

THE VOICE OF St. Matthew

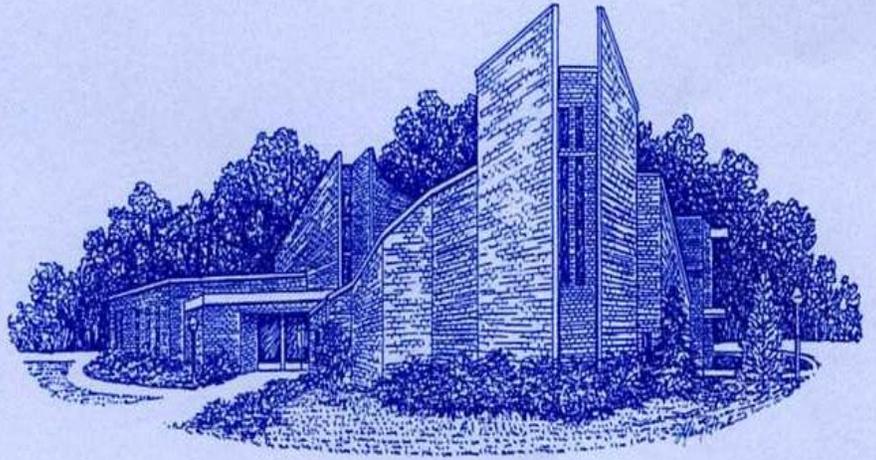
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.stmatthew-ucc.org



June/July 2014

“Are You Saved?”

Late one afternoon many years ago, a couple of very nicely dressed women with Bibles in their hands knocked on my door. I quickly surmised that they were evangelizing and, wishing to return to what I was doing, I thanked them for sharing their faith and told them that I was a pastor. But one of them retorted, “Yes, that’s nice, but are you saved?” So much for my defense.

I do not always feel comfortable with that language. “Do I follow Jesus?” or “Am I a Christian?” are more the way I would like to talk about my faith. In my experience the question “Are you saved?” usually means are you “in” or “out.” Are you one of us and on the way to heaven or one of the non-believers on a highway to hell? And sometimes it also means, “Can I check off all the boxes of whether you have all the correct beliefs?” Not wishing to get into that I said, “Yes, I am saved. I am a disciple of Jesus and I follow his way.” With that they left me and went across the street.

As I consider their question about salvation I realized that it is a good question if correctly understood. Do I understand that God in Jesus has forgiven, accepted, and offered me a new way of life? Have I committed to walk the path of Jesus in a way that I am being saved or made whole?

Sometimes the language that we use gets us confused. Take another term: “Are you born again?” That is another phrase which might put us off unless we hear the profound meaning Jesus had in mind when he spoke it.

Anthony Robinson, in “OMG: Devotionals for Teens and Young-Adults,” tells the story a 13-year-old girl from the eastern side of the Berlin Wall. This was just after the wall had come down. Several years before this time the child had been sold into prostitution by her mother.

One day she made her way to the western side and she attended a Christian community where there was a baptism. The pastor poured water into the font, and as he did so he spoke of being “born again from above.” Sitting near the back, the 13-year-old listened to his words.

After the service she went to the pastor, who stood near the font. Shy, she asked, “Can I be born again?” For her, the words were not a formula or a slogan. They were not code words. They were truth and life. The answer was “Yes.”

John’s Gospel says, “To all who receive him...he gives the power to become children of God, born not of will of man, but of God.”

It means a new go at it, a chance to start over, this time as the child of one who truly loves us and never will let us down, who has the power to save us.

*Christ’s peace,
Pastor Allen*



Food on the First

Thanks to all who donated in the month of May. It's very much appreciated!

Outside the church office there is a bin for donations. If you can't donate on the first Sunday, it is there for you to donate anytime and I will make sure that it gets delivered. Each month I will find out their greatest needs and pass that along to you.

Here are the items that the pantry is need of now:

- Canned pineapple
- Canned mandarin oranges
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Soap
- Tampons
- Diapers and pull-ups (sizes 4,5, and 6)



As always, please make sure the food is not expired and the packages are unopened. Please contact me at (630) 682.4084 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your generosity!



