

# THE VOICE OF

# St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.  
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189  
630-665-1236  
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[www.stmatthew-ucc.org](http://www.stmatthew-ucc.org)



March 2015

### *Suggestions for the Journey*

The Lenten season has traditionally been a season of focusing on guilt, sin, and sacrifice. We often think of Lent as a time of being aware of our inadequacies. I suggest this year you shift this slightly and see Lent as a time of deepening your spiritual life, not so much as “giving up” as moving towards something more satisfying. On Ash Wednesday I offered some possibilities. Several have asked for a copy, so here it is. What change in behavior would support your having a more mature life of faith?

- Decide to be truthful in everything that you say...
- Read one spiritually uplifting book...
- At breakfast, lunch, and dinner give thanks for something that has happened since your last prayer...
- Attend one of the book or Bible or faith studies being at our church...
- Find a news story about one person or family affected by war or catastrophe and pray for them daily...
- Give a secret donation each day of Lent to provide for the physical and mental well-being of another person...
- Dare to be specific and name a person or a group of people you do not like or respect and pray a prayer each day that that person or group may do well...
- Every day find some way to be last rather than first...
- Serve at a soup kitchen and sit down and get to know a disadvantaged person...
- Humble yourself and each day ask someone to help you with something...
- Read through one of the gospels...
- Do good deeds but do not let others know about it...
- Clean out your house and commit to living more simply and give what you clean out to the Salvation Army...
- Go for a one-day retreat...
- Commit to a real Sabbath day each week for rest and worship - with no shopping or computer or television but more nourishing activities...
- Cook a healthy home-cooked meal each day and once a week share a meal with a friend or someone who might be lonely...
- Visit a mosque or synagogue and engage in a conversation with a person whose faith is different from your own...
- See Christ in others by assuming the best about your partner or children and compliment rather than put down...
- Memorize a short, one-line prayer and pray it throughout your day until it becomes part of you...
- Pray for our church, its leaders and its people...
- Pray for political leaders, including those you abhor...
- Look through last month's expenses on your credit cards and checking account and list those things that nourished you or others and those that do not.

*Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Allen*

## Staff Update

Karen Lindquist has resigned from her position as Business Manager for St. Matthew effective February 24, 2015. We will be conducting a search for a new Business Manager with the intent to fill this position as quickly as possible. Please contact me if you have any questions.

*Rick Jungk—Council President*



### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Hillary Blake     |
|    | Jessica Blake     |
| 5  | Carole Schmidt    |
| 6  | Bob Crooks        |
|    | Cheryl Umbeck     |
| 8  | Erin Walsh        |
| 10 | John Price        |
| 12 | Brian English     |
| 14 | Bud Justice       |
|    | Brody Stahulak    |
| 15 | Sara Faith        |
| 16 | Julie Barnshaw    |
|    | Lexie Justice     |
| 20 | Lisa Curda        |
|    | John Ribe         |
| 21 | Nicole Franz      |
|    | Adam Kirincich    |
| 23 | Elijah Baird      |
|    | Andrew Kouns      |
| 27 | Tony Banaszewski  |
| 29 | Lori Chatten      |
| 30 | Emily English     |
|    | Stephanie Mindock |



### **Maundy Thursday Dinner Volunteers**

**Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service will be on April 2nd. We will be serving stew and need volunteers to make stew and brownies; the sign-up sheet is in the narthex. The last day to sign up to make dinner is Sunday, March 22nd. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Curda at [lisacurda@gmail.com](mailto:lisacurda@gmail.com) or 630.567.8019 or the church office.**

### **Pennies from Heaven**

We have two fundraising opportunities that do not require our members to spend any extra money. Through these programs, retailers have agreed to give a portion of your purchase to St. Matthew. Simply plan ahead and order pre-paid (gift) cards through the Manna program for your shopping – grocery, gas, movie theaters, department stores, restaurants, pharmacies, etc. Order forms are available every Sunday after church, and your cards will be ready the following Sunday. If you make online purchases, register with iGive on our page: [igive.com/stmatthewucc](http://igive.com/stmatthewucc). Then click on the iGive button in your browser and do your shopping. iGive will track your purchases and the retailers' donations to our church. It's that easy! More information can be found on the Donate page of our website at [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)



## A Note from the St. Matthew Office

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



We get together on Sunday mornings to worship and spend time together as a Congregation. Most of us only see each other on Sunday mornings; sometimes we need to conduct church "business" on Sundays. Please be mindful of approaching staff members on Sunday morning with church operational concerns. Staff members directly involved in worship are busy beforehand with last-minute preparation to make your worship a meaningful experience. Please also keep in mind that our Administrative Assistant, Diana, is in attendance on Sunday morning with her family, not as an employee.

