

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.

*The kingdom of heaven is
like a mustard seed, which
a man took and planted in
his field.*

Matthew 13:31



July 26, 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, August 2

Salkehatchie Sunday

Hear a recap from our
Salkehatchie volunteers and
take part in a panel-style Q&A.



Combined Worship

10:00am in the Sanctuary

A thoughtful blend of both the
Branch and Traditional Worship.



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!



Back-to-School Bash

August 9 | 5-7pm

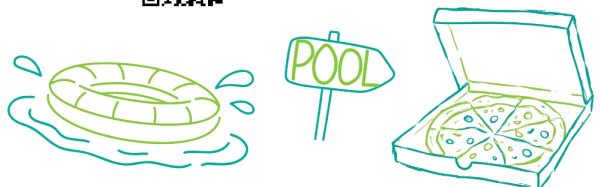
YMCA Pool + Fellowship Hall

Calling all families (parents + youth + kids)...
you're invited to round out Promotion Sunday
at our **Back-to-School Bash on August 9!**

Come enjoy a fun evening together featuring a
pool party at the YMCA splash pad (5-6pm)
followed by a pizza party in the Fellowship Hall
(6-7pm). Let's start the school year off right!



RSVP by August 7!



Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 9

Blessing of the Backpacks +
3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Opening Songs

Washed

(Chorus)

I've been washed in the water,
washed in the blood
I'm as good as new, oh hallelujah
I've been washed in the water,
washed in the blood
All because of You, oh hallelujah

And I'm clean
Sin was stained on me
And shame was running deep
Your love was spilled on Calvary
Oh hallelujah, I'm clean
And God, how can it be?
I'm ransomed and redeemed
I'm standing in Your victory, Oh hallelujah

(Repeat Chorus)

I'm clean
It's not what I have done
But what You've done for me
You paid it all upon that tree
Oh hallelujah, I'm clean
Your love has overcome
And Your mercy is supreme
I'm dancing in Your victory, Oh hallelujah

(Repeat Chorus x2)

'Cause You took away my shame
And You nailed it to the cross
You got me running out the grave
Oh hallelujah, here I come
'Cause You took away my shame
And You nailed it to the cross
You got me running out the grave
Hallelujah, here I come
Oh, You took away my shame
And You nailed it to a rugged cross
Got me running out the grave
Oh hallelujah, here I come
(Repeat)

Thank You for the Cross

Two thieves, the perfect Lamb of God between
A broken-hearted mother at His feet
The pain of it all for me
The earth shakes
Darkness falls, the Father hides His face
His body hits the dust of a borrowed grave
You paid it all for me, for me

(Chorus)

I thank You, thank You, thank You for the cross
I praise You, praise You, without it, I'd be lost
There's no love like Your love
A thousand songs are not enough
To say thank You, thank You for the cross

My victory, bursting from the grave, my risen
King
The sacrifice for love was Hell's defeat
You won it all for me

(Repeat Chorus)

For the Father, for the Son, for the power of
Your love
For the Spirit that's in us, for the blood that
overcomes
For Your life, for Your death, for the hope that's
still ahead
We sing thank You, thank You
(Repeat)

(Repeat Chorus)

I thank You, thank You, thank You for the cross
I praise You, praise You, without it, I'd be lost
There's no love like Your love
A thousand songs are not enough
There's no love like Your love
A thousand songs are not enough
There's no love like Your love
A thousand songs are not enough
To say thank You, thank You for the cross

Order of Worship

**Congregation stands, as able*

Prelude "Trumpet Voluntary in C" Gordon Young

Announcements

Mission Moment Bridgette Bagwell, VBS Missions

*Passing of the Peace

***Opening Songs** "Washed" & "Thank You for the Cross" Branch Band

Children's Moment

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

Special Music "You Raise Me Up" Brad Cline

*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 864-643-9968

*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	“Prayer”	Felix Guilmant
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***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	“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”	UMH 715
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Scripture Reading	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Bonnie Lynch
Liturgist: The word of God for the people of God.		
People: Thanks be to God.		

Sermon	“The Kingdom of Heaven”	Rev. Kurt McPherson
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*Closing Hymn	“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”	UMH 540
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***Benediction**

*Postlude	“Postlude in C”	Christian Rock
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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: Faithful Followers Class	Ushers: Jason Lynch, Doug Webb
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Scripture

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Matthew 13:31-33

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

³³ He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

"Yes," they replied.

⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."



Acolyte & Crucifer

Volunteers needed beginning August 9



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.



American
Red Cross



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
kmcpherson@stmatthewumc.net

Director of Children and Church Ministries

Bridgette Bagwell
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Director of Youth and Church Ministries

Jessica Young
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Music Ministry Leader

Amy King
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Organist

Charlie Jones
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Office Administrator

Leah Einhorn
officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net



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St. Matthew Happenings

Summer Sundays – through August 2

Walking Group – 10am Mondays

Summer Pickleball – 6:30-8pm Wednesdays (except July 29)

Vacation Bible School – July 27-31

Salkehatchie Sunday – August 2

Washington Center School Breakfast – August 4

Regular Sunday Schedule Resumes – August 9

Promotion Sunday – August 9

Back-to-School Bash – August 9

Youth Lake Day – August 16

Red Cross Blood Drive – August 19

Triune Fifth Saturday Lunch – August 29

Prayers & Praises

Anna Cobb's grandson, Crescent Shoemaker's son-in-law, Larry

Salkehatchie volunteers

Bonnie Lynch's mom, Jocelle

Betty Shull

Elinor DeYoung

Ann Rustin

Brian and Nancy Leach

Doyle Yates

Sue Edmonds

Paul Thorn

Ethel Sherrill

Paul Thorn's mom, Leila

Beth Shoemaker's sister, Dorinda