

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Carol Stream IL  
Permit No. 6047

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**St. Matthew United Church of Christ**

(630) 665-1236 (Office)  
(630) 665-1436 (Fax)  
Office Email: [office@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthew-ucc.org)  
Web Site: [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)  
Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
  
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Church School: 10:00 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**  
[pastor@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@stmatthew-ucc.org)  
**Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry**  
[susan@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:susan@stmatthew-ucc.org)  
**Mark Restaino, Director of Youth Ministries**  
[mrestaino89@gmail.com](mailto:mrestaino89@gmail.com)  
**Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director**  
[jamie@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:jamie@stmatthew-ucc.org)  
**Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist**  
[brian@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:brian@stmatthew-ucc.org)  
**Kim Congdon, Handbell Director**  
[KC@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:KC@stmatthew-ucc.org)  
**Karen Lindquist, Business Manager**  
[events@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:events@stmatthew-ucc.org)  
**Mary Lee Banie, Administrative Assistant**  
[office@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthew-ucc.org)



January 2013

**Is Jesus the Only Way?**

Several weeks ago the Sikh Temple in Wheaton invited clergy and members of the local United Churches of Christ to be their guest at one of their worship services. Our confirmation youth, mentors, and several others from our church attended the worship service and then were treated to magnificent vegetarian Indian food. Our hosts were gracious and excelled in their hospitality to us.

I had asked the group to notice the similarities and differences between our worship and beliefs and those of the Sikh faith. Clearly the worship was different in many ways. At the Sikh service, both men and women cover their heads and sit on cushions on the floor while leaders chant traditional meditative music with native Indian rhythmic instruments. Worship is meditation of the holy verses of the ten Gurus.

But the Sikhs have many similarities to our own faith. Sikhs believe in the worship of one God who is gracious, forgiving, and compassionate. They also believe in one common humanity. In fact, the last prayer of every Sikh worship service is for the well being of all humanity. The faith was formed in the fifteenth century in part as a reaction against the cast system in Indian. Like our communion table, a meal is to be served to people on the same level with no one excluded. They seek to gain consciousness (truth) over unconsciousness (falsehood), and they seek to discover the divinity of God (we would say the image of God) in each person.

There are differences in our faiths. We believe in the Trinity as expressing the true nature of the one God.

We affirm the incarnation of God in a human being (Sikhs would say there is a divine

spark in every human being). We believe that in some way the world is given salvation by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

So what are we to think of people who have faiths different from ourselves? Is Jesus the only way to God?

John's gospel says, "Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life. No one comes to the Father but by me." These words are often used to claim that our faith is the only true faith. The fruits of this belief have not been so good. It has led to mistrust and hostility by Christians towards people of other faiths that betray Christ's way.

But have you ever wondered: How is it that so many of the world's major religions (like the Sikh religion) have so many elements in common such as forgiveness, grace, compassion, justice, and peace? Is it just an accident or is there a greater mystery at work in the world?

Some will say, "Other religions do not worship the same God as we do!" Clearly our faiths have significant differences in our practices and our views of God. But I suspect there is a great mystery at work in the world. Each of our faiths grasps something of the mystery and beauty of the same God.

Our ancient books of wisdom are the inspired written experiences of God by people in different times and cultural settings. God places the longing for God's self in each of us, and God has used that longing to be in relationship to people all over the world and throughout history.

Perhaps the words of Jesus about his being the Way are best taken metaphorically rather than literally. That is to say: wherever people walk in the Way of truth and grace, in the way that leads to fullness of life, Jesus as the Word of God is present.

