

March

2021



of



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Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

Letting Go of Fear

I am rediscovering a spiritual writer who has spoken to me many times when I needed a healing word, Henri Nouwen. I recommend an old book by him that reads like a new book, "**Jesus: a Gospel**," which is a series of short reflections on the stories from Jesus's life paired with Rembrandt's drawings. This month's devotion is taken from this book (page 57). I pray you find it as helpful as I have.

Matthew 14:22-27 - Jesus Walks on the Water

Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while He sent the people away. After sending the people away, He went up a hill by Himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; and by this time, the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it. Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. When they saw Him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and screamed with fear. Jesus spoke to them at once, "Courage!" He said. "It is I. Don't be afraid!" (Good News Translation)

The house of love is not simply a place in the afterlife, a place in heaven beyond this world. Jesus offers this house right in the midst of our anxious world.

When I was in Latin America and lived among the poor and oppressed people, I suddenly started to realize that they were not fearful people. Where I noticed hunger and oppression, torture, and agony, I found more gratitude, more joy, more peace, and less fear than among those who have so many more of the world's goods. Suddenly I realized that the other side of oppression and poverty in under-developed countries is the fear, guilt, loneliness, and the anguish of First World countries. Somehow those two can never be separated. Our suffering, which is often fear and loneliness, and anguish and lack of freedom, is not separated from the oppression and from the poverty from the anguish of those who live in what we call the Third World countries.

But Jesus speaks to us in the Gospel with very strong words. Throughout the gospel, we hear, "Do not be afraid." That is what Gabriel says to Mary. That is what the angels say to the women at the tomb: "Do not be afraid." And that is what the Lord Himself says when He appears to His disciples: "Do not be afraid, it is I." Fear is not of God. "I am the God of love," a God who invites you to receive—to receive the gifts of joy and peace and gratitude of the poor, and to let go of your fears so that you can start sharing what you are so afraid to let go of.

The invitation of Christ is the invitation to move out of the house of fear and into the house of love: to move out of that place of imprisonment into a place of freedom. "Come to me, come to My house which is a house of love," Jesus says.

Blessings,

Pastor Allen

Lenten Sermon Series: The Light in the Darkness

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| March 7th | John 4:4-26 | The Woman at the Well |
| March 14th | John 9:1-41 | The Blind Man |
| March 21st | John 11:1-45 | The Resurrection of Lazarus |
| March 28th Palm Sunday | John 12:12-19 John 19:28-37 | The Arrival of the King The Light Lifted Up |
| April 1st Maundy Thursday | Lenten Lessons and Carols John 13:2-17 John 18:1-14 John 18:19-23 John 18: 28-40 John 19:16-27 | Washing the Feet In the Garden Peter on Trial Pilate on Trial The World on Trial |
| April 4th Easter Sunday | John 20:1-18 | The Light that Cannot Be Extinguished |





Notes from the Music Room....

We walk into March weary from the cold, snow, and COVID. If the weather people are right, as I write this we may be out of the deep freeze, which means snow will be melting and we will see the grass again. I even heard that someone saw a robin already. As things warm up and vaccines are available for more people, I even see hope of us getting back together. This, the coming of spring, and knowing

Easter's promise of resurrection, gives us something to look forward to.

In the meantime, we continue to do what we can to keep our spirits up and as much normalcy as we can manage. To that end, our praise band people continue to support our streaming services, small bell ensembles rehearse and record once a month for our services, and the choir is putting together another virtual choir piece. They are small steps, but necessary to keep us all moving forward. We are fortunate to have such talented musicians supporting our worship!

Stay Warm, stay safe, and keep a song in your heart.

Peace, and stay safe.

Jamie Craig

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org



Adult Ed Series

Our series on recognizing racism in ourselves, our culture, and our system continues on Wednesday evenings, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th at 7pm on Zoom. Based on the book **"Waking Up White"** by Debby Irving, we will explore how we have been desensitized to race growing up, living in community with others from the dominant culture, and how we impact people who are not white. All perspectives are welcome. You do not need to have attended prior sessions to join and appreciate another.

[Click here to watch Debby's TED talk.](#)

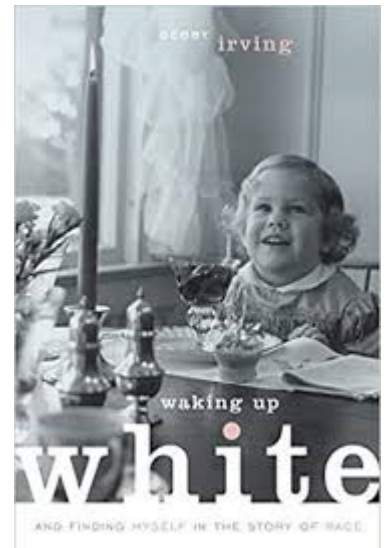
[The book is available on Amazon.](#) We have a small number of books available.

