

ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
extends a warm welcome in the name of Jesus Christ to all those who worship with us today. If you are a guest this morning, we are grateful for the opportunity to worship with you and hope you will return often. If you would like information about the ministries of St. Matthews, please speak to a pastor or to a Hospitality Team member.

CONGRATULATIONS — The beautiful flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Forest Bower on the occasion of his 104th birthday on Monday, November 21.

KICK-START THE DAY — Join us every Wednesday morning at 8:30 on the Browns Lane campus to begin your day with a time of fellowship and prayer. Room 218 in the Upper Colonnade. Coffee provided (and, often, donuts!).

59TH HANGING OF THE GREENS — Plan now to attend this popular family event this evening at 6:00PM in the church sanctuary. The pageant marks the beginning of Advent and the Christmas season and is followed by a holiday reception in Gordon Hall. Everyone is invited.

UNWRAPPING ADVENT, A FAMILY FUN EVENT — December 3 at 2:00 PM, join us for a fun, worshipful time for children where we will celebrate the gifts of Advent and the coming of Christ. We will have make-and-take crafts, prayer and reflection time, a special Christmas movie, and a special mission project for our neighbors.
At 4:30, we will celebrate with the Children's choir as they sing for families and friends and we'll enjoy some food together as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas.

PROJECT ANGEL TREE — We are excited to once again support Angel Tree ministries for our community partners at Waggener High School. This year our goal is to help 12-15 students needing holiday assistance with \$50 gifts cards to Target, Amazon and Walmart. Cards can be dropped off at the church office by 10am on December 5.

FOOTIES & HOODIES — You can add some real warmth to the holiday season for youngsters in need at Kennedy Elementary School with a **new** hoodie sweatshirt and some nice, warm socks. Youth sizes small-XL hoodies and youth small-large socks can be placed in a specially labeled box in the Upper Colonnade or dropped by the church office.

LEGAL CLINIC — We are hosting a Free Legal Clinic on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at the River City Campus from noon to 5:00 pm. People will be able to get a basic will, living wills, and healthcare directives. Appointments are not required, but those interested are encouraged to make them. To make an appointment email info@saintmatthewsumc.org or call the church office at 502-897-6449.

ST. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
www.stmatthewsmethodist.com

Our MISSION is to strengthen Christian faith and service through our ministries, worship, and programs, calling all people to seek God, share the Gospel, and serve their neighbors.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Greeters (8:30).....Debbie Gilpin, Ralph Snowberger
Greeters (11:00).....Diane Koprowski, Nora Dunn
Liturgists (8:30)..... Brenda & Max Froelich
Liturgists (11:00)..... Amber Jenkins, Ellen Jenkins
Collection Steward (8:30).....Cordell Lawrence
Collection Steward (11:00).....Kathy Nugent


