



**April 2018**

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### **Pastoral Message**

*Pastor Allen Mothershed*

### **An Odd Conversation**

*As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way. Mark 10:46-52*

One day I was having lunch at a restaurant in downtown Chicago. I had finished my sandwich and was about to leave and throw away a half-eaten bag of chips. During my lunch, I had noticed this man strangely looking around, but not going up to the counter to order any food. He didn't look homeless - he looked lost - like he was looking for something. When he saw that I was about to leave, he came over and asked the strangest question: "Are you going to eat the rest of those chips?" I had to be sure I heard him correctly. He repeated his question: "Can I have the rest of your chips?" I stuttered an answer, "Yes...you can have them...if you want." He took them, thanked me, and walked out of the restaurant.

How very odd. What was that all about? How could someone in this country of abundance actually ask me for my leftovers? It had never occurred to me that someone might be so hungry they would dare do such an odd thing. I cannot imagine myself ever daring to be so vulnerable and bold. My pride would be wounded.

How willing are we in our lives to name before one another, and before God, our deeper desires and needs? Think about it. Yes, at this moment pause and consider - how well do you do when it comes to telling others or God what you really want and need? A lot of drama is created in our relationships because we do not risk putting these needs out there with clarity.

All of us are hungry in some manner. Every person is in need. We can resent our dependency all we want. But we share this one fact in common - God made us as people who need each other. Community is built on this shared need.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asks a blind man. What a strange question to ask a blind man. But Jesus knew the blind man needed to ask for himself.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus is asking you and waiting for your response.

Peace, Pastor Allen

## **Sabbatical Time**

For the months of May and June, the church has granted me a time of sabbatical. Most United Churches of Christ offer this time away (usually 3 months) after 5 to 7 years of active ministry as a part of their covenant to care for the pastor's well-being. It is a time of study, intentional prayer, rest, and time with family. Because of concerns regarding my father, who is now in hospice, I thought it unwise to take the full three months, knowing there is a chance I will need to go and be with him at an unpredictable time.

After six years of ministry, I am looking forward to having quiet time to restore my ministry with study and prayer and to spend time with my family. In May, I will reconnect with youth group friends from high school (all of whom are ministers) and hike a sacred pilgrims' trail in northern Tuscany and then spend five days of study in Rome. I am also planning prayer and study days to work on my reading list and center myself in my faith. In early June, I'll travel with my children to visit my father and my brother and his wife, who now has a serious disease. As a family, in June, we will be traveling to see the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Park and then join St. Matthew's group of 12 on mission in Costa Rica.

So what happens at St. Matthew in my absence?

Sabbatical is meant to be a break from routine for pastors and that means a temporary release from pastoral duties. The pastoral team will support the congregation when there is a pastoral need.

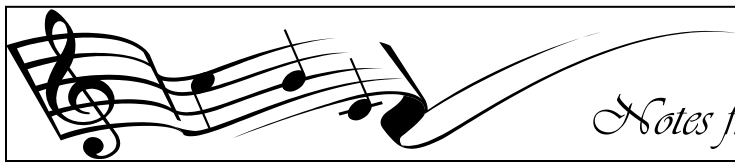
Pastoral coverage will be provided by Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, an associate pastor at First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn. She will be supported by other local area UCC pastors if she is unavailable. May and June will be a festival of outstanding preaching including Quinn Rosenthal, Emily Davis, Tyler Spellious, Terry Gallagher and hopefully a few surprises from St. Matthew's past. A preaching schedule will be available when it is complete. A lay church member will be the liturgist for each Sunday to support our guest pastor.

Sabbatical is an intentionally subversive act against our world where work defines us. It is a yes to God and reflection. The benefit is that I will be able to come back refreshed with new vigor and directions for our life together as a church. I wish this was something offered to everyone. In a world where many only have one or two weeks of paid leave (and some none), we fail to understand the power of time away for the good of the whole as well as the individual. Fortunately, the UCC church and other denominations see the value of this, as do some corporations (such as McDonald's).

