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Streaming at stmatthewame.org/streaming

YouTube - @stmatthew336

Facebook Live - @stmatthewamechurch

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 | Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday | Youth Sunday**



The Rt. Rev. Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
Presiding Bishop, First Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. C. Carlton Woodward
Presiding Elder, Newark District

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson
Pastor/Teacher

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Donna Ho-Shing, Itinerant Elder

Rev. Dr. Crystal Newby-Reynolds, Itinerant Elder | Minister of Liturgical Arts & Youth

Rev. Tamoya Buckley-David, Itinerant Elder in Local Relations

Rev. Leslie Wilson, Minister to Women

Rev. Marian Sykes Johnson, Local Elder

Rev. Dr. Shirley Roberts, Local Elder

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For Tech/IT Support Before or During Worship, Dial (973) 678-1217, Press Option 8.

We can park at 280 S. Harrison Street with a parking permit from 8:30 am – 11:30 am.

The Nursery for parents and children is located at the rear of the sanctuary. Also, there is a Sensory Room (with a monitor to see worship) for parents and children on the autism spectrum or with special needs. See the Greeters' Ministry located at the front table for directions.

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8:30 am: Pre-Worship Music

Setting the atmosphere for worship. If you need to talk, talk to God.

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The Order of Worship at 9:00 am

In-person worshipers may wear masks. Please be kind to those who choose to do so.

Members of Class #23 (Digital Disciples) Sitting Together Today

Leader: Sis. Infalease Murray | Assistant Leader: Dr. Sheryl Means (Oregon)

The Worship Leader – Sis. Harmony Garrett

*The Doxology "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*The Call to Worship Sis. Sarayah Tilus

Leader: Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

People: What, then, should we do?

Leader: Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God

People: What, then, should we do?

Leader: God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What then, children of God, should you do?

All: We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.

The Lighting of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Advent Candles of Hope, Peace & Joy| Jessie Family

Jessie Family: God of Joy, we light this pink candle to celebrate the joy You brought into the world through Jesus.

People: Fill our hearts with the same joy that the shepherds and wise men felt upon seeing Christ.

Jessie Family : May we spread this joy to others, letting it shine through our words and actions.

People: May the pink color reflect a shift from repentance to joy as we draw closer to Christmas. AMEN.
(Light 2 Purple Candles & the Pink Candle After the Reading)

*The Hymn of Praise AMEH #120 "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and heaven and nature sing,

2 Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteous, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, and wonders of His love. Amen.

The Worship Through Prayer Bro. Noah Brown
(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

The Worship Through Music Angel Choir

The Welcome of Visitors "13 Air Hugs" Sis. Payton Mahorn
"We're so glad you came to worship, we're "God's Love for God's people;" we welcome you with open arms with love that won't go away. Welcome, oh welcome; welcome, oh welcome; welcome, oh welcome, to St. Matthew, to St. Matthew!"

First-Time Visitors: WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW!

Please take a picture of this QR Code and complete the First-Time Visitors Information Form. Thank you. We are honored that you have joined us today. If you have a church home, return our greetings to your Pastor. If not, please consider St. Matthew as **"the end of your search for a loving church."**



The Pastor's Words Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

The Worship Through Giving

You can give all tithes and offerings in all categories by text at (973) 272-4332, CashApp (\$StMthew), Zelle (973-280-7654), Givelify (Scan QR Code), mail, or at www.stmatthewame.org.

Please remember gifts to the Restoration Fund & a Love Offering for the Speaker



The Worship Through Scripture Genesis 50:15-20 NIV Bro. Zen Garrett
(Please Read In Unison – No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

¹⁵ When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Leader: This is God’s Word for God’s people. It is already blessed. Amen.

Worship Through Dance Youth Dance Ministry
(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

The Sermonic Selection Youth Choir
(Worshippers May Enter)

The Spoken Word Bro. Hashim Garrett
Subject: “How to Forgive”

*The Invitation to Salvation|Church Membership|Recommitment/Rededication
If you want to be Saved, join St. Matthew, St. Paul, Mt. Zion, or Recommit/Rededicate Your Life to Jesus Christ, you can identify yourself now or text the word JESUS to (973) 840-8874

*The Doxology & Benediction Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

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**\*Pentecostal Prayer Power at the Altar After the Benediction\***  
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We Are Bringing Food for the Food Pantry Every Sunday for the Rest of This Year!