CHURCH STAFF

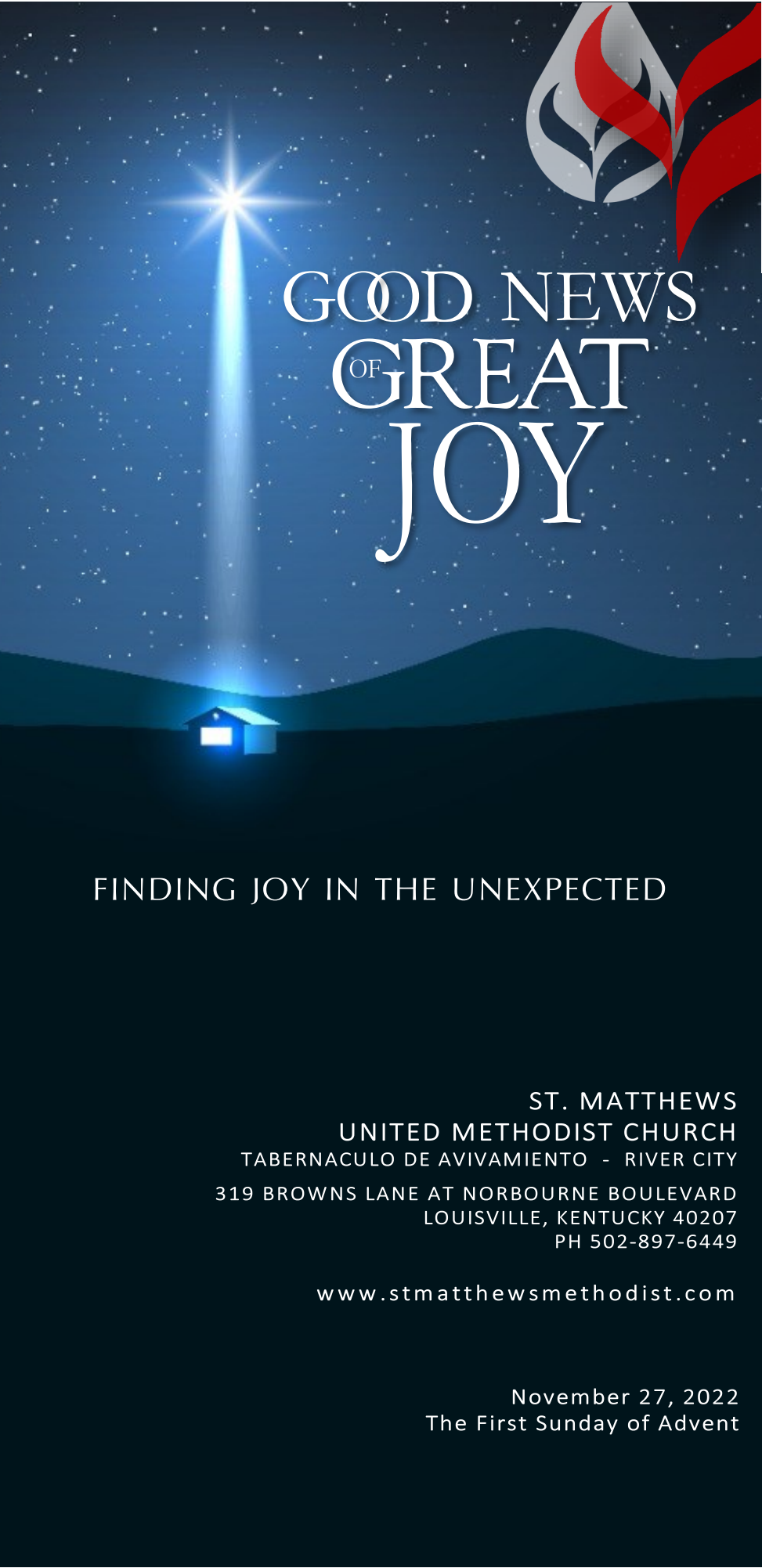
Rev. Adam Sparks Senior Pastor
Rev. Renee Jennings Associate Pastor
Rev. Maikel Rojas Associate Pastor
Kate Shafferman Care Coordinator
Harrison Zoercher Director of Discipleship & Missions; Organist
Shannon Seidt Director of Children's Ministries
Noel Weaver..... Director of Music Ministries
Miriam Rodriguez..... Music Associate, Canvas
Raiko Ruz..... Music Associate, TDA
Aaron Weaver Music Associate, Youth Choir
Mark Benz Music Associate, Children's Choirs
Amber Jenkins..... St. Matthews Campus Youth Minister
Sandy Hottell..... Administrator/Financial Secretary
Allyson McCormick Nursery Coordinator
Frank Krause.....Sexton

IN OUR PRAYERS

Russell Browder	Judy Leonard	Senior/Assisted Living,
April Bunn	Jamie Mercer	or Rehab
John Bunn	Erin Murphy	Forest Bower
Ray Cashen	Tabby Nuckols	Debbie Brown
The Cox Family	Elizabeth Putnam	Sara Fredenberger
Pam Cox	Nilah Putnam	Harold Freeman
Ronnie Dolen	Bob Royer	Linda Garrett
Shelley Ernst	Kelly Seiler	Barbara Harding
Jerry Fielden	Tom Schoeberl	Grace Hunt
Mark Foster	John Sheesley	Geneva Madden
Theresa Fox	Bill Sherman	Charlotte Mosley
Chad Graham	Jim Simpson	Liz Swindler
Davis Gray	Scott Simpson	Barbara Tracy
Corky Hall	Orson Smith III	
Barbara Head	Kim Strong	
Jamie James	Don Wagaman	
Mary Lea Kirven	Bill Wild	
David Lee		

You may make a prayer request by phoning the church office, by email at prayers@saintmatthewsumc.org, or on the church website: www.stmatthewsmethodist.com. Please note that prayer requests normally remain on the prayer list for a period of three (3) weeks.

 Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/St.MatthewsUMCLouisville/>





PRELUDE	<i>Nun komm’ der Heiden Heiland</i> Savior of the nations come.	J.S. Bach
† ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING	...We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God’s people for the promise to be fulfilled, and together we say...	
	Come, Lord Jesus, come.	
† HYMN 400	<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	NETTLETON
† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	<i>The Apostles’ Creed</i> 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.	
† GLORIA PATRI 70	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i> 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	MEINEKE
(11:00) RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER	<i>Page 38, United Methodist Hymnal</i>	
PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.	

(11:00) CHILDREN’S
MOMENT

OFFERTORY
Emily Redden, soprano

† DOXOLOGY
94

PRAYER OF
THANKSGIVING

† HYMN
206

† GOSPEL
LESSON

**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.**

Gabriel’s Message

BASQUE TRADITIONAL

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

Luke 1:5-25 (NIV)

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back

many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

¹⁹The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON
Rev. Adam Sparks

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY:
FINDING JOY IN THE UNEXPECTED

† HYMN
196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

† BENEDICTION

† CLOSING
VOLUNTARY

† As you are able, please stand.

- Thank you for remembering to silence your cell phone as you entered the sanctuary.
- A nursery is available for infants, toddlers and 2-year-olds during the worship service. Please see a greeter for directions.

GROW - PRAY - STUDY

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY:
FINDING JOY IN THE UNEXPECTED
Luke 1:5-25

As you enter this Advent season, are you...

- 1. Going through the motions OR _____ to experience God?
- 2. Unwilling to listen and believe OR _____ God’s gifts with joy?
- 3. Living life on mute OR _____ God’s gifts with joy?

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday:	Luke 1:5-25
Monday:	Ezekiel 3:16-27
Tuesday:	Romans 12: 12-21
Wednesday:	Philippians 4:4-9
Thursday:	1 Thessalonians 5:12-24
Friday:	1 Peter 2:9-10
Saturday:	Psalms 25:26-28, 47:1-9

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEWS

Sunday, November 27

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary.....	8:30A
Youth Bake Sale, Upper Colonnade	9:30A
Sunday School (All Ages)	10:00A
Canvas Worship, Gordon Hall.....	10:00A
River City Worship (4611 Lowe Rd).....	10:45A
Traditional Worship, Sanctuary.....	11:00A
Tabernaculo de Avivamiento, Gordon Hall	12:30P
AA Group, River City	2:30P
Girl Scouts, River City Campus	3:00P
Youth Choir, Music Suite.....	4:30P
Hanging of the Greens & Reception, Sanctuary/Gordon Hall.....	6:00P

Monday, November 28

Morning Ringers, Music Suite.....	10:00A
Quilted Memories, 204	11:30A
Kling Chamber Orchestra, Gordon Hall	11:30A
AA Group, River City	6:30P
Alanon, River City	6:30P
Dartball, Gordon Hall.....	6:30P

Tuesday, November 29

Bible Study Fellowship, Browns Lane.....	6:30P
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Wednesday, November 30

Morning Prayers, 218	8:30A
St. Matthews Ringers, Music Suite.....	4:30P
20-Somethings Community Group, River City.....	6:00P
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite.....	6:30P

Thursday, December 1

St. Matthews Chamber of Commerce, 204	8:00A
Circle of Friends Quilt Guild, 204	10:00A
Diabetes Support Group, 218	6:15p

Friday, December 2

River City Men’s Group, Heine Bros Hikes Pt.....	7:30A
TDA Praise Team, Gordon Hall	6:00P

Saturday, December 3

Unwrapping Advent, Famil Event, Children’s Area.....	2:00P
Maikel Rojas Family Event, Gordon Hall	4:00P

Sunday, December 4

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary.....	8:30A
Sunday School (All Ages)	10:00A
River City Worship (4611 Lowe Rd).....	10:45A
Traditional Worship, Sanctuary.....	11:00A
Tabernaculo de Avivamiento, Gordon Hall	12:30P
Trocan Studio Piano Recital, Sanctuary.....	2:00P
AA Group, River City	2:30P
Girl Scouts, River City Campus	3:00P
Youth Choir, Music Suite.....	4:30P
Youth Group and Tweens, Browns Lane Campus.....	5:00P