

May
2020



of



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**All in-person
activities
and worship
services are
suspended
until further
notice.**

**We look
forward to
seeing you
again soon!**

Pastoral Message
Pastor Allen Mothershed

The Good Life

My children are asking when we go can finally go out and do many of the things we use to do. "When can we go out to eat? When can we go get ice cream? When can we have friends over? When can we go to church?" These seem to be the first in a long list of experiences we now find ourselves restricted from. Compared to what we are currently missing, giving up chocolate in the season of Lent now seems rather trivial. What we truly value is now coming into more focus. It will be interesting to see what the "good life" looks like when the trials of our time have lessened and a new normal has taken shape.

The good life for most middle-class families is undergoing a change. The ability to travel, enroll in weekly exercise classes, go out weekly for a dinner date, and frequent trips to the spa are common markers for what it has meant to be a middle-class person. Being middle-class for many has meant having enough money not to have to mull over every buying decision. Clicks on the buy button at Amazon were often done without much consideration or concern for cost. We also had the luxury of isolating ourselves from the plight of others. We might not worry about the poor who are removed from us and others with whom we do not have close contact.

What is becoming clear for us are other values for which we are more grateful. To name a few:

- The comfortable home in which we find shelter.
- Intimacy with my family and phone calls/emails with extended family.
- The great outdoors, and conversations with friends in passing.
- The many forms of art, such as the books we are reading, the movies we are watching, the songs we are playing, the art we are making or appreciating.
- A slow-cooked homemade meal that we are not as quick to take for granted.
- Our being unburdened by long lists of things-to-do, and moving more slowly.
- The pleasure we have in times of silence.
- Our connection to those struggling in our country and around the world.
- Each breath we take and what good health we have.
- Solitude to listen and hear the intuitions of wisdom from God.

Our lives have been turned upside down and we are like turtles that have been flipped on our backs waiting for someone to flip us back over.

(continued)

This is not what we had planned but it is where we are. Robert Burn's poem, "To a Mouse," says, "But Mouse friend, you are not alone in proving foresight may be vain. The best laid plans of Mice and Men often go awry, and leave us only grief and pain for promised joy."

It's good to be honest with ourselves. We cannot return to the past, and the future we cannot possess. What we can do is learn to focus on the joy of the moments we are experiencing. God has never been a God of the past or future, but a One we find in the holy wondrous now. Learning to receive each moment as a gift and to take pleasure in what we have has never been a more important faith discipline. As we discussed in our men's group this week: Satisfaction = What We Have / What We Want.

Our trusting God in the holy now will give us confidence to know that whatever the future holds, God will provide. God always does. We have an opportunity to move forward when we come out of this crisis more focused on what is most important and more compassionately connected to our fellow human beings. When we find reason for thanksgiving now, how much more will we praise God and have gratitude when we once again physically gather together in worship in our sanctuary.

Blessings,

Pastor Allen



[Online Sunday Worship](#)

While we are unable to share Sunday worship as a group, please join us online for Pastor Allen's weekly message and worship service. The service will be posted by Saturday evening.

There are three ways to access Sunday worship:

Through YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StMatthewUCC>

Once you are on YouTube, you have the option to turn on closed captioning and resize the font. Once the video is playing, click on the setting wheel in lower-right of your screen, choose Subtitles/CC, then choose English.

Through the St. Matthew Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmatthewucc/>

Select YouTube on the left side.

Through the St. Matthew website: <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>

Click on Full Service under the banner.



Online Giving

During this time when we cannot worship together in-person, please make an effort to continue your offerings. If you and/or your family can afford to continue (or even increase) your offering to the church at this time, please find a way to continue that online. Despite being "closed," St. Matthew operating costs do not change at this time. Your continued offerings will help keep our building running and our employees paid.

If you would like to give to St. Matthew UCC, you can donate in the following ways:

- **Mail a check to the church (1420 S. Gables Blvd., Wheaton, IL 60189)**

- **Online with PayPal**

1. Simply click here to be directed to PayPal (or copy and paste): <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/donate> and click the yellow DONATE button.
2. You will then be directed to PayPal where you can use your own personal PayPal account or a credit card to make your donation.
3. Click on either [+Write a note \(Optional\)](#) on the first page or [+Add special instructions to recipient](#) on the "Review your donation" page. Please indicate Sunday Offering so the money gets credited to the correct account.
4. Please include your phone number so that we may contact you if we have any questions, and your address if you would like to receive a giving statement.

