

THE VOICE

of

St. Matthew
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



March 2018

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Pastoral Message

I usually write my own devotions for the newsletter, but I was blown away by the devotion from the 2018 UCC writers group devotional called Lovers and Fools. It caught my heart in a tough week of dealing with ongoing family illnesses and with the horrific news of yet another school shooting. See what it does for you.

-Peace, Pastor Allen

A Lenten Devotion: The Choice to Rejoice by Matt Laney

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4

Rejoice? Seriously, Paul? Obviously, you didn't live in a time where people get mowed down at worship or at a concert or at a march for peace; a time when our leader flaunts bullying, racism and environmental rollbacks; a time when executives and stock holders get rich while workers are left further behind; a time when a child dies from hunger every ten seconds.

Rejoice? Don't be naive, Pastor Paul.

Reading this cheery ancient scripture next to dreary current headlines, we have to remind ourselves that Paul's world was awash in despots, destruction and despair, far more than ours. He knew all about hardship.

Maybe that's why Paul tells the Philippians church to rejoice twice. When I repeat myself, it's usually because I want to emphasize my point...or because I can't think of anything else to say. Never short of something to say, Paul repeated himself to emphasize the discipline of rejoicing as an act of resistance when injustice and struggles pile up.

In fact, Paul uses the words "joy" and "rejoice" 15 times in this letter. Did I mention Paul was in prison when he wrote it? That's leading by example. He said if he could be sentenced to death, he would still rejoice. I'm reminded of young people singing joyfully in jail during the civil rights movement and of a friend who battled cancer with laughter and levity until it took her life.

Just for today, Lord of all, let me rejoice in You always. Again I say, rejoice!

LENT



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?

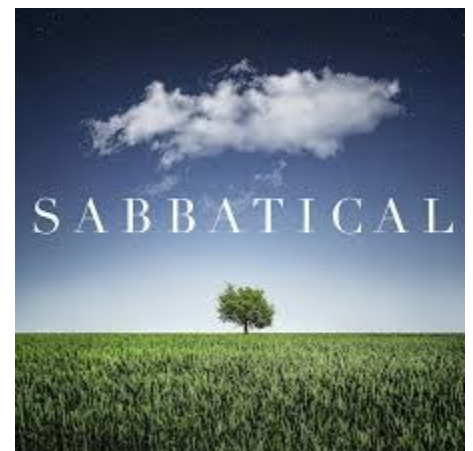
Sabbatical is meant to be a break from routine for pastors and that means a temporary release from pastoral duties. The pastoral team will support the congregation when there is a pastoral need.

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 may 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*



Food on the First

Thank you so much for the February donations. They are always appreciated.

Here is what is needed in March:

- 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.

SCRIP (Manna) Program

Scrip is coming in "like a **lamb**" this month, but let's make it go "out like a **lion**"!

By the end of March, we'll be a quarter of the way through the year. We have a \$4,000 budget line for fundraising, and if we expect the Scrip Program to do that for us, we need to make \$1,000 per quarter. So far, through February, we've made less than \$400.

To reach our goal, let's make our Scrip program **ROAR!**



If you are a Scrip/Manna participant, thank you for your continuing support. If you have not tried it yet, stop by the Scrip table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday for more information on this **no-cost to you** fundraiser!

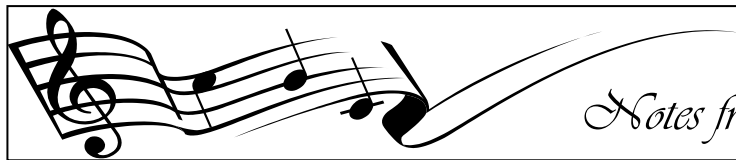


MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Hillary Blake |
| | Jessica Blake |
| 6 | Bob Crooks |
| | Cheryl Umbeck |
| 8 | Erin Walsh |
| | John Price |
| 12 | Brian English |
| 14 | Bud Justice |
| 16 | Julie Barnshaw |
| | Lexie Justice |
| 20 | Lisa Curda |
| | John Ribe |
| 21 | Adam Kirincich |
| 23 | Elijah Baird |
| | Andrew Kouns |
| 27 | Tony Banaszewski |
| 29 | Lori Chatten |
| 30 | Emily English |

Christ Tamil UCC

We welcomed Christ Tamil UCC last month. Their regular Sunday schedule begins around noon, worship at 12:30pm and should be cleaning up and leaving the church by 5:30-6pm. Please contact Pastor Allen with any questions.



Notes from the Music Room....

Here we are in March and we have three more Open Choir Sing Sundays before the spring season is over. May's date may need to be changed so I have not included it, but please mark your calendars now for the next two Open Choir Sing Sundays: March 25th – Palm Sunday, and April 22nd. Please be in the sanctuary at 8:15am ready to start.