St. Matthew Picture Policy

As it is St. Matthew Church’s commitment to protect the privacy of its members and children, this policy is intended to limit the information posted with pictures on our website and in our publications. St. Matthew Church will often uses pictures and videos of events and activities that take place within the church or on its grounds or at activities sponsored by St. Matthew at other sites. These pictures and videos may include members and visitors of all ages. To protect young people, we will not identify by name any young person under age 18 in any church publication. We will make it a point to make sure all personal information is omitted from publications with pictures to ensure the privacy of young people. As a result accomplishments may not be fully recognized with a picture and the person’s name. In some cases where there will be a group picture and an alphabetical list of names, such as group pictures of confirmation classes. If for any reason, an individual wishes that their picture or their child’s picture not be included on the web or in printed publications, you may request this by contacting the church office.

SAVE THE DATE:

January 19<sup>th</sup> 6p-9p



Shrimp Boil and Blues fest

The Mission committee is sponsoring a Shrimp Boil and Blues fest at church on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-9pm.

The proceeds from this event will go to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS in honor of their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Shrimp, salad and dessert will be provided. Tickets will go on sale after Christmas.



January 2013

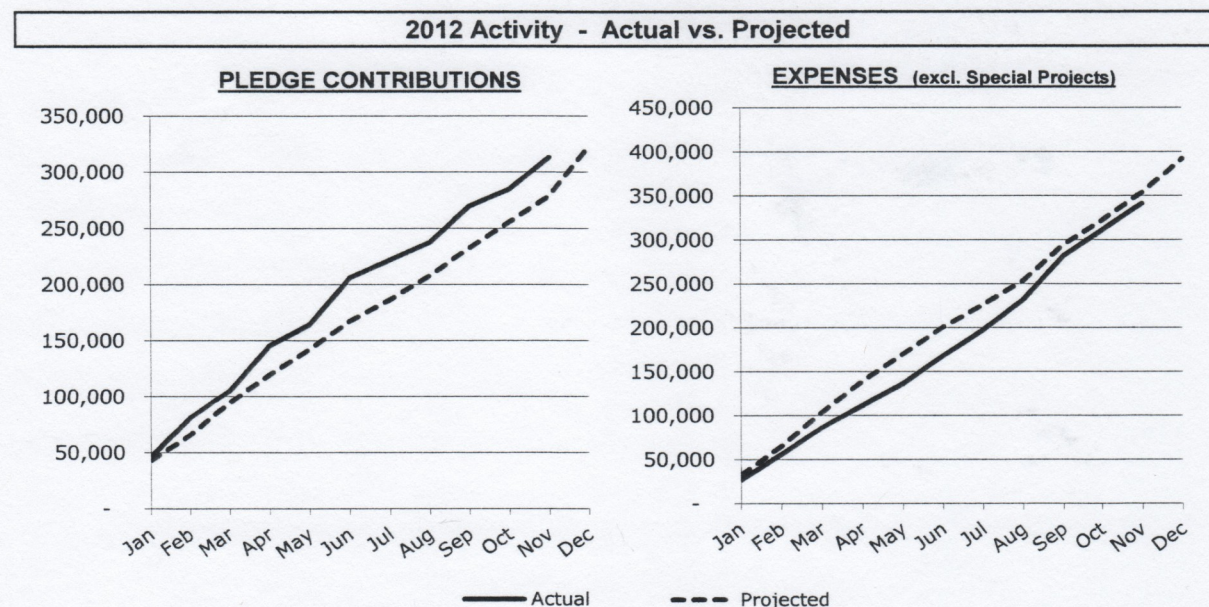
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 5p crazies homework hour 6p crazies		1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4  crazies Winter Retreat	5
6 9:30a Wor- ship Service with Com- munion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30a Worship Ser- vice, Service of Remembrance  4p Rev. Mothershed's Installation	14  7p Worship Committee 7p Finance Committee	15	16	17  6p Staff Relations Committee 7p Church Council	18  7:30p Novel Approaches	19  6p Shrimp Boil
20 9:30a Wor- ship Service  10:30a Memorial Committee	21 Feed My Starving Chil- dren	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30a Wor- ship Service  10:30a An- nual Meeting	28	29  3p-7p Blood Drive	30	31	Every Tues- day: 6p IntergeneR- ingers 7p Bells Din- ner 7:30p Chancel Ringers	Every Wednesday: 6:30p Praise Band 7:30p Choir



