



September 20, 2026 Worship • 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
St. MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRELUDE	Prelude on ST. PETER	Healey Willan			
† CALL TO WORSHIP	Creator God, you call us to hospitality; to give as generously to others as you have given to us. For there are angels among us. Loving God, you call us to give you glory in the compassion we show to one another. To love without judgment, of ourselves or of others. We gather as one Body, seeking to walk in the way you have set for us. We gather as one Body, to worship the one who is Love				
† HYMN 127	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	CWM RHONDDA			
† 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			
			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. 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.	
			(11:00) CHILDREN’S MOMENT		
			OFFERTORY Mary Britton, handbells	<i>Hymn Medley</i>	arr. Christine D. Anderson
			† DOXOLOGY 94	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	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!	
			† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING		
			† HYMN 144	<i>This Is My Father’s World</i>	TERRA BEATTA
			† SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Philippians 1:21-30 (NIV)</i> ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.	
					SERMON Rev. Adam Sparks
					† HYMN 548
					† BENEDICTION
					† CLOSING VOLUNTARY
					<i>God of Grace</i>
					† As you are able, please stand.
					BETTER TOGETHER: STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE
					<i>In Christ There Is No East or West</i>
					ST. PETER
					Paul Manz

²⁷Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

BETTER TOGETHER: STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE

In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER

Paul Manz

† As you are able, please stand.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! — Our weekly evening of food, fellowship, and small group opportunities begins with dinner at 5:00 p.m. Dinner prices are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children, with a family maximum of \$25. We’re looking forward to seeing you there!

FALLING UPWARD — Our Wednesday Night Live! small group **meets after dinner at 6:15** and is based on the book of the same name by Richard Rohr. Led by Pastor Adam, this group will discuss a developing and mature faith that deals with even messy, difficult, and unexpected parts of life. What if the second half of life is not just about getting older, but about experiencing a new richness in our relationship with God? Participants are responsible for purchasing their own book, which is available in print, digital, and audiobook formats. Please email asparks@stmumc.org to RSVP.

- September 23: The Two Halves of Life (Chapters 1-3)
- October 7: When Life Gets Hard (Chapters 4-6)
- October 14: Everything Belongs (Chapters 7-9)
- October 21: Sadness and Shadows (Chapters 10-11)
- October 28: New Possibilities (Chapters 12-13)

WHATEVER WORKS WEDNESDAYS — The St. Matthews UMC Youth are excited to kick off Whatever Works Wednesdays! Any and all youth are welcome to come eat dinner, hang out in the youth suite, and do whatever they need to do!

Need to do homework? Got it! Want Pastor Judy to beat you in Air Hockey? Done Deal! Need a nap instead? That works too!

We will also have theme nights from time to time, with tournaments, messy games, or build-your-own ice cream sundaes! Keep an eye out for future announcements!

Want to know more about our youth program? Interested in volunteering? Contact Pastor Judy at jsaunders@stmumc.org.

IT’S A FESTIVAL! — Join us Sunday, October 11, at 3:00 p.m. for a community Fall Festival. There will be food, crafts, games, inflatables, live music, and fun for the whole family! If you would like to volunteer for one of the booths or tables we will be hosting as a part of the event, please see the sign-up sheet on the welcome desk in the upper colonnade. Mark your calendars and invite someone to join you!

YOGA: STRETCH, SMILE & FEEL GOOD — Join us Tuesdays and/or Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. for a welcoming, low-impact class that’s all about feeling your best! We’ll work on flexibility, balance, strength, and overall well-being in a relaxed, friendly setting. No experience necessary—just come as you are!