Thank you to those who are filling out the congregational music question sheets. We are looking at them, but need more information. Please continue to fill them out each week. Your comments are greatly appreciated, as well as, answers to the multiple choice questions.

Peace,

Jamie
630.202.6788
jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

Worship Music Feedback



One of the main takeaways from the marketing study that we had completed last year was the desire by our congregation to have input into how songs are

selected for the worship service. Based on that desire, an informal music committee convened to decide how best to approach that task. For the next several Sundays, we will have a Worship Music Survey available in the pews for this purpose. Please fill the forms out after each service and leave them in the pews or drop them in the mailbox outside the office. If you plan to take them home with you, please return them the following Sunday, being careful to indicate the date of the service so we can match your comments up with the corresponding songs.

Please note that this survey only relates to the songs that the congregation is asked to sing. Choir, Praise Band, Bell Choir and other special music are not the target of this project—the best way to give your input to those groups is to join them. You will be welcomed with open arms! Thank you in advance for giving us your thoughts. It will be extremely helpful in choosing music that enhances your worship experience.

crozies

Hey, church!

Just wanted to make you all aware of a few things involving our youth that are coming down the pike. We've set a couple of dates for our Confirmation program, beginning with our visit to Trinity UCC in Chicago on March 11th.

Please also mark your calendars for our second annual Easter Sunrise Worship Service! It will be at 6:30am on Easter Sunday, April 1st. The youth and I will have a great time planning and executing it like we did last year. Please make it if you can. See you around!

Quinn Rosenthal

NEW PARENTING CLASS!

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. Sign up in the narthex.**



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

April 15: Teaching Responsibility Without Losing Their Love

April 22: Setting Limits Without Waging War

April 29: Avoiding Power Struggles

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

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



Faith and Life Series

Please join us for our "Faith and Life" series on Wednesday evenings:

March 7th speaker: Mary Henderson; and March 14th speaker: Allen Mothershed. We will meet in Dobstaff Hall at 6:15pm to enjoy a complimentary dinner sponsored by a St. Matthew committee. We will then hear about a faith journey from

one of our valued members. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we have enough food. We hope you will join us!

LENT TO EASTER: Faith in Times of Pain

This year we have been exploring dispositions (attitudes of the heart) of our faith such as compassion, generosity, peace, and the courage to follow. This Lenten season we will consider what it means to have faith in time of trial and suffering.

March 4th: Job: The One Who Could Not Answer (Job 38:1-11, 42:1-6)

March 11th: Judas the Betrayer: Friend or Foe (John 13:21-35)

March 18th: Overcoming Evil with Good (Romans 12:9-21)

March 25th: Palm/Passion Sunday (Mark 11:1-11)

Picking Up Crosses (Mark 8:31-38; Mark 15:20-39)

April 1st: Trusting Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12-20,

Mark 16:1-8)





EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS

The Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 24th at 10am. We would greatly appreciate donations of filled eggs to be put in the box in the narthex. You may grab a bag of empty eggs to fill or may buy your own and fill them. THANK YOU so much!

Children's Ministry

March 2018

Thank you, St. Matthew church family for generously donating to our **annual care package mission project**. Care package and postage donations, along with help packing boxes, homemade cards and bookmarks are going to make the recipients of the packages feel loved.

Thank you, teachers and shepherds, for leading the children for our science unit: Jan Beaton, Dawn Schubert, Kenna Anderson, Sarah Muntz, Miegan Bresingham, Leslie Ortman, Ethan Woods, Kelley Passini and Kira Mothershed. Thank you to Miegan Bresingham, who led our M&M Valentine's gathering. The M&M participants made placemats for the PADS Valentine meal.

March 4th begins our five week Lenten Workshop Rotation Unit, A Good News Scrapbook. The *Good News Scrapbook* tells the story of Jesus' life from Palm Sunday through Easter from Mary's point of view. As Mary's scrapbook of her son Jesus is shared with the children, children learn about Holy Week and hear the good news. Children create their own Good News Scrapbook as a reflection of their growing faith. There are five workshops (not including Easter Sunday) in this unit, with Sunday, April 8th being the day that the children will create their own scrapbooks.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, March 24th at 10am sharp. Join us for a fun morning hunting for eggs, enjoying snacks, making crafts and visiting with the Easter Bunny. If you would like to help fill eggs for the hunt, the empty bags of eggs are in the narthex waiting to be filled.

February and March birthdays: Zelda Chapple 2/8, Christy Banaszewski 3/15, Bryce Holshouser 3/21, Ava Sancken 3/21, Cole Hutchison 3/23, Reese Latimer 3/30, David Pierce 3/30, Luke Mothershed 3/30, Grayson Hammond 3/30

Congratulations Kelly, Steve, Zelda and Fiona Chapple on the blessed new addition to your family: Abbey Rose Chapple. Born on February 6th, 8 pounds, 7 ounces. We are so happy to have our newest Children's Ministry member.

