

April
2019



of



**WHAT'S
INSIDE**

***Pastor's
Message***
Page 1

Worship
Page 2

Adult Ed
Page 3

Birthdays
Page 4

Mission
Page 5-6

Leadership
Page 7

***Children's
Ministry***
Pages 8-9

crazies
Page 10

Family Camp
Page 11

***Announce-
ments***
Pages 12

Calendar
Page 13

***Financial
Statement-***
Page 14

Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

"Dirty Words"

I remember my saintly pastor, who after luring us to sleep week after week with boring confirmation lessons, ended our confirmation experience in a wonderful way. He took us to his woodworking shop and helped each of us build shoe boxes because, he said, Jesus was a carpenter. At one point, in our construction of the boxes, he missed the nail and hit his thumb with the hammer. Out came a word that I never expected to hear part his pious lips: "damn!" I wanted to laugh. What a relief. Maybe he was more human, more like me than I thought.

I doubt anyone thinks that a four-letter word would never part from my lips, but you never know so here goes. I am ready to let out a dirty four-letter word. Ready for it? "Duty." Do you want to hear another one? "Obey." Such four-letter words used to be spoken frequently in our churches. Now churches are more careful about insulting modern sensibilities. Like so many mainline pastors we feel we are somehow beyond antiquated ideas like being obedient or having a sense of duty. Concepts like that were perhaps fitting for the Greatest Generation who fought in World War II, but today we recognize that they are a definite turnoff. We are focused on making the faith palpable. We want to make sure that our faith enhances a personal sense of meaning.

Our UCC blind side is that we forget that any meaningful faith involves sacrifice in the form of obedience to a moral vision of what life can be, and having a sense of duty to a higher good. Our acts do need to be judged as helpful or destructive. So don't be shocked if I talk about your duty to serve or give, or your obedience to God in sacrificing for the good of our neighbor. Maybe you will even be a bit relieved.

-Pastor Allen

Lenten Worship Schedule

As we celebrate the season of Lent we would like to inform you of the upcoming services.

Palm Sunday Service Sunday, April 14th at 9:30am

Maundy Thursday Supper Thursday, April 18th at 6pm

Maundy Thursday Service Thursday, April 18th at 7pm

Easter Sunday Service Sunday, April 21st at 9:30am



The Worship Committee has sign-up sheets for Maundy Thursday supper asking for assistance in making stew and brownies and table set-up in Dobstaff Hall.

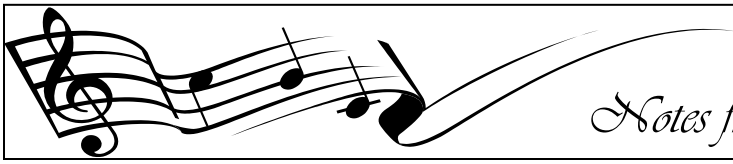
We are ever thankful for the sacrifice Jesus made for us and rejoice in His everlasting life! We look forward to celebrating Lent as a loving church family.

Thank you, Lisa Curda, Worship Ministry Chair



Upcoming Sermons

April 7th	Luke 22:54-62	The Lord Looked at Peter
April 14th	Luke 19:28-40 Luke 23:32-43	Palm Sunday Last Words Spoken: Crucifixion
April 21st	Luke 24:1-12	Easter: Remember What He Told You
April 28th	John 20:19-31	Youth Sunday
May 5th	John 21:1-19 Communion	Jesus' Breakfast of Champions
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



Notes from the Music Room.....

Peace,

Jamie Craig

630-202-6788

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers

6pm

Chancel Ringers

7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band

6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir

7:30pm

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

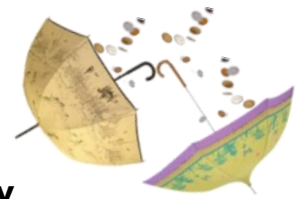
Food and the environment

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

Contact Al and Kathy Skwara with questions.

Pennies From Heaven SCRIP (MANNA) Program

Let's turn our umbrellas upside down!