Contact Byron Miller (byronmiller@ameritech.com) with any questions.

ZOOM INVITATION

Join us at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8715271101?pwd=bHBVTIVEZ0YwZGNibWRvdXBhc2h2dz09>
Meeting ID: 871 5271 1019 Passcode: 633666

Telephone +1 312 626 6799



Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)



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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Hillary Reckamp Jessica McGill |
| 6 | Bob Crooks Cheryl Umbeck |
| 8 | Erin Walsh John Price |
| 12 | Brian English |
| 16 | Julie Barnshaw |
| 20 | Lisa Curda |
| 21 | Adam Kirincich |
| 23 | Elijah Baird Andrew Kouns |
| 29 | Lori Chatten |
| 30 | Emily English |



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.

Food on the First

Thank you to all who have generously donated. It is very appreciated!

Here is what is needed in March:

- Canned soup and fruit
- Canned tuna
- Beans (cans or bags)
- Bar soap
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Baby wipes
- Feminine pads (no tampons)
- Adult diapers
- Diapers—any size
- Disposable razors
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream



Please make sure items have not expired and are unopened. If you have any questions, please call Betty Greer at 630.682.4084.

Since we are not meeting in-person right now, Betty will be at church on Saturday, March 13th and 20th from 1-2:30pm to collect donations.

Food and monetary donations are greatly needed right now. To make a monetary donation, go to <http://www.peoplesrc.org/donate/>.

crazies

Psalm 149:4 "For the Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with victory."

As we continue this Lenten season and getting rid of this bitter cold, crazies has been meeting for Zoom sessions every other week for 30 minutes.

Last month, we started to look at the character Jonah and how he disobeyed God's calling. There will be a little halt in that series, because as you all know, Blessy will be delivering our second child on March 16th. She and I will both be away from March 14th through April 11th. During that time, Dawn and Pastor Allen will be covering crazies for us, and they will be sending updates.

We are blessed to have a wonderful church family who has been supportive and praying for us during this journey. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

God Bless,

Mel Jerome, Director of Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry March 2021

February birthdays:

Abby Chapple February 6th
Zelda Chapple February 8th
Jack Legatzke February 8th

It was so much fun seeing these three on the week of their birthdays while delivering their Valentine packs.

We delivered Sunday School Valentine lesson and activities to 19 Sunday School families. It was fun to see some of the children smiling at us from their front door! Thank you, **Dawn** and **Kenna**, for helping with the deliveries.

We will be delivering palms to each of our Sunday School families and asking them to make a short video of themselves waving the palms for the Palm Sunday service. We will also deliver a Sunday School lesson taking families on a journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. It will include sequence story cards, crafts, and other fun activities. We will deliver these Easter boxes in the middle of March.



We are in the process of collecting donations and addresses for our annual college and military care package project. If you would like to donate money towards items for the care packages, please send to the church with "care package" in the memo section. Also, if you have a college student or military family member, please email their address to swold45@hotmail.com.

The deadline for donations is Sunday, March 7th.

March birthdays:

Kyrie O'Connell
Bryce Holshouser
Ava Sancken

March 20th
March 21st
March 21st

Cole Hutchison
Greyson Hammond
Luke Mothershed

March 23rd
March 30th
March 30th



1.



2.



3.

1. Cole and Molly with Valentine packages. 2. Evelyn, Olivia, and Mikey opening Valentine package. 3. Evelyn on the move in Florida, with her therapist.

Susan Wold
Director of Children's Ministry

Announcements



Leslie Ortman Memorial

An informal Memorial gathering will be held on June 12th from 1-

4pm at the Deer Grove Forest Preserve in Palatine. Pastor Allen will say a prayer and her daughter, Abby, will share memories. We will share more details as we approach the date.



© Can Stock Photo

Members Only Page on Website

All St. Matthew members should have received an email regarding the new Members Only page on the website. Click the Resources tab on the home page and then select the Members Only icon. You will find the most recent Directory, Council minutes, and other resources. Please contact the office if you did not receive the email containing the password.

Prayer Requests



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>



The Men's Group continues to meet via Zoom at 8am every Tuesday morning.

We typically have eight men on the call and discussion is vigorous and usually uplifting. All men are welcome!

To get a Zoom invitation, please contact

byronmiller@ameritech.net

2021 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.

2021 VOICE deadlines: Typically the second to last Sunday of the month, with exception of November and December.

March 21st, April 18th, May 23rd, July 18th, August 22nd, September 19th, October 24th, November 14th, December 12th.

The Voice is not published in July.



March Yoga—Yoga as Worship

If you are looking to show your body and mind some compassion, please join me in the sanctuary or on Zoom on Thursdays at 10am.

