

**February
2020**



of



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Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

"Va Bene, Va Bene"

Many years ago, while staying in Italy for a couple of months, I learned a phrase in Italian that I want to keep in my vocabulary: "Va bene, va bene." The literal translation is: "It is good; it is good." But the actual meaning is more like: "That is just the way things are."

I had heard the phrase often in my time in Italy and wondered exactly what people meant by the phrase. Our tour guide in Assisi and cooking instructor, Anne, told us about the time her husband used the phrase. It was during the great earthquake that hit and devastated much of Assisi. He was in bed and Anne shouted "we have to get out," as her husband rolled over in his bed and said to her, "Va bene, va bene."

It is an incident they have laughed about for some time. He had built the house and had confidence that it would withstand the quake, which it did. But his use of the term suggested an attitude that is prevalent in Italy: "Whatever happens, it will be good. When you think something bad is happening, something good may come of it." As Anne explained the term, it expresses a hope and a faith that God will make good every situation even if not as we expect.

I suppose inactivity in an earthquake may not have been wise, but I do believe the "va bene" disposition of the heart is a faithful one. God has a way of working things out.

Blessings,

Pastor Allen



In honor of St. Matthew's 60th anniversary, Pastor Allen had the idea to donate either \$60 or 60 minutes to help another person who is in need.

We hope that this kindness will bring some light to someone who needs it.

Be sure to read the postcards that we have already gotten back. They are hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex, and are sure to brighten your day!

The Johnson family took it a few steps further...check out their story!

In honor of St. Matthew United Church of Christ's 60th anniversary, we decided as a family to donate to People's Resource Center. I visited some of our local businesses and asked them if they would want to match our donation in the form of a gift card. There was a great response and I would like to thank these businesses for their generosity!

We were able to collect over 5 times (in gift cards for goods and services) what we were donating.

Thanks to:

Sheridan Barber

Luong Loi

Mai Thai

Il Sogno

Suzette's Creperie

Gino's East

Capri

Mariano's

Jewel

Café on the Park at Wheaton Public Library

Way to go, Johnson family!



Open Choir Continues in 2020!

We just finished our first Open Choir of 2020. But there are a few more dates before summer. February 23rd is the next date. It is Transfiguration Sunday and we have a piece appropriately titled *Lord I Know I Been Changed*, which is a traditional spiritual arranged by Larry Schackley. We follow with our March Open Choir on the 22nd singing *I Known the Lord Laid His Hands on Me*, which is another spiritual, this time arranged by Lloyd Larson. Both of these are relatively easy and fun to sing. Please make every effort to be with us at 8:30 on those Sunday mornings. Other dates to pencil in are April 26th and May 10th.



Of course, we also welcome singers any week for choir and praise band. Both groups rehearse Wednesday evenings with the band starting at 6:30 and the choir following at 7:30. Several of our normal participants have travel planned starting in February and continuing on-and-off through the end of May. We sure would like you to come sing with us for a few weeks if you are able.

Peace,

Jamie

630-202-6788

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers

6pm

Chancel Ringers

7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band

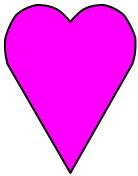
6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir

8:30pm

Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)

Participation in the SCRIP program is still languishing. If we could double our participation, we could double our profits. Remember - retailers are willing to make donations to us, so this is a fundraiser that costs us nothing! Incredible!



Thinking of Valentine's Day? Order your Scrip cards by February 2nd so they can be picked up on February 9th.

Think candy (Fannie May donates 24%), flowers, a unique gift, travel, dinner at a nice restaurant, or a romantic movie!



Check out the Scrip table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Kevin Cole |
| 2 | Taylor Holland |
| | Tim Schubert |
| 4 | Lee Staton |
| 6 | Bruce Anderson |
| | Linnea Karpenske |
| 10 | Elizabeth Baird |
| | Marilyn Giese |
| | Kirk Stubbee |
| 11 | Charlene Cooper |
| | Mary Henderson |
| 12 | Stuart Blake |
| 14 | Daniel McGrath |
| | Amber Quinn |
| 16 | Courtney Christensen |
| | Lee Craig |
| 19 | Abby Johnson |
| 22 | Carl Anderson |
| 24 | Liliana King |
| 25 | Joyce Boyd |
| | Anthony Kresl |
| 26 | Tracey Blake |
| | Cathy Miller |



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

PADS CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

After more than 12 years of heading up St. Matthew's PADS Committee, Tracey Blake is retiring at the end of this PADS season (May 2020). Other committee members, Wendy Fanning and Lynn Thornton, who have also served for more than 12 years, are also retiring. The Mission committee would like to thank these ladies for their years of dedicated service!



In the meantime, we are happy to announce that Julie Schubert has stepped up to take over as our PADS coordinator beginning in the fall. Several others – Joe Leinweber, Rick Jungk, Dorothy Peterson and Jon Sturm – have volunteered to help on the PADS committee. We are grateful to all of these folks for their commitment to continue this vital part of our Mission ministry!

