



Scriptural Foundation For St. Matthew's Ministry – 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received **to serve others**, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Office: (973) 678-1217

Fax (973) 678-1293

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

Website: [www.stmatthewame.org](http://www.stmatthewame.org)

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

YouTube - [@stmatthew336](https://www.youtube.com/@stmatthew336)

Facebook Live - [@stmatthewamechurch](https://www.facebook.com/@stmatthewamechurch)

**Sunday, April 19, 2026 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Eastertide**



**The Rt. Rev. Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.**  
Presiding Bishop, First Episcopal 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. Leslie Wilson, Minister to Women

Rev. Marian Sykes Johnson, Local Elder

Rev. Dr. Shirley Roberts, Local Elder

**CCLI License #11440272**

All songs, lyrics, and videos presented herein are the explicit intellectual property of their respective owners. St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, NJ, and its affiliates do not own or claim any rights to such.

**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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**8:45 am: Pre-Worship Devotions**

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Members of Class #17 Sitting Together Today**

**Leader: Sis. Shanda Toler**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**The Order of Worship at 9:00 am**

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

The Worship Leader – Dr. Crystal Jones

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

\*The Call to Worship Bro. Harold Johnson

(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

Leader: When the world feels too loud or too fast, God is our peace.

People: We come together—some of us still, some of us moving, all of us seen.

Leader: God delights in every "stimm," every quiet moment, and every burst of wonder.

People: Our worship is not found in uniformity, but in the heart's devotion.

Leader: Let us celebrate the beautiful, different, and extraordinary minds among us.

All: We are all masterpieces of the Creator. Let us worship God together!  
Amen.

**Please Be Seated**

The Anthem for Autism "Let Me Shine"

(Worshippers May Enter)

The Worship Through Prayer Sis. Darlene Darring

(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

The Worship Through Music Inspirational Choir

(Worshippers May Enter)

The Welcome of Visitors

"13 Hugs"

Sis. Veronica Morton

"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 Educable Word on Neurodivergence

Rev. Dr. Queen Mother Imakhu

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](http://www.stmatthewame.org). Please remember gifts to the Restoration Fund

The Worship Through Scripture

**John 9:1-7 NIV**

Sis. Carla Denny-Johnson

**(Please Read In Unison – No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)**

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup> "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

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

The Worship Through Dance

Adult Dance Ministry

**(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)**

The Worship Through Music

Inspirational Choir

**(Worshippers May Enter)**

The Preached Word

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

**Subject: "Nobody's Fault"**

\*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

**\*Pentecostal Prayer Power at the Altar After the Benediction\***

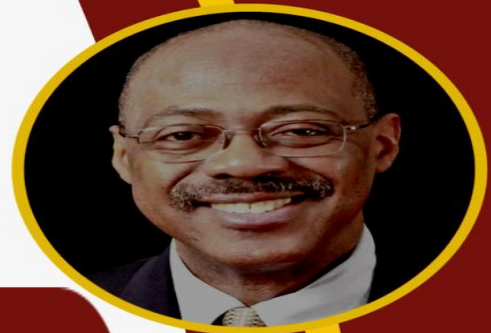
**Take Advantage of All the Opportunities For Prayer**

1. **Daily Prayer Line** at 6:00 am & 9:30 pm, 7 days a week. Call-in number is (206) 806-9984.
2. **Monthly Congregational Prayer Meeting** every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm online.
3. **Every Sunday**, a member of the Prayer Ministry will be available to pray with you individually after worship in the Chapel on the second floor.
4. **The Sanctuary & Second Floor Prayer 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.
5. **Request individual prayer.** Call (973) 678-1217 and press Option 7 to leave a confidential prayer request. You can also go to the church website, [www.stmatthewame.org](http://www.stmatthewame.org) and click on the Prayer Request button. A member of the Prayer Ministry will return your call when you leave your contact information and pray with you directly regarding your confidential prayer request.
6. **Download "The Word for You Today"** app from the Apple Store or Google Play. After you have downloaded the app, click here to register: <https://app.wordforyou.com/churches/access-code/MVP/register>



