

May
2019



of



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Pastoral Message
Renegade Flowers

The great outdoors is beginning to look a lot more like springtime. The grass is a deep green and flowers are popping up overnight. I am enjoying looking out in my yard each day and seeing what's new. This year I was surprised to discover a flower in the middle of my backyard standing tall above the grass where I did not plant it. It looked happy to be out of place all out there on its lonesome. There it is doing what it does despite being out of order and not following rules of garden decorum. Technically it is a weed. Many of us would be inclined to pull out such disorderly plants. We feel ill-at-ease to see something, even something beautiful, not in the right place. For my part, I rather admired it for being both beautiful and a renegade and left it where it was. If it is still there when the time comes, I think I will just mow right around it.

How much more we struggle and react when such unexpected difference is found in our own species. We naturally feel most comfortable when we are with our own kind, people who fit the norm and who share the same values as we do. We have a way of segregating ourselves into our own group. We do this consciously and unconsciously. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "it is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning." He was referring to the segregation of blacks and white, but the segregation does not end there.

I think of the first time, years ago, when I met someone who had tattoos over most of his body and rings in places I did not know could hold rings. I think also of people in my rural upbringing, who people in my social class would look down upon and call uneducated "hicks." More recently I have gotten to know some who are transgender, including getting to know my own (now) niece in a different way. We might also include that person to whom we were conversing and flippantly made a political comment, assuming they think as we do, only to discover they are far from sharing our values.

Our impulse is to judge the other and label and dismiss people different from ourselves. But what if we took pains to remain open and to hold back our quick judgments? What if we also looked for beauty in those we meet, and find in them the image of God that is also in ourselves? Do we have to share the same values and opinions to get along? This is true from people who are just different from ourselves, but also from people we might label as an enemy. Dehumanization of others is the great social sin of our time. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's (one's) life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility." It was not Jesus who said this. But given who He keeps company with, it could have been.

-Pastor Allen

Adult Education

“Practicing Our Faith at the Table”

Introducing a new Christian Education Experience!

**Sundays, May 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th
at 10:45am**



The program will focus on:

Sharing food as a Sacrament

Nurturing the body

Hunger

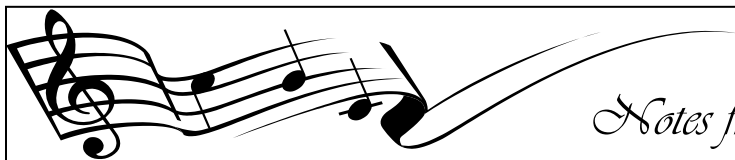
Food and the environment

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and readings will be provided.



Upcoming Sermons

May 5th	Genesis 3:1-11 Communion	“Who Told You That?”
May 12th	John 10:22-30 Confirmation/Mother’s Day	“Now You Become Sheep”
May 19th	Revelation 21:1-6	“A Vision to Live For”
May 26th	Acts 11:1-18	“A God Who Acts in a New Way”



Notes from the Music Room.....

I want to say a heartfelt "Thank You" to all the music participants in our Easter service. As KC calls it, we had an "all skate" where every group was involved: Praise Band, Sanctuary Choir, IntergeneRingers, and Chancel Ringers. All the music came together to celebrate our Risen Lord.



Now on to May. This is the final month of our music for the 2018-2019 season. While a short music month, it doesn't mean the music ministry is taking it easy! We start with Communion Sunday on May 5th. That is followed by Confirmation Sunday, which is also Mother's Day. On May 19th, we end our music year with Music Appreciation. It is another "all skate" where we will see all our musical groups come together to say farewell for the summer. It will also be our final Open Choir, which is fitting as individuals joined us during the year for other Open Choir Sundays.