Sunday morning is a good time to approach the program staff with church concerns and pastoral needs. This is best done after worship service or Sunday School when they can be fully present. It is also helpful to email any specific needs (such as calendar appointments) after a conversation on Sunday morning, as they may not have a calendar or notepad in hand.



### Easter Flowers

Easter flower order forms are now in the Sunday bulletins. We are offering Easter Lilies, Tulips in red, pink, or yellow, Daffodils, and Hyacinths that will be used to decorate the Sanctuary. The cost is \$15 and order forms are due on March 15th. If you have any questions regarding ordering flowers you can contact Lisa Curda at [lisacurda@gmail.com](mailto:lisacurda@gmail.com) or 630.567.8019 or the church office.

### Newcomers Welcome

If you have been visiting St. Matthew and would like to know more about what we do and how you can get involved, then join Pastor Allen on Sunday, March 15 immediately after worship. The informational meeting will last less than an hour. Committee members will inform you about Christian Education for both children and adults, upcoming church activities sponsored by Congregational Life and opportunities for involvement in Mission projects locally, elsewhere in the U.S. and internationally. Pastor Allen will also give a brief overview of the United Church of Christ, the importance of justice within our denomination and why we extend an extravagant welcome. We will provide childcare.

Please let Diana know you are attending. 630.665.1236 or [office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org).







## *Notes from the Music Room.....*

Lent is a journey of reflection, contemplation, learning, and praying, all leading up to Passion Week and Easter Sunday. Music helps in all of these areas. Sometimes it is the words, other times it is in the style of music or the complexity, from the simple to the intricate, all combined have an impact on our worship and our journey. This year, the choir's selections are simple and to the point, yet can still be quite moving. The Praise Band and the bell choirs are also preparing music to add to our experience.

In March, we start with the Praise Band sharing an anthem in addition to their opening songs. On the 15th both bell choirs grace our worship. March 22nd is a special day, as not only will the children sing, but once again we will enjoy hearing Celtic Harps from Dulciloquy, which is composed of Cathy Eyberger and Marilyn Wilgoeki. Of course, the Sanctuary Choir will also be sharing music throughout March. We end the month with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the solemnness of Maundy Thursday including a service of Tenebrae, and the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday with special music.

*Yours in Christ through Song,*

*Jamie Craig  
Director of Music  
630-202-6788  
Lanni1@comcast.net*



## **Adult Education Series**

An exciting new video-based Adult Ed series will be offered for 5 weeks. The series will be held from 12-1pm and 7-8 pm and is called "Animate Faith" by Sparkhouse Press.

*"Animate: Faith is built on solid theology and allows adults the opportunity to strengthen faith through spirited discussion, wondering, and journaling. Each video blends live action with animation to introduce a question, provide a thought-provoking perspective, and beckon viewers to participate in the dialogue."*

Topics to be discussed are the following: March 5th - God: Faith is a Quest, March 12th - Cross: Where God Is, March 19th - Church: An Imperfect Family, March 26th - Jesus: The Revolution of Love

Please sign up on the board in the narthex and indicate which time you prefer. Also, note that child care will not be provided.



# crazies

St. Matthew UCC



February was a wonderful month for the crazies of St. Matthew United Church of Christ. Despite getting delayed by a snowstorm, we were able to raise **MORE THAN \$500 FOR THE PEOPLE'S RESOURCE FOOD PANTRY** during our Souper Bowl of Caring soup sales. A BIG thank-you to each person who prepared a soup, helped with the sales, or purchased a cup. We are so grateful and proud. We rounded out the month with a lock-in and some serious fun at the church chili cook-off, along with our regular weekly Sunday evening gatherings.

In March, we'll be fasting for a cause as a part of the 30 Hour Famine and hanging out at the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday the 28th. Thank you, church, for your constant prayers and support. We love being a part of St. Matthew UCC!



*Lock-In Fun!*

## Children's Ministry

March 2015



### **Sunday School Annual Care Package Mission Project**

We will be collecting donations for college student and military family member care packages through March 8th. Please email the name and address of your college student or military family member to [swold45@hotmail.com](mailto:swold45@hotmail.com). A list of suggested items to donate and envelopes to donate toward shipping costs can be found on the Care Package poster in the narthex. Families will pack the boxes after Sunday school on March 8th, and they will be mailed out on March 9th. Please consider contributing to this mission project, which shows those away from home that they are remembered and loved by their church family.