For those who don't know, PADS stands for Public Assistance to Deliver Shelter. Our participation in this long-term ministry occurs on the second Wednesday/Thursday of the month from September through May, where approximately 20 volunteers serve PADS clients at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard. Our group sets up the dining room, cooks and serves dinner to approximately 55 guests, assembles "beds", makes sandwiches and prepares brown bag lunches for the clients to take with them the next morning. We also cook and serve breakfast to the guests, and thoroughly clean and break down the space used at Peace Lutheran.

Watch for the monthly postings on the bulletin board in the narthex to sign up to help in one of several time slots or to donate food. This month our PADS dates are February 12-13. If you have questions about how to get involved, please contact Mission Committee member Stu Blake (stutra@hotmail.com), or Tracey Blake at the same address.

Our Prairie Path Clean-up ministry resumes SOON!

As we have done for the past two years, we are once again committing to clean a 1-mile section of the Main Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path in an effort to be good stewards of our community and our planet. This section begins in downtown Wheaton at West Street and extends east to President Street. We have committed to the following dates in 2020 (but can re-schedule with advance notice or if the weather isn't cooperative):



Sunday, April 19th Sunday, June 7th

Sunday, August 16th Sunday, October 4th

If you want to participate, you will need to complete a waiver (once a year), and they will be available in the narthex in early April. Please call Dawn Schubert at 630.542.0160 if you have any questions. The exact start time may vary, but in general, we will meet around 2pm. Watch the Happenings and bulletin for updates as the date approaches.

Food on the First

Thank you so much for the January donations. They are ALWAYS appreciated!

Here is what is needed in February:

- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned peaches
- Canned soup
- Cold cereal
- Oatmeal
- Shampoo
- Baby wipes
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream



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.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TRIP

Thank you to all who helped pack at Feed My Starving Children this MLK Day! Together with other groups, we packed 197 boxes of 42,552 meals. That's enough to feed 117 children for a year! Thank you for taking time out of your day to serve God's children. -Alex Johnson





The Green Team

Think recycling is the best you can do for the planet? Think again, and join us as we welcome Kay McKeen from SCARCE for information we can all use. Learn how, what, and where to donate renewable and reusable items, and check your recycling knowledge.

Kay will join us after the service on Sunday, February 16th around 10:45am and will speak for about an hour.

Kay's program will take place in the sanctuary. Childcare will be made available if arranged beforehand. Please call or email Dawn Schubert 630.542.0160 if you need childcare.

More information about SCARCE can be found at www.scarce.org.



crozies

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Roses are red, violets are blue, crazies rock, and God loves you!

We've had a great start to 2020.



On **February 2nd after church, the crazies are having a "Souper Bowl" Fundraiser** for the youth mission trip. Please join us in Dobstaff and support the kids. We will not meet in the evening on the 2nd.

February 9th is a regular meeting time.

On **Saturday, February 22nd**, there will be a congregational dance at 6pm in Dobstaff. See page 9 for more information.

Lastly, Mel and Blessy will be on vacation from February 16th-23rd. Crazies will still be held on those Sundays at our regular 6pm meeting time. Dawn Schubert has volunteered for February 16th and Pastor Allen for February 23rd. **A new dinner sign-up sheet is hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex, so please sign up.**

God Bless,

-Mel Jerome, Youth Director

Children's Ministry

February 2020



Our new year began with a great Epiphany lesson, taught by Deb Felsenthal, where the children made an ornament of the three wise men. Thank you, Deb, for filling in for me while I was on vacation.



Our first Workshop Rotation of the new year, ***This Train is Bound for Glory***, runs from January 19th-February 23rd. Each Sunday, the children get their train ticket punched and learn about a different train car: Engine, Fuel car, Dining car, Passenger car, Baggage car, and, of course, the Red Caboose! In each train car they learn a way to **stay on track** as a Christian, learn a Bible verse, and bring home a train car with a magnet on back to put on the refrigerator. During music, the children are learning ***This Train is Bound for Glory*** and ***Get on Board*** (this is slightly different than what was listed on the invitation that came in the mail).

We are starting our **annual Care Package collection**. If you would like to donate to the care packages going to our college students and military men and women, please leave donations in the narthex basket. There are lists available if you would like ideas, but feel free to choose what you would like to give. Also, if you have a college student or military friend or family member, please email me with their name and mailing information: susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org. Please put "care package" in the subject area. The deadline for names and donations is February 23rd.



© Can Stock Photo



AND



The M&M group will have a Valentine-themed gathering on Sunday, February 9th from 11am-12pm. We will meet in Dobstaff Hall after Sunday School. There will be games, crafts, and treats. Please contact Miegan Bresingham (630.865.5196 or msbres@yahoo.com) with any questions.



February Birthdays:

Jack Legatzke February 8th
Zelda Chapple February 8th

“Love Your Family”

Congregational Dance

Saturday, February 22nd 6-8pm

Dobstaff Hall



All are welcome—congregation members, families, grandparents, friends. Have fun dancing to songs that are fun for those from 1-100!