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

For the Period Ended November 30, 2012

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	28,418	313,112	322,625
Loose Offerings	348	4,364	11,000
Rental Income	200	8,295	8,000
Fund Raising	-	1,865	15,000
Investment Income	(140)	(1,864)	1,000
More Property	-	34,646	34,000
More Property (special projects)	(751)	83,249	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	500
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>28,075</b>	<b>443,667</b>	<b>392,125</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	14,689	182,910	205,242
Building	6,740	94,208	106,433
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	24,519	26,750
Mission / OCWM	5,125	24,020	28,000
Christian Education	757	7,734	10,750
Membership	102	1,775	4,250
Stewardship	-	-	500
Music	144	3,139	3,750
Worship	361	712	3,500
Congregational Life	168	1,224	750
Fundraising	-	435	100
Yearbook	-	-	100
Search Committee	-	493	2,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES (before Special Projects)</b>	<b>30,315</b>	<b>341,169</b>	<b>392,125</b>
Special Projects	-	83,249	-
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (2,240)</b>	<b>\$ 19,249</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



Please contact Karen Lindquist if you have questions or need additional information.



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

And a Very Happy New Year to All !!!

To start this year off right, I have to wrap up last year first. December was a wonderfully hectic month filled with too much to do and too little time, as always. Every part of your Music Ministry was engaged last month. The children, handbells, praise band, choir, all worked very hard to share music for the season. Our Christmas Cantata was also different in that it was a joint effort by bells and choir. Did you notice that there were bell ringers singing? And others that have sung with us ringing? And we could not have done it without those singers that joined us, both those from St Matthew and those from Downers Grove.

Music wasn't limited to just those in the different choirs. You, the congregation, were involved also. You sang many carols on the first Sunday in Advent with the Hanging of the Greens. And we also had our first carol sing on the last Sunday of Advent chosen by the surveys that you all completed. There was also a marimba carol concert the last Sunday evening in Advent that was a joy to listen to. And finally Christmas Eve. Between the two services, there was a vocal duet, handbell solo, choir singing, bells playing, and carols being sung.

A special thank you to "KC" Congdon and Brian Dobbelaere. Without your tireless efforts in planning, rehearsing, and Sunday worship, we would not have accomplished what we did. I ask that you all join me in thanking everyone that participated to make Advent and Christmas 2012 a musically diverse month.

Now, onto the New Year. There are many musical opportunities to come in the new year. Choir, Praise Band, Children's choir...and solos, duets, both instrumental and vocally. January is a great time to come and join in with any of these groups. We also have a couple more contemporary services scheduled the next four months. For those much younger than me (read children's choir age) it is time to start thinking of a children's musical for later this spring.

So, to everyone I wish you a very Happy New Year!

### St Matthew Music Ministry Your Music Ministry Staff

Children's Choir – Wendee Passini  
Handbells – Kim Congdon  
Praise Band – Brian Dobbelaere  
Sanctuary Choir – Jamie Craig

Yours in Christ Through Song,

Jamie Craig  
C: 630-202-6788  
[Lanni1@comcast.net](mailto:Lanni1@comcast.net)



**Children's Ministry**  
**January 2012**

**Happy New Year!!!**

**Workshop Rotation**

January 6<sup>th</sup> begins the workshop rotation unit, "The Miracles of Jesus." The children will begin the new year rotating to different workshops learning about a new miracle each week. The children will be encouraged to watch for miracles in their own lives.

**Thank You**

Thank you to Deb Felsenthal for helping me with our Advent Unit "The Stars of Christmas." Thank you to Alex Johnson and Deb Felsenthal for helping with the Birthday Party for Jesus and to Dawn Schubert and Mark Restaino for teaching the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders this past Advent season. Thank you also to the Christian Education committee for making our Birthday Party for Jesus coffee so special.