-Betty Greer

Matthew 25:35

for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Aimee McGrath
- 3 Noah Baird
Allan Franz
- 6 Bob Armstrong
- 8 Jim Mathieson
- 9 Ginnie Jackson
Wendy Fanning
Randy King
- 12 Daniel Gonzalez
- 14 Andrea DiOrio
- 15 Kenna Anderson
- 16 Bill SooHoo
- 17 Beth Buhmann
Lesley Ebel
- 18 June Adams
Aimee Legatzke
Will Matthei
- 19 Michael Lindquist
Jan More
- 20 Justin Ciner
Ellen Ribe
- 21 Carolyn Ridgway
- 23 Kurt Madsen
Kelly Chapple
- 25 Roseanne King
- 26 Andrew Craig
- 28 Dennis Luehring
- 30 Julie Schubert
Elizabeth Trout

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Derek Breese
Martin Breese
Mikaela Breese
Alison McGrath
David Uhrig
- 3 Diane Breese
- 5 Becky Luehring
Brooke Stubbe
- 8 Glenn Sapa
- 9 Nancy Lewis
Becca Staton
- 11 Krista Caprini
- 15 Patti Woods-Jungk
Ruth Nelson
- 16 Marla Mothershed
- 17 Priscilla Barnett
- 19 Cindy Bute
- 22 Gary Leonard
Karen Banaszewski
- 23 Sam Kouns
- 24 Edie Franz
- 27 Lindsay Blake
Michele Kirincich
- 29 Carol Honeywell
Jack Schlenker
- 30 Dan Miller
- 31 Marge Brooks

Children's Ministry

June 2014

Our Workshop Rotation Sunday school year has come to an end and our Summer Sunday school begins on June 1st. The children will gather as a group to enjoy a variety of activities that focus on Christian morals and lessons. Activities will be both inside and out and include games, Prairie Path walks, scavenger hunts, crafts, etc. Please bring your children to church in the summer so they will understand that we may take a school break, but when it comes to God, we don't take a break, as God never takes a break from us. Dismissal is at 10:30 a.m., the same time as the worship service.



June 16th – 20th 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including people! When children feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd, nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus. At Weird Animals VBS, not only will kids get a peek at the unique animals God made, they'll discover that God is active in our lives and that his fingerprints are everywhere!

Thank you again to the Children's Ministry volunteers who helped make this a successful year. You have been a blessing to our ministry.

June & July Birthdays: Jack Beres 6/6, Katie Mitchell 6/30, Tyler Bute 7/2, Kaitlyn Bresingham 7/3

crazies

St. Matthew UCC

Crazies

crazies Father's Day car wash

What better way to honor our fathers, grandfathers, and all other men of St. Matthew

than to sponsor a car wash on their designated day! That's right -- on Sunday, June 15th, the crazies will be washing cars DURING the church service. This event is a youth fundraiser, and donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated. Bring those dirty cars to church!



New Director of Youth Ministries

The Youth Director search committee is pleased to announce that we have been successful in calling a new director of youth ministry. Emily Odean Davis will start as our new Director of Youth Ministry in early September (exact date to be determined). Emily is currently ending her time as Director of Youth and Children's Ministry at a sister church in Plainfield. She is a lifelong member of the United Church of Christ and a graduate of Elmhurst College and is currently enrolled at Chicago Theological Seminary. Emily is also one of the editors working with Augsburg Press on the confirmation material that our confirmation youth have used and enjoyed. This summer she will be the summer intern at First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn. She comes to us highly recommended and is excited to be working with our youth, parents, and our church. Thanks to the search committee for your very good work as a team!



Pennies from Heaven

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

Tell your friends and family – they can participate, too! More information can be found on the Donate page of our website at www.stmatthewucc.org



Notes from the Music Room.....

Summer Vacation !!!

For those who were in church last Sunday (May 25th), you heard some awesome music!

To all those who participated in music in any way throughout the year, thank you, thank you, thank you for all your time, commitment and willingness to share your gifts. It has again been a wonderful year.

And now, as I noted last month, it's time for Summer Music! The calendar is filling up, so please don't wait. It is always nice to hear from those whose schedule makes it difficult to participate on a regular basis. Please volunteer to sing, play, or do both to enhance our worship now through August 31st.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign up early for two reasons: first is to make sure you get the date you would like, and second, some years it does fill up fast. Thank you in advance for sharing your talents.

A safe and fun summer to all!

Peace....