Making care package cards and bookmarks.



New Member Interviews



Sunita and Eric Lindbergh

The Lindbergh family moved to Wheaton from Naperville in the summer of 2016. Wanting to find a church closer to their new home, they checked the Internet and decided to try St. Matthew. As they were leaving church the first Sunday, their children said "Can this be our new church?!!" (Kudos to Mrs. Susan and the Church School Program!)

Eric enjoys living closer to Glenbard West High School, where he teaches Science, Honors Biology and AP Environmental Science. Sunita formerly taught Biology at Nequa Valley High School in Naperville but is now a stay-at-home mom to Kayla, 10, and Braden, 7. Both are students at Whittier School in Wheaton.

The family enjoys taking nature walks together and, during our recent heavy snows, had fun sledding. They also like to play board games, something Eric did a lot of as a child. In addition, Kayla and her Dad have been "into" Harry Potter ...reading a book, then watching the movie version.

A warm WELCOME to the Lindbergh Family! We're happy Kayla and Braden wanted to keep you all here!

Kristen and Dan Pierce

The Pierce family has lived in Carol Stream for about two years. Dan is a Graphic Designer and Kristen is a Library Technician at a Medical School. They have a son, David, 6, who is a first-grader at Heritage Lakes School in Carol Stream.

While looking for a UCC Church close to them, they found St. Matthew on the Internet and decided to make it their church home. David has been attending Church School and is a soccer player, which keeps the family busy. They also enjoy reading, watching movies together, and travelling.



A hearty WELCOME to St. Matthew!...we look forward to getting to know you!

Liz and Jeff Westergaard



The Westergaards live in Wheaton and have a combined family of six children. One son, Allen, is still at home and is a senior at Wheaton North High School. They have two grandchildren, including a new baby girl born in South Carolina in early February. Liz is a school nurse at Bower School in Warrenville, while Jeff works with Municipal Bonds and commutes to Chicago.

They like to keep active and both enjoy running - Liz has a running buddy and Jeff runs to the train every morning. Also, they have a tandem bicycle that they ride on the Prairie Path, which is where they first spotted St. Matthew! When they began church shopping, they decided to try "the church on the Prairie Path." They liked it, kept coming back, and decided to join! They are looking forward to taking part in more church activities.

Already, Liz is trying her hand at playing handbells, and they have signed up to help out as substitute greeters - THANK YOU... and WELCOME! We're very glad you found us on the Prairie Path!

Beth and Jim Woods

Beth and Jim Woods live in Glen Ellyn with their two boys, Ethan (8th Grade) and Andrew (1st Grade). Beth was born in Rochester, New York, but moved a lot as a child, and Jim was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago. They met at Valparaiso University and were married at Downers Grove UMC .

After attending several churches over the years, they were referred to St. Matthew by Jim's parents. Friends of Sam Kouns' brother, they had attended Sam's memorial service and found it beautiful...the music, the people, the leaders and the general church atmosphere. Jim, Beth and the boys took their advice, attended Rally Day in 2016 and have been attending ever since!

Jim is a Civil Engineer and Beth is an elementary teacher. She took several years off to focus on the boys, but has recently begun substitute teaching. The Woods family enjoys music, camping, sports, and hanging out with friends and family. They have already become active in their new church home: Jim is a loyal PADS volunteer; Beth has sung solos and plays in the Praise Band; Ethan is a regular attendee at CRAZIES; Andrew is an Acolyte.

We really appreciate the Woods' willingness to participate in and enhance life at St. Matthew....
THANKS! We're so happy to have you here!

Novel Approaches

In March, we are taking a break from reading a novel to watch "Casablanca," a film that figured in the story line of the novel we read in February, "A Gentleman in Moscow." After watching the movie, we will discuss its significance in the novel.

The date: Friday, March 16th at 7:30 pm. The place: St. Matthew UCC Parlor
All are welcome, join us for fellowship, food and friendly discussion.

READ AHEAD for April: "Origin" by Dan Brown



Easter Flowers

Orders for Easter flowers are now being taken. The deadline to order is **Monday, March 5th**. Please place forms and payment in the offering plate or in the locked mailbox outside the office. Checks should be made payable to St. Matthew UCC and indicate "Easter flowers" in the memo section. If you have any questions, contact Lisa Curda, 630.567.8019, or call the office.



Office and Pastor's Hours Reminder

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 be sure his schedule has not changed 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: 9am-1pm

Our Prairie Path Clean-up project resumes SOON!

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 18th

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 will be available in the narthex in March. Please call Dawn Schubert ([\(630\) 665-9860](tel:6306659860)) 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.