**Mission News**

- Thank you to everyone who donated books and school supplies to the children's mission project. I will be visiting the homework club in Wheaton to present the children with the items collected. Thank you to Julie Schubert for bringing this important mission to our attention.
- We collected \$77.00 in our fall offering and donated the offering to the Food Resource Bank.

**One Holy Night**

Some have expressed interest in purchasing a copy of the book made with pictures of the Sunday school children, "One Holy Night." A signup sheet will be in the Narthex for a couple weeks before placing the order.

**January Birthdays**

David Felsenthal – 1/21  
Anna Muntz – 1/24



*from page 12*

The words haunted her  
far into the night.

"Take up your cross  
and follow me!"

Was she dreaming?  
Had she gone daft?  
That night the shepherds  
had come and asked,  
"Is this the Place where  
the Savior is Born"  
Is this the Beginning of  
God's Promised Morn?"

Still the realm of God's Kingdom  
that started that night  
When the snow on the mountains  
was shiny and bright  
Went out far beyond the  
Bethlehem stall,  
To a world grown weary of bloodshed  
and brawl.

From the Mount of Olives, to the  
ends of the earth,  
New life has stirred  
since the time of the birth  
Of our Chosen King. Blessed by God  
from above,  
With a Crown of Peace  
And the GIFT of HIS LOVE.

**FAMILY CAMP!**

The St. Matthew summer family camp trip details have been finalized. This July 21-26 we will be traveling to Pere Marquette State Park in Grafton, IL. This is a wonderful opportunity to vacation with not only your family, but the extended St. Matthew family. Accommodations are hotel - style, and meals will be buffet style. The state park has tons of hiking trail, is close to many attractions, and is only an hour drive from St. Louis. The committee is now taking reservations, with a \$100 deposit. There are forms in the Narthex. Feel free to contact Hi Baird, Sam or John Kouns, or Aimee Legatzke with questions. Hope to see you at Family camp, 2013!



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 - Heather Madsen
- 4 - Darcy Holland
- 6 - Ruth Copeland
  - David Schubert
  - Pam Yakel
- 7 - Kate Hopkins
- 8 - Jon Breitfuss
  - Gaye Justice
- 9 - Bill Matthei
- 10 - Christine Bailey
- 11 - Adam Trunkey
- 13 - Adam Justice
  - Leah Kulczewski
- 15 - Linda Lellbach Dome
  - Laurie Madsen
- 17 - Dan Achammer
  - Jim Fanning
  - Jon Hall
  - Glen Sorgatz
  - Nicole Uhrig
- 18 - Bob Cooper
- 19 - Mike Justice
  - Brian Raymond
- 20 - Rachel Schubert
- 22 - Mark Hutchison
- 23 - Jen Eugea
- 26 - David Hanna
  - Bob Krause
  - Ryan Phillips
- 27 - Noelle Peterson
- 28 - Brian Nessel
- 31 - Ralph Menini



**And now for something completely different...**  
the poem for January from Linda Leinweber

This month we have a special treat – a poem written by our own Marilyn Giese. It’s a little longer than my usual offering, but it is well worth the space, and, although it has a holiday theme, it can easily last throughout the year. She advises me that it was meant to be read out, so I invite you to do so. Enjoy!

The Gift of Christmas  
By Marilyn Huntman Giese

Christmas, dear ones,  
is a time that began  
When God opened is heart  
to the human clan.  
The Creator of Splendor  
announced His Love  
With the birth of a child,  
and the Sign of a Dove.

Now God’s Chosen One grew  
in the light of God’s Glory.  
Yet he fasted and prayed er he  
told the story  
Of the Wonder and Power that  
came from above  
In a Mystical way  
on the wings of a dove.