Let Us Welcome These Authors to St. Matthew for “Book Signing Sunday”

Bro. Bahir Jessie Sis. Daisy Terry Bro. Hashim Garrett
Rev. Rochelle Hagins Sis. Tracie Morrison Sis. Stephanie Tokpe
Rev. Dr. Carl Stuart
Rev. Thurselle Chisolm-Williams
Sis. Tobie L. Buford & Sis. Daniela Marie Drew
Sis. Nicole Neal & Sis. Leila Rogers

Join us downstairs from 12 pm – 2 pm.

EXPERIENCE the POWER of PRAYER!
Resources for Your Spirit and Soul
Rev. Leslie Wilson, Spiritual Advisor
Sis. Karen Deas, President, Prayer Ministry
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Daily Prayer Call Line - (206) 806-9984

Join us at 6 AM and 9:30 PM Sunday through Saturday- 7 Days a week. Our prayer call line is open to everyone. Invite your friends, family members, and colleagues from anywhere in the United States or internationally. All are welcome!

Altar Prayer @ St. Matthew AME Church, 336 Oakwood Ave, Orange , NJ 07050

The Sanctuary and 2nd floor Chapel altar are open for prayer, Monday through Friday when the church office is open.

St. Matthew Prayer Wall - <https://bit.ly/3b4V4U5>

Request Prayer for an individual by placing their name on the Prayer Wall. Our Prayer Ministry partners pray over these requests daily. The wall is open to the public.

How to Request Individual Prayer

- **Dial** Church office – (973) 678-1217; choose option 7 to leave a confidential prayer request.
- **Easy Tithe** – Click on the Request Prayer button and leave a confidential message.
- **Church Website** – <https://stmatthewame.org/> - Click on the Request Prayer button and leave a confidential message.

A prayer partner will return your call or email when you leave your contact information and pray with you directly regarding your confidential request. If no contact information is left, the prayer partner will pray as you requested.

Monthly Congregational Prayer Service – WE ARE A PRAYING CHURCH!

Prayer service is held every month on the **4th Monday** at 6:30 PM on the general Zoom connection and in the sanctuary (when scheduled). The service is on the church's General Zoom and on FaceBook and YouTube every month.

Want to Grow in Prayer?

We encourage everyone to participate in all prayer opportunities. You are invited to pray on the prayer call and the congregational Prayer services. Let anyone from the Prayer Ministry know that you are interested or call the church office, choose option 7, and leave a message. Additionally, our Ministry is open to all St. Matthew members. Join our ministry, learn about prayer and intercession, and become a prayer partner. All are welcome!

Do you have the St. Matthew Daily Devotional App?

Download "The Word for You Today" app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. After you have downloaded the app, click here to register: <https://app.wordforyou.com/churches/access-code/MVP/register>.

You can also share this link with anyone. The link is available on our website.

The Sanctuary & 2nd Floor Chapel are open for Prayer whenever the church is open. The Chapel is open on Sundays from 8:15 am – 8:45 am and after 9 am worship for personal prayer.

December Celebrates The Coming & Birth of Jesus Christ

December Birthdays – **12/1:** Carolyn Davidson, Isidra Myricks, Mary Greene
12/2: Monica Mann **12/5:** Eronia Bennett **12/6:** Drefus Tarpkin **12/7:** Christopher Hawk **12/8:** Rev. Dr. Shirley Roberts **12/9:** Louise Nixon, Donna Jenkins **12/10:** Norma Mackey, Calvin Bennett **12/11:** Shaniya Riddle, Ernie Roberts, **12/13:** Makayla Costas, Dolorist Dover **12/14:** Ashley Range **12/16:** Rev. Dr. Donna Ho-Shing **12/18:** Shana Richardson, Geri Ficklin **12/19:** Russell Clayton Walker, I, Mikaylah Harden **12/24:** Mary Swain **12/25:** Paquita Mason, Kim Clark, Esther Barney **12/29:** Gloria Shears-Washington **12/30:** Sarah McGinnis, Myles Sorbino, Rose Morris, Cassandra Sheffield Kassegnin **12/31:** Marcus Beckett, Clarence Barry-Austin

December Anniversaries – **12/1:** Deric & Roslyn Britton - 3 years; **12/9:** Clarence & Andrea Boseman – 58 years; **12/12:** Howard & Yvonne Myricks – 5 years; **12/26:** Anson & Veronica DeVaux – 31 years; **12/27:** James & Rev. Marian Sykes Johnson – 31 years



THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH

Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm. Friday, 9 am – 12 Noon.