Jamie

Lanni1@comcast.net

630-202-6788

Fundraiser Volunteers

We are looking for a few good men and women to help with some fundraising ideas. Although MANNA and I-Give are ongoing fundraisers, our anticipated earnings from these sources will most likely NOT be enough to hit our fundraising target of \$10,000. If you have ideas to share, please contact Diana in the office or call Dawn Schubert at (630) 665-9860. Thanks for your help!

Fundraiser



Help

Environmental and Justice Ministry

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it... (Psalm 24:1).

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8).



The United Church of Christ is a denomination that believes in addressing the concerns of our day. The UCC provides information and paths for action on those concerns for individuals and/or congregations.

At St. Matthew, we are beginning the journey on one of those paths. Under the guidance of DuPage County's SCARCE organization, we will be working to earn an Earth Flag. It is not a quick and simple process, but one that will provide our members with information for use every day, one that will make our church building a healthy place to gather, and one that will highlight St. Matthew as a congregation that recognizes our responsibility to our natural world.



In addition, the United Church of Christ is also present in issues before us in our lives and in the lives of others in our neighborhood and in neighborhoods far away from Wheaton, Illinois. The Fox Valley Association has a recently formed committee to address issues of justice- - issues that may affect our congregation directly, or issues that offer the opportunity to take a stand in support of a principle or an action.

Information in both of these areas is a key to how we as a congregation go forward with action, provide a vehicle for individuals with a particular passion, or simply become aware of what our denomination offers. A new bulletin/information/sign-up board is now available for these purposes. Previously a chalkboard on the east side of Dobstaff Hall, the space will now be shared with Environmental/Earth Flag information and Justice and Witness information.

Checking the board is another reason to stay for a cup of coffee and fellowship on Sunday mornings! Please contact Carol Honeywell for more information on these important causes.

And now for something completely different...the poem for June from Linda Leinweber in Kazakhstan:

The Oven Bird

By Robert Frost 1916

There is a singer everyone has heard,
Loud, a mid-summer and a mid-wood bird,
Who makes the solid tree trunks sound again.
He says that leaves are old and that for flowers
Mid-summer is to spring as one to ten.
He says the early petal-fall is past
When pear and cherry bloom went down in showers
On sunny days a moment overcast;
And comes that other fall we name the fall.
He says the highway dust is over all.
The bird would cease and be as other birds
But that he knows in singing not to sing.
The question that he frames in all but words
Is what to make of a diminished thing.

This lovely little poem celebrates not the spring or the fall, those dramatic seasons of change more frequently celebrated in literature, but the mid-summer. The bird, a type of thrush I am told, makes a cry that sounds something like, "teacher." Indeed, through Frost, the bird asks us to contemplate the mid-season. I thought you might appreciate this as you all go into summer. Enjoy!



PADS: Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped St. Matthew complete another successful nine-month session of hosting PADS at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard.

It is a worthwhile mission that has also proven to be very enjoyable to those of us taking part. We hope that, when we begin again the second Wednesday in September, even more of you will decide to give PADS a try. Have a great summer!

-St. Matthew's PADS Committee: Tracey Blake, Wendy Fanning, Lynn Thornton

thank
you!

Foods Resource Bank (FRB)



St. Matthew is once again sponsoring acreage in Forest, Illinois, that will be planted, harvested and 100% of the proceeds used to help poor areas in the world learn how to grow crops to sustain themselves. This is not a handout but a hand-up. Please stop by the table in the Narthex and see for yourself how your contribution can multiply and help stop the hunger in less fortunate areas around the world.

We need your help. Sponsorships are accepted for as little as 1/8 acre or \$31.00. Full acres can be sponsored for \$250 each, and you have until the end of September to pay. Please consider how you can help the hungry people in the world. Sign up today!

Interested in technology?



Our church has multiple computers, high-speed internet, commercial printer, and a presence on the World Wide Web (stmatthewucc.org) and via email of-
fice@stmatthewucc.org, pastor@stmatthewucc.org, etc). The crazies have a FaceBook page and sometimes guests need to access the internet from church.

All of this has triggered the creation of a **Digital Ministry!**

Made up of the church staff and a few interested members, the group is coordinated by Diana and meets approximately once a month. Topics can include the content and management of the church web page, email boxes, church social media, internet security, PC operating systems, in-house networking, and many others.

If you are interesting in participating in this very new ministry please send an email to office@stmatthewucc.org or call the church office. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 1st at 1 p.m. (Diana will send out email reminders and make sure this day works for most.)

