

ST. MATTHEW'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOP 3 Sunday, October 18th

1Upcoming Children & Youth Events

There's lots of fall fun ahead at St. Matthew's! **Children** are invited to join us for trick-or-treating at a local nursing home on Saturday, October 24th, at 3 PM. Meet at the church to ride the vans together. **Youth** can look forward to pumpkin carving and s'mores on Wednesday, October 28th! For more information, contact Laura at laura@stm-umc.org (Children) or Mary Beth at marybeth@stm-umc.org (Youth).

2Fall Fest

Fall Fest is almost here! Join us Sunday, October 25th, from 4–6 PM on the Front Lawn for one of our favorite St. Matthew's fall traditions. Bring the whole family and invite your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of fall fun, laughter, and community. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

3Committment Sunday: October 25th

As we look ahead to 2027, your generosity will help St. Matthew's build on the strength of 2026 and move into an exciting new year of ministry. Pledge cards will be available both in person and online. No matter the amount, every pledge helps us better anticipate our income and plan for the year ahead. Please prayerfully consider submitting a pledge as we continue serving and growing together!

In other news...

Pillowcase Pals

Pillowcase Pals will meet at their regular time this Tuesday at 1 PM. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

WAGS

Happening TODAY!
3pm @ The Blake

Now Hiring: Office Administrator

St. Matthew's UMC is seeking a full-time Office Administrator. For more information and the full job description, visit stm-umc.org/employment or email your resume to jobs@stm-umc.org.

All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday, November 1, we will observe All Saints' Sunday as we remember those in our congregation who died during this past year. There will also be a Memorial Book available on a podium outside the Sanctuary. This listing is for you to add names of other family and friends who died since November of 2025.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at noon in the South Property Youth Lounge. Join us for a time of studying God's Word, encouraging one another, and growing together in faith. For more information, reach out to Laura or Mary Beth.

This Week...

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

10:00 am Adult Art Class
10:00 am Flower Ministry
2:00 pm Senior Game Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

1:00 pm Pillowcase Pals
2:00 pm Ageless Aerobics
6:00 pm Pickleball

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:00 am Older Adult Breakfast
5:00 pm WNL Dinner
6:00 pm WNL Activities
7:15pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:30 am Card Care Ministry
12:00 pm Women's Bible Study
2:00 pm Ageless Aerobics

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

3:00 pm **Kids:** Trick or Treating

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Traditional Service
10:30 am Intersection Service
2:00 pm Cub Scouts
4:00 – 6:00 pm Fall Fest

WNL Menu: Oct. 21st

Main Line: Catfish, Slaw, Jambalya, & Hushpuppies
Salad Entree: Fried Chicken Salad
(both of these come with side salad, dessert, & drink)
Kids Line: Chicken Nuggets, Pizza, French Fries, Dessert, & Drink

Join us for dinner at 5 pm & activities at 6 pm!

The Staff of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Ricky James	Senior Pastor, ricky@stm-umc.org
Rev. Brian Johnston	Associate Pastor, brian@stm-umc.org
Rev. Mary Beth Davis-Ashley	Youth Pastor, marybeth@stm-umc.org
Rev. Steve Casteel	Pastor Emeritus, brosteve13@gmail.com
Mr. Tim Rigby	Minister of Music, timrigby@stm-umc.org
Ms. Laura Rivera	Children's Minister, laura@stm-umc.org
Ms. Kaye Herring	Congregational Care, kayeherring@stm-umc.org
Ms. Cindy Casteel	Weekday Director, cindycasteel@stm-umc.org
Ms. Kim May	Financial Administrator, kimmay@stm-umc.org
Mr. Frank Laney	Organist
Ms. Allen Hart	Pianist
Ms. Ginger Trochesset	Intersection Worship Leader
Ms. Dot Bell	Kitchen/Nursery Coordinator
Mr. Michael Bouldin	Building Superintendent

Our Presence & Gifts

ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER 11

Traditional Service: 140
Intersection Service: 67
Online: 111
Total: 318

Sunday School: 95

MEMORIALS

In memory of Kathy Helstrom
from Martha Roach



Check-in with us!



