

**December
2018**



of



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Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

"Do Not Be Afraid"

This Advent season and through Christmas Eve we will be focusing on the message of the angel Gabriel to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Have you ever noticed how the angel says the same line every time, "Do not be afraid"? Of course, he says this because everyone to whom he appears is terrified. If you read on in the gospel accounts, Jesus says something very close to this when He appears to the disciples. When Jesus greets frightened disciples walking on the water, and later as the resurrected Christ, He says, "Peace be with you!"

It has occurred to me that both of these messages, "Do not be afraid" and "Peace be with you", are exactly the messages we need to receive from God this Advent and Christmas season. We are a very frightened people, and we are not very much at peace. We are a divided nation, a people in a war of words with each other. Kindness and any attempt to hear one another has all but been forgotten. We huddle together with those who agree with us and blame the other side for all our problems. Indeed, blame can be readily found. But the blame game plays into the cycle of fear and anger that seems to have no end.

Maybe the gift we most need to receive this Christmas is the peace of Christ that puts our fears at rest and provides a way to make peace with each other. His peace is not an absence of conflict but a deep assurance of our value to God, and a realization that even our enemies are made in the image of God just as we are. Reclaiming our common humanity is the beginning of peace.

The Good News is a child, a vulnerable child, is born into the world from poor parents to remind all of us of how beloved we each are to the One who created us. May we be beloved to each other. Amen.

Peace,
-Pastor Allen

**You're
Invited**

**to a Christmas
Open House!**

**Where: Pastor Allen and Marla Mothershed's home
1011 Arbor Avenue, Wheaton**

When: Sunday, December 16th from 3-6pm

All are welcome to come and celebrate the season!

"Angels Among Us" Advent Sermon Series

Angels are a common theme in the Advent Christmas season. They appear and are short and to the point. "Be not afraid" is their favorite line. Good thing. We can imagine how Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds might have needed those words. But we too need them, especially in the times we live. In a culture of fear, we bring more hope, peace, joy, and love into our world this Advent and Christmas. Be sure to join us for every worship service.



**December 2nd
Luke 1:5-25**

Advent 1 - Hope: *"Make Ready a People"*

**December 9th
Luke 1:26-56**

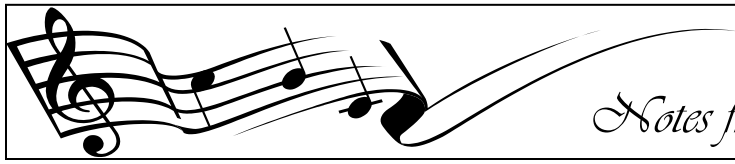
Advent 2 - Peace: *"Nothing Is Impossible"*

**December 16th
Matthew 1:18-25**

Advent 3 - Joy: *"Do Not Be Afraid"*

**December 23rd
Luke 2:1-20**

Advent 4 - Love: *"This Will Be a Sign"*



Notes from the Music Room.....



"Look, Daddy, Teacher says every time a bell rings, an Angel gets their wings."

We hear that phrase every year when we watch "It's a Wonderful Life." The theme for this Advent is "Angels Among Us". In that light, our Christmas cantata is "Sing With the Angels." Some of our St. Matthew musical angels, vocalists, musicians, and a few others, have been working hard and will present this on December 9th during the worship service. I think you will all enjoy this work which emphasizes how angels are integral to Christ's birth. This is also a wonderful occasion to invite friends to St. Matthew to kick off their holiday season, too.



Music continues supporting the angel theme on the 16th when our bell angels present their December selections. On December 23rd, our Open Choir angels will close out Advent and lead us into Christmas Eve.

From all of us in the Music Ministry, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

Jamie Craig

630-202-6788

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org



WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers

6pm

Chancel Ringers

7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band

6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir

8:30pm

Pennies From Heaven SCRIP (MANNA) Program

Scrip cards are always a great gift for Christmas - one size fits all, without the hassle of returns. Not only are you giving gifts to your family and friends, but the retailers also donate to St. Matthew. Wow - two gifts in one!

Stop by the Scrip table in Dobstaff for a list of ideas for men, women, and stocking stuffers. Are you hosting celebrations this season or making dozens of yummy cookies? Get your cooking and baking supplies with grocery cards from Scrip.



Orders will be taken as late as December 16th. They will be available for early pickup at church by December 19th (call the office first) or after the morning service on December 23rd.

No orders will be taken on December 23rd because the Scrip office will be closed the following week.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Joe Chumas
Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe
- 6 John Adams
- 7 Jerry Stoller
- 8 Jan Beaton
Mike Thornton
- 10 Laura Christensen
- 11 Alex Alavi
- 13 Anna Neufelder
- 16 Dave Boyd
- 20 Lisa Stubbee
- 23 Rachel Cole
Cathy SooHoo
- 27 Dave Mook
- 28 Jeannine Adams
Carol Domal
Blake Erickson
- 29 Tyler Faith
Sharon Schlenker
- 30 Bob Barnshaw



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

Monday-Thursday: 10am-2pm

Friday: 9-11am

Mission News

MARIAN PARK CHRISTMAS STORE



This Christmas season we are very excited to serve the entire Marian Park community! For the second year, we will create a "Christmas Store" for all of the Marian Park residents to "shop". The tags on the tree in the narthex are for household and personal essentials. These are items that Marian Park residents cannot purchase with the SNAP program. Please know that the children receive gifts from other organizations and they will be well taken care of!