- *NOTE: You will be credited for the full amount of your gift on your giving statement; however, PayPal charges a \$.30 + 2.2% fee on each transaction. St. Matthew will receive the net amount. **The minimum amount for this online contribution method is \$25.***

- **Monthly electronic donations from your checking account**

If you would like to set up monthly electronic donations, please download this form: **[Electronic Donation Authorization](#)**, fill it out, and mail it to the church. You can also scan this form, along with a voided check, and email it to financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org.

These options are also listed on the St. Matthew website: stmatthewucc.org

Questions can be directed to Edie DeBoard at financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org.

Thank you for your support!

Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)



SCRIP orders are suspended until we resume in-person activities.



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 | Eve Hutchison |



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

Office hours are suspended until further notice.



Notes from the Music Room.....

Music is not normally a solo sport. One may sing a solo, but there is most often a musical instrument accompaniment, which usually involves someone else. Vocal choirs are not individual activities. Handbell choirs are not individual activities. Praise bands are not individual activities. Our current social distancing safety practices make meeting to rehearse and perform together inadvisable. And so we don't. For those of us involved in these

different groups, it is another loss to our social involvement with one another.

But there are ways to work through this. One is something that is becoming popular: Virtual Choir. If you saw our Easter Sunday service, your Sanctuary Choir did sing an anthem, albeit virtually. We created a virtual choir where several people recorded themselves singing their part of an anthem, which was then combined together. I am quite pleased with the results of our first Virtual Anthem. And because of that, we are hoping to put another together for May 3rd. Due to the time it takes to put all the different recordings together and link them up, it is not something to be done every week. I, and all those involved from singing to editing, hope that you not only enjoyed it, but it helped make your Easter Sunday worship experience just a little bit better. I want to thank everyone who was involved in any way with the creation of the video.

With the extension of the stay-at-home orders, none of us knows what the new normal will look like at first, nor when we can worship in-person together. Music rehearsals may have to wait even longer due to the inherent closeness of the participants. So we may have virtual choirs or solos or other types of recorded music for a while. The health and safety of our music participants and congregation is foremost.

May you and all in your family be safe and healthy!

Jamie

Jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

630.202.6788



While we are unable to meet, we need to keep each other in thoughts and prayers. We don't want anyone to feel isolated or alone. Please send prayer requests via the following links and we can share them (or keep them private, if you prefer). You can also email them to the office.

You can make a public prayer request here: <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/joys-and-concerns>

Private prayer requests can be made here: <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/prayer-chain>

Membership Life

Every Cloud has a Silver Lining



With all the disturbing news lately, it has been heartening to hear stories about positive things that are going on in the world around us. We've started our own Silver Linings Collection. Over the coming weeks, think about what you have found to be a Silver Lining of this pandemic – something good that is coming out of this situation -- and share it with us!

1. Have you done something to help your community?
2. Has your neighborhood done something to show solidarity?
3. Has extra time at home afforded you the opportunity to do something you've always wanted to do but haven't had the time?
4. Has it brought you closer to someone?
5. From the Mouths of Babes - Have your children shared a perspective that amused or surprised you or brought perspective?
6. Have you had any surprising interactions with family/friends that help you see them in a more positive light?
7. What is the best coping mechanism you have discovered?
8. What good do you think will come of this situation?

Please share your Silver Linings with us. Your Silver Lining may show up in the Happenings! Or Pastor Allen might share it during our online worship service. Our plan is to compile the full collection of these for distribution at some point.

You can submit your Silver Lining in any of these ways:

1. Click the link to go to Silver Linings on our webpage <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/silver-linings>
2. Send an email to office@stmatthewucc.org
3. Call the office phone and leave a voicemail at 630.665.1236

You can submit these with your name, or request it be anonymous – the choice is yours. We look forward to reading some happy news!

Coffee with You (The Virtual Way!)



