

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!

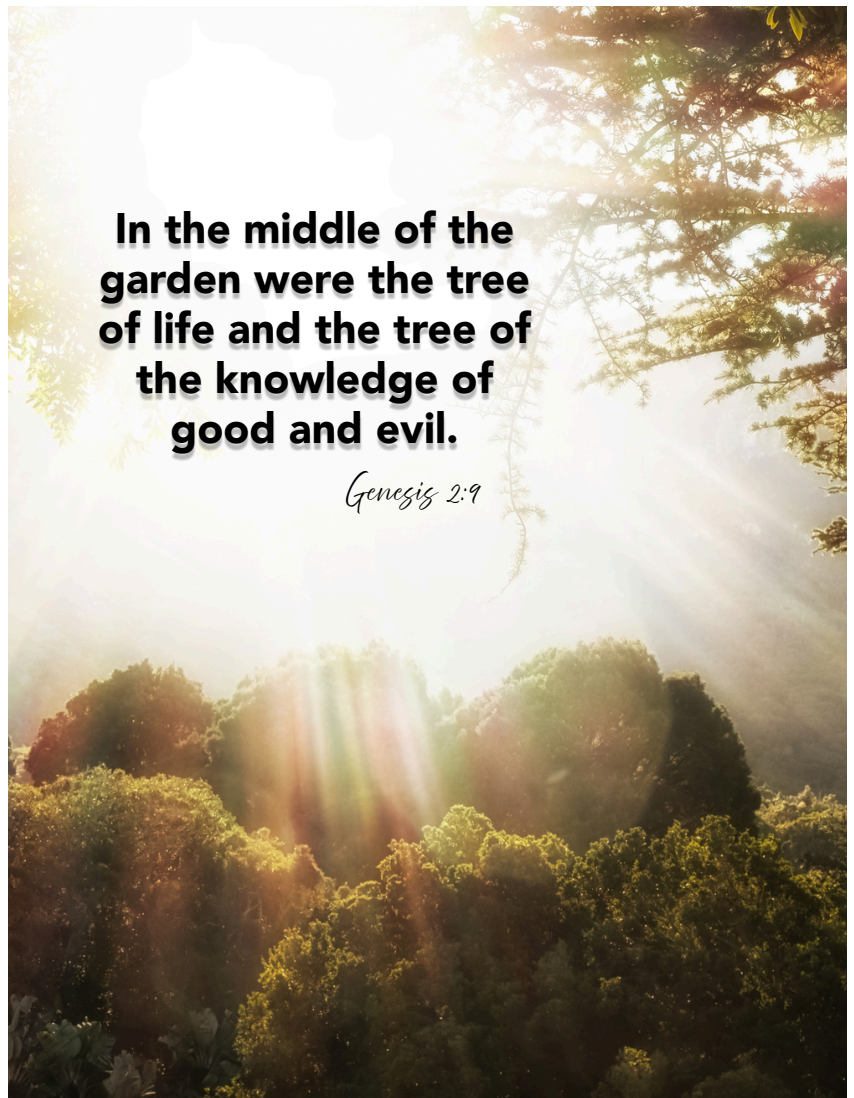
We are delighted that
you are worshipping with
us today, and we offer a
special welcome to our
guests.

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.



**In the middle of the
garden were the tree
of life and the tree of
the knowledge of
good and evil.**

Genesis 2:9

July 5, 2026



St. Matthew
United Methodist Church

Summer Sundays

May 24 – 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 12

Branch Band Concert (Sanctuary)

Energize your morning with contemporary worship music by our talented band.



Combined Worship

10:00am in the Sanctuary

A thoughtful blend of both the Branch and Traditional Worship.



support
salkehatchie

From July 11-18th, St. Matthew will have 18 youth and adults serving at Emerald City Salkehatchie in Greenwood, SC.

We would be grateful for baked goods and granola bars to help support them throughout their week of service.

Thank you for your support, and your prayers and encouragement as well!



Sign up to
donate treats!

DONATIONS FOR VBS

To help us shine a light on Jesus at VBS Illumination Station, we need your help!

Please save small to medium glass jars (such as jam, salsa, pickles, etc.) to be used for crafts – no lids required.

