

ST. MATTHEW'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOP 3 Sunday, October 25th

1Fall Fest

Fall Fest is happening this afternoon! Join us today 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 see you there!

2Youth: Pumpkin Carving

Youth Pumpkin Carving is this Wednesday, October 28, at 6 PM! Join us for a fun evening of fall festivities and fellowship. Contact Mary Beth for more information. We hope to see you there!

3All Saints' Sunday

Next Sunday, November 1st, we will observe All Saints' Sunday as we remember those in our congregation who have died over the past year. A Memorial Book will also be available on a podium outside the Sanctuary for you to add the names of family members and friends who have died since November 2025. We invite you to join us as we remember and honor those we have lost.

In other news...

TODAY! Commitment Sunday

Today is Commitment Sunday! As we look ahead to 2027, your generosity will help St. Matthew's build on the strength of this year and continue growing in ministry. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge for the coming year. Pledge cards are available in person, or you can **scan the QR code** to submit your pledge online. Every pledge, no matter the amount, helps us plan faithfully for the year ahead. Thank you for being part of what God is doing at St. Matthew's!

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and it's time for our annual MadCAAP stuffing collection! MadCAAP is experiencing a food shortage in its pantry and has asked us to collect 15-ounce cans of ravioli in addition to individual boxes of Stove Top stuffing. Please bring your donations over the next three weeks, with all items due by November 15. Thank you for helping our neighbors this Thanksgiving! Questions? Contact Melissa Ragazzi at [601-540-7336](tel:601-540-7336).

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.

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 26

10:00 am Adult Art Class
10:00 am Flower Ministry

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

2:00 pm Ageless Aerobics
6:00 pm Pickleball

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

9:00 am Older Adult Breakfast
5:00 pm WNL Dinner
6:00 pm WNL Activities
(Youth Pumpkin Carving)
7:15pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

5:30 pm Older Adults: Ladies Night Out

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

All Saints' Sunday
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Traditional Service
10:30 am Intersection Service

WNL Menu: Oct. 28th

Main Line: Chicken pasta, broccoli, & garlic bread
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!



Order here!

Our Presence & Gifts

ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER 18

Traditional Service: 225
Intersection Service: 80
Online: 141
Total: 446

Sunday School: 102



Check-in with us!



Latest Newsletter

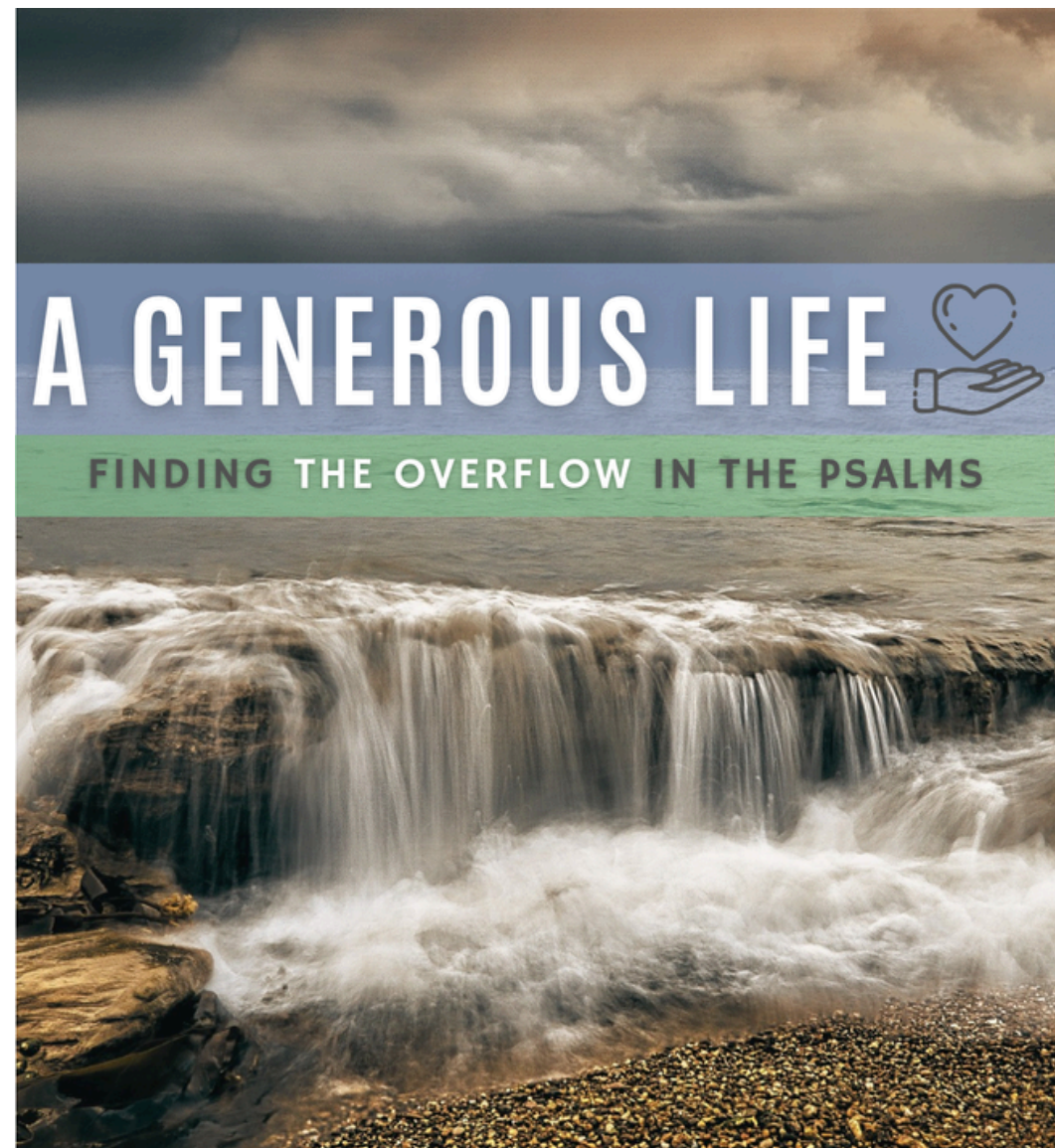
The Staff of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