**Young Families and Couples Dinner:** Friday, March 6th at 7 pm., join other adults for a fun evening of dinner, drinks, and adult conversation. Location information and sign-up sheet are in the narthex, or R.S.V.P. at [office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org). Each couple is asked to bring a dish to pass.

**“This Train is Bound for Glory”** workshop ends on March 8th. The children finish up the session with a better understanding of some of our most-loved Bible verses. Each week the children bring home a train car magnet until their train is complete at the end of the workshop. Thank you, teachers and shepherds, for spending time with the children, sharing your love and faith: **Kenna Anderson, Deb Felsenthal, Jennifer Buhmann, Patti Woods, Leslie Ortman, Judi Gonzalez, Diana Padilla, Miegan Bresingham, Julie Barnshaw and Emily Ciner.**

**Mary Magdalene's Story Workshop Rotation:** *“Do not be alarmed; ...He (Jesus) has been raised; He is not here.” Mark 16:6* This Easter session, the children will learn that Mary was the first to hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Mary was afraid and found it hard to believe that Jesus was really alive. But when she saw Jesus herself, she ran to tell the others. Like Mary, the children will learn that they too can tell others the good news of Jesus.

**Maundy Thursday Worship** Parents, if possible, I encourage you to bring your children to the Maundy Thursday worship service, April 2nd at 7 pm, to watch the skit “Who Will Remain,” written by Pastor Allen. The skit tells about Mary Magdalene, Jesus' mother Mary, and another woman who followed Jesus, as they watch the Lord's Supper from behind the curtain. The Maundy Thursday service is my favorite and I believe it will keep the attention of the children. It is somber as it touches on both the Lord's Supper and the crucifixion. At one point the lights are turned off to signify the death of Christ. Making your children aware in advance that this will happen will help them understand that there is nothing to fear. Explain that the good news is that after Jesus dies, He comes back to life on Easter Sunday, which is the true celebration. It is the promise God makes to all Christians, that we will all live forever in the loving presence of God and Jesus. We will talk about this in Sunday school, but I recommend checking out books or children's Bibles from our children's library to reinforce the story at home. Books will be on the display shelf at the top of the stairs.

**Looking ahead:** Easter Egg Hunt: March 28th at 10 am: hunt, donuts, crafts, Easter bunny  
Vacation Bible School: June 15th-19th, The Armor of God: music, games, stories, snacks, crafts



**March Birthdays:** Natalie Brandy 3/1, Luke Buhmann 3/11, Christy Banaszewski 3/15, Bryce Holshouser 3/21, Cole Hutchison 3/23, Ben Achammer 3/25, Luke Beres 3/27, Luke Mothershed 3/30





## Military and College Student Care Package Mission Project

**Donations due by March 8th**

We are collecting care package items for St. Matthew college students and military family members. Place donations in the basket located in the narthex. If you have a student or military family member, please email their name and address to Susan Wold at [swold45@hotmail.com](mailto:swold45@hotmail.com)

We are also asking for help with the shipping cost. If you would like to sponsor a box for \$10, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Care Package" and place either in the offering plate or on the secretary's desk.

Suggestions: Snack food – candy, cookies, crackers, spray cheese, Slim Jims, beef jerky, granola bars, power bars, mints, gum; school supplies; Frisbees; flashlights; small game items – cards, dice, etc.; bath items – toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair brush, shampoo, soap, hand cream, sanitizer, lip balm, etc.; colored pictures by children; handwritten notes. Any other ideas you can think of are appreciated!



*Saturday*  
*March 28th*  
*St. Matthew U.C.C.*  
**EASTER**

**EGG  
HUNT**

**10 A.M.**

Get your picture taken

**With the Easter Bunny!**

Enjoy donuts, games, and crafts after the hunt

Please bring your own basket

**1420 S. Gables Blvd.**

Wheaton, IL 60189

630.665.1236

[www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)



# Young Families & Couples Dinner



**When: Friday, March 6th at 7 pm**

**Where: The Home of John & Jeannine Adams  
27W678 Brookside Drive, Winfield**

**Young couples and families with young children are invited to get a babysitter and come enjoy a fun evening of dinner, drinks, and adult conversation! Please sign up in the narthex or email [office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org). Each couple will provide one side dish.**