Today – Church School for all ages begins at 11 am. Free flu shots are also available in the Medical Room. At 12 noon, all are invited downstairs for “Book Signing Sunday” as we welcome and celebrate several authors. Come and hear what inspired them to write.

Monday 12/15 – MFH Food Pantry at 11:30 am. **Last Week: 53 families served; 2,776 pounds of food given. YTD: 3,836 families served; 136,069 pounds of food given.** Dance Ministry 6:45 PM. Spiritual Movement Exercise at 7 pm.

Tuesday 12/16 – Bible Study online at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday 12/17 – No Wednesday in the Word Bible Study. Generation One Senior Ministry at 1:15 pm. Pastor Wilson preaches for Mt. Zion United Methodist Church’s Advent Service (Rev. Martin Odom) online at 7 pm. See flyer for connection information. Spiritual Movement Exercise & Inspirational Choir at 7 pm.

Thursday 12/18 – VASHTI Women’s Committee at 6:30 pm. Spiritual Movement Exercise at 7 pm.

Friday, 12/19 - Advent Candlelight Gathering at 6:30 pm. See flyer.

Saturday 12/20 – Men’s Bible Study at 8 am. Nutrition Class online at 10 am.

Sunday 12/21 – **4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Sunday.** Divine Worship & Church School presentation at 9 am. Sons of Allen “**Happy Birthday Jesus**” gift distribution by the Sons of Allen. Classes 19 (Sis. Tamika Robinson), 21 (Sis. Miriam Clark), & 25 (Sis. Robyn Sorbino) to meet after worship.



MONTHLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

General Zoom Information
Zoom Meeting ID 9736781217
Password- 6781293

Pastor's Bible Study
Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Zoom Meeting ID 9736781217
Password- 6781293

Men's Bible Study
Every Saturday at 8 am for adult and young men
Zoom Meeting ID: 875 0243 0162
Passcode - 497743

Women's Bible Study
Every second Saturday at 9 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 786 035 380
Passcode - 6781293
Phone Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 786 035 380

Nutrition Class
Every third Saturday at 10 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 866 862 387
Passcode - 6781293
Phone Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 866 862 387

Exercise and Spiritual Movement Class
Thursday at 7 pm.
Zoom Meeting ID: 860 4686 5587
Passcode - 6781293
Video class. No dial-in option.

ASK Women's Ministry
Every fourth Saturday at 9 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 716 275 876
Passcode - 6781293
(929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 716275876

If you are not on the church's email list or text messaging list, please forward your name, cell number, and email address to Pastor Wilson at [sstukes@stmatthewame.org](mailto:ssstukes@stmatthewame.org). You are also invited to join the church's WhatsApp group



Mon. 12/22 – Monthly Congregational Prayer Meeting online at 6:30 pm.

Thurs. 12/25 – **Celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ.** In-person Christmas Worship at 11 am. 3rd Annual Never Alone Gathering from 12 pm – 2 pm. **“No one should/has to be alone on Christmas Day.”**

Fri. 12/26 – Church closed.

Sat. 12/27 – ASK Women in the Bible Monthly Study at 9 am.

Sun. 12/28 – Celebration of Kwanzaa at 9 am. Missionary Blessing Table at 12 noon.

Weds. 12/31 – **New Year's Eve. In-Person** Watch Night Service at 10:30 pm.

Thurs. 1/1/26 - **New Year's Day.** Church closed.

Sun. 1/4 – Love Feast at 8:30 am. Family Communion **at the altar railing** at 9 am.

Fri. 1/9 – **Sun. 1/11** - 1st District WMS Learning Experience in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Mon. 1/12 – **Weds. 1/14** – Connectional Church Growth Seminar at Mother Bethel, Phila

Thurs. 1/15 – Birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pastor Wilson preaching for the City of Cranford King Observance at 7 pm at St. Mark AME Church, Cranford.

Mon. 1/19 – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observed. Church closed.

Weds. 1/21 – 2026 Annual Meeting/Church Conference online at 6:30 pm.

Sat. 1/24 – Membership Boot Camp at 9 am.

Sun. 1/25 – Ecumenical Sunday.

Mon. 1/26 - Monthly Congregational Prayer Meeting online at 6:30 pm.

Sun. 2/1 – Black History Month begins. **Please wear African attire all month.**

Sat. 2/7 – **“A Day of AME History in Philadelphia”** leaving at 8 am. Donation is \$35.

Sun. 2/8 – AME Founder's Day worldwide.

Tues. 2/10 – 1st District Founder's Day begins.