God provided manna for the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. They didn't have to do anything for it, just gather up what they needed for the day. Our SCRIP program is just as easy. Simply order cards for the places you know you are going to shop anyway – grocery, drug stores, gas, etc. It costs you nothing and the retailers donate to St. Matthew.

Here's an example: I buy a \$100 Jewel card from Scrip and Scrip gives St. Matthew \$4. If I did this 50 weeks a year, the church would receive \$200. If 40 people did the same, St. Matthew would receive \$8,000.

Over 60 St. Matthew families have participated in Scrip at one time or another, although our average is only 7 families per week. If all 60 families could participate regularly (weekly or even bi-weekly) we could easily make our fundraising goal for this year.

Visit the Scrip table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday for more information.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 3 | Drew Luessenhop
Kendall Thornton |
| 4 | Bill Staton |
| 6 | Wes Curda |
| 7 | Uriel Ambrosia |
| 8 | Leo Mittman
Julie Price |
| 11 | Joe Leinweber |
| 12 | Leslie Ortman |
| 13 | Francine Alavi
Carol Justice |
| 16 | Hiram Baird
Ann Marie Matthei |
| 18 | Nancy Franz |
| 19 | Sarah Madsen |
| 21 | Elise Anderson |
| 22 | Dawn Schubert |
| 23 | Craig Schlenker |
| 24 | Gwen Johnson |



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 March donations. They are always appreciated!

Here is what is needed in April:

- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned corn
- Canned fruit cocktail
- Canned green beans
- Cold cereal
- Diapers—all sizes
- Disposable razors
- Baby wipes
- Shaving cream
- 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.

Our Prairie Path Clean-up ministry resumes in April!

Our Prairie Path Clean-up ministry resumes SOON! **The first clean-up will be held on Sunday, April 14th.** We will meet at **2pm** 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 now available in the narthex. Please call Dawn Schubert at 630.542.0160 if you have any questions. Watch the Happenings and bulletin for updates as the date approaches.



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.



COME JOIN US!

**APRIL
27,
2019**



PROCEEDS WILL GO TO:

**BACK BAY
MISSION**

**LOW
COUNTRY
SHRIMP
BOIL**

***SHRIMP 'FIXINS, SALAD
AND DESSERT WILL BE
PROVIDED - MAC &
CHEESE TOO!***

6:30 - 9:00PM

**ST. MATTHEW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1420 S. GABLES BLVD.
WHEATON, IL 60189
630.665.1236
WWW.STMATTHEWUCC.ORG**

***MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. MATTHEW UCC
QUESTIONS CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR
JOHN ADAMS AT 630-235-3698***

**COST: \$20.00 PER ADULT / \$5 PER CHILD
MAX OF \$50.00 PER FAMILY**

**FEATURING: ST. MATTHEW \$10 WINE PULL
DONATIONS OF WHITE AND RED WINE NEEDED**

St. Matthew United Church of Christ

2019 Leadership

Church Council

Rob Holshouser—President
Dorothy Peterson—Vice President
Allen Mothershed—Pastor
Dan Achammer
Nancy Baird
Mary Henderson
Joe Leinweber
Elizabeth McGuan
Jeff Muntz
Howard SooHoo
Erin Walsh
Jim Woods

Howard Peterson—Treasurer (non-voting)
Edie DeBoard—Financial Secretary (non-voting)



Christian Ed

*Kenna Anderson, *Dawn Schubert,
Cindy Bute, Eric Lindberg, Lisa Miller,
Diane Mook, Susan Neufelder, Kerin
Sancken, Sandy Uhrig,
Erin Walsh - Council Liaison

Congregational Life/Membership

*Rob Neufelder, Tracey Blake, Tina Ciner,
Annette English, Wendy Fanning, Rose-
anne King, Andrew Kouns, Linda Ray-
mond, Elizabeth McGuan - Council Liaison

Memorial

*Lee Anderson, Dave Boyd, Dan Ciner,
Bob Crooks, Dave Mook, Howard SooHoo-
Council Liaison