Appreciation Gathering  
for  
**Bro. Jerry Roberts**  
Friday, April 24, 2026

6 pm - 10 pm  
The Suite Spot  
24 Valley Street  
South Orange, NJ



**\$100 Per person (Includes Dinner & Gift)**  
Feel free to bless Bro. Jerry as you feel led

**Payment Due by April 19**

Givelify



CashApp  
(\$StMthew)

In Person  
336 Oakwood Ave.  
Orange, NJ

For More Information Contact: Sis. April Gaunt-Butler (201) 207-7270

Payment Must Be Made **TODAY**



@SANCTUARYWCENTER

@BLACKMENTALWELLNESSCENTER

@DIALLOSMITH

## The Black Church & Autism Awareness Month

Why Talk About the Black Church?

For many of us, the Black church wasn't optional; it was where life happened. It's where we *were raised*, where we *learned*, where we *were corrected*, and where we *belonged*.

So if we're talking about Autism Awareness, we can't ignore the spaces we grew up in, because autism didn't exist outside of the church, it was sitting right there in the pews.

SHARE

01

SAVE

@SANCTUARYWCENTER

@BLACKMENTALWELLNESSCENTER

@DIALLOSMITH

## What Was Missing In The Black Church

Historically, conversations around mental health and neurodiversity weren't always present.

Not because we *didn't care*, but because *survival, structure, and how we showed up* often came first.

SHARE

02

SAVE

@SANCTUARYWCENTER

@BLACKMENTALWELLNESSCENTER

@DIALLOSMITH

# Misunderstood Behaviors

Many behaviors we now understand as **autism** were often *labeled as*:

bad, annoyed, irritated



disrespectful and shy



needing discipline

Because we didn’t **always** have the **language or access** to understand.

SHARE

03

SAVE

@SANCTUARYWCENTER

@BLACKMENTALWELLNESSCENTER

@DIALLOSMITH

# Not Always Seen Clearly

And for **Black families**, there has been **underdiagnosis** and **misdiagnosis** for *years*.

Meaning many **autistic children** were **never seen** clearly, even **within spaces** meant to *cover them*.

SHARE

04

SAVE

@SANCTUARYWCENTER

@BLACKMENTALWELLNESSCENTER

@DIALLOSMITH

# When the **Nervous System** Gets *Overwhelmed*

In church spaces, this can look like:

feeling overwhelmed during loud or high-energy worship



hyper-focusing on certain sounds, instruments, or songs



having strong interests in music, rhythms, or repetition



difficulty navigating unspoken social cues or transitions

What may seem **confusing** or "out of place" is often the brain trying to **process, organize, and feel safe** in a highly *stimulating* environment.

SHARE

05

SAVE

@SANCTUARYWCENTER

@BLACKMENTALWELLNESSCENTER

@DIALLOSMITH

# We *Already* Have the **Foundation**

At the same time, the **Black church** has always been about *community and care*.