The St. Matthew Membership Life Committee would like to invite you to participate in a *Coffee With You* program to stay socially connected while we are practicing physical distancing.

We will randomly match up participants for one phone/video connection per week. You can sign up as an individual, as a couple, or as a family. All you need to do to participate is email office@stmatthewucc.org with your phone number and indicate how you would like to participate (individual, family, etc.).

We'll randomize the pairings and notify you of your weekly pairings, then it is up to you to virtually connect!

Any questions, please contact Rob Neufelder at robneufelder@yahoo.com.

Mission

On behalf of the Mission committee we thank and appreciate the commitment and participation of the members of our church. During this unprecedented time, we know many families have been impacted and are struggling to meet their own needs. Likewise, most of the missions we participate in have been severely impacted as well and are looking for ways to continue to serve those in need. We would like to provide a few updates on the missions we support and how they are managing through this pandemic, and how those who are able might continue to support these missions.

DuPage Pads



Due to COVID-19 and the concern for the health and safety of clients, volunteers, and congregations, all Interim (Overnight) Housing shelter sites were closed as of Saturday, March 21st. Pads is now sheltering clients in motels. Currently 112 people are in 88 rooms and expecting to increase to more than 90 rooms this month. While Pads have been successful in raising money for their Emergency Response fund, more funds are needed. We are reviewing the Mission budget to see if we can allocate additional funds to Pads. If you are able to make a contribution to Pads, you can direct funds to church and we will forward them on to Pads. Or you can go to their website dupagepads.org and donate online.

In addition, Pads is in need of protective masks for the clients. The goal is to give two masks to each client. If you are able to donate masks or are able to make masks, place them in a plastic bag and either mail them to DuPagePads or drop them off at *DuPagePads, 703 W. Liberty, Wheaton, IL 60187*. If you are not crafty and have fabric and elastic to donate, we have folks interested in making masks. Email Stu Blake (stutra@hotmail.com) to arrange pickup or connect you with our crafty seamstresses so you can drop off the material.

Crop Walk



Likewise the Crop Walk has been canceled. However, folks are encouraged to still sign up and walk on your own (see link below). In addition, funds are still being collected to support local hunger fighting efforts. If you would like to donate, you can direct funds to church and we will forward them on to Crop Hunger Walk.

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2020>

Growing Hope Globally (formerly Foods Resource Bank)



Speaking with the other local churches that support Growing Hope Globally (GHG), the decision was made to redirect the funds usually raised during this mission to local food banks, pantries and/or shelters. It was agreed that we instead need the help in our local area more than ever. The mission will return to GHG in 2021. Therefore, if you participated in this mission in the past and are interested in still donating, the mission committee will be meeting to determine which local missions to support. Likely recipients include Interfaith Food Pantry and People's Resource Center, who we support with the collection from the 4th of July parade, which may or may not take place. More information will be coming soon.

We certainly understand these are difficult times on many levels for folks, but we wanted to give an update on a few of our missions as many of you are passionate about these and would like to continue to participate in a different way. If you have any questions, please contact Stu Blake – chair (stutra@hotmail.com) or anyone on the mission committee.

God bless!

Mission Committee

Children's Ministry May 2020

I wish I could write about the things I normally write about in my May Voice article, like thanking the teachers for teaching the previous lesson, giving you an overview of the upcoming Workshop Rotation, reveal our VBS theme, invite the teachers to Teacher Appreciation Sunday, etc. I cannot write about those things in the same way I have in the past; however, I can share some ideas how you can still worship God right from home.

Have you made a **family altar** in your home yet? On my altar, I have all the cards, letters, and colored pictures that were sent to me during my recovery. Every day I take one of the cards sent and I pray for that person or family. You could do this too. Make a list of people you miss seeing and every day **pray for one of the people on your list.**

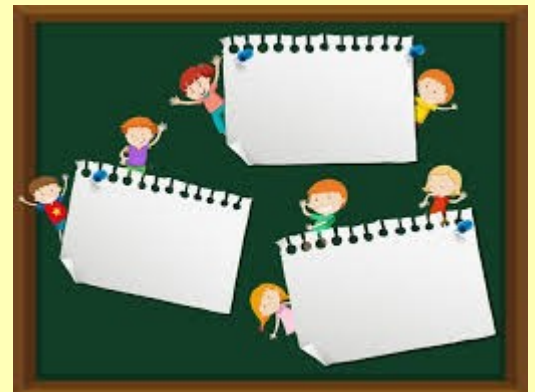
If you have a family altar, please send me a picture of it so I can share it during my Children's Sermon. Also, if your children want to write a message to their church family or color a picture, please send it to me and I will show it or read it during that time.