WE ARE Praying FOR YOU

Member	Class Number	Class Leader
Bro. Thomas Thornton	4	Bro. Durwin Coppock
Sis. Emma Rhymes	5	Sis. Karen Taylor
Sis. Carol Goodson	8	Bro. Jonathan Ridley
Sis. Laura Taylor	9	Sis. Veronica Morton
Sis. Dorothy Dix	10	Sis. Sherrill Austin
Bro. Euistace Pryor	15	Sis. Verna Leath-Young
Sis. Mary Green	17	Sis. Shanda Johnson Toler
Sis. Karen Newkirk	19	Sis. Tamika Robinson
Evang. Eva Douglas	20	Sis. Marcie Johnson
Sis. Mary Gibson	24	Sis. Veronica Deveaux
Sis. Laurie Crowley-Martin	25	Sis. Robyn Sorbino
Sis. Joyce Wooden	33	Sis. Mattie Crowley
Sis. Roxanne Blair	35	Sis. Valerie Tummings
Sis. Theresa Pryor	38	Sis. Michele Murchison
Sis. Arise Brown		

NOTE: A new Prayer List will begin January 1, 2026. Please inform the office if you want your name to appear weekly.

Our Prayer List

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr & Supervisor Phyllis Green, Rev Dr C Carlton & Rev Blanche Woodward, Rev Melvin E & Rev Leslie Wilson & Family, Sis Linda Callahan, All Persons on Sick & Shut-In List, All Bereaved Families, All Elected Officials, All Persons & Situations On Our Prayer Wall, The Unjustly Imprisoned, Domestic Violence Survivors, Sexual Assault & Abuse Survivors, Cancer Patients & Survivors, All Pastors & Churches of the First Episcopal District AME Church, Churches & Houses of Faith of All Denominations, All Veterans, Gov Phil & Tammy Murphy, Gov-Elect Mikie Sherrill & Jason Hedberg, Lt Governor-Elect Rev Dr Dale Caldwell, All Candidates In Public Office, Rev Dr Ronald Slaughter & his Episcopal Campaign, Sis Theresa Pryor, Rev Dr Shirley Roberts, Sis Sarah Williams, Sis Shirley Suddoth-Lewis, Sis Valcy Brown, Sis Tamika Robinson, Bro Christopher Glenn, Sis Alzada Gatling, Sis Laura Taylor, Bro Ronald Royal, Bro Stanley V Wade, Bro Calvin & Sis Geri Ficklin, Sis Barbara Meraz, Rev Larry Smith, Sis Karen Cooper, Sis Pamela Brooks, Sis Kathleen Turpin Merritt, Sis Drewsilla Thorne, Bro James Johnson, Sis Barbara Copeland, Sis Andrea & Bro Herman Williams, Bro Anthony Williams, Sis Eve Newton & Family, Sis Michal Simmons, Sis Diane Worley, Sis Versie McNeil

Recently Bereaved Families

The Family of Sis Tracee Baker; Sis Donna Hunter & Family; Bro Elonza & Sis Tracy Stokes & Family; Sis Veronica Morton & Family; Sis Drewsilla Thorne & Family; Rev. Dr. Donna Ho-Shing & Family, Sis Stephyne Walker-Hill & Family; The Family of Bishop Reginald Jackson; Sis Edie Way & Family; The New Hope Baptist Church, Newark Family, Bro Roland Tucker & Family; Sis Yvonne & Arielle Hinds & Family

Want to know more about the ministry of St. Matthew? Scan this QR code.



The Path To Mental Well-being – Part 1

Mental well-being is a state of thriving. It is the foundation of living a strong, healthy and fulfilling life. Mental well-being is achievable for everyone – including individuals living with or recovering from a mental health or substance use challenge.

Key Mental Health Facts

- More than [1 in 5](#) U.S. adults experience mental illness each year (SAMHSA).
- More than [1 in 20](#) U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year (SAMHSA).
- More than [1 in 7](#) U.S. youth ages 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year (JAMA).
- [50%](#) of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24 (JAMA).
- Suicide is the [2nd leading](#) cause of death among people ages 10-24 (NAMI).

Domains of Mental Wellbeing

Achieving mental wellbeing is an ongoing practice – you won't get there from just reading a blog post! One helpful way to visualize this state of thriving for yourself is through the **domains of well-being**.

As explored in the following, the domains of mental well-being are deeply interconnected. Each domain influences and supports the others to create a balanced, holistic sense of health. While you're probably already investing in some of these domains, consider how you can incorporate others to find a balance and self-care action plan that works for you.