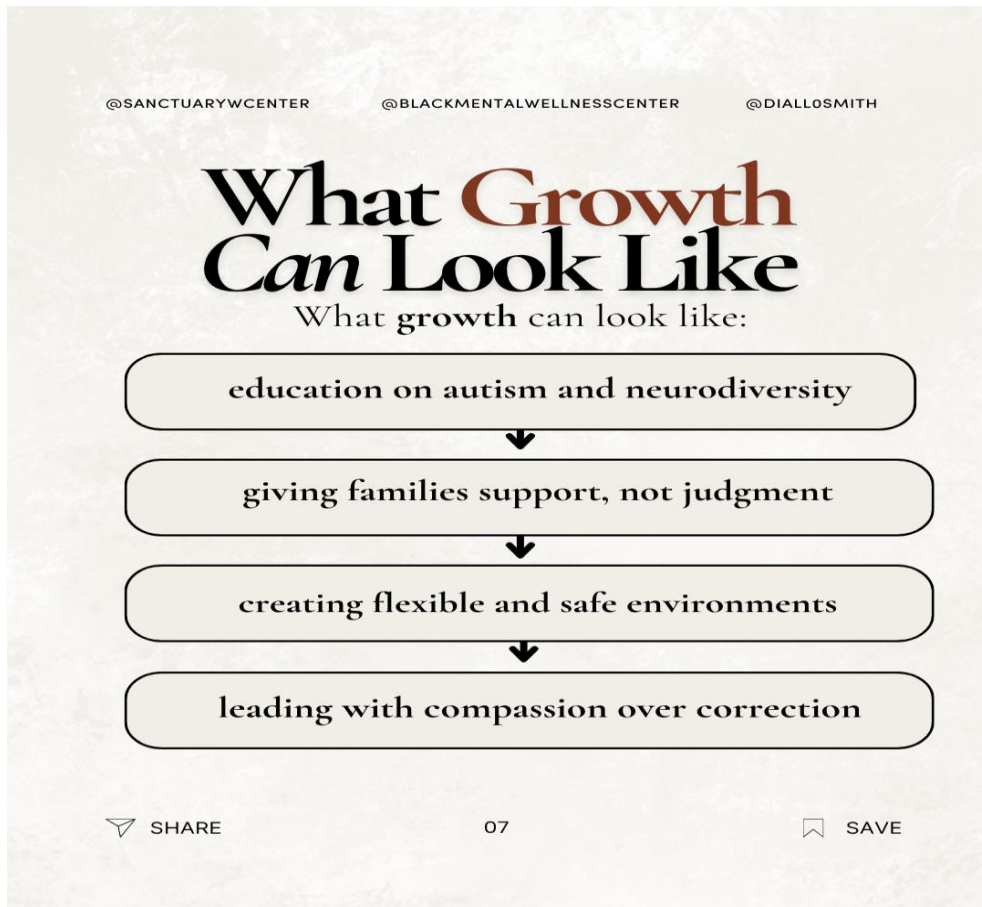


Which means, we already have what we **need to grow**.

SHARE

06

SAVE



**April: Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month**

**April Birthdays**– 4/1: Wilma Marsh 4/4: Harriet Renee Coleman 4/5: Mary A. Harden, Neveah Morton 4/6: Kyrie Sanders 4/7: Eve Newton 4/8: Jeanette Brummell 4/10: Anita Dyer 4/13: John London, Mamie Greene-Ross, Le’Niya Tulloch 4/14: David Amoros 4/15: Kimberly Mangum-Ross 4/16: Shirley Suddoth-Lewis 4/17: Darrielle Sanders, Victoria Sheppardson 4/18: Arielle Hinds 4/19: Lauren Burke 4/20: Shanda Toler 4/23: Earl Medina 4/24: Adrian Broadnax, Tawauna Stukes 4/25: Tavia Fisher-Watson 4/26: Lawana Daye 4/27: Jessica Roberson, Malachi Green-Mae, Denzil Hinds 4/29: Cheryl Rogers 4/30: Robert McGinnis, II

**April Anniversaries** - 4/1: Antone & Claire Stevens – 54 years; 4/9: Tavia & Oliver Watson – 15 years; 4/30: Jean & Stewart Spraggins – 60 years

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

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

Church School and Bible Study for all ages after worship. Class #2 will meet today.

**Monday 4/20** - Food Pantry at 11:30 am. Last Week: 83 families served; 2,563 pounds of food distributed. YTD: 545 families served; 26,746 pounds of food distributed. Spiritual Movement Exercise online at 7 pm.

**Tuesday 4/21**— Bible Study online at 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday 4/22** – Spiritual Movement Exercise online at 7 pm.

**Thursday 4/23** – Spiritual Movement Exercise online at 7 pm.

**Friday 4/24** - Appreciation Celebration for Bro. Jerry Roberts at The Suite Spot in South Orange at 6 pm. Donation is \$100. Male Chorus rehearsal TBD.