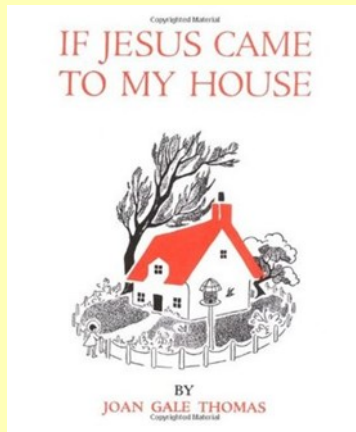


Another fun thing to do outdoors is to go on a **prayer walk**. We do this the last day of the Sunday School year, just before summer Sunday School. We look at all God's creation in nature and we stop and pray for each one. Walking as a family is a wonderful way to spend time together. Inviting Jesus along for the walk, through prayer, makes it even more special.

We say the **Lord's Prayer** in Sunday School. Please consider saying the Lord's Prayer with your children before meals, bedtime, or while taking a walk.

Have your children **write a letter or color a picture** and send it to their M&M partner. I am sure they miss your children very much. The children can also **send letters and pictures of encouragement to nursing home residents, health care workers, first responders, school teachers, pastor etc.**





My favorite book as a child was **"If Jesus Came to My House" by Joan Gale Thomas**. It has been reprinted several times, as it stands the test of time. It is a darling story about what a young boy would do if Jesus were to come to his house to visit. During this time of inviting Jesus into our homes for worship, the book is very appropriate, and can be purchased online.

Please remember to have your children watch the **online Children's Sermon** each Sunday so we can stay connected to each other and God, through Jesus Christ.

Vacation Bible School CANCELED

Sadly, and with a lot of discussion concerning the safety of the children, the Christian Education committee has made the tough decision to **cancel VBS this year**. We are planning a couple fun activities for later this summer that we will announce once we return.



May birthdays:

**Jeremy Passini
Phoenix Passini
Cooper Hileman
Alex Bono**

**May 1st
May 2nd
May 3rd
May 30th**

Please know you are in my prayers,

Miss Susan



Check out the St. Matthew website!!

For the most up-to-date St. Matthew information, please check the St. Matthew website! You will find instructions on accessing the Sunday online service, will be able to sign up for Coffee with You, make a prayer request, send a Silver Lining, sign up for the newsletter, take a Yoga class, learn about online giving, and so much more!

<https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>

Announcements

Prairie Path Clean-Up

Despite our best intentions and a strong desire to get out and clean up the Prairie Path, we must put that task aside for now. Please look for any updates in the weekly Happenings. Since folks are not getting out and about as much, perhaps the Prairie Path is staying clean. Let's hope so!

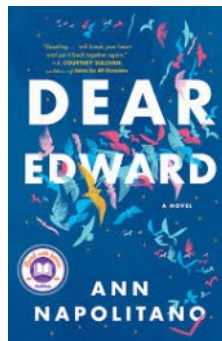


NOVEL APPROACHES

Novel Approaches will be on hiatus for the time being due to the social distancing restrictions. We will reschedule as soon as possible and pick up where we left off discussing "The Secrets We Kept" by Lara Prescott.

We also have two recommendations for reading ahead: "Dear Edward" by Ann Napolitano and "Beneath a Scarlet Sky" by Mark Sullivan.

Hope to see everyone soon!



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.

May 24th, July 19th, August 23rd, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, December 13th.

The Voice is not published in July.



The Men's Group continues to meet via Zoom at 8am for 75-90 minutes every Tuesday morning.

We consider a variety of topics often based on the sermon of that week. Men of all ages are welcome.