Just as in the past you will choose a tag, sign it out, and **bring your unwrapped items to church by Sunday, December 9th**. You may also donate money to be used to purchase additional items for the residents. **The Christmas Store is Wednesday, December 12th**, and we will need around 15 people to help bring the items to Marian Park, set up the store, and run the store for one night **5-8:30pm**. Please sign up in the narthex. This is a great opportunity to meet the residents of Marian Park as well!

If you have any questions please contact Andrea DiOrio at 630.881.8611 or ADiOrioClari-net@gmail.com.

Food on the First

Thanks to those who donated in November.

Here is what is needed in December:

- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned peaches
- Canned vegetables
- Boxed stuffing
- Boxed potatoes
- Rice
- Baby wipes
- Disposable razors
- Soap and shampoo
- Feminine pads—
No tampons
- Cake mixes
- Frosting
- Cookie mixes
- Brownie mixes



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.

PADS

We know the Christmas season is a very busy time of year for all. Therefore, your PADS Committee has decided to give some of our loyal cooks a respite - and our overnight guests a special treat for dinner.



We will be purchasing fried chicken and mashed potatoes. We hope that when you check the December PADS board in the narthex, you will consider making a cash donation to help defray the cost.

We greatly appreciate ALL that you do all year to help our less fortunate neighbors. May God bless you!!

Your PADS Committee,
Tracey Blake, Wendy Fanning, Lynn Thornton

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Save the date for our annual Feed My Starving Children trip! Mark your calendars for Monday, January 21st, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will meet at the church at 1:45pm, and carpool to FMSC to pack food for starving children in countries all over the world. We will pack from 2:30-4:30pm and then carpool back.



If you haven't packed before, it is a great experience and we always love to have new people join us. There are only 40 spots reserved, and the sign-up board will be in the narthex in mid-December. Contact Alex Johnson with questions.

FAMILY CAMP 2020

We are excited to return to the YMCA of the Rockies, just outside Estes Park, Colorado. Come spend a week with your church family (Sunday, July 19th-Saturday, July 25th, 2020) and explore this amazing location that has proven to be one of the most popular Family Camp destinations. This location borders the Rocky Mountain National Park - you can take a horseback ride or even walk right into the park from our lodge. Besides the breathtaking scenery, you'll get a chance to experience amazing hikes, unparalleled stargazing, whitewater rafting, archery, climbing walls, campfires, and a zipline! For those with young kids, day camps are available if the parents are looking for a more high-adventure experience, and the family can regroup for free mini golf, basketball, a game room, nature walks, and countless other activities.

In the coming months, watch this space in the Voice for a series of "Fond Remembrances" - other church members' thoughts on what Family Camp has meant to them.

Never been to Family Camp? Now is your chance, but sign up soon because space is limited. Your room will be reserved when the church receives your sign-up sheet along with the small deposit. Family Camp is a St. Matthew tradition dating back more than 30 years! Come be a part of this unique, fun, and relaxing time for fellowship. Sign-up sheets are hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Hutchison at 630.639.1448



"WALK BESIDE ME, JESUS" by Marilyn Huntman Giese

The words of "*Walk Beside Me, Jesus*" came to me in 1987. They finally went public August 19th, 2018 when "*Walk Beside Me, Jesus*" was sung to the tune of "*Battle Hymn of the Republic*" at the 9:30 worship service at St. Matthew UCC. Many told me they were inspired by the words, so here they are for you to sing as the familiar tune plays through your mind.

1. Walk beside me, Jesus, that my weak and trembling hand;
Walk beside me, Jesus as I journey through this land.
Walk beside me, Jesus, all my fears and doubts erase,
Guard and guide me, stand beside me, let me see Your smiling face.

(CHORUS)

2. Lord Jesus, be my Savior, all my hope and joy abide
In the story of Your passion and the way in which You died.
You were lifted up in glory just to set Your people free
And I know my soul's redemption lies with Thee.

(CHORUS)

3. When my earthly life is over and my daily work is through,
Lord, come meet me in the morning of Your Heavenly Father's rule,
Let me be a new creation in the Kingdom where You reign
Singing glory, hallelujah, free of strife and free of pain.

Chorus after verse one and two.

COME, AND JOIN THE HAPPY CHORUS,
CHRIST OUR SAVIOR GOES BEFORE US,
COME AND JOIN THE HAPPY CHORUS,
HIS LOVE STILL LEADS US ON!