I will enjoy sharing my experience with you when I return in July. I will use my time well. The church leadership and I will be sure that St. Matthew is in good hands the weeks I am gone.

Peace, *Pastor Allen*





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

April showers bring May flowers. Come join the Open Choir Sing on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and let the showers for the month give you the same inspiration that you feel when you sing in the shower. Some who join us say they don't know how to read music, and yet have provided wonderful sounds. Please join us, ready to start, in the Sanctuary at 8:15. We'll even have coffee to help you wake up.

Looking ahead to summer: The summer worship schedule starts on Memorial Day weekend, May 27th. As is our tradition, we are asking volunteers to provide our Music for Worship. Can you help? One thing I have learned by standing up front and leading congregational singing is that many more of you can sing well than are willing to admit to it. The song doesn't have to be fancy or have a YouTube video of a stage production and backup singers. As the psalm says, a joyful noise is all that is needed. Maybe a couple of you could get together? The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Once again, thank you to those who are filling out the congregational music surveys. Ideally, we would like to see a larger response. There are between 9 and 15 surveys completed each week, which is helpful, but we would like to see more. If you are sitting by the pew pads, please pass the surveys down so they are available to all. Your comments are greatly appreciated, in addition to just answering the multiple choice questions.

Peace,

Jamie  
630-202-6788

### **WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

Tuesday

**IntergeneRingers**

6pm

**Chancel Ringers**

7:30pm

Wednesday

**Praise Band**

6:30pm

**Sanctuary Choir**

7:30pm



## **Worship Music Update**

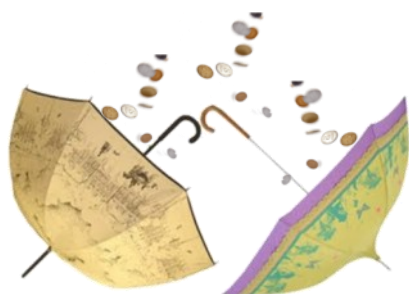
As you know, for the past several weeks we have been conducting a Worship Music Survey for your feedback on the songs that the congregation is asked to sing. We are pleased with the feedback we are receiving and will continue to conduct the survey to build on our initial learnings. Please complete the form after each service and leave it in the pews or drop it in the mailbox outside the office. If you plan to take it home with you, please return it the following Sunday, being careful to indicate the date of the service so we can match your comments up with the corresponding songs. Your opinion counts!

Hello, friends and congregants! Only a few things to report on my part from over in youth land. Confirmation is chugging along, having just had our first sacred site visit to Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. It was a worship experience quite different from ours at St. Matthew, but all of our youth enjoyed partaking of the culture of the UCC's flagship congregation, as well as the soul food brunch afterwards. The only other event that I'd like to bring to your attention is the Easter Sunrise worship service to be held on the More property at 6:30am on April 1st. I don't know if this will get to you by then, but all the same, prayers up for what looks to be a uniquely holy celebration. Continue to sign-up in the narthex to help out with CRAZIES on Sunday evenings, and I'll see you around.

Quinn Rosenthal

crazies

### Pennies From Heaven



Let's turn our umbrellas upside down!



### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

**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 (Manna) 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/Manna 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.**

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



# 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 fruit
- Canned soup
- Cold cereal
- Canned vegetables
- Canned spaghetti
- Hamburger, Chicken, and Tuna Helper
- Baby wipes
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Feminine pads - no tampons

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.

## Costa Rica House

In late June, a group of 13 people will be traveling to Nosara, Costa Rica, to build a house for a needy family. We need to raise \$6,000 for the cost of the house. If you would like to make a donation towards the house, you may write a check to St. Matthew UCC and put Costa Rica House in the memo section. You can mail the check or put it in the collection plate. If you have additional questions, please contact Julie Schubert at [tijjr7@att.net](mailto:tijjr7@att.net).