Mission

*John Adams, Stu Blake, Terry Young,
Linda Leinweber, Liz Westergaard, Alex
Johnson, Joe Leinweber - Council Liaison

Worship

*Lisa Curda, Bruce Anderson, Bill Beaton,
Hope Erickson, Marge Hall, Tim Schubert,
Dave Uhrig, Dorothy Peterson - Council
Liaison

Building

*Rick Jungk, Hi Baird, Dave Boyd, Al
Franz, Joe Hall, Marge Hall, John Kouns,
Dave Mook, Howard Peterson, Tim Ray-
mond, Dawn Schubert, Jerry Stoller
Nancy Baird - Council Liaison

Digital Ministry

*Cathy SooHoo, Stu Blake, Kelly Chapple,
Joe Chumas, Edie DeBoard, Dani de Leon,
Joe Hall, Greg Henderson, Gwen Johnson,
Rick Jungk, Mary Henderson - Council
Liaison

Investment

*Doug Miller, Hi Baird, Lou Holland,
Rob Holshouser - Council Liaison

Staff Relations

*Rick Jungk, Bruce Anderson, Edie De-
Board, Joe Leinweber, Lee Staton,
Rob Holshouser - Council Liaison

Stewardship

*Edie DeBoard, Rob Holshouser - Council
Liaison

****chair***

Children's Ministry



To the entire congregation for your generous donations to the care package mission project. Your kindness showed our college and military men and women that, though they are away from home, they are remembered and loved by their church family.

Thank you to the teachers. Shepherds and leaders from the Moses Workshop Rotation unit: Dawn Schubert, Deb Felsenthal, Sarah Muntz, Jan Beaton, Miegan Bresingham, Leslie Ortman, Kira Mothershed, Kelley Passini, Ethan Woods, and Christy Banaszewski. Your dedication to the Sunday School children is a blessing to our ministry.



Our Easter workshop, ***Easter through the eyes of Peter***, looks at the Easter story through the eyes of Jesus' beloved disciple. On numerous occasions, Peter questioned and denied Jesus. We too have moments of doubt and fear when it comes to our faith, and the children will learn that our loving

God still uses us for His kingdom work and is with us through life's journey. The children will take part in a meditation story about Jesus' death and resurrection, and they will walk and pray in a labyrinth. Easter is a very holy season in the church and the children will learn that it is not just a time to learn but also a time to draw closer to God, through His son Jesus. The cooking, drama, video, art, and labyrinth workshops will take the children on a spirit-filled Easter journey.

Needed: Sunday School parents, we are in need of snacks for Children's Worship, where the children enjoy a snack during our Blessing and Bummer time. Suggestions for individually wrapped snacks: Goldfish crackers, crackers, fruit snacks, popcorn, Teddy Grahams, Rice Crispy treats, granola bars, etc. You can bring your donations upstairs.



Easter Egg Hunt: Join us on Saturday, April 13th, at 10am for our annual community Easter Egg Hunt. Weather permitting, the Easter egg hunt will be outside on the church lawn. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move the hunt inside. Following the hunt, we will gather together in Dobstaff Hall for a visit and picture with the Easter bunny, crafts, and snacks. Bring your basket and join the fun!!



April Birthdays:
Kennedy Scalora
Molly Hutchison
Olivia Henderson
Kinley O'Connell
Jayda Hammond

April 1st
April 3rd
April 5th
April 17th
April 28th

Happy Easter!

-Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministries

ST. MATTHEW UCC INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 13th

10am



Visit with the
Easter Bunny!

Enjoy treats
and crafts
after the hunt!

1420 S. Gables Blvd, Wheaton

630.665.1236

office@stmatthewucc.org

www.stmatthewucc.org

[Facebook.com/StMatthewUCCWheaton](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewUCCWheaton)

Please
bring your
own basket

FREE family
event!



EASTER EGGS

We would be grateful if you would pick up a bag or two of empty eggs from the narthex to fill with candy for our Easter egg hunt. If you wish to donate your own filled eggs, we would appreciate that as well. Please return eggs to the bins in the narthex by April 7th.