Latest Newsletter



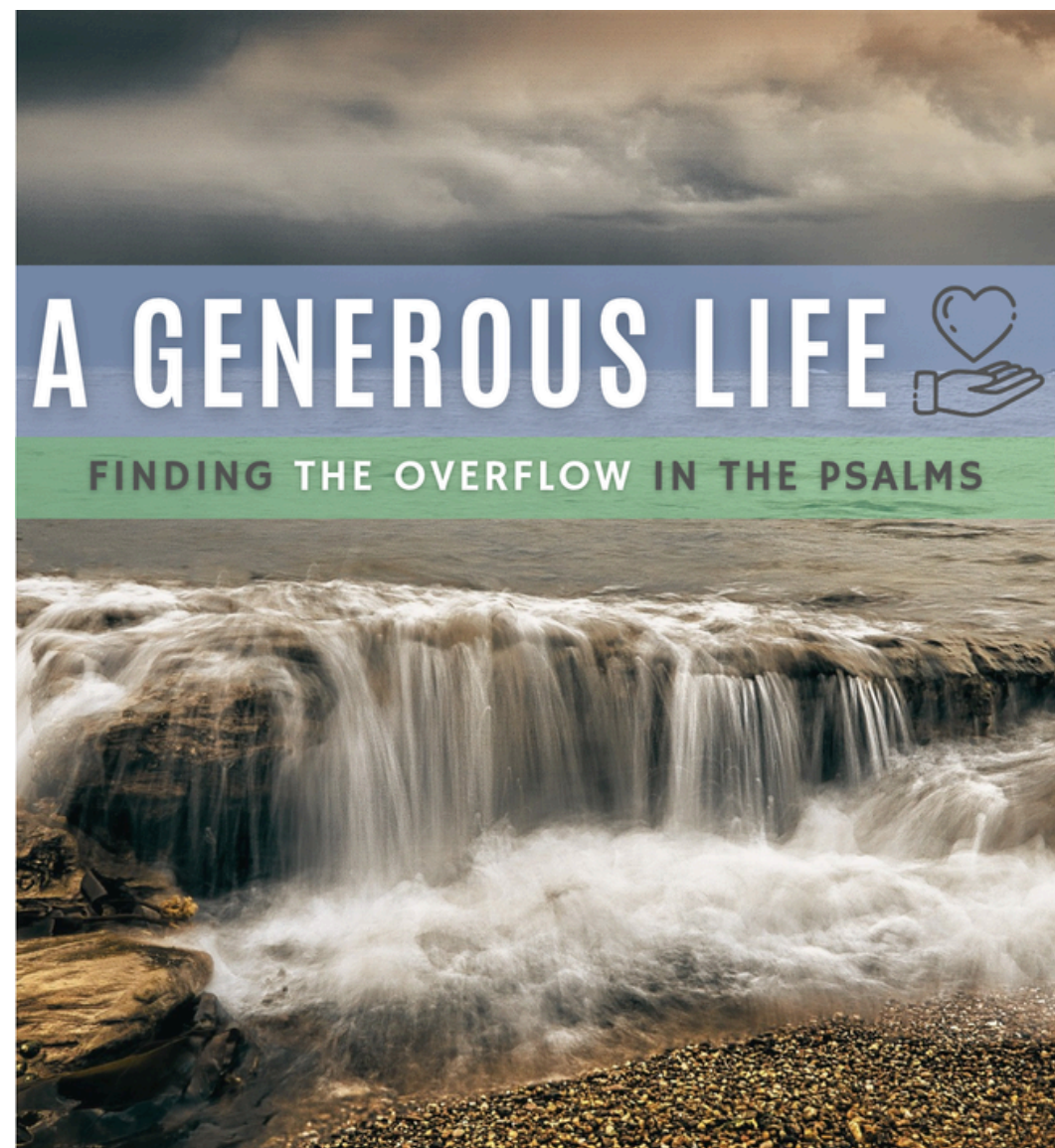
Order here!

ST. MATTHEW'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 18, 2026

10:30 A.M.



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

7427 Old Canton Road Madison, MS 39110

www.stm-umc.org | 601-856-9581

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday | 9 am to 5 pm
Friday | 9 am to 1 pm

The Order of Worship

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Sabbath

Prelude Frank Laney, Organist

*Call to Worship Younger Elementary Choir
"Ah, Lord God" and "Bless the Name of Jesus"

*Cross and Light of the World
Acolytes: Cannon Hunt & Isaac Byrd Cross Bearer: Kim Horn

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace Clara Davis

*Hymn of Praise "Thy Word" #601

*Affirmation of Faith #883
Heidi Howard, Lay Reader

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope. In life, in death,
in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Gloria Patri	"Glory Be to the Father"	#70
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***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.***

Special Music	Elementary Choirs
<i>Younger Choir – “1,2,3, Jesus Loves Me” & “How Did Moses Cross the Red Sea”</i>	
<i>Older Choir – “Seek Ye First” and “Come Be the Light”</i>	

Call to Prayer *"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"* #349

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Brian Johnston

The Lord's Prayer
***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.***

Choral Response Sanctuary Choir

"Amen"—Moore

Children of all ages are invited to come to the front for a special message for them. As they make their way forward, join in singing "Jesus Loves Me."

