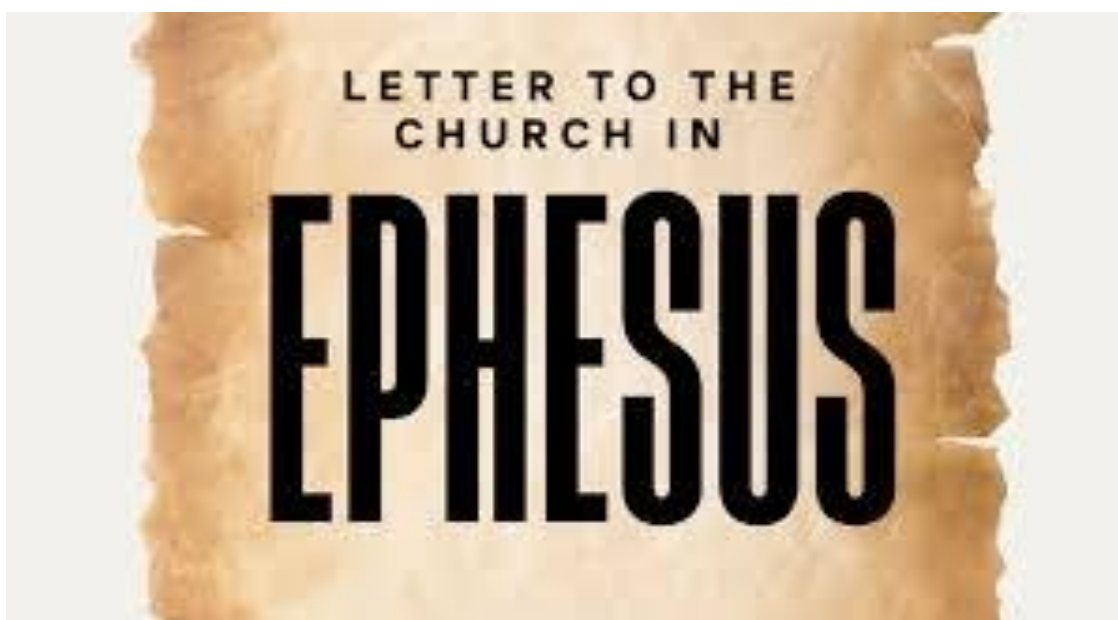




Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Email: [pastorwilson@stmatthewame.org](mailto:pastorwilson@stmatthewame.org)

Cell: (914) 562-6331



**83<sup>rd</sup> Church Anniversary Bible Study**

**The Letter to the Church in Ephesus**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

**Online Bible Study**

**6:30 pm**

Streaming at [stmatthewame.org/streaming](https://stmatthewame.org/streaming)

YouTube - @stmatthew336 Facebook Live - @stmatthewamechurch

**Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293**

**Call-In 929-205-6099, Meeting ID 973 678 1217**



**SUGGESTION: ENSURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN VETERANS DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY. THEY ARE BOTH IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT, BUT THEY ARE NOT THE SAME!**

**I. St. Matthew is Celebrating Our 83<sup>rd</sup> Church Anniversary This Week**

- Sun. 11/9 – Worship & Youth Choir Annual Day
- Mon. 11/10 – Special Church Anniversary Prayer Meeting
- Tues. 11/11 – Special Church Anniversary Bible Study
- Weds. 11/12 – Family Game Night at 7 pm. Open to all.
- Sat. 11/15 – Blueprint for Wellness tests begin at 9 am. “Praise Unleashed” begins at 4 pm.

**II. Tonight’s Focus – The Letter to the Church in Ephesus**

**III. Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Oh oh!)**

A. The more complete name: **The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John**

**From** God → **to** Jesus Christ → **to** John

1. Which John? John Mark, John the Baptist, or John the Apostle?
  2. The only one of Jesus’ original 12 disciples who was not killed for the faith.
  3. Author of the Gospel of John, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> John, and Revelation
- B. The key (for me) to understanding the Book of Revelation

**Revelation 1:1-3 NIV**

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are

those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

- C. Revelation is “**apocalyptic**” (hidden)
- D. The book concerns the future; the end of the world, the second coming of Christ
  - 1. Armageddon, the ultimate fight between good and evil