**And now, for something completely different...**

The poem for March from Linda Leinweber

*Dear March - Come in*

By Emily Dickinson, 1830 – 1886

Dear March - Come in -  
How glad I am -  
I hoped for you before -  
Put down your Hat -  
You must have walked -  
How out of Breath you are -  
Dear March, how are you, and the Rest -  
Did you leave Nature well -  
Oh March, Come right upstairs with me -  
I have so much to tell -

I got your Letter, and the Birds -  
The Maples never knew that you were coming -  
I declare - how Red their Faces grew -  
But March, forgive me -  
And all those Hills you left for me to Hue -  
There was no Purple suitable -  
You took it all with you -

Who knocks? That April -  
Lock the Door -  
I will not be pursued -  
He stayed away a Year to call  
When I am occupied -  
But trifles look so trivial  
As soon as you have come

That blame is just as dear as Praise

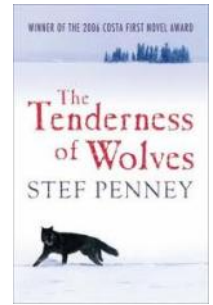
And Praise as mere as Blame –



*I took this light-hearted poem from the Academy of American Poets, but it is readily available and much anthologized. Enjoy this pleasant personification of March, that most transitory of months, as the voice of the poet invites March to come in and stay a while, and not to be hurried out by April. It also echoes the idea that the seasons come and go, taking and giving as they move along, so that what you blame them for when they leave you should also praise them for when they come back. Enjoy!*

## Upcoming Events

**NOVEL APPROACHES** The next book selection is *The Tenderness of Wolves* by Stef Penney. It is set in 1867 on Dove River in Canada's northern territory. A man is brutally murdered. A woman discovers the body but soon also discovers that her son is a prime suspect. This book was chosen as the 2006 Costa Book of the Year Winner. Please join our discussion group on Friday, March 6 at 7:30 pm. Barb Evans will be hosting in her home at 1226 Aurora Way in Wheaton.



**5TH SUNDAY AT DPCC** March 29 (Palm Sunday) is St. Matthew day at DPCC. Come join us to help transport folks in wheelchairs to and from worship, stick around to worship with them! It's a chance to meet some really great people and help out, not to mention encourage a few St. Matthew members. We gather at 9:30 am and finish up by 11:45 am. Questions? Contact Ellen Ribe at 630-784-4262 or [ellen.ribe@dupageco.org](mailto:ellen.ribe@dupageco.org). See you then!

**FAMILY CAMP 2015** Sunday 7/19 to Friday 7/24. This year is a close one (270 miles, about 5 hours) at the Landmark Resort in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin, in Door County. There are lots of activities at the resort as well as lighthouses, theaters, beaches, and wineries nearby. You've heard about Washington Island during Susan's children's sermons; now is your chance to experience it in person. Please fill out the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Dianne Hutchison, John Kouns, or Hi Baird.



### **Sermon Series**



This Lent we will explore what it means to live authentically and passionately, with Jesus as our guide. As Christians, we believe that Jesus shows us what it means to accept oneself and to be fully human. He was prone, as we are, to have feelings, doubts, and struggles. He knew what it meant to get angry at injustice, to be grossly misunderstood, to know the bitterness of betrayal and denial, but also to have good friends and a joyful laugh. This

Lent, we will experience Jesus as passionate, direct, expressive, and deeply authentic and seek to embrace our own capacity for passion. What can we learn from Jesus about being fully alive?

March 1 - Blessed by Fear (Psalm 27:1 & Mark 4:35-41)

March 8 - Blessed by Anger (John 2:13-25)

March 15 - Blessed by Tears (Mark 14:32-42)

March 22 - Blessed by Joy (John 12:1-8)

March 29 - From Exuberance to Despair: the Last Week of Jesus' Life

April 2 - Maundy Thursday and Communion (John 13:1-30)

April 5 - Here Comes the Son (John 20:1-18)