Family Camp 2014

This year for Family Camp, we are traveling to the YMCA of the Rockies, just outside of Estes Park, Colorado, from July 20th to July 26th. Final payment reminders will be sent out shortly, and it would be greatly appreciated if payments could be made by July 1st. If you have any questions or want to sign up, contact Aimee Legatzke, Hi Baird, Mark Hutchison, John Kouns, Barb Evans, or Dianne Hutchison. Thank you!



Please Giving Reminder

With summer almost here (finally), don't forget to keep your pledge up to date. Summer is usually a difficult time for the church's financial cash flow because so many members are on vacation. If you have slipped a little behind, please take a moment to do what you can to catch up. **WE NEED YOU!** Thank you for your continued support of St. Matthew's ministries.- *Edie DeBoard, Financial Secretary*



Congregational Life News

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 20th
St. Matthew is hosting a fully catered pig roast for our members and frequent visitors on September 20th. More information will follow in the coming months, but we wanted to give you advanced notice so that you could mark your calendars for this unique opportunity to blend fellowship with great food!!

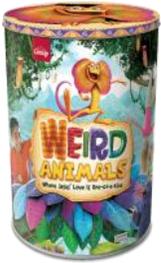


Upcoming Events



THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY We are fortunate enough to have a respected New Testament scholar, Dr. Andrew Das, from Elmhurst College visit to present a program on “Early Christianity and the Roman Empire” on Wednesday, **June 11th**, at 7 p.m. in the church parlor. How did early Christians and their communities of faith not only survive, but thrive in a setting that could be hostile to their existence? How did they grow in a pluralistic setting with so many different religions? What can we learn today from the way they lived the Faith? What are the challenges of our own culture for living the Christian Faith? Everyone is invited. I hope you join us and invite friends and neighbors, as well.

crazies FATHER’S DAY CARWASH What better way to honor our fathers, grandfathers, and all other men of St. Matthew than to sponsor a car wash on their designated day! That's right -- on Sunday **June 15th**, the crazies will be washing cars **DURING** the church service. This event is a youth fundraiser, and donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated. Bring those dirty cars to church!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 16th – 20th: Weird Animals! Please spread the word to neighbors and friends! God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including you! When kids feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd – nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus. Songs – Stories – Games – Science/ Craft – Snacks. Registration forms can be found in the narthex, office, or on our website: www.st.matthewucc.org. Questions? Please contact Diana in the church office or Susan Wold at swold45@hotmail.com.

5TH SUNDAY AT DUPAGE CONVALESCENT CENTER June has a 5th Sunday! Join us on Sunday, **June 29th**, from 9:30-12 and help our nursing home residents get to and from worship. It just takes a warm heart and some wheelchair pushing. Families are welcome. We gather about 9:30 am for orientation, then spread out through the building to bring residents to the service. At 10:30, the service starts, which on 5th Sundays includes communion. The service is over by 11:30, with transporting back done by 12. We promise a smile or two and the opportunity to make somebody's day. Questions? Or to let us know you can help? Contact Glenn Sapa or Ellen Ribe (ellen.ribe@dupageco.org 630-784-4262).



Bring Food Items for the People’s Resource Center and the Interfaith Food Pantry
Put your items in our marching shopping carts

Downtown Wheaton 4th of July Parade

Items In Critical Need
Canned Vegetables
Soup- canned and mixes
Canned Fruit

Non-Perishable Food Items Regularly Needed

Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta, Beans- Dry or Canned, Canned Tuna or Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Diapers sizes 4, 5, 6, Pancake Mix/Syrup, Baking Mixes, Rice, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Baby Formula

Food contributed to the Pantry should be unopened and within printed "use by", "sell by" or "best by" dates.)