All humankind watched  
When God’s Chosen One passed  
And the Israelites cried,  
“God has saved us at last!”  
The crowds in the street shouted  
“”Good Master, Give me! Oh,  
Give me! Give me!  
Give me! Give me!”

But the Nazarene said “It is  
YOU who must give  
IF you want to share the  
Life I live.”  
And God’s Chosen spoke out  
and offered man rest  
From the wearisome business  
of grabbing the best!

“You’ll find peace when you give  
your client full measure,  
And when, with the poor man you  
ShareYour Prized treasure!”

The children looked into His  
face and they knew  
that God meant His love for  
all the little ones, too.

“Give to those who cannot  
pay you back!  
Don’t count your good deeds,  
nor fear what you lack  
For God opens the doors when  
YOU follow His way  
And he listens to ALL those  
Who earnestly pray.”

Now the mother of Jesus  
Was quiet and sad  
For he thought her Son  
Was going quite mad.

She remembered a night,  
oh, so long ago,  
When the mountain tops  
were touched with snow,  
And the Shepherds came  
And the Angels sang  
And the Words of God’s promise  
Within her heart rang.

He had said,  
“Behold, you will  
bring forth a Child...”  
And she had listened and  
Wept and then  
Smiled...  
But this king that she  
Mothered was gentle and mild  
Oh, how can a King  
be gentle and mild?

“My yoke is Easy.  
My Burden is light!”

A Cross for a King—  
That could never be!



**Memorial Committee Reminder**

The Memorial Committee would like to direct your attention to the wall of plaques in the hall-way approaching the Parlor. We have been blessed with many memorial donations over the years and each plaque denotes the gifts and benefactors. In effect, this display is a record of our history and the beloved members who have contributed to our fellowship in their lifetimes and beyond. Please take time to view the plaques and make the connection with the impact these gifts have made in the life of our congregation. The Memorial Committee invites you to make any suggestions you may have for the continuance of this tradition. A suggestion box is available on the Opportunity Table in the Narthex.

**Seven Weeks Study Abroad Program in Seville, Spain**

Center for Faith & Global Education (CFGE)'s  
New faith-integrated study abroad programs for Christian students now available.....

This summer you can apply your faith in overseas study and service through the programs of the Center for Faith & Global Education (CFGE). The Center is offering a 7-week study abroad program in Seville, Spain that combines 9-credits of academic coursework with educational excursions to Granada and Cordoba and an additional 7-day guided tour of several key cultural centers of Morocco. Students will learn about the history of the three Abrahamic faiths, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in southern Spain and how the lessons of inter-faith cooperation of the past can be applied to religious conflict situations today.

Students will also have the opportunity to learn about the history and current state of Christianity in Andalusia and apply new intercultural servant-leadership skills during a volunteer service project with a Christian ministry or community service organization.

For more information on these programs and other exciting opportunities to put your faith into action, please visit our website at: [www.faithandglobaleducation.org](http://www.faithandglobaleducation.org), or contact us directly at: 650-369-6640 or [info@faithandglobaleducation.org](mailto:info@faithandglobaleducation.org).



## Feed My Starving Children

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual church trip to Feed My Starving children will be on Monday, January 21st, 2013. We will meet at the church to carpool at 1:45p, and arrive around our scheduled start time of 2:30. We will stay from 2:30-4:30 and then carpool back. This year, I am taking phone calls to reserve names. I have reserved 50 spots. My hope is that we are able to fill all fifty spots. Just a reminder, that we need adults AND children, but the children MUST be 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or older to come. No open-toed shoes please! You may either call me at 1-(630)-665-7577 to reserve names, or put the names on the board that will be in the Narthex starting in January. If I get your names over the phone, I will put them on the board for you. Save the date! -Alex Johnson



Workers at Feed My Starving Children January 2012

## Presentations

We now have a small laptop for use with the flat screen TV in the Narthex. This will allow committees to show the message on the TV using Powerpoint to display their message. If anyone in the congregation is interested, Al Skwara will offer a group class on Microsoft Powerpoint. This should be a two hour class and would result in anyone who attends being able to create a basic presentation that could be shown on the Narthex TV. If there are questions please contact Al at 630-690-4490. To sign up for the class, contact the office and leave your email address and when you will be available.