With the bells and choir going on hiatus, we need people to come forward to share your talents for our Music for Worship. There is no prerequisite, you do not have to be a regular participant in music throughout the year. In addition, the Praise Band will continue to lead our congregational singing. This is a great time to come out on Sunday mornings, grab a mic, and sing for joy!! Please watch the bulletin for gathering times.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!
Peace,

Jamie Craig
630-202-6788

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
IntergeneRingers	Praise Band
6pm	6:30pm
Chancel Ringers	Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm	7:30pm



2019 Voice, Happenings and Bulletin Due Dates

All submissions for the weekly Happenings and bulletin should be submitted to the office no later than 9am Wednesday for the week it runs.

Remaining 2019 VOICE deadlines: Typically the second to last Sunday of the month, with exception of December.

May 19th (for June and July), July 21st, August 18th, September 22nd, October 20th, November 17th, December 15th.

The Voice is not published in July.

Pennies From Heaven SCRIP (MANNA) Program

Spring is in the air!

Mother's Day is May 12th. What about a box of candy from Fannie May, an ULTA card for beauty products, or take her to dinner with a restaurant card?

Need gardening supplies? Ace Hardware, SteinMart, Menards, Lowe's, and Home Depot are just a few of our Manna retailers.

Ready for some outdoor activities? Check out Bass Pro, Dick's Sporting Goods, or Golf Galaxy.



The SCRIP table is "open for business" every Sunday in Dobstaff Hall.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Curtis Holland |
| | Howard SooHoo |
| 3 | Linda Leinweber |
| 4 | Brian Anderson |
| | Jamie Craig |
| | Jackie Tobin |
| 6 | Wendee Passini |
| 12 | Alison Chatten |
| 13 | Daniel Ciner |
| | Michael English |
| | Susan Neufelder |
| 15 | Nigel Barnhill |
| 16 | Jason Edgar |
| 18 | Barbara Giordano |
| 20 | Monnie Stoller |
| 22 | Jason Schubert |
| 23 | Evelyn Hutchison |
| 27 | Ann Ogorzalek |
| 31 | Griffen Price |



Pastor Allen's schedule varies from week to week. He is in and out of the office during the day for meetings, visits, and study. Please call ahead to check his schedule or to set up an appointment. His cell phone number is 630.441.5962. He is available by phone when not in the office.

OFFICE HOURS

office@st.matthewucc.org

Monday-Thursday: 10am-2pm
Friday: 9-11am

Mission News



Food on the First

Thank you so much for the April donations. They are always appreciated!

Here is what is needed in May:

- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned fruit cocktail
- Cold cereal
- Small canned tuna and chicken
- Salad dressing
- Mayonnaise, mustard, and ketchup
- Disposable razors
- Baby wipes
- Feminine pads—no tampons
- Boxes of band-aids

Please make sure items have not expired and are unopened. If you have any questions, please call Betty Greer at 630.682.4084.

Blessings to all.

Prairie Path Clean-up #1 Rescheduled for May 19th!

Due to inclement weather, the first Prairie Path Clean-up was **rescheduled for Sunday, May 19th at 2pm.** Meet in the parking lot of the convenience store at the corner of Liberty and West (although we should park in the lot across the street). Collection bag, gloves, and safety vests will be distributed.



If you want to participate, you will need to complete a waiver (once a year), and they are available in the narthex. Please call Dawn Schubert at 630.542.0160 with questions.



Happy 60th Anniversary, St. Matthew!

In honor of St. Matthew's 60th anniversary we are collecting old photos and memories to create a history photo archive. If you have any photos from decades past, please send them to office@stmatthewucc.org or the office can scan them for you.



CROP Hunger Walk – May 5th

Join the Team and Support St. Matthew Walkers

The walker sign-up sheet and packets are on the table in the rear of the narthex. A map of the route, which begins at Grace Lutheran in Glen Ellyn, is posted in the narthex. Participants and supporters are invited to help with post walk activities, which will include packing 200 meals for the local food pantry. As usual, ice cream refreshments will be available.

Donation Options:

Visit the website: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/> and scroll down until you find the StMatthewUCC team, click on it and then click on the donate button (need a credit card).