### **Revelation 16:12-16 NIV**

<sup>12</sup> The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. <sup>13</sup> Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. <sup>14</sup> They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. <sup>15</sup> “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.” <sup>16</sup> **Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon (Mount Megiddo).**

- E. Revelation has many symbols, numbers that must be interpreted (biblical hermeneutic)
- F. Why is Revelation so confusing? Possible Interpretive Approaches:
  - 1. **Preterist View** – Most or all prophecies alluded to in the Book of Revelation have been fulfilled in the past.
  - 2. **Futurist View** - Except for the first three chapters, John is describing events that have not yet happened and will occur in the future.
  - 3. **Historicist View** – Reading the book of Revelation as a chronological fulfillment of events throughout church history from John’s day until the second coming of Christ and beyond.
  - 4. **Idealist View** - The book of Revelation is a symbolic representation of the continual struggle of good and evil. It does not refer to any particular historical events. It is applicable to any point in history.
  - 5. **Amillennial** - A Christian eschatological belief that the millennium, or 1,000-year reign of Christ, is symbolic and refers to the current church age, not a future earthly kingdom.
  - 6. **Historical Premillennial** - Viewpoint that there will be a period of tribulation, then Christ will reign on earth for a literal 1,000 years following His second coming. The saints will be resurrected at the beginning of the millennium, non-believers at the end, followed by judgment.
  - 7. **Dispensational Premillennial** - A theological perspective that believes Christ will return before a literal 1,000-year reign on Earth, following a two-phase return that includes a secret "rapture" before a seven-year tribulation period. It is the viewpoint that after the battle of Armageddon, Christ will rule through the Jews for a literal 1,000

years, accompanied by two resurrections and at least three judgments.

8. **Postmillennialism** - A theological view that believes Christ's second coming will occur after a future, extended "millennium" of Christian influence and prosperity on Earth.

G. The Context of Revelation

1. John was exiled to Patmos because he refused to stop preaching the Word of God.

**Revelation 1:9-11 NIV**

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

2. 1:12 - 7 lampstands = 7 churches
3. 1:14-15 - Proof that Jesus was black?

**Revelation 1:12-16 NIV**

<sup>12</sup> I turned around to **see the voice** that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was someone **like a son of man**, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> **The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.** <sup>15</sup> **His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.** <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

H. Structure of the 7 Letters to the 7 Churches

1. Christological Focus
2. Commendation, except Laodicea
3. Condemnation, except Smyrna, Philadelphia
4. Concentration/Instruction

I. Additional Information:

1. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ appears only eight (8) times in this book.
2. Specific references to the **"Holy Spirit"** are limited. The word **"spirit"** is used sporadically, but at no place does the full New Testament term **"Holy Spirit"** appear.

**IV. Analysis of the First Letter to the Church at Ephesus - 2:1-7**

**Revelation 2:1-7 NIV**

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him

who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

- A. **Christological Focus** - 2:1 - Christ walks among all churches
  - 1. We are thankful that Christ walks among us at St. Matthew, but we are not the only church where Christ walks.
    - a. Deliverance from spiritual jealousy, envy, separatism
    - b. Two things can be true. We can celebrate what God is doing among us AND celebrate what God is doing in other churches!
- B. **Commendation** - 2:2 - hard work, perseverance, intolerance of wickedness, examination of apostles, endured hardships for the name of Christ, hate practices of the Nicolaitans
  - 1. The value of hard work and perseverance
  - 2. What does it mean not to tolerate wickedness?
  - 3. The importance of examining apostles (those who are “sent”)
  - 4. When the church “takes a hit” for Christ.
  - 5. The Nicolaitans – believers who had compromised their faith in order to enjoy some of the sinful practices of Ephesian society
    - a. Where have we compromised?
- C. **Condemnation** - 2:4 - forsaken first love (lost zeal, busy - but not for God)
- D. **Concentration** - 2:5b - “Repent and do the things you did at first.”
  - 1. What will happen if we don’t? The negative consequence.
    - a. Removal of lampstand
  - 2. What will happen if we do? The positive consequence.
    - a. Eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God





**"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."**

**- Revelation 2:7 HIV -**

## VI. Next Week – The Baptism of the Holy Spirit



**CHOOSE HEALTHY LIFE**  
— AND —  
*A Servant Church*  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Orange, New Jersey  
*God's Love for God's People*  
*Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore*  
**REV. MELVINE E. WILSON**  
PASTOR • TEACHER