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)-----Carolyn Childress, Frank Grubbs
Greeters (11:00)-----Diane Koprowski
Liturgist (8:30)-----Judy Noel Saunders
Liturgist (11:00)-----Rev. Beverly Maguffee
Collection Steward (8:30)-----Rick Bean
Collection Steward (11:00)-----Alan Wild

CHURCH STAFF

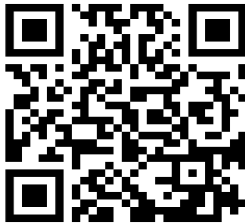
Rev. Adam Sparks-----Senior Pastor
Judy Noel Saunders-----Associate Pastor
Yoel Escriba-----Associate Pastor
Harrison Zoercher-----Director of Discipleship & Missions; Organist
Shannon Seidt-----Director of Children’s Ministries
Aaron Weaver-----Director of Music Ministries
Sandy Hottell-----Administrator/Financial Secretary
Allyson McCormick-----Nursery Coordinator

IN OUR PRAYERS

Charlie Boyette	Jim Meador	Senior/Assisted Living,
Jeff Buechlein	Stephanie Miller	or Rehab
Gary Chapman	Jane Mills	Kathie & Cody Staples
The Cox Family	John Sheesley	Bill Stratton
Pam Cox	Ralph Snowberger	Hans Young
Corky Hall	Bill Wild	
Suzanne Hartman	Alice Williams	
Kristie Jones		

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 one month.

☞ Thank you for remembering to silence your cell phone as you entered the sanctuary. ☛



Scan to give

STRIVING SIDE by SIDE

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www.stmatthewsmethodist.com

09|20|2026
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GROW - PRAY - STUDY

BETTER TOGETHER: STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE
Philippians 1:21-30

We live for...

1. A different _____.
2. A different _____.
3. A different kind of _____.

For Reflection and Prayer

The *Asbury Bible Commentary* notes, the Apostle Paul “knows how the nature of the Christian calling gets its model from the incarnate Lord himself...The life of the church is thus cruciform since it derives from him who exemplified the ‘dying to live’ pattern.” How is God inviting you to follow Jesus in a “dying to live” pattern of humility, servanthood, and obedience this week?

Daily Scriptures:

- Sunday:Philippians 1:1-20
- Monday:Philippians 1:21-30
- Tuesday:Philippians 2:6-11
- Wednesday:2 Corinthians 5:6-8
- Thursday:Hebrews 13:1-3
- Friday:Acts 2:42-27
- Saturday:Psalm 133

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEWS

Sunday, September 20

- Traditional Worship, Sanctuary-----8:30A
- Sunday School for All Ages-----10:00A
- Contemporary Worship, Gordon Hall-----10:45A
- Traditional Worship, Sanctuary-----11:00A
- Sisters Prayer Group, 102-----12:00P
- TDA Worship (Español), Gordon Hall -----1:30P
- Youth & Tweens Activities-----5:00P

Monday, September 21

- Morning Ringers, Music Suite-----10:00A
- Quilted Memories, 204-----11:30A
- Board of Trustees, 204-----6:30P

Tuesday, September 22

- Gentle Chair Yoga, 109-----1:00P
- Bible Study Fellowship, 204, 218-----6:30P

Wednesday, September 23

- Morning Prayers. 218-----8:30A
- St. Matthews Ringers, Music Suite-----4:30P
- Wednesday Night Live! Dinner, Gordon Hall-----5:00P
- Children’s Choir, 105-----6:15P
- Whatever Works Wednesday, Youth Suite-----6:15P
- Falling Upward Small Group, 204-----6:15P
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite-----7:00P

Thursday, September 24

- Gentle Chair Yoga, 109-----1:00P
- Diabetes Support Group, 218-----6:15P
- 4th Thursday Investment Club, 102-----7:00P

Friday, September 25

- Educare Home School-----8:00A
- TDA Praise Team Rehearsal, Gordon Hall -----7:00P

Saturday, September 26

- UWIF District Mission Celebration, Olive Branch UMC -----9:00A

Sunday, September 27

- Traditional Worship, Sanctuary-----8:30A
- Sunday School for All Ages-----10:00A
- Contemporary Worship, Gordon Hall-----10:45A
- Traditional Worship, Sanctuary-----11:00A
- TDA Worship (Español), Gordon Hall -----1:30P