Wafflepoolooza!!

Join us after church on Sunday, April 15th in Dobstaff Hall for St. Matthew's 2nd Annual Wafflepoolooza.

Congregational Life/
Membership Committee
members will be serving
waffles with assorted top-
pings.



The Memorial/Endowment Committee is looking for a few new members.

The Committee helps direct and facilitate Memorials given to St. Matthew and establishes Endowments directed to St. Matthew and investments of those funds. We meet a few times a year as needed. Please email

me: leeinwheaton@gmail.com or
call 630.665.6345 for any information.

Thanks for your consideration!

Lee Anderson, Committee Chair



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.



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 with questions or to reserve a spot.

March

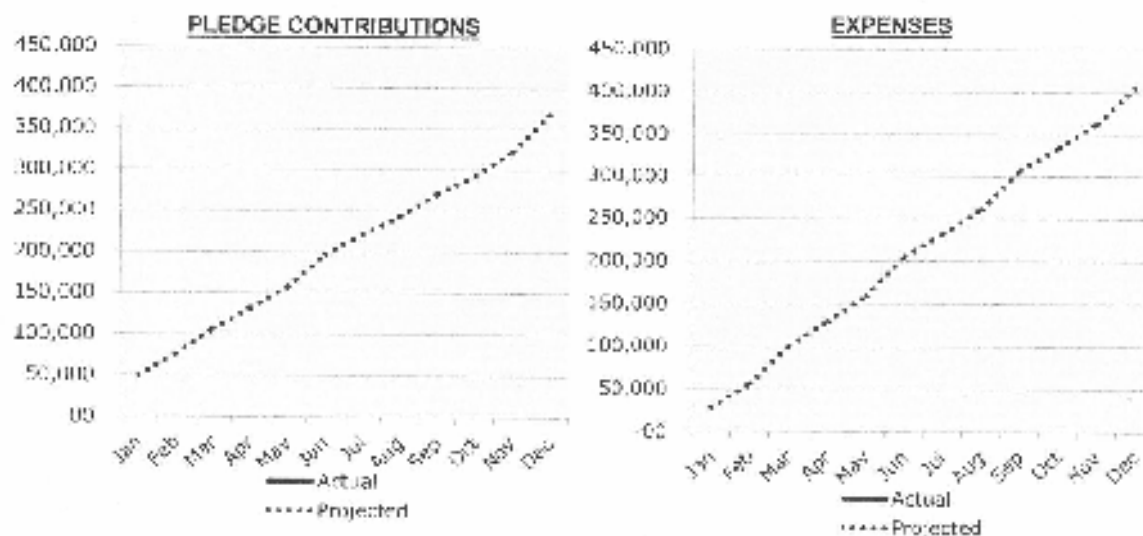
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	1	2	3 2pm Dorothy McGowen Memorial Service
4 9:30am Worship Service Cooper's Corner Brunch after service 6pm crazies	5 Easter Flower Orders Due	6	7 1pm Women's Prayer Group 6:15pm Faith and Life Series	8	9	10
11 Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies	12	13	14 1pm Women's Prayer Group 6:15pm Faith and Life Series PADS	15 7pm SRC	16 7:30pm Novel Approaches	17
18 9:30am Worship Service BELLS SUNDAY 11am M and M Gathering VOICE ARTICLES DEADLINE	19 6pm Confirmation Meeting 7pm Council Meeting	20	21 1pm Women's Prayer Group 6:15 Faith and Life Series	22	23	24 10am Easter Egg Hunt
25 Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship Service Open choir 6pm crazies	26 Office Closed	27 Office Hours 10am-12pm	28 NO Women's Prayer Group	29 Maundy Thursday 6pm Dinner 7pm Service	30 Good Friday Office Closed	31

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

For the Period Ending January 31, 2018

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	57,362	57,362	370,000
Loose Offerings	287	287	4,000
Rental Income	150	150	9,300
Fund Raising	182	182	4,000
Investment Income	37	37	300
More Property	-00	-00	15,000
Miscellaneous Income	8,357	8,357	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	64,375	64,376	407,600
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	18,076	18,076	230,855
Building	18,710	18,710	104,580
Loans & Notes	-00	-00	25,750
Mission / CCWM	394	394	28,850
Committees:			
Christian Education	92	92	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	24	24	3,000
Music	569	569	4,200
Worship	257	257	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	36,126	36,126	407,035
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$28,250	\$28,250	\$565

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

Web Site: 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

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org

Quinn Rosenthal, Director of Youth Ministry

quinn.rosenthal@stmatthewucc.org

Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist

brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org

Kim Congdon, Handbell Director

kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org

Dani de Leon, Administrative Assistant

office@stmatthewucc.org

Alicia Drabik, Business Manager

business.manager@stmatthewucc.org