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## Our Prairie Path Clean-up project resumes this month!

As we did last year, 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 2018 (but can re-schedule with advance notice or if the weather isn't cooperative):

***Sunday, April 15th***  
***Sunday, June 24th***  
***Sunday, August 19th***  
***Sunday, October 21st***



If you want to participate, you will need to complete a waiver (only ONCE), and they are available in the narthex. Please call Dawn Schubert at 630.665.9860 if you have any questions. The exact start times may vary, but in general, we will meet around 2pm. Watch the Happenings and bulletin for updates as the date approaches.

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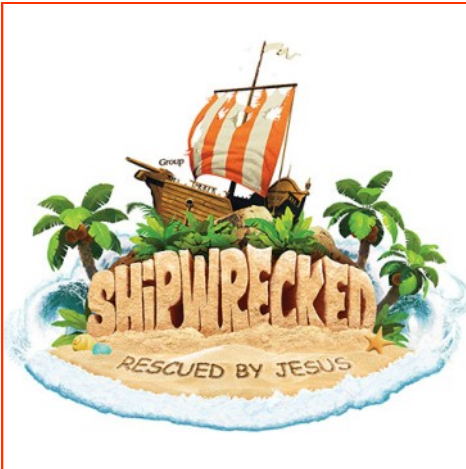
# Children's Ministry

April 2018

Thank you to the teachers, shepherds and M&M leaders who led the children during Lent: **Marla Mothershed, Kenna Anderson, Dawn Schubert, Francine Alavi, Patti Woods, Deb Felsenthal, Miegan Bresingham, Leslie Ortman, Kira Mothershed, Kelley Passini and Ethan Woods.**

In April, we will continue talking about the resurrection and the children will finish up their Good News scrapbooks. Thank you, Kenna, for playing the part of Mary, showing your scrapbook of Jesus.

Our next session is **Psalms 23**, where the children will learn about its special meaning. They will make a bead craft to help them understand the meaning. We will also continue singing our new songs and focus on reciting the Lord's Prayer.



## VBS 2018

Mark your calendars for **VBS 2018, June 11th-15th**. I will be sending registration forms in the mail and there will be extras in the narthex for you to give friends, family and neighbors.

### April birthdays:

**Kennedy Scalora 4/1**  
**Molly Hutchison 4/3**  
**Olivia Henderson 4/5**



*Sharing the Good News  
Scrapbook.*





# New Parenting Class

## Parenting the Love and Logic Way

Sponsored by St. Matthew UCC - 1420 S. Gables Blvd, Wheaton IL

Please join us for a class on Parenting The Love and Logic Way. Love and Logic is a proven technique that teaches your kids to listen the first time and ensures that your time with them is well spent and not wasted on anger and harsh discipline. The tools of this class are simple and effective. All classes are **Sunday evenings from 6-7:30 pm.**

Please invite your friends and family to join us for these **FREE CLASSES.**

**April 8th:** Putting an End to Arguing, Back Talk, and Begging

**April 15th:** Teaching Responsibility Without Losing Their Love

**April 22nd:** Setting Limits Without Waging War

**April 29th:** Avoiding Power Struggles

**May 6th:** Guiding Kids to Own and Solve Their Own Problems

**May 13th:** Teaching Kids To Complete Chores... Without Reminders and Without Pay

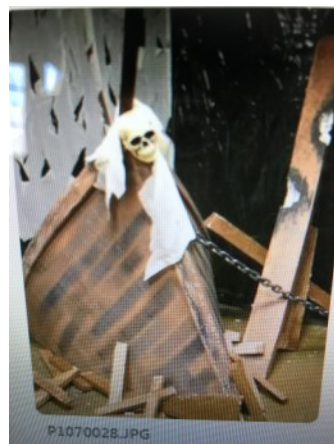
*Sign up at [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org) or by calling 630.665.1236.*