By check: Write CROP Walk in the memo section of your check and either put it in the donation plate or give it to a walker listed on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Local fund recipients will include the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, People's Resource Center and the DuPage Senior Citizens Council.

DATE: Sunday, May 5th

SIGN-IN TIME: 1pm

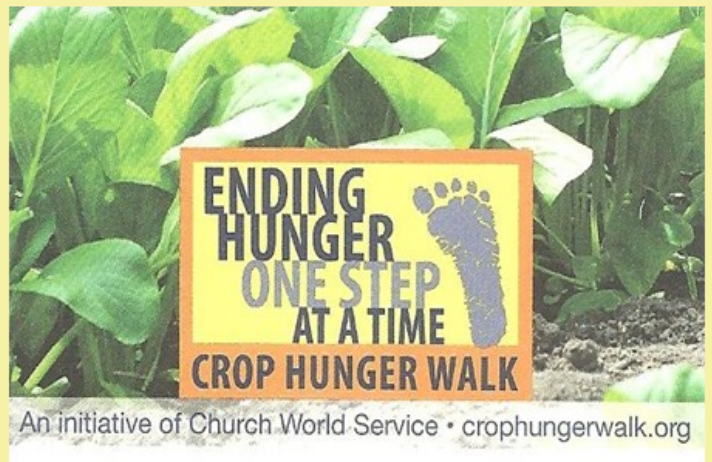
WALK START TIME: 2pm

DISTANCE: 3 miles

START/END LOCATION: Grace Lutheran Church,
429 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn

ROUTE: See map in narthex.

Questions? Contact Joe Leinweber



crazies

April showers bring May flowers. Why, you ask? This month we have the privilege to witness 6 students getting confirmed. Let us hold each of them in our prayers as they step into a new journey of faith. Let us, as a church, support and stand by them to guide them in the right path.

Also, this month we have yet another chance to be grateful for our amazing, strong, loving mothers. In Proverbs 31:31: "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

No crazies on May 12th (Mother's Day) and May 26th (Memorial Day).

Also, a reminder that we need extra volunteers to provide dinner for our crazies meetings. It's a great experience for you to come and see what crazies is all about. God Bless.

-Mel Jerome, Director of Youth Ministry

Family Camp

Family Camp – Rest, Relaxation, and Reverence

This month in our series of "Fond Remembrances," where a variety of church members share their Family Camp stories, **Karen Fernandez** sits down with us to talk about how this experience becomes so much more than the sum of its parts.

My daughter Christy, my sister from Arizona, and I look forward to Family Camp every year, a safe place where we can relax and have fun while keeping God's spirit within us. Favorite memories in Colorado include hiking in the beauty of the mountains, making amazing crafts in the Craft Building, and getting to know our church family in our dedicated room where we played games, built puzzles, shared conversation, Evening Vespers, and just chilled in really good company. We can't wait to go again!

In Minnesota, Christy loved the freedom to go as she pleased while I knew our church family would help me watch out for her. The retreat grounds there were so peaceful and secluded. Christy will never forget her first canoe ride as she and Kira paddled from bank to bank--despite the efforts of John and Andrew to straighten them out--collecting spiders along the way! (It may still be some time before she gets into another canoe...) Being an outdoors advocate, I loved running on the many paths. It is also fulfilling to contribute a little of our time to the upkeep of the places we stay, like shoveling mulch to improve the trails we hiked. My sister and I so enjoyed getting to know Rose, Betty, and Pam who roomed together that week; what a hoot those three are! Gathering together for Vespers each evening gave an added depth to our experience.

Each trip has built lasting friendships that make attending St. Matthew even more fulfilling. I always return home feeling blessed to be a part of my St. Matthew family. We can't wait to share our next Family Camp experience with you!

Thank you to Karen for sharing her Family Camp experience. Come be a part of this great St. Matthew tradition! The next Family Camp will be July 19th-25th, 2020, at the YMCA of the Rockies, just outside Estes Park, Colorado. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex, and Mark Hutchison would be happy to answer any questions. Find him at 630.639.1448 (call/text), markah22@gmail.com, or at church.



