

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!

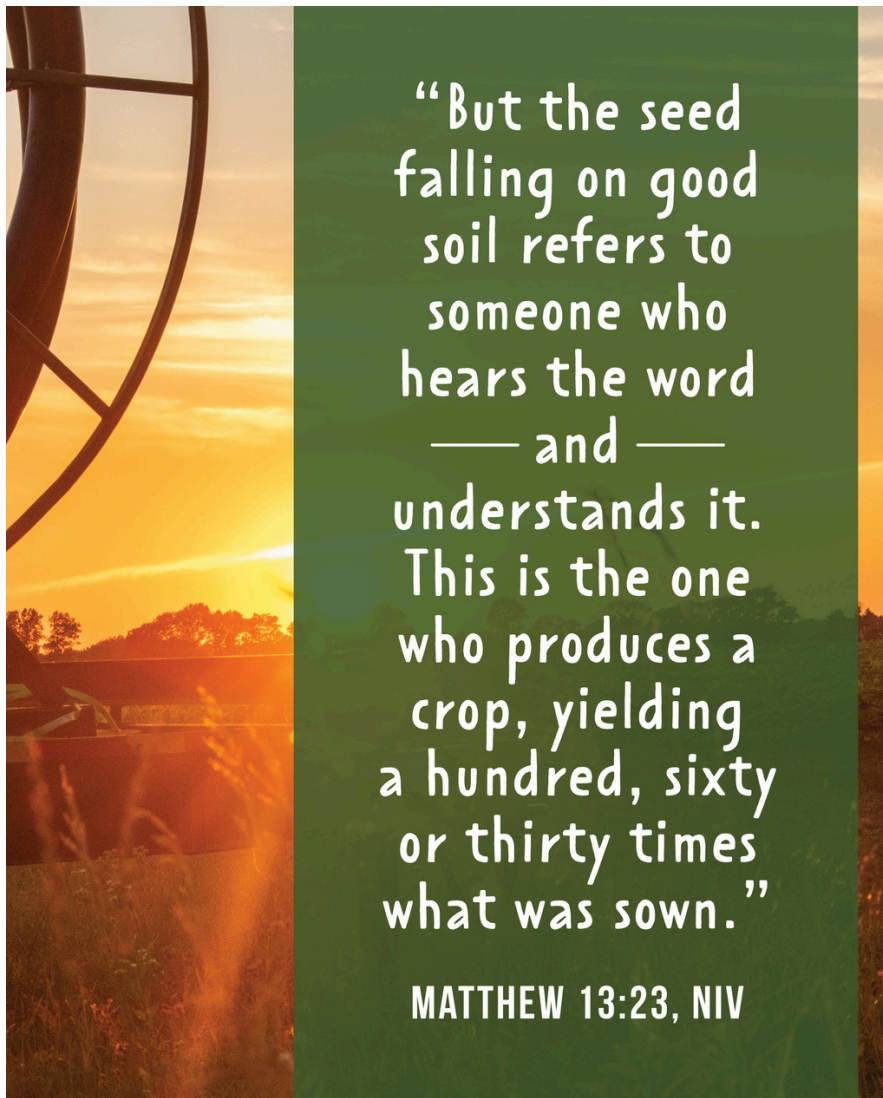
We are delighted that
you are worshipping with
us today, and we offer a
special welcome to our
guests.

It is our hope that you
will experience God's
presence among us and
feel encouraged to join
us again in worship.

If you have questions
about becoming part of
the life and ministry of
St. Matthew UMC,
please speak with our
pastor or ministry
directors. We trust you
will find St. Matthew to
be a welcoming
community and place to
call your church home.

Our Mission

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



“But the seed
falling on good
soil refers to
someone who
hears the word
— and —
understands it.
This is the one
who produces a
crop, yielding
a hundred, sixty
or thirty times
what was sown.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

July 12, 2026



St. Matthew
United Methodist Church

Summer Sundays

Through August 2

Join us this summer as we blend faith, community, and the joy of being together!

Summer Blend

9:15am in the Parlor

Next Sunday, July 19

United Ministries

Explore how United Ministries helps support our neighbors who are experiencing scarcity.



Combined Worship

10:00am in the Sanctuary

A thoughtful blend of both the Branch and Traditional Worship.



St. Matthew is proud to have **18 volunteers** serving at Emerald City Salkehatchie:

Cypriana Brannon
Adam and Marie Brookshire
Frances and Sam Carrington
Anna Frances Cheves (youth friend)
Noah Clemmons
Carley, Chase, and Tyson Fine
Charlie Inbau
Addie Johnson
Charlotte and Hamilton Shew
Henry and Oliver Spicher
Terhune Sudderth
Jessica Young

Throughout the week, they will help repair four homes in Greenwood, making them warmer, safer, and drier for neighbors in need while sharing Christ's love through their service.

Please keep our Salkehatchie volunteers and homeowners they are serving in your prayers!