**BLUEPRINT for WELLNESS**  
Quest Diagnostics Foundation  
Quest Diagnostics

**YOUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY**  
MOVE BY FAITH. • LIVE IN WELLNESS

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER, 15TH  
-9 AM-**  
  
**St. Matthew AME Church**  
336 Oakwood Ave  
Orange, New Jersey  
07050

**SCAN TO PREREGISTER:**



**Website:** [my.questforhealth.com](http://my.questforhealth.com)  
**New Account Registration Key:**  
[choosehealthylife](http://choosehealthylife)  
**No Insurance? No Problem!**  
**This Screening is FREE!**



**FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION & QUESTIONS:**  
**Contact:** Rev. Jasmine Jefferson  
—Clergy Health Navigator—  
**Cell:** 908-583-3798 **Email:** [chlwhccc@gmail.com](mailto:chlwhccc@gmail.com)

**HEALTH SCREENINGS**  
Early Detection & Informed Health

- Risk of Diabetes
- Heart Health
- Liver & Kidney Health
- Bone Health
- Thyroid Health
- Physical Measurement
  - BMI/Blood Pressure
- Many other health factors!

**VICTORY CONCERT TO FOLLOW!**





# ST. MATTHEW AME CHURCH

Celebrating Discipleship, Ministry and Community

## Anniversary Celebration Activities

### SUNDAY

November 9, 2025

83rd Church Anniversary  
Divine Worship Service  
9AM

Guest Preacher  
Rev. Richard F. Norris II

Pastor,  
Bethel-Hosanna AME Church  
Pennsauken, NJ

Youth Choir Anniversary

336 Oakwood Avenue, Orange, NJ

### MONDAY

November 10, 2025

Special Night  
of  
Congregational Prayer

6:30 PM

(Virtual)  
Zoom: ID: 9736781217

Password: 6781293

### TUESDAY


November 11, 2025


Pastor's Bible Study  
6:30 PM


Zoom ID 9736781219

Password: 6781293

(Virtual)

 Streaming at  
stmatthewame.org/streaming

 YouTube - @stmatthew336

 Facebook Live  
@stmatthewamechurch

www.stmatthewame.org

*A Servant Church*  
**SANT MATTHEW**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Orange, New Jersey  
*God's Love for God's People*  
*Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore*

### WEDNESDAY

November 12, 2025

Family Game Night  
7 PM - 8PM

Jeopardy  
&  
Board Games

(In Person)

### SATURDAY

November 15, 2025

Blueprint for Wellness  
Health Event  
9 AM

Praise Unleashed  
Gospel Fest  
4 PM - 7-PM

Kick off Reception  
3 PM - 4 PM

Silent Auction &  
Vendor Showcase  
Tasty Treats From Local Restaurants

For Information Call (973) 678-1217

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson  
Pastor/Teacher



**GOD  
FIRST  
HOLY  
CONVOCATION**

**1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**NOVEMBER 13-15**  
GREATER ALLEN CATHEDRAL - NEW YORK





*A Servant Church*  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 Orange, New Jersey  
*God's Love for God's People*  
*Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore*

## GENERATION - ONE SENIOR MINISTRY

### "HOLIDAY NUTRITIONAL CARE FOR SENIORS"

A Special Presentation  
By Our Very Own

**Sis. Beth Ludd**

Church Dietitian  
Joining us From Henderson, Nevada

**Wednesday, November 19, 2025**  
1:15 PM

Presentation Will be Followed by Lunch

If Attending,  
Please Call the Church Office To Check-In  
(973) 678-1217

336 Oakwood Ave. Orange, N

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson  
Pastor/Teacher

**SAINT MATTHEW AME CHURCH**  
Presents



# Praise Unleashed Gospel Fest

A Community Celebration of  
Faith, Music & Dance

**Saturday, November 15, 2025**  
4 PM - 7 PM

**Kickoff Reception**  
3 PM - 4 PM

**Silent Auction & Vendor Showease**

"Tasty Treats by Local Restaurants"

**Free Admission - All Are Welcome**

**336 Oakwood Ave. Orange, NJ**

*A Servant Church*  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 Orange, New Jersey  
*God's Love for God's People*  
*Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore*

**njpac**  
community engagement

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson  
Pastor/Teacher