## Pictures from Cantata Sunday





**St Matthew United Church of Christ and  
Tassie Green, Independent Facilitator, Present**

**Love and Logic Parenting Made Fun!™**

**A six-week parenting program designed by the Love and Logic Institute**

**Topics include:**

- Raising respectful and responsible children.
- Using Delayed or “Anticipatory” Consequences.
- Disciplining your child in public without creating a scene.
- Empowering your child to resist experimenting with dangerous behaviors.
- Neutralizing arguments through empathy and Love and Logic one-liners.
- And many other day-to-day parenting challenges...

**This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills  
that can be used immediately!**

Dates: Sunday Evenings February 10 – March 17, 2013

Time: 5 – 7 pm

Light Dinner Provided for Parents with Time for Adults Only Interaction  
Childcare Provided

Location: St Matthew UCC, 1420 S Gables Blvd, Wheaton IL, 60189

Cost: \$25 per person/\$40 per couple - Scholarships Available upon Request

In a two-parent household, this program is most effective if both parents  
attend the classes together to learn the Love and Logic techniques.

Questions: Call **(630) 665-1236** or e-mail **stmatthewparenting@gmail.com**  
**www.stmatthewucc.org**

Facilitators of the Love and Logic Parenting Made Fun!™ curriculum are  
independent and are not employees of the Love and Logic Institute.

Please register me for your upcoming Love and Logic Parenting Made Fun!™ class!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Names and ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mail registration and payment to: St Matthew UCC, 1420 S Gables Blvd, Wheaton IL, 60189

**Please register by January 27. We need to order your class material!!**

**We Can’t Do it Without You**

The Membership/Evangelism Ministry would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to all the Ministries, Committees, Groups and Individual Families that have helped us to maintain the after-service coffees each Sunday. We have been blessed with not only delicious, but beautifully presented food by so many of you. We believe that this has been a very important and necessary weekly event in the life of the church and has helped the congregation to get to know each other and stay connected.

This is, however, an ongoing thing and the M/E Ministry is committed to keeping it alive and functioning every week as usual. We hope that you will continue to support us in the coming year as you have in 2012.

Many, many thanks.

Diane Mook for the Membership/Evangelism Ministry

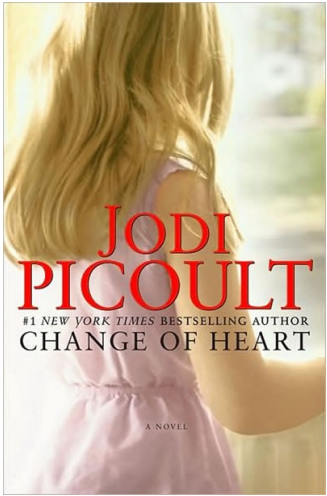


**Birthday Party for Jesus Coffee on December 16th, 2012**

**NOVEL APPROACHES**

The novel to be approached in January is “**Change of Heart**” by Jodi Picoult. This book forces us to ask ourselves many questions: *Would you give up your vengeance against someone you hate if it meant saving someone you love? Would you want your dreams to come true if it meant granting your enemy’s dying wish? Can we save ourselves or do we rely on others to do it? Is what we believe always the truth?*

The date is **Friday, January 18, 2013 at 7:30 pm** He place is the **Skwaras, 2035 Cromwell Drive, Wheaton**  
Everyone is welcome. Please join is for lively discussion, food and fellowship.





# Gift Delivery to Marion Park



Thank you all for your support of this wonderful ministry!