You can bring jars to the office or place them in the purple bin in the Narthex before or after combined worship.

THANK YOU!



Meanderers Lunch



July 16 | 11:30am
Coronitas Mexican Restaurant

Opening Songs

No Fear

I got enemies at every side
It ain't lookin' good, I ain't gonna lie
Arrows flyin', devil's tryin'
To make me think I'm goin' down this time
You might think that I'd be afraid
Runnin' scared with a shaken faith
But the God I know says it ain't over
The God I know is gonna make a way
Yea, though I walk through the valley
I will have

[Chorus]

No fear (No fear)
No fear (No fear)
The mighty power of Jesus is fighting for me here
No fear (No fear)
No fear (No fear)
The light of the world makes the darkness
disappear

No fear when I'm walkin' through the fire
'Cause I know who's walkin' me through
No fear when the flood waters rise
If I got my eyes on You

[Repeat Chorus]

No fear, not over my life, not over my life, not
over my life
No fear, not over my life, not over my life, not
over my life

Not over my family, Not over my future Not over
my life, God's over my life Not over my battles
Not over my struggles Not over my life, God's
over my life (no fear) Not over my family, Not over
my future Not over my life (no fear), God's over
my life (no fear) Not over my battles Not over my
struggles Not over my life (no fear) God's over my
life (no fear) Yeah, though I walk through the
valley, I will have

[Repeat Chorus]

Chainbreaker

If you've been walking the same old road
for miles and miles
If you've been hearing the same old voice
tell the same old lies
If you're trying to feel the same old holes
inside
There's a better life
There's a better life

[Chorus]

If you've got pain
He's a pain taker
If you feel lost
He's a way maker
If you need freedom or saving
He's a prison-shaking Savior
If you've got chains
He's a chain breaker

We've all search for the light of day in the
dead of night
We've all found ourselves worn out from
the same old fight
We've all run to things we know just ain't
right
And there's a better life
There's a better life

[Repeat Chorus]

If you believe it
If you receive it
If you can feel it
Somebody testify (*repeat*)

[Repeat Chorus]

Oh if you need freedom or saving
He's a prison shaking Savior
If you got chains well He's a chain
breaker.

Order of Worship

**Congregation stands, as able*

Prelude "Eternal Father Strong to Save" Carolyn Hamlin

Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

***Opening Songs** "No Fear" & "Chainbreaker" The 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 "Great is Thy Faithfulness" Robyn Campbell

***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 864-238-7273

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

"God Bless Our Native Land"

Wilbur Held

***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**

"God of the Ages"

UMH 698

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:8-9, 15-25; 3:1-7

Marc Murphy

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Two Trees...2 Paths!"

Rev. Edward McCutcheon

***Closing Hymn**

"Amazing Grace"

UMH 378

Holy Communion

UMH 12

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

"God of Our Fathers"

George Warren

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: Aldersgate Class

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

Scripture

Genesis 2:8-9, 15-25; 3:1-7

Genesis 2:8-9

⁸ Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15-25

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

¹⁸ The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

¹⁹ Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam^[a] no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs^[b] and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib^[c] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 3:1-7

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.



mission opportunity

Help us provide lunch for 50 youth and staff at Greenville Juvenile Detention Center (GJDC) on Friday, July 17 from 10:30am-12:30pm.

Food will need to be delivered to Betsy Boaze by 9:30am or to GJDC at 10:30am on July 17. Anything not needing refrigeration can be brought to the church office by 3:30pm on July 16.



Sign up to help serve or donate food!



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



Summer Pickleball

Wednesdays @ 6:30-8pm

June 3 – August 12



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!

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

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Organist

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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

Salkehatchie Summer Service – June & July

Office Closed – July 6 (*in observance of July 4th*)

Meanderers Lunch – July 16

GJDC Lunch – July 17

Vacation Bible School – July 27-31

Washington Center Breakfast – August 4

Promotion Sunday – August 9

Red Cross Blood Drive – August 19

Prayers & Praises

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

Maya Powers' mom, Leya

Elinor DeYoung

Brian and Nancy Leach

Sue Edmonds

Ethel Sherrill