Show your silly side in our photo booth.

Pizza, drinks, and dessert will be served.



Please sign up in the narthex so we know how much food to provide.

Announcements and Events



The Membership Life committee will host a brunch at Cooper's Corner restaurant on Roosevelt Road in Winfield on Sunday, February 9th at 11am. Cooper's Corner offers a delicious brunch, plenty of seating, and half-price coupons. Sign-up is preferred but not required, and the sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Hope you will join us! Questions can be directed to Roseanne King at 630.346.1379.

NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in February is "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett. This is a powerful and richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. (Lit-lovers)

The Date: Friday, February 21st at 7:30pm.

The Place: the Mooks', 1523 Surrey Drive, Wheaton.

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

LOOKING AHEAD: "The Secrets We Kept" by Laura Prescott



YOGA CLASSES



Thursday, February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

\$10 donation per class with all proceeds going to the Missions Fund.

This is a gentle class, appropriate for all.

Contact Marla Mothershed, mmothershed63@gmail.com 630.441.5963 with any questions.

2020 Voice, Happenings, and Bulletin Due Dates



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

2020 VOICE deadlines: Typically the second to last Sunday of the month, with exception of November and December.

February 16th, March 22nd, April 19th, May 24th, July 19th, August 23rd, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, December 13th.

The Voice is not published in July.

FEBRUARY

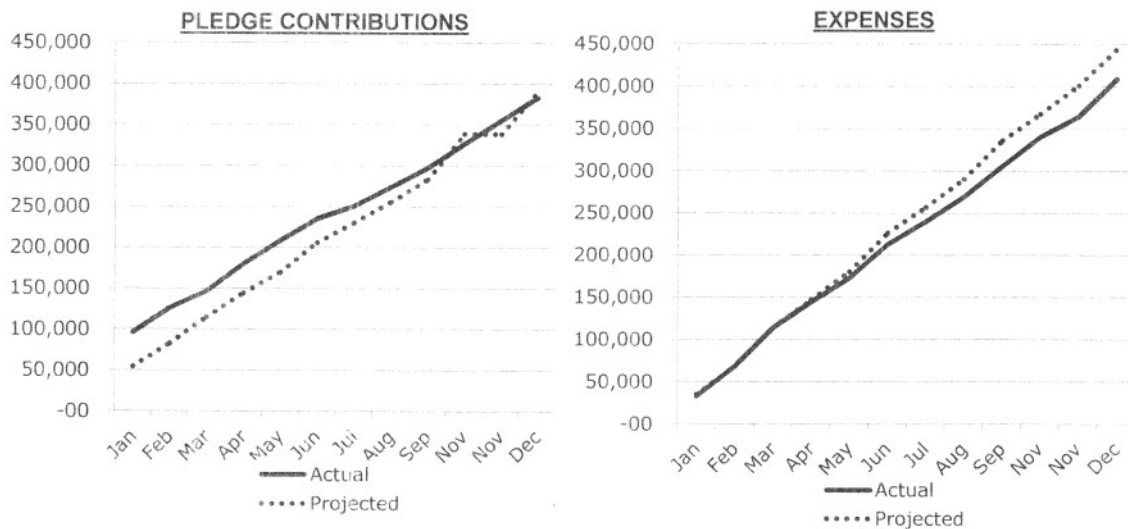
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir			1
2 9:30am Worship Communion, Bells "Souper Bowl" fundraiser NO crazies	3	4 8am Men's Group 7:30pm Missions	5 1pm Women's Prayer Group	6 10am Yoga	7	8
9 9:30am Worship 11am M&M 11am Cooper's Corner 6pm crazies	10	11 8am Men's Group	12 1pm Women's Prayer Group PADS	13 10am Yoga	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16 9:30am Worship 10:45am SCARCE Voice articles due 6pm crazies	17 President's Day 	18 8am Men's Group	19 1pm Women's Prayer Group	20 10am Yoga	21 7:30pm Novel Approaches	22 6pm CE Family Dance
23 9:30am Worship Open Choir 6pm crazies	24	25 8am Men's Group 6pm SRC 7pm Council	26 1pm Women's Prayer Group Ash Wednesday 7pm Worship 	27 10am Yoga	28	29

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

For the Period Ending December 31, 2019

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	28,938	383,344	391,001
Loose Offerings	1,659	8,766	5,000
Rental Income	1,050	9,750	10,500
Fund Raising	420	2,506	2,001
Investment Income	(124)	601	300
More Property	-00	34,000	34,364
Miscellaneous Income	30	5,607	1,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	31,974	444,575	444,166
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	21,208	237,472	248,522
Building	9,709	104,930	123,050
Loans & Notes	6,688	26,751	26,750
Mission / OCWM	4,200	24,400	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	728	7,505	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	-00	2,061	3,000
Music	1,599	4,901	4,895
Worship	192	599	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	44,324	408,618	444,166
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$(12,350)	\$35,957	\$(0)

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: 9am-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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