THANK YOU!



KIDS ACTIVITIES FOR EASTER SUNDAY



Susan will be doing a children's sermon on Easter Sunday. The kids are invited to join Kenna upstairs right after the children's sermon for a fun Easter activity. They will be dismissed after the service is over (rather than at 11) so that they may attend any family plans you have on Easter. Thank you!

VBS 2019

June 17th-21st!

Registration materials coming soon!



crazies

Happy Easter!

The crazies will be coming back from their spring break and preparing their minds for Easter. On April 13th, our crazies will be helping, as well as hunting for Easter eggs, with the little kids at

the Easter Egg Hunt. Their big day is coming closer! Youth Sunday is on April 28th, and you can come and worship with our energetic crazies. They will be responsible for a large part of our service. It will be a wonderful day! We are proud and blessed to have a few of our crazies celebrating the Rite of Confirmation on May 12th. It will be a great moment, and we hope to see you on this Sunday as they take the next step in their faith journey. When you see them, please make sure to give them a word of encouragement and your blessings. Lastly, there are some spots left to sign up to volunteer for dinners or chaperone duties during our Sunday evening meetings, so don't hesitate to help out!

Thank You

-Mel Jerome, Director of Youth Ministry



Despite the sign-up sheet in the narthex and continued requests for chaperones and volunteers to provide dinner for the youth of St. Matthew, our sign-up sheet still has many BLANK spaces for the upcoming weeks. Our Safe Church Policy requires that there be two adults present.

SO.... we need folks to sign up as chaperones and to offer to

bring a simple meal for the kids. These meals can be very simple; the kids love mac-n-cheese, tacos, sloppy joes, baked potato bar, sub sandwiches, chicken tenders... you get the point. We ask that you have the food at church by 6pm, and the kids are usually finished eating by 6:30-6:45pm. If Blessy is there, you could leave after the meal (including clean-up), and you would not have to stay for the lesson. If Blessy is not able to be there, we would ask that you stay until 7:30pm (the new end time).

Although the kids might not LOVE having their parents serve as chaperones, we are very hopeful that the parents of the participating kids offer to cover at LEAST one Sunday a quarter.

We support ALL sorts of wonderful missions and causes here at St. Matthew; please let's invest some of our time to the youth of the church. They ARE the future, and they deserve our love and support.

Family Camp

Family Camp - A Tale of Five Cities

We hope that you are enjoying our series of "Fond Remembrances" -- other church members' reflections on what Family Camp has been for them. This month's article comes to us from the Achammer family.

Our family has attended five Family Camps so far. The first was in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, in 2010 when Chris was 8 and Ben was 6. We weren't really sure what to expect, but we packed up the car and drove to North Carolina. We found our way up the winding road to our lodging, and lo and behold, there were people already there from St. Matthew. It was nice to see familiar faces. Chris went on his first river rafting adventure that year, and we will never forget the Bairds and their escapades retrieving rockets out of the trees.

The next year we traveled all the way to South Dakota and visited Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse. We were late for dinner one night when we got stuck in a buffalo traffic jam. In 2013, we went to Pere Marquette State Park near St. Louis. We took in a baseball game and visited the City Museum, which is quite the place for unusual fun. Then in 2014, we went to Colorado and the Rocky Mountains. Beautiful surroundings with more rafting and hiking and a craft center where we stayed that were awesome. Each of the boys made mosaics and tie-dyed t-shirts. They also made kites and flew rockets, as they have done at every Family Camp. Two years later, we traveled to the Finger Lakes region of New York. Again, the scenery was wonderful. Ben especially enjoyed the escape room we found with some of the other kids. Those kids are smarter than the adults!

Whether it's exploring new surroundings during the day or staying up late at night to finish a puzzle by the end of the week, we have always enjoyed our time at Family Camp.

Thank you to Amy and the rest of the Achammers for sharing their Family Camp memories. 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.

