participants

Nearly 44 percent of all immigrants in the United States in 2023 arrived prior to 2000. Additionally, 22 percent entered between 2000 and 2009, and 35 percent have come since 2010. – Migration Policy Institute

"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." – Deuteronomy 10:18

Shared by Elizabeth Cline

Questions? Want to learn more or join our fall study? Reach out to Beckie Corney, Church & Society Chair.

REGISTER NOW FOR ILLUMINATION STATION!



SHINE A LIGHT* ON JESUS

Vacation Bible School
July 27-31 | 9am-12pm

Summer Worship

One Combined Service
10am in the Sanctuary
May 24 – August 2

Our summer combined services will intentionally weave together the unique elements of The Branch and Traditional Worship. Whether you prefer the stir of contemporary praise or the grounding beauty of liturgy and hymns, you'll find a home in this unified hour of worship.

Join us as we celebrate our shared faith and enjoy being together all summer long!



St. Matthew Happenings

Contact Us

St. Matthew UMC
701 Cleveland Street
Greenville, SC 29601
864-424-1966
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
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Bridgette Bagwell
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Office Administrator

Leah Einhorn
officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net

 stmatthewumcgreenville

 stmatthewumc

Walking Group – 10am Mondays

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

Youth Sunday – April 26

Faith & Florals – April 26

United Ministries Luncheon – April 29

Blessing of the Animals – May 3

GJDC Lunch – May 8

Confirmation & Graduation Sunday – May 10

Summer Combined Worship – May 24 through August 2

Salkehatchie Summer Service – June & July

VBS – July 27-31

Prayers & Praises

Don and Beth Shoemaker's
daughter-in-law, Nha

Quam Family

Tom McIntyre

Carol Lauvray

Sarah Jane Tollison's mom, Jane

Don Cochran

Ann Osborne

Brian & Nancy Leach

Sue Edmonds

Ethel Sherrill

Elinor DeYoung

Bob Davis