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



October 25, 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-second Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude Frank Laney, Organist

*Call to Worship “We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise” – Mauldin

*Cross and Light of the World

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

*Hymn of Praise “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #57

*Affirmation of Faith #883

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

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.

Call to Prayer #175 “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” (vv. 1 & 4)

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Mary Beth Davis Ashley

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 “Into My Heart”—Clark

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Offertory Anthem Frank Laney, Organist

*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 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 Laura Rivera

Hymn “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” #430

Scripture Reading Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 Ben Harper, Lay Reader The Word of God for the People of God! Thanks be to God!

Anthem “Train for Jubilee” – Martin Pianists: Allen Hart and Sarah Shaw

The Sermon “Generous Work” Rev. Dr. Ricky James

Invitation to Christian Community

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 “Jesus Calls Us” #398

*Benediction Rev. Dr. Ricky James

*Cross and Light of the World

*Choral Response Sanctuary Choir “Until We Meet Again ”—Schram

*Postlude Frank Laney, Organist The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our pastors – Rev. Dr. Ricky James, Rev. Brian Johnston, and Rev. Mary Beth Davis Ashley.

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. 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.

For Hospitalization or Rehabilitation: The Madison – Ann Koskie; Melba Bice; Kay Deville St. Dominics – Vera Pierce

Prayers for Our Church Family: Mary Beth Davis Ashley–Pray for the Mayo medical team to find answers. Betty Baker–Pray her medical team finds the best resolution for health issues. Lois Bankester–Continued prayers for relief from pain. Denise Caracci–Prayers for relief from pain and strength for upcoming surgery, 11/18. Martha Currie–Prayers for Martha’s recovery. Betty Guess–Prayers for strength as she faces treatment decisions. Susan Ingram–Pray for strength and comfort regarding treatment. Frank Laney– Pray for strength and comfort as he navigates treatments. Pam Smith–Prayer for effective cancer treatments. Andy Traylor– Prayers for treatments; pray for strength for Marcia.

Prayers For Extended Family: Heather Bailey (Denise Caracci) Pray for strength and comfort as she fights cancer. Eddie Harrison (Pam Smither’s dad) Please pray for Eddie as he faces serious health concerns. Fred Roundtree (Custodian & Friend to St. Matthew’s) Prayers for comfort and fast healing. Ryan Tucker (Mary Alice Lee’s granddaughter’s husband) Pray for strength during recovery

Continued Prayers for These Loved Ones: Beth Boone Brianna Lee Janie Pleasant Charlotte Boydston Colby McCormick Red Pleasant Tommy Bryant Suzanna McMahan Billy Smith Barbara Calcote Ian Michelletti Owen Temple Bill Goudelock Andy Neal Margaret Thompson Jane Goudelock Jamie Perry Mary Margaret Upchurch Heather Haik John “Butch” Phelps Frances Williams Justin Halliwell Bill Pierce Jimmy Young

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