Each area will be explained next week.

From the St. Matthew Health & Wellness Ministry

Festival of Hope

Advent Zoom Revival

Isaiah 9:2
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

Hosted by
Pastor Martin D. Odom
Mt. Zion UMC
Baltimore, MD



Minister Shawn Elbert
Epworth Chapel UMC
Baltimore, MD
December 3rd

Pastor Angelic Williams
St. Luke UMC
Baltimore, MD
December 10th

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson
Pastor/Teacher St. Matthew AMEC
Orange, NJ
December 17th

Wednesdays
December 3rd, 10th, & 17th

7pm, Zoom
Meeting ID: 860 2904 9049
Passcode: 394714



Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
Martin D. Odom, Pastor
3050 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 664-7490 | Email: mzumc@verizon.net




A Servant Church
SAINT MATTHEW
African American Episcopal Church
God's Love for God's People

SAVE THE DATE

ADVENT

Candlelight Fellowship

Advent Candlelight: Lighting the way to Christmas

 Friday, December 19, 2025

 6:30 PM - 9 PM

 St. Matthew Dining Hall



"Come Share An Evening of Warmth, Food, and Wonderful Gifts Shared through the Arts."

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson
Pastor/Teacher

Never Alone

A Saint Matthew Christmas Day Gathering

Christmas Day

"Let's bring a dish, play some games, listen to music & just be together"

Anyone is Welcome!

December 25, 2025

Worship @ 11AM
12 pm - 3 pm Dinner & Fellowship

356 Oakwood Avenue Orange NJ 07050
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson
Pastor/Teacher



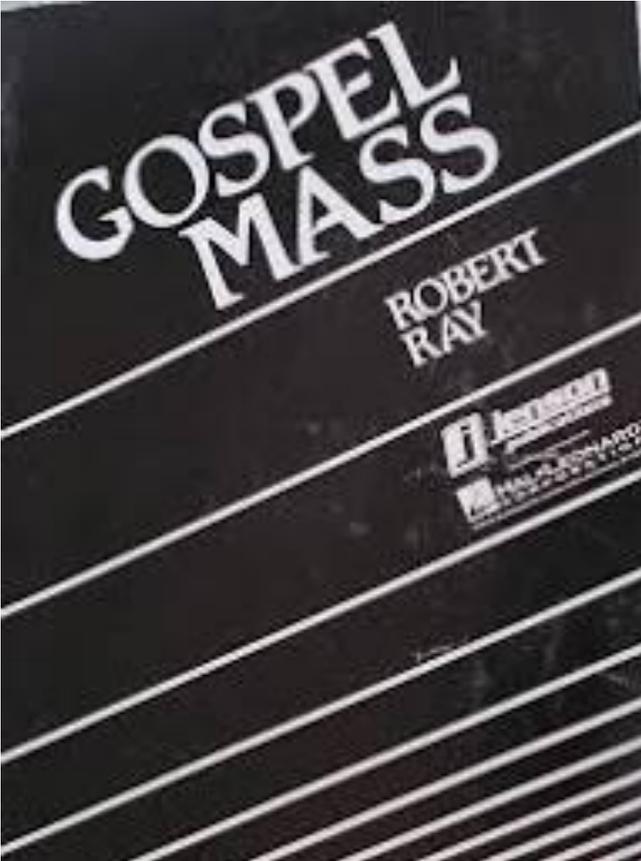


Coming to St. Matthew in 2026

GOSPEL MASS

ROBERT RAY





Main Core Value Of Our Congregation: Radical Hospitality!



A blue rectangular advertisement for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. At the top, the number "988" is in large white font, followed by "SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE" in smaller white capital letters. Below this, white text reads: "No matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support. Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org/chat to chat with a caring counselor. We're here for you." At the bottom right, there is a white line-art illustration of a hand holding a smartphone with a heart on the screen.

A light beige graphic titled "Help Us Grow". It features four small green seedlings growing from brown soil. Below the seedlings, it says "Be a Part of What God is Doing at" followed by the logo for "A Servant Church SAINT MATTHEW AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH". The logo includes the text "God's Love for God's People" and "Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore". At the bottom, it says "Together, we spread love, hope and faith". To the right, under the heading "Remember to Connect with our Posts", are icons and text for "Like", "Comment", "Share", "Subscribe", and "Follow".

LIKE US on social media! The more Likes we have, the more exposure the Church has to the world!