SUPPORT VBS

To help make VBS Illumination Station possible, we are asking for **snack, craft and decor donations**. Please scan the QR codes below to see and shop our wishlists.

Also, continue to save your **small to medium glass jars** and bring them to church.

Your generosity helps us maximize our budget while keeping VBS free for families!



SNACK WISHLIST

Shop & drop off by July 26



CRAFT & DECOR WISHLIST

Order & ship by July 20



mission opportunity

St. Matthew is excited to once again sponsor a **Back-to-School Breakfast on Tuesday, August 4 for teachers and staff at the Washington Center**, a dedicated school for students with intellectual disabilities.

Volunteers are needed to help provide breakfast foods, juice, and coffee, and to come and serve.



Learn more & sign up!



Opening Songs

I've Got Joy

I've got joy in the struggle
I've got peace in the storm
I've got strength in the battle
I don't fear anymore
I'm a child of heaven
And my hope is secure
I've got joy cause I've got Jesus

(Chorus)

He gave me beauty for ashes
Turned my life around
He broke my chains
And now I dance on solid ground
For all He's done to save me
I will raise my voice
I've got Jesus
So I've got joy

He bore all of my burdens
Yeah my debt has been paid
Then He said to my dry bones
Rise up out of that grave
He has all of my worship
All the honor and praise
I've got joy cause I've got Jesus

(Chorus)

*He gave me beauty for ashes
Turned my life around
He broke my chains
And now I dance on solid ground
For all He's done to save me
I will raise my voice
I've got Jesus
So I've got joy*

He bore all of my burdens
Yeah my debt has been paid
Then He said to my dry bones
Rise up out of that grave
He has all of my worship
All the honor and praise
I've got joy cause I've got Jesus

(Repeat Chorus)

Joy like a river running through my soul
Joy all around me everywhere I go
Even in the desert still it overflows
Oh I've got joy,
yeah I've got joy never ending
Cause He called my name
Every breath I breathe a testament
of amazing grace
Oh Hallelujah everything has changed
Oh I've got joy, yeah I've got joy

(Repeat Chorus)

Joy like a river running through my soul
Joy all around me everywhere I go
Even in the desert still it overflows
I've got Jesus, so glad I have Him
I've got Jesus so I've got joy

Order of Worship

**Congregation stands, as able*

Prelude "Prelude and Fugue in D Major" George Frideric Handel

Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

***Opening Songs** "I've Got Joy" Branch Band

Children's Moment

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

***Hymn of Preparation** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" UMH 454

***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.

Pastoral Prayer

Please text prayers and praises by 10:10am to 803-674-9020

Children's worship packets can be found in baskets in the Narthex.

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 9am in the Education Building (first floor.)

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

"Largo"

Antonio Vivaldi

***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**

Special Music

"Goodness of God"

Branch Band

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Tom McIntyre

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Good Soil"

Rev. Chrisie Reeves-Pendergrass

***Closing Hymn**

"Hymn of Promise"

UMH 707

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

"Sortie"

Cesar Franck

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.

Greeters: Trinity Class

Ushers: Jake Fine, Doug Johnson, Jason Lynch, Bartley Sides

Scripture

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear."

Matthew 18-23

¹⁸ "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Meanderers Lunch



July 16 | 11:30am
Coronitas Mexican Restaurant



Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 19
9:30am-2:30pm
Family Life Center (Gym)

We're **looking** for blood donors! Appointments are now available for our next blood drive on Wednesday, August 19 from 9:30am-2:30pm. Register ahead of time and you'll save time on donation day.



database update

We need your help to keep our church records accurate and current!

Whether you are a member of St. Matthew or have been visiting, please take a few moments to update your contact information and household details. **Only one form is needed per family.**

Keeping your information current helps us stay connected, share important announcements, and better serve you.



Thank you!



Volunteer for Children's Church

Offered in BOTH services beginning August 9!

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
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Director of Children and Church Ministries

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Director of Youth and Church Ministries

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Office Administrator

Leah Einhorn
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 stmatthewumcgreenville

 stmatthewumc

St. Matthew Happenings

Summer Sundays – through August 2

Walking Group – 10am Mondays

Summer Pickleball – 6:30-8pm Wednesdays

Emerald City Salkehatchie – July 11-18

Meanderers Lunch – July 16

GJDC Lunch – July 17

Vacation Bible School – July 27-31

Washington Center School Breakfast – August 4

Promotion Sunday – August 9

Youth Lake Day – August 16

Red Cross Blood Drive – August 19

Triune Fifth Saturday Lunch – August 29

Prayers & Praises

Salkehatchie volunteers

Betty Shull

Ann Rustin

Sudderth's grandson, Henry

Sally Webb

Michael Craig

Doyle Yates

Paul Thorn

Paul Thorn's mom, Leila

Beth Shoemaker's sister, Dorinda

Shoemaker's son-in-law, Larry

Mike Shull's mom, Christine

Bonnie Lynch's mom, Jocelle

Elinor DeYoung

Brian and Nancy Leach

Sue Edmonds

Ethel Sherrill