GRADUATING?



If you have a family member graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this spring, please let us know! You can contact us at office@stmatthewucc.org.

Graduates will be honored during the June 2nd service.

Congratulations, graduates!

Children's Ministry

The Lenten Easter season was filled with fun and meaningful activities and lessons. The children saw Easter through the eyes of Peter. They prayer-walked a labyrinth, made a snack mix that centered around the Easter story, dressed up to act out the Easter story in drama, painted beautiful crosses, went on a meditative journey from cross to resurrection, made peep dioramas in M&M, had a fun Easter Egg Hunt, and participated in the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.



Thank you to those who made the season so special: Patti Woods, Dawn Schubert, Marla Mothershed, Janella Holshouser, Deb Felsenthal, Miegan Bresingham, Kaitlyn Bresingham, Sarah Muntz, Kira, Ethan, Christy and Kelley. Thank you to Hi Baird and all the committee members who helped make the Easter egg hunt such a huge success and to the congregation for filling hundreds of plastic eggs so the children could have a special day.



-Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministries



Mark your calendar for another awesome VBS!

**June 17th-21st, 9am to Noon,
Preschool through 5th grade**

Registration forms are in the narthex. Pick one up for yourself and pass one on to family and friends. This is a community outreach event so all are welcome!

VBS ITEMS NEEDED

Hey, all you campers out there! Our VBS theme is around camping this year. **We are looking for camping gear to use the week of VBS, June 17th-21st.**

Items needed are: artificial Christmas trees (please label all parts with your name on masking tape), camping gear (lanterns, stools, pots, pans...), fishing gear (poles without hooks, styrofoam coolers, nets...), easy to put up tents, camping stove... Duplicates are needed because we have many areas to decorate. Please bring your labeled items and place them in the kids' kitchen adjacent to the nursery. The sooner we have the items, the better we can plan, so please bring them when you can. Thanks for helping us plan an AWESOME week!



May birthdays:

**Jeremy Passini
Cooper Hileman
Alex Bono**

**May 1st
May 3rd
May 30th**



Congregational Life/Membership News

Welcome New Members:

A special warm welcome to new members Byron and Joyce Miller, Jason and Jessica Edgar and their son, and Diane Maller, who joined our congregation on Easter Sunday! Please introduce yourself and extend a warm St. Matthew welcome to them.

Promotion:

Thanks to Cathy Soohoo for continuing to promote St. Matthew events in local news media outlets. Also, **thanks to Al Skwara** for his ability to capture so many of our events in pictures very stealthily. Telling our story is valuable to our members and guest and in promoting our faith community!

Coffee Hour:

Thanks to the Mooks, the Rudnicks, and Linnea Karpenske for hosting the weekly coffee hours and to the cadre of folks who clean up afterward. **Thanks, as well, to Dani de Leon** for helping to keep an eye on our supplies and the kitchen stocked.

While we appreciate treats anytime, the suggested schedule is as follows:

1st Sunday - ABC	3rd Sunday - HIJK
2nd Sunday - DEFG	4th Sunday - L - Z
5th Sunday - Anyone	

Recent Events:

Easter Egg Hunt – We had a beautiful sunny day for the annual Easter Egg hunt. Thanks to everyone who made it happen, including our Christian Education partners, our egg fillers, our youth volunteers, and **special thanks to Hi Baird**, who apparently has a special connection to the Easter Bunny! We had close to 80 participants this year and delivered many smiles.

The Pal Joey's March 25th event was full with 40 participants who shared a meal, stories, and camaraderie. We will likely do this event again in the future.



Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

Euchre – Friday, May 10th in Dobstaff Hall. Contact Roseanne King (kingz@me.com) if you are interested in playing.

All-Church Picnic – After church, June 2nd. Bring a salad, side or dessert and your lawn chair!

Chuy's at Cantera – Dinner, Monday, July 15th.

Kane County Cougars – Friday, August 9th, Fireworks night.