**Peter Martin has been practicing Love and Logic professionally and personally for over 10 years. As a Middle School social worker for 13 years in Des Plaines, he uses Love and Logic techniques to help create an environment which is welcoming and supports development of personal responsibility. Peter previously worked in social services as a child welfare specialist and in Early Intervention. In his role as a Middle School social worker, and parent of four wonderful children, Peter uses Love & Logic as a foundational approach. He has both used and taught Love and Logic for over 10 years.**



**Ahoy, Matey!** Are you handy? We are looking for some help building our VBS main stage. The theme is "Shipwrecked" and we are looking for someone to build something similar to these pictures, out of cardboard or plywood. We have ideas and directions. If you have time to help, please contact Kenna Anderson at [Kenna1@comcast.net](mailto:Kenna1@comcast.net) or 630.209.5710. VBS is June 11th-15th. Thank YOU!

## VBS NEEDS YOU!





# New Member Interviews



## **Deb Lipinski**

Deb was born and raised in Plano, IL. After attending IBC (now Benedictine University) in Lisle, she chose to stay in the western

suburbs and now lives in Warrenville. She is a neighbor of our own Betty Luessenhop, which is how she first learned of St. Matthew Church. She gave us a try, liked it here and decided to join. We're very happy that she did!

Deb does HR work for a German engineering company and is presently taking additional classes in her field online from the University of Arkansas. She has two sons, who both live in Lisle, and is a proud grandma (GiGi) to two little boys, Hunter and Hudson.

In her spare time Deb loves music, gardening and reading. Now that she has fully recovered from back surgery, she is anxious to resume outdoor activities with her beloved rescue dog. She also looks forward to becoming active here at St. Matthew. We look forward to working with and having fun with you, Deb! WELCOME!



## **Jeff Muntz**

Jeff Muntz's is a familiar face around St. Matthew, as he and his wife have been attending regularly for about ten years. Sarah became a member a while back and now Jeff has made it official.

Jeff was raised in Spring Valley, IL and moved here after marrying Sarah, who grew up in the Chicago area. He is an attorney specializing in Family Law and she is an assistant elementary school principal in Carol Stream. Their two daughters are active in scouting— Anna, 9, is a Brownie and Mary, 6, is a Daisy. They all have fun together with family activities and they love to travel...in fact, they plan to spend spring break in Mexico. Safe travels!

The Muntz family are very active in the life of St. Matthew. Sarah served a term as the Nursery Volunteer Coordinator; Anna is an acolyte; and the entire family helps out by serving as one-Sunday-a-month greeters.

THANK YOU! We are happy and grateful to have you in our church family.





# Announcements and Events

## RING, SING in the SPRINGTIME



*Chancel Ringers, IntergeneRingers and  
Mini-Me Ringers bell choirs*

present a fundraising program at

**St. Matthew United Church of Christ  
1420 Gables Blvd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189**

**Sunday, April 22, 2018, 7:00 pm**

Tickets are \$8.00 and are available from John Kouns (630.542.4641), the church office, in the Narthex on Sundays, or at the door

Handbell Director:  
Kim Congdon

Choral Director:  
Marilyn Wilgocki



*Selections will include gospel, jazz, patriotic, and show/film tunes with individual and combined performances by all groups.*



*Pastor Allen came into the office one morning and told us about the most amazing breakfast that Alex Alavi had made him that morning. Alex shared his recipe for what Pastor described as "the most outstanding eggs he had ever eaten!" From that breakfast, a new article for The VOICE was born. If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share, please send it to Dani in the office, and we will share one recipe a month.*

### Al's Eggs (feeds 2-3)

2 Tbsp. olive oil

3-4 medium-sized tomatoes on the vine  
cut up in small pieces

1-2 tsp. garlic powder

1-1.5 tsp. turmeric powder

1-2 tsp. Morton's Nature Seasonings (to taste)