Children's Moment Eliza Howard & Evie Jane Johnston

Hymn *"All Creatures of Our God and King"* (vv. 1, 3, & 7) #62

Scripture Reading

Cassidy Davis Lay Reader

The Word of God for the People of God!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 96:1-6

The Sermon *"Generous Praise"* Rev. Brian Johnston

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Offertory Anthem *"Know My Heart" - Harlan* Sanctuary Choir

***Doxology** #95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Offertory Prayer Maggie Arthur

Invitation to Christian Community Rev. Brian Johnston
*During the hymn, those wishing to join St. Matthew's as members, or
professing your faith for the first time, are invited to come forward.*

*Hymn	<i>"To God Be the Glory"</i> Norman Bond	#98
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*Benediction Nora Gibbs

*Cross and Light of the World

*Choral Response Sanctuary Choir
"Benediction"—Barker

*Postlude Frank Laney, Organist

*The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Peggy Phillips by Margaret Snider.*

St. Matthew's Joys and Prayer Concerns

October Prayer Focus – Pastor Appreciation Month

Heavenly Father,

We come before you today with hearts full of gratitude for the pastors You have placed in our lives. Thank You for their willingness to answer your call, and for the deep love and dedication they bring to our community every day. Thank you, Lord, for their leadership, their wisdom, and the timeless energy they pour into ministering to our church family. We are grateful for the countless hours they spend preparing messages, praying for us, and guiding us closer to You. Renew their strength and when they are weary, give them supernatural rest. Remind them that their labor in You is never in vain. Grant them wisdom. Equip them with clarity and discernment as they lead our congregation and make difficult decisions. Keep a guard around their families, protecting their health, their relationships and their personal time of peace. Fill them with joy. May they feel deeply appreciated by the people they serve. Lord, help us to be a source of encouragement to them. Teach us to support them, pray for them, and lift them up just as they lift us up. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Prayer requests remain on the prayer list for three weeks unless otherwise specified. To submit a request, contact prayer@stm-umc.org or call (601)826-2886. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself, we respectfully request that you obtain their permission before placing them on the prayer list.

Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones:
The family of Alyce Palmore, who passed away on October 10, 2026.
Rev. Steve and Cindy Casteel, in the loss of their sister-in-law, **Beverly Casteel**.
Wade Helstrom, in the loss of his wife **Kathy**. A beloved member of St. Matthew's church family, **Kathy** created and led our Pillowcase Pals ministry for many years.
Madona Syxiengmay, (sister of **Debbie Well's** daughter-in-law), passed away from a stroke. Pray that her family and friends find peace and comfort.

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Mary Beth Davis Ashley—Pray for her medical team to find answers that will bring good health and strength.

Betty Baker—Pray her medical team finds the best resolution to steady her heart and bring her blood pressure into a healthy balance to stop issues with dizziness.

Lois Bankester—Continued prayers for relief from pain as she works through PT & a full return to good health.

Denise Carracci—Prayers for relief from pain and strength to make difficult decisions for treatment.

Betty Guess—Prayers for strength as she and her family have difficult treatment decisions ahead.

Susan Ingram—Pray for strength and comfort as she navigates difficult decisions regarding treatment.

Ann Koskie—Pray for comfort and give her peace as she recovers in The Madison.

Frank Laney—Pray for strength and comfort as Frank navigates a difficult medical diagnosis and the treatments back to good health..

Pam Smith—Pray for guidance as her medical team determines the best treatment (10/22).

Andy Traylor—Prayers for Andy that the medical treatments have minimal side effects and strength as he navigates back to good health and pray for strength and comfort for Marcia.

Prayers For Extended Family:

Heather Bailey (Denise Caracci) Pray for strength and comfort as she fights cancer.

Melba Bice (Jennifer Williams' mom) Prayers for Melba as she settles into the Madison.

Charlotte Boydston (Sandra Rasberry's sister) Priase as she recovers at home.

Eddie Harrison (Pam Smither's dad) Please pray for Eddie as he faces serious health concerns.

Briana Lee (Coworker and friend of Rebecca Perry) Pregnant with her second child, pray for Briana's and the baby's good health.

Colby McCormick (Grandson of Margaret Snider's friend) Pray for healing comfort from serious injuries suffered in a car wreck.

Brent and Donna Melton (Mary Dara Melton's parents) Pray for them to have peace and be relieved of grief from a family loss.

Fred Roundtree (Custodian & Friend to St. Matthew's) Prayers for healing after surgery.

Ryan Tucker (Mary Alice Lee's granddaughter's husband) Pray for comfort as he recovers from surgery at UMMC.

Continued Prayers for These Loved Ones:

Rhett Aiken	Frances Williams	Jane Goudelock
Beth Boone	Tommy Bryant	Heather Haik
Barbara Calcote	Joanne Jones	Suzanna McMahan
Ian Michelletti	Andy Neal	Jimmy Young
Jamie Perry	Owen Temple	Brenda Pollard
Billy Smith	John "Butch" Phelps	Bill Goudelock
Justin Halliwell	Bill and Vera Pierce	Red Pleasant
Janie Pleasant	Mary Margaret Upchurch	Margaret Thompson

Prayers for Protection for Our Men and Women Serving in the Armed Forces

Joel Coker, Air Force	Caroline Grace Smith, US Army Reserve
Collin Packer, Air Force	Clayton Gressett, ANG
Alan Swan, ANG	Eric Lee, ANG
Col. Stan Martin, MS ANG	Brett Roberts, ANG
Tanner Weissinger, MS ANG	Lt. Ricky James, US Navy
Jake Currie, US Army	Maj. Brett Grantham, US Army Reserve