As always, if you have ideas on how we can better engage our members and guests, please let Rob Neufelder (rneufelder@ipmcinc.com) or anyone on the committee know.

Announcements and Events



Jackie Tobin is turning 90!

A note from Mike and Beth Tobin...

As most of you know, it has been a rough and challenging few years for Jackie. In September 2016, about 1-1/2 years after moving into her new home close to us and her granddaughters in the cute little "New Town" community in St. Charles, MO, Jackie had a bad fall. She shattered her right hip and femur. She had a post-operative stroke and while in rehabilitation for that issue was given a much-too-heavy dumbbell, which she dropped on her left (good) foot, breaking it in two places. This effectively slowed her rehab to a crawl. She pushed through and "survived" the time with the 2016 political campaign on TV, her beloved sports, and her beloved Cubs' amazing year!

Jackie was making progress in an assisted living facility and walking pretty well with a walker until she had a second major fall in December 2017, breaking her pelvis in two places. This type of break had few care options other than pain meds and non-weight bearing bed rest for almost two months. This downtime set her therapy progress back quite a bit. After the second major therapy, we moved her to another assisted living unit in a multi-level care facility closer to us. This is where she currently resides (address below). Jackie has not wanted a phone in any of the facilities she has been in and does not have one now. She has a nice apartment but needs assistance to use a walker and has learned to maneuver a wheelchair pretty well. This was not where she planned or wanted to be at this point in time.

Jackie is looking forward to the baseball season, Stanley Cup play-offs, and her youngest granddaughter turning 30. She can think of many places she would rather be and fun things she would rather be doing. She is doing the best she can to keep her upbeat, positive, and supportive attitude. She often apologizes that she can't write the birthday cards and personal notes that she always has and keeps saying she will try.

Things could be worse. She gets confused with dates and details but, for the most part, is sharper than most. She is sore from sitting and weak from immobility but not in terrible pain.

Jackie turns 90 on May 4th. We are not planning a big party for Jackie's 90th, but we will be spending some time with her on the 4th. She is more interested in what Erica is doing for her 30th on May 3rd. She is missing the things she used to do, the people she used to see, and all the "little ones" she loved to grandmother-adopt. She is tired and worn out but hanging in there. Please keep her in your prayers and know she misses her friends and years gone by.

If you would like to send her a birthday card, she would very much enjoy hearing from you!

Jackie Tobin: c/o Villages of St. Peters #226, 5400 Executive Centre Parkway, St. Peters, MO 63376

Mike and Beth Tobin: 3306 Shutten Way, St. Charles, MO 63301 314.397.2754

NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in April is "Unsheltered" by Barbara Kingsolver – a powerful lament for the American dream.

- "a crumbling house is a solid foundation for this striking, time-shifting tale of a nation adrift." (The Guardian)

The Date: Friday, May 3rd at 7:30pm

The Place: The Mooks' at 1523 Surrey Drive, Wheaton

All are welcome. Join us for lively discussion, food, and fellowship.



Yoga Classes



Interested in learning or practicing yoga at St. Matthew? Marla Mothershed will be completing her 200-hour yoga training this spring, and is gathering information about possible participants, and offering a few sample classes in the next few months. Emphasis for the class will be on breathing, building strength and balance, and gentle stretching. No matter where your body is on its journey, you are welcome here! Just let her know your contact information and interest. 630.441.5963 or mmothershed63@gmail.com.



Life Line Screening will be here at St. Matthew on Wednesday, June 12th, offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical.

For only \$139 (regularly \$149) you can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease. This event is open to the community. Flyers with more information can be found in the narthex.