It is a gentle way to energize your body and calm your soul.

Masks required and generous social distancing will be practiced.

Any questions, contact Marla Mothershed at mmothershed63@gmail.com or 630.441.5963.

Donations accepted and will be given to Missions.

Simple Communion Bread

Ingredients:

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/3 cup vegetable oil

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup water

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.

While any bread or juice will do for Communion, if you like to do something creative, then try this simple communion bread recipe.



Check out the St. Matthew website

For the most up-to-date St. Matthew information, please check the St. Matthew website. You can make a prayer request, sign up for the newsletter, learn about online giving, and more!

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



Online Sunday Worship

While we are unable to share Sunday worship as a group, please join us on Sunday morning at 9:30 online for Pastor Allen's weekly message and worship service.

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 the 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 our homepage: <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>



Online Giving

During this time when we cannot worship together in-person, please make an effort, if able, to continue your offerings. We are so grateful for your continued support of St. Matthew.

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: www.stmatthewucc.org

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

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

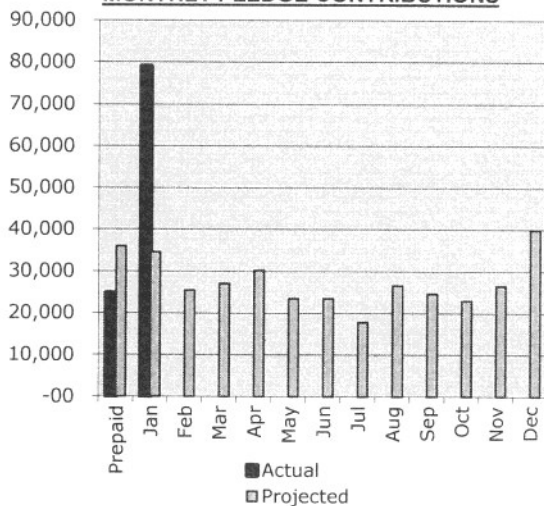
For the Period Ending January 31, 2021

| | ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH | ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE | ANNUAL BUDGET |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| RECEIPTS: | | | |
| Pledge Contributions (incl.Prepaid) | 103,673 | 103,673 | 358,320 |
| Loose Offerings | 300 | 300 | 400 |
| Rental Income | -00 | -00 | 3,200 |
| Fund Raising | 29 | 29 | 400 |
| Interest Income | 4 | 4 | 120 |
| Investment Income | 4,347 | 4,347 | -00 |
| More Property | -00 | -00 | 39,000 |
| Miscellaneous Income | -00 | -00 | 5,000 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 108,353 | 108,353 | 406,440 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | | |
| Salaries & Staff Expenses | 23,038 | 23,038 | 283,863 |
| Building & Admin | 5,911 | 5,911 | 86,545 |
| Loans & Notes | -00 | -00 | 26,750 |
| Mission / OCWM | 200 | 200 | 27,250 |
| Committees: | | | |
| Christian Education | 106 | 106 | 8,000 |
| Membership Life | -00 | -00 | 3,000 |
| Memorial/Endowment | -00 | -00 | -00 |
| Misc. & Contingency | -00 | -00 | 1,000 |
| Music | 508 | 508 | 5,568 |
| Stewardship | -00 | -00 | -00 |
| Worship | 160 | 160 | 1,200 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 29,923 | 29,923 | 443,176 |
| SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) | \$78,430 | \$78,430 | \$(36,736) |

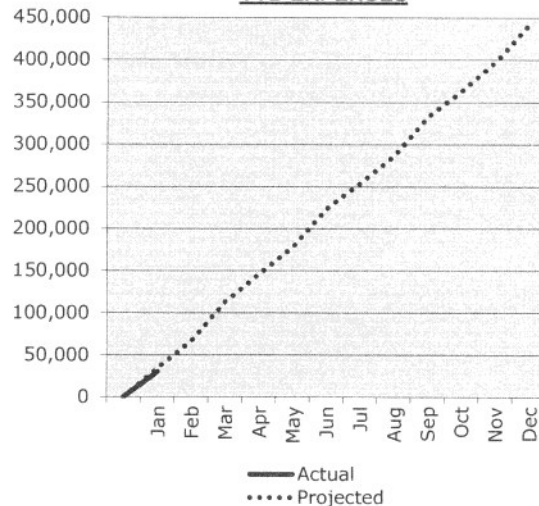
2021 Activity - Actual vs. Projected

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Pledge YTD incl. Prepaid: | Actual | \$103,673 | Projected | \$70,495 |
| | (Actual Prepaid) | (\$24,673) | (Projected Prepaid) | (\$35,935) |

MONTHLY PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS



YTD EXPENSES



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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