4-6 Eggs

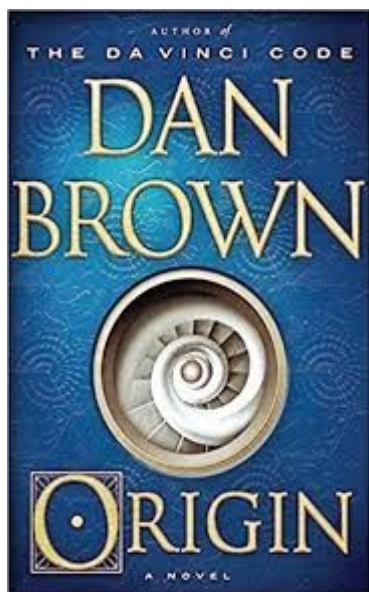
jalapeno or cayenne pepper (to taste)

This recipe really depends on your taste and several other factors, including the size of tomatoes and measurement of spices.

Put olive oil in frying pan. Over medium heat, add tomatoes to pan. Sprinkle seasonings on the tomatoes (to taste). Cover and cook seasoned tomatoes until they are really soft and juicy. Add jalapeno pepper or cayenne pepper (to your taste), stir and let it cook for a few more minutes.

Drop eggs on top of the tomatoes, cover and cook until the eggs are done medium-easy. You want to make sure that the eggs are not over-cooked or too hard. Serve and enjoy! Bon Appetit!

*Alternatively, Alex and Francine will be delighted to cook you a breakfast. Please contact Alex at 630.772.4449.*



## Novel Approaches

NOVEL APPROACHES The novel to be approached in April is "Origin" by Dan Brown.

This new book featuring Robert Langdon pits creationism against science. It thrusts Professor Langdon into the dangerous intersection of humankind's two most enduring questions. (Google)

The date: Friday, April 27th at 7:30pm

The place: the Mooks' at 1523 Surrey Dr. in Wheaton

All are welcome, join us for fellowship, food and friendly discussion.

**JACKIE TOBIN** A few members have asked about Jackie Tobin. Her son, Mike, recently let us know that she fell shortly before Christmas and is in an assisted living/rehabilitation facility. She would enjoy receiving cards or notes. They can be sent to Jackie Tobin, 3700 Canal Street, St. Charles, MO 63301. She does not have or want a phone in her care unit.



## Pickleball Event – Saturday, April 7th

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in America today. It is a fun sport created for all ages and skill levels that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong.

Adults are invited to come play pickleball on Saturday, April 7th from 3:45-5:45pm at the indoor pickleball courts at the Warren Ave. Warrenville Park District facility. The cost for 12 or more participants will be \$100, which includes instruction for beginners (but does not include a little something extra for the instructor). Participants will divide the costs. Grabbing dinner afterwards will also be an option.

This Congregational Life event is limited to 30 participants and sign-up is required. The sign-up sheet is hanging in the narthex. You may also contact Tracey Blake at 630.946.4884 or [stutra@hotmail.com](mailto:stutra@hotmail.com) with questions or to reserve a spot.

## Wafflepoolooza!!

Join us after church on Sunday, April 15th in Dobstaff Hall for St. Matthew's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wafflepoolooza.

Congregational Life/

Membership Committee members will be serving waffles with assorted toppings.



## Gauging Interest - Yoga

The Membership Life committee is entertaining the idea of hosting a yoga class or a series of them in Dobstaff Hall. We do not currently have a person who could lead such an event. If anyone has an interest in leading or helping to plan this further, please contact Rob Neufelder.



# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Easter</b> 6:30am Sunrise service 9:30am service Bells	2	3	4 1pm Women's Prayer Group	5	6 7pm Euchre	7 3:45 Pickleball
8 6pm Love and Logic Parenting Class 6pm crazies	9	10 12:30 Digital Ministry Meeting	11 1pm Women's Prayer Group PADS	12 PADS	13	14
15 11am Wafflepoolooza Prairie Path clean-up 6pm Love and Logic Parenting Class 6pm crazies	16 6pm SRC 7pm Council	17	18 1pm Women's Prayer Group	19	20	21
22 Open Choir 11am M&M's 6pm Love and Logic Parenting Class 6pm crazies 7pm Village Voices Bells Concert VOICE articles due	23	24	25 1pm Women's Prayer Group	26	27 7:30pm Novel Approaches	28
29 St. Matthew Bike Ride 6pm Love and Logic Parenting Class 6pm crazies	30	<b>TUESDAY NIGHTS</b> 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	<b>WEDNESDAY NIGHTS</b> 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir			

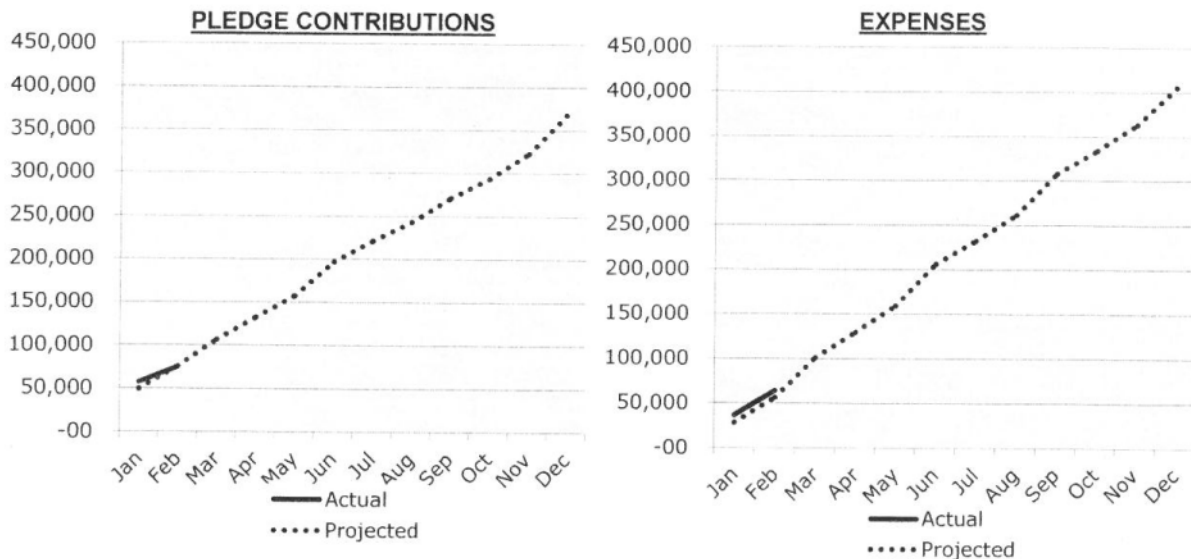


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending February 28, 2018

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	17,595	74,957	370,000
Loose Offerings	449	736	4,000
Rental Income	500	650	9,300
Fund Raising	190	373	4,000
Investment Income	37	74	300
More Property	-00	-00	15,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	6,357	5,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>18,771</b>	<b>83,147</b>	<b>407,600</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	17,284	33,360	230,855
Building	10,259	28,975	104,580
Loans & Notes	-00	-00	26,750
Mission / OCWM	-00	394	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	277	368	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	26	50	3,000
Music	-00	569	4,200
Worship	224	481	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>28,070</b>	<b>64,196</b>	<b>407,035</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$(9,299)</b>	<b>\$18,951</b>	<b>\$565</b>

**2018 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)

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: 10am-2pm

Friday: 9am-1pm

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

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

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

**Quinn Rosenthal, Director of Youth Ministry**

[quinn.rosenthal@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:quinn.rosenthal@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)

**Dani de Leon, Administrative Assistant**

[office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

**Alicia Drabik, Business Manager**

[business.manager@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:business.manager@stmatthewucc.org)