Learn more by watching this short video: <http://www.lifelinescreeningblog.com/introduction/>

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 866-229-0469
- Online: www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle
- Text: the word circle to 797979



May



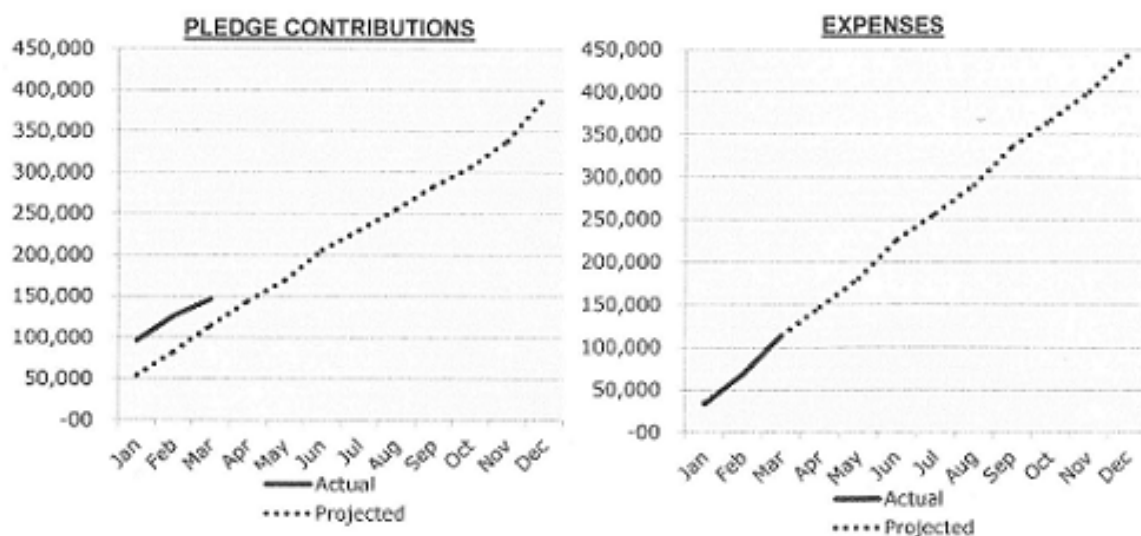
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	1	2 1pm Women's Prayer Group	3 7:30pm Novel Approaches	4
5 9:30am Worship Communion 10:45am Adult Ed 1pm CROP Walk 6pm crazies	6 6pm Confirmation meeting 7pm Christian Ed meeting	7	8 PADS	9 1pm Women's Prayer Group	10 7pm Euchre	11
12 9:30am Worship Confirmation 10:45am Adult Ed Mother's Day 	13	14	15 12:30pm Digital Ministry meeting	16 1pm Women's Prayer Group	17	18 11am PADS picnic
19 9:30am Worship Open choir, Bells Music Appreciation 10:45am Adult Ed 2pm Prairie Path Clean-Up 6pm crazies Voice articles due	20 6pm Mullens Congo Life Dinner	21 7pm Council meeting	22	23 1pm Women's Prayer Group	24	25
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am Adult Ed	27 Memorial Day Office closed 	28	29	30 1pm Women's Prayer Group	31	

**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending March 31, 2019

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	26,352	146,435	391,001
Loose Offerings	607	1,530	5,000
Rental Income	800	2,400	10,500
Fund Raising	196	464	2,001
Investment Income	51	605	300
More Property	-00	-00	20,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	28,006	151,434	429,802
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	19,529	59,369	248,522
Building	13,603	39,757	123,050
Loans & Notes	6,688	6,688	26,750
Mission / OCWM	4,000	4,200	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	1,017	1,774	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	529	824	3,000
Music	65	864	4,895
Worship	-00	234	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	45,430	113,709	444,166
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$(17,423)	\$37,725	\$(14,364)

2019 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



Please contact Howard Peterson if you have questions or need additional information.

THE VOICE
OF
St. Matthew
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1420 South Gables Blvd.
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189



St. Matthew United Church of Christ
630.665.1236 (Office)

Office Email: office@stmatthewucc.org

Web Site: www.stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10am-2pm

Friday: 9-11am

Sunday Worship: 9:30am

Sunday Church School: 10am

Our Purpose:

Become, Live, and Serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Identity:

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome and accepted here at St. Matthew United Church of Christ.

STAFF

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