**Saturday 4/25** – Men’s Bible Study at 8 am. ASK Monthly Study of Women in the Bible at 9 am. Usher’s School at 10 am.

**Sunday 4/26** – Divine Worship & Memorial Service for the late Bishop Reginald T. Jackson at 9 am. Church School at 11 am. Blessing Table at 12 pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Scriptural Foundation For St. Matthew’s Ministry**

**1 Peter 4:10 NIV**

**"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received *to serve others*, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms."**



# MONTHLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

## General Zoom Information

Zoom Meeting ID 9736781217  
Password - 6781293

## Prayer Call

(206) 806-9984  
6:00 am & 9:30 pm

## 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

Monday, Wednesday & 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. 4/27** – Monthly Congregational Prayer Meeting online at 6:30 pm.

**Tues. 4/28** – Class Leaders & Assistant Class Leaders meeting after Bible Study.

**Weds. 4/29** – Annual Conference Debrief Session at 7:30 pm.

**Thurs. 4/30** – Joint Steward & Trustee Board meeting in person at 6:30 pm.

**Sat. 5/2** – St. Matthew is being honored as one of the "Jewels of the Community" by the St. James Social Service Organization at a luncheon at the Newark Airport Hilton at 11 am. Tickets are \$120.

**Sun. 5/3** – Divine Worship & Holy Communion at 9 am. Special love offering for St. Paul, East Orange.

**Mon. 5/4** – Mental Health Support Group at 6:30 pm.

**Tues. 5/5** – Rev. Leslie's birthday.

**Sat. 5/9** – Women's Bible Study & VASHTI Women's Ministry Retreat here at the church at 9 am. See enclosed flyer. Women should register now.

**Sun. 5/10** – **Mother's Day**. Divine Worship & Youth Sunday at 9 am.

**Thurs. 5/14** – Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary at 5 pm.

## Pastor Wilson's 45<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Anniversary Weekend

**Sat. 5/16** – Wedding in the sanctuary at 11 am.

**Sun. 5/17** – **Celebration of Pastor Wilson's 45<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Anniversary at 9 am.**

**Mon. 5/18** – Monthly Congregational Prayer Meeting online at 6:30 pm.

**Weds. 5/20** – Wednesday in the Word Bible Study at 12:00 pm. Generation One Senior Ministry at 1:15 pm.

**Sat. 5/23** – Membership Boot Camp Class for all new and interested members from 9 am – 4 pm. Please see the enclosed flyer to register.



| Member                     | Class Number | Class Leader              |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Bro. Thomas Thornton       | 4            | Bro. Durwin Coppock       |
| Sis. Carol Goodson         | 8            | Bro. Jonathan Ridley      |
| 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: Please inform the office if you want your name to appear on the weekly Prayer List.**

### Prayer List

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr, Dr Phyllis Green, Episcopal Supervisor, Rev Dr C Carlton & Rev Blanche Woodward, Rev Melvin E & Rev Leslie Wilson & Family, 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 Mikie Sherrill & Family, Lt Governor Rev Dr Dale Caldwell & Family, All Candidates In Public Office, Rev Dr Ronald Slaughter & his Episcopal Campaign, Sis Kori Cheatham, Rev Marian Sykes Johnson & Bro James Johnson, Sis Christine Laurore, Bro Vincent Laurore, Sis Deborah Woody, Sis Theresa Pryor, Sis Barbara Copeland, Sis Christine "Roz" Samuels, Sis Mary Hollingsworth, Bro Saincilio Abraham, Sis Pamela Brooks, Sis Wanda Warren, Sis Princess Jessie, Bro Durwin Coppock, Bro Tayshawn Ware, Sis Kathleen Turpin Merritt, Bro Sam Lemon

### Recently Bereaved Families

Sis Lois, Sis Caitlin, & Bro Gregory Myers & Family; Sis Winnie Wade, Bro Stanley Wade, Jr., Sis Carla Denny-Johnson, Bro Harold Johnson & Family; The Family of Sis Virdell Moore; Sis Daisy Terry & Family; The Family of Sis Teri Corum; Sis Anita Dyer & Family; Sis Jaylen Wright, Sis Schermelle Wright, Sis Zina Williams, Sis. Joy Mills-Davis, Sis. Donnette Davis & Family; The Family of Sis Bertha Griffin-Lowery; The Family of Mother Beulah Sapp

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



## **April Is Autism Acceptance Month**

Autism Acceptance Month is a time to celebrate the beauty of neurodiversity while recognizing the ongoing need for equity, access, and support for individuals and families navigating autism. It is estimated that 1 in 36 children and 1 in 45 adults are on the autism spectrum.