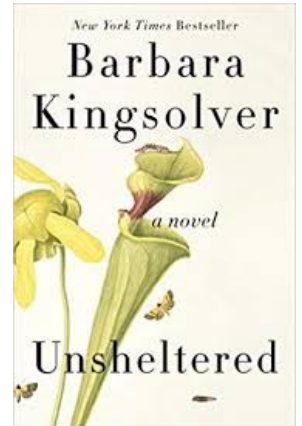


Announcements and Events

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, but 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.



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.

April 21st, 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.



April



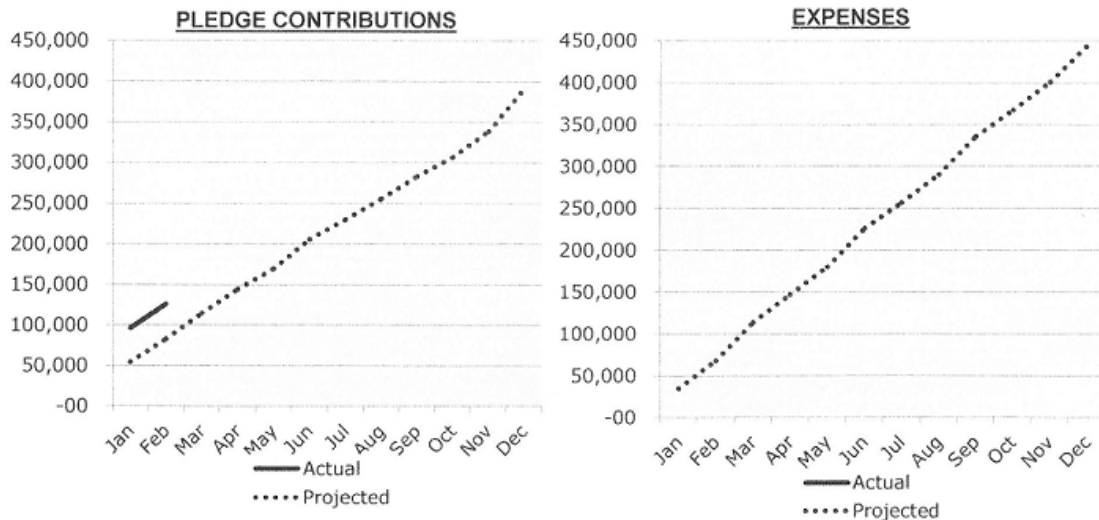
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6pm Confirmation meeting	2 Election Day 	3 	4 1pm Women's Prayer Group	5 	6
7 9:30am Worship Bells, communion 5pm Get to Know Us Gathering 6pm crazies	8 	9 	10 PADS	11 1pm Women's Prayer Group	12 	13 10am Easter Egg Hunt 
14 9:30am Worship Palm Sunday 11am M&M's 2pm Prairie Path Clean-up 6pm crazies	15 	16 6pm SRC 7pm Council	17 	18 1pm Women's Prayer Group 6pm Maundy Thursday dinner 7pm Worship service	19 Good Friday Office closed	20 Holy Saturday
21 9:30am Worship Bells Voice articles due Easter Sunday	22 Earth Day 	23 	24 	25 1pm Women's Prayer Group	26 	27
28 9:30am Worship Youth Sunday 6pm crazies	29 	30 		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	

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

For the Period Ending February 28, 2019

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	29,229	125,615	391,001
Loose Offerings	524	923	5,000
Rental Income	800	1,600	10,500
Fund Raising	67	268	2,001
Investment Income	127	554	300
More Property	-00	-00	34,364
Miscellaneous Income	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	30,747	128,960	444,166
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	20,597	40,075	248,522
Building	14,166	26,155	123,050
Loans & Notes	-00	-00	26,750
Mission / OCWM	-00	200	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	433	757	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	265	295	3,000
Music	-00	799	4,895
Worship	-00	234	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	35,461	68,515	444,166
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$(4,714)	\$60,444	\$(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: 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

Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor
allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry
susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org

Mel Jerome, Director of Youth Ministry
mel.jerome@stmatthewucc.org

Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director
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Kim Congdon, Handbell Director
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