# March 2015

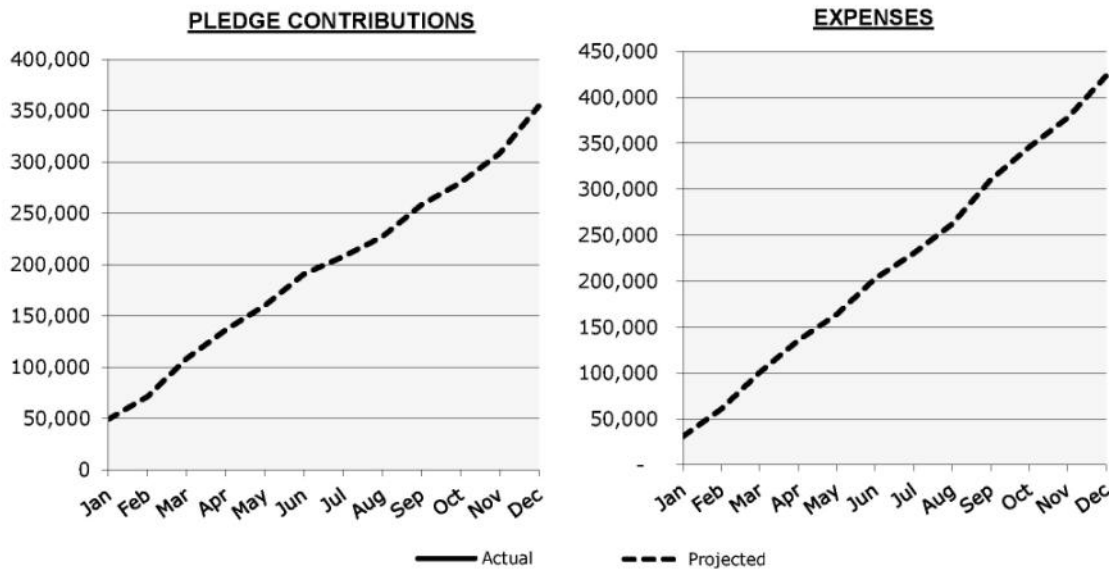
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> -9:30a Worship Service -6p crazies	<b>2</b> 7p Christian Ed	<b>3</b> -1p Digital Ministry -7p Membership -7:30p Mission	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> -12p & 7p Adult Education	<b>6</b> -7p Young Families & Couples Dinner -7:30p Novel Approaches	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30a Worship Service	<b>9</b> 7p Worship Committee	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> -12p & 7p Adult Education -6:30p Confirmation -7p Finance	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> -9:30a Worship Service: Bells Sunday -Newcomers Welcome -6p crazies	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> -12p & 7p Adult Education -6p SRC -8p Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> -9:30a Worship Service -6p crazies	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> -9:30a Worship Service -Voice articles due -6p crazies	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			<b>Every Tuesday:</b> <b>6p</b> IntergeneRing-ers <b>7p</b> Bells Potluck <b>7:30p</b> Chancel Ringers	<b>Every Wednesday:</b> <b>1:30p</b> Women's Prayer Group <b>6:30p</b> Praise Band <b>7:30p</b> Choir

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

For the Period Ended January 31, 2015

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	22,544	22,544	354,327
Loose Offerings	433	433	10,000
Rental Income	-	-	5,000
Fund Raising	324	324	8,000
Investment Income	(16)	(16)	-
More Property	-	-	46,000
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>23,285</b>	<b>23,285</b>	<b>423,327</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	17,182	17,182	229,129
Building	6,977	6,977	116,028
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	2,229	26,750
Mission / OCWM	-	-	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	62	62	10,270
Membership	(10)	(10)	2,750
Music	641	641	4,500
Worship	847	847	1,500
Endowment	-	-	-
Congregational Life	-	-	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Stewardship	-	-	500
Misc. & Contingency	-	-	2,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>27,928</b>	<b>27,928</b>	<b>423,327</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (4,643)</b>	<b>\$ (4,643)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**2015 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**



*Please contact John Adams if you have questions or need additional information.*



**St. Matthew United Church of Christ**

630.665.1236 (Office)

630.665.1436 (Fax)

**Office Email:** [office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

**Web Site:** [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday, 9a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday, 9a.m.-1p.m.

**Sunday Worship:** 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday Church School:** 10 a.m.

**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.

**Our Staff**

**Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor**

[allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org)

**Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry**

[susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org)

**Emily Davis, Director of Youth Ministry**

[emily.davis@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:emily.davis@stmatthewucc.org)

**Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director**

[jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org)

**Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist**

[brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org)

**Kim Congdon, Handbell Director**

[kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org)

**Karen Lindquist, Business Manager**

[karen.lindquist@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:karen.lindquist@stmatthewucc.org)

**Diana Padilla, Administrative Assistant**

[diana.padilla@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:diana.padilla@stmatthewucc.org)