Sponsored by

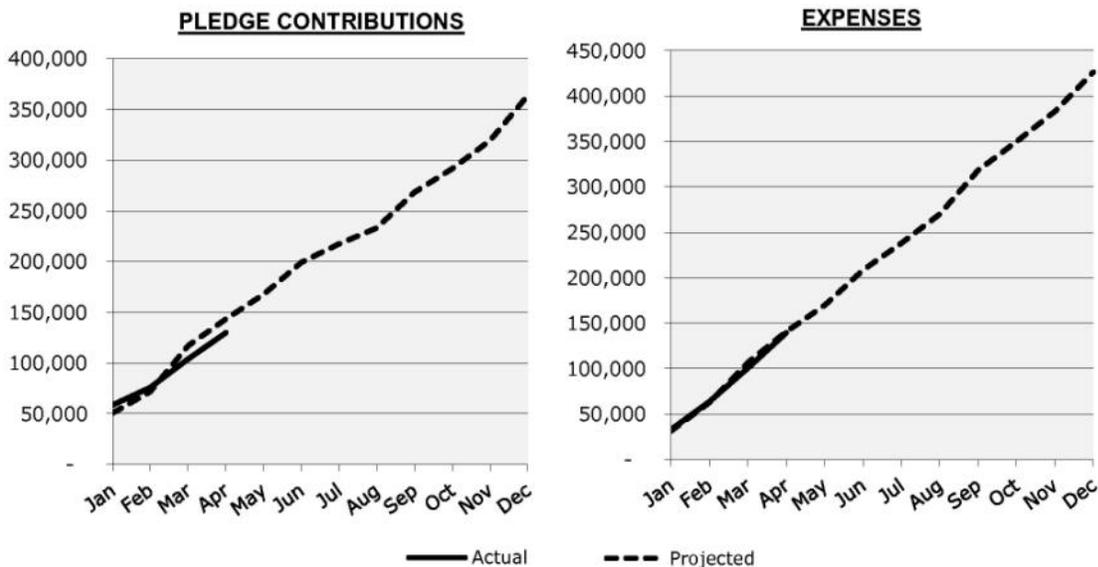


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ended April 30, 2014

	<u>ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH</u>	<u>ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE</u>	<u>ANNUAL BUDGET</u>
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	25,977	129,801	363,658
Loose Offerings	985	2,069	6,000
Rental Income	380	1,030	5,000
Fund Raising	265	854	10,000
Investment Income	(52)	(154)	-
More Property	-	-	41,500
More Property (special projects)	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	27,555	133,600	426,158
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	15,859	71,468	224,348
Building	16,729	49,581	122,810
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	8,916	26,750
Mission / OCWM	3,000	3,700	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	349	2,850	9,600
Membership	(1)	507	2,750
Music	515	1,546	4,500
Worship	31	613	2,500
Endowment	-	-	1,000
Congregational Life	-	29	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Misc. & Contingency	-	-	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (before Special Projects)	38,711	139,210	426,158
Special Projects	-	-	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ (11,156)	\$ (5,610)	\$ -

2014 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



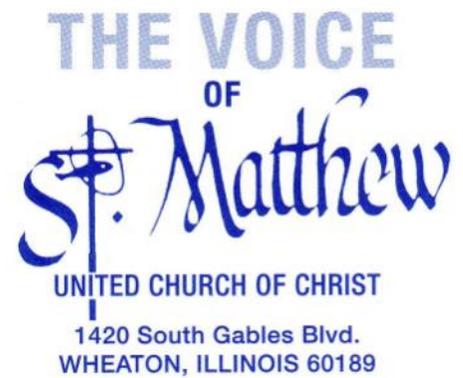
Please contact John Adams if you have questions or need additional information.

June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>-9:30a Worship Service: Communion and New Member Joining Service -Summer Sunday School -Church Picnic</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7p Building Committee</p>	3	4	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>-9:30a Worship Service: Com- munity Renewal Society Member</p>	9	10	<p>11</p> <p>7p Christianity and the Roman Empire Presentation</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>VBS Decorating</p>	14
<p>15</p> <p>-9:30a Worship Service: Youth Mission Trip Commissioning -crazies Car Wash</p>	<p>16</p> <p>-Vacation Bible School -Pilgrimage to Italy</p>	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>6p SRC 7p Council</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7p VBS Ice- Cream Social and clean-up</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p>-9:30a Worship Service -Youth Mission trip</p>	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>-9:30a Worship Service -5th Sunday at DPCC</p>	30					

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>1p Digital Ministry Meeting</i>	2	3	4 Happy Fourth of July! <i>Office closed</i> <i>-Shopping Cart Brigade</i>	5
6 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i> <i>-Adult Mission Trip</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i>	14	15	16	17 <i>-6p SRC</i> <i>-7p Council</i>	18	19
20 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i> <i>-Family Camp</i>	21 <i>Please note: the office will only be open in the mornings this week until July 28th. Please call ahead to make sure someone is available if you will be coming in. Thank you!</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i> <i>-August Voice articles due</i>	28	29	30	31		



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, 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
allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry
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Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director
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