### **Key Aspects of Autism Acceptance Month**

- **Focus on Acceptance:** The shift from "awareness" to "acceptance" emphasizes supporting autistic individuals and their families, ensuring they feel supported and not alone.
- **Celebrating Differences:** Celebrations highlight the unique perspectives and strengths of autistic individuals rather than focusing only on challenges.
- **Actionable Support:** Supporters are encouraged to ask what support looks like for individuals, respect sensory needs, assume competence, and provide practical help.
- **Action & Advocacy:** Initiatives include sharing accurate information, challenging stereotypes, and advocating for necessary resources in education, healthcare, and employment.



**From the St. Matthew Health & Wellness Ministry**

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

V.A.S.H.T.I.  
*Women's Ministry*

*"Chosen for Such a Time As This" Esther 4:14*

**Women's Retreat**  
&  
**Convocation**

**Saturday, May 9, 2026**

**9 AM - 3 PM**

**Women's Bible Study Fellowship with Sister Ruth Deas  
& Hot Topic Dialogue**

Is It Just Me | Properly Poised; Momma Said "Dress Down, Legs Crossed"  
Defining Pain | "And You Suppose To Be A Christian!" | Ministry Strengths,  
Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) Analysis |  
"Did I Say That?": Giving Critical Feedback |  
Meta-Communication; Creating Safe Spaces

**Memorial for Our Saint Matthew Sisters**

**Fee: \$125.00 | Under Age 30 \$80**

**Registrants Must Be 16yrs. of Age & Over**

(Givelify, Checks Cash CashApp)



\$StMthew



**Rev. Leslie Wilson, Minister to Women**

**Rev. Melvin E. Wilson**

Pastor/Teacher

A Servant Church  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 God's Love for God's People

# 45<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL Anniversary

**Rev. Melvin E. Wilson**  
 Pastor/Teacher

**Sunday, May 17, 2026**  
**9 AM**

336 Oakwood Avenue  
 Orange, New Jersey

Streaming at [stmatthewame.org/streaming](https://stmatthewame.org/streaming)  
 YouTube - @stmatthew336  
 Facebook Live - @stmatthewamechurch

WHO DID IT?

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

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS

### Boot Camp

**SATURDAY, MAY 23 2026**  
**9AM - 4PM**

**Class**

The Membership Class is transitioning to one full-day format on one Saturday each month in person at the church from 9 am - 4 pm. Lunch will be served. All books and reading materials will be provided.

**Subject**

All subjects covered: The History of the AME Church, The Structure & Organization of the AME Church, The Doctrine of the AME Church, and The History and Ministries of St. Matthew AME Church.

**Participants**

Open to new members, current members, and persons interested in membership and seeking membership. Classes will be team-taught by the Pastor and members of the Membership Ministry.

**REGISTER NOW**

Register at: <https://bit.ly/StMattmembcamp2026>  
 336 Oakwood Ave., Orange, NJ  
 For Information Call (973) 678-1217

SCAN ME

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson  
 Pastor/Teacher

# Main Core Value Of Our Congregation: Radical Hospitality!



**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**

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](https://988lifeline.org/chat) to chat with a caring counselor.

We're here for you.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Help Us Grow**

Be a Part of What God is Doing at

*A Servant Church*  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*God's Love for God's People*  
 Recover · Refresh · Renew · Restore

Together, we spread love, hope and faith

Remember to Connect with our Posts

- Like
- Comment
- Share
- Subscribe
- Follow