To get a Zoom invitation, please contact

byronmiller@ameritech.net.



Did You Know?? Meals on Wheels is a SMUCC ministry!

One of the ongoing ministries here at St. Matthew is our 25+ year involvement with the Meals on Wheels Program run by the DuPage Senior Citizens Council. Our dedicated team (currently about 11 people) shares a route two days a week (currently Mondays and Fridays). We pick up anywhere between 6 and 10 hot meals (and sometimes frozen meals) at Marian Park and deliver them to seniors and others who are homebound.

The schedule is coordinated by Dawn Schubert, and there is lots of flexibility for switching when the need arises. All involved find the ministry very rewarding and so needed (especially now)! If you'd like to get involved, contact Dawn at rural_rococo@msn.com.



For bringing peace to our "new normal", try giving Yoga a try. Marla Mothershed will be uploading Yoga practices to the St. Matthew webpage, www.stmatthewucc.org.

Check back often for new videos!

Simple Communion Bread

Ingredients:

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/3 cup vegetable oil

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup water

While any bread or juice will do for Communion, if you like, and need something creative to do during this time at home, then try this simple communion bread recipe.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Mix flour, oil, and salt together in a bowl; add water and mix using a pastry cutter until dough is soft. Form dough into 6 balls and press into disks onto the prepared baking sheet using your hands.

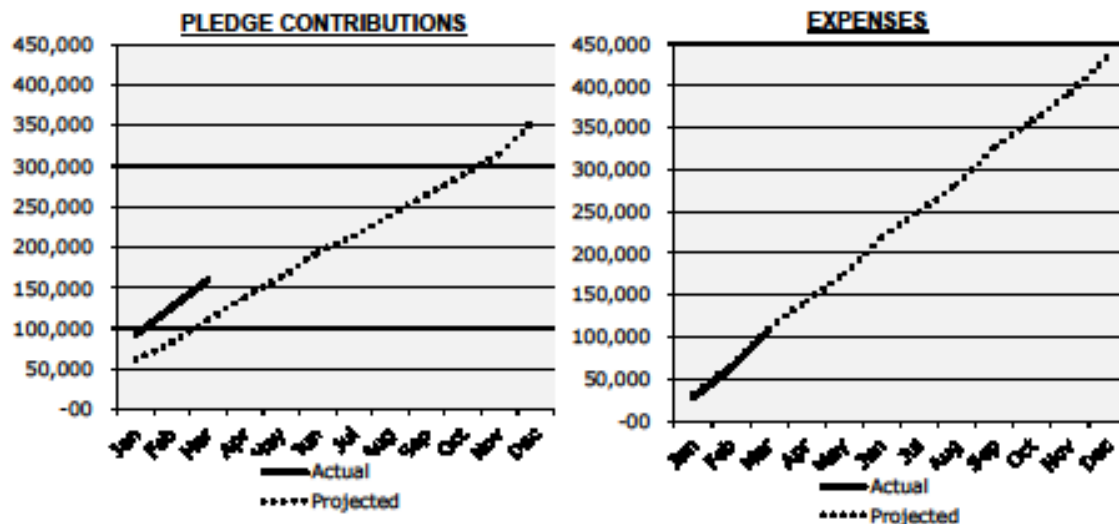
Bake in the preheated oven until bread is cooked, 8 to 10 minutes.

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

For the Period Ending March 31, 2020

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			
Pledge Contributions	33,706	159,899	358,364
Loose Offerings	90	572	5,000
Rental Income	800	2,200	9,600
Fund Raising	51	316	2,200
Investment Income	36	64	120
More Property	-00	-00	37,000
Miscellaneous Income	1,399	2,169	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	36,083	165,220	417,284
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>			
Ministry	20,527	63,358	245,572
Building & Admin	12,654	30,475	116,678
Loans & Notes	6,688	6,688	26,750
Mission / OCWM	4,000	4,200	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	496	1,982	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	-00	26	3,000
Music	534	819	4,895
Worship	276	403	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	-00
Stewardship	-00	-00	-00
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	45,175	107,950	434,645
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$(9,092)	\$57,270	\$(17,361)

2020 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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