Chorus after verse three, repeat once with congregation joining in.

GLORY! GLORY, HALLELUJAH!
GLORY! GLORY, HALLELUJAH!
GLORY! GLORY, HALLELUJAH!
HIS LOVE STILL LEADS US ON!

Children's Ministry



**Merry Christmas to my St. Matthew family.
Thank you for the love and support you
have given children's ministry throughout
the year.**

Above all, thank you for making the children feel special and important, for that we are blessed. Thank you to the teachers, shepherds, and leaders for walking in the footsteps of Jesus as you share your faith and love with the children. You are my angels. Thank you to my Sunday School families for sharing your children with me. I am honored to be a part of your children's faith journey. Each one of your children has a special place in my heart and is a gift from God. Thank you to the St. Matthew staff, CE committee and Pastor Allen for being there for me when I need you; I am honored to work alongside you. To Kenna Anderson, my CE Chair, who has been my rock and my friend, there is not enough room to tell you how much you mean to me. You always go above and beyond to make my job easier. I have no doubt that God sent you to me when He knew I would need you the most. Thank you to the children. Your smiles, laughter, enthusiasm, and care for each other is the best gift of all.



December Birthdays:

Maggie Meyer 12/3

Greyson Scalora 12/11

Fiona Walsh 12/17

Evelyn Henderson 12/25



December schedule

December 2nd: Angels among us. We will be **making angels to hang on the sanctuary tree** for our Advent angel theme. The children will learn the important part that angels had in the Christmas story. **Our angels will be made in memory of MaryJane Schnack, who watches over us every Sunday.**

December 9th: There will be no Sunday School this Sunday because the children will stay in the worship service for the Cantata.

December 16th: **BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS** The children will play games, make a craft and then join their church family in Dobstaff Hall to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and eat birthday cake.



December 23rd: This special Sunday will be about Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. We will act out the story and watch a slide show of the children acting out the story over the years. We will sing Christmas songs and talk about their meaning.

December 24th: **Family Christmas Eve 6pm service:** During the service the children will take part, as angels, in a skit written by Pastor Allen. The children will be singing the Christmas songs they have been singing in Sunday School each Sunday. If you would like to have your child be an angel at the Christmas Eve service, please contact me at

susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org. The girls will be wearing white dresses and the boys will be wearing white shirts with any dark pants. (I have white dresses in different sizes if needed, just let me know.) The wings and head pieces will be provided. All children, of any age, are welcome to be an angel.



December 30th: We return from Christmas and continue the Christmas story, talking about who showed up and the manger.



-Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

Meet Mel Jerome, our new Youth Ministry Director!

Welcome to the Jerome family! Mel Jerome officially started as our new Youth Director on November 11th. Mel, his wife Blessy, and his (almost) 3-year-old son Luke are all eager to begin their ministry here. They shared info about themselves at their first crazies meeting and learned about the youth through the picture collages the kids had created.

Mel was born and raised in Chicago, and he is a huge Chicago sports fan. He loves the Cubs and even traveled to Arizona a few months ago to watch a game. Mel works as a GIS engineer in Warrenville, and he and his family live in North Aurora. Mel recently received his B.S. in Youth Ministry.

In addition to his full-time job, Mel leads the Tamil youth group and leads a worship service called Next Generation Youth Church. Mel plays the guitar, enjoys traveling, and would love to retire to Virginia someday. He is most excited about sharing his love of God with the youth of St. Matthew.



Blessy works at Kindercare, and she loves shopping, scary and comedy movies, and eating. Luke is energetic and loves action figures like Batman and Spiderman. The Jerome family will often be here on Sunday mornings, so please be sure to introduce yourselves and welcome them.



6pm Family-friendly service

10pm Candlelight service

Announcements and Events



A CELTIC CHRISTMAS WITH GAVIN COYLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018, 8:00PM
MCANINCH ARTS CENTER AT COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

Join Gavin Coyle, along with musicians Paul Burgess, Karen Fernandez, & Joanne Diebold, for a concert featuring seasonal classics to get you in the holiday spirit. Tickets are \$35 & benefit People's Resource Center - purchase them before they're gone!

Online:
atthamac.org

By Phone:
630-942-4000



In Person:
McAninch Arts Center
425 Fawell Blvd. in Glen Ellyn

For more information:
630-942-4000

NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in December is "Educated – a memoir" by Tara Westover

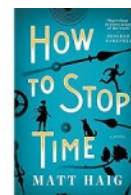
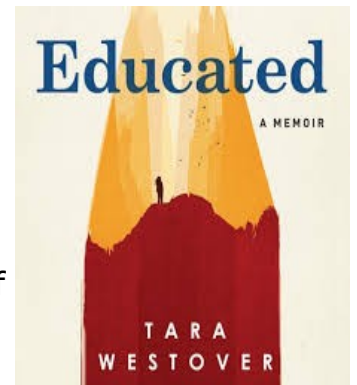
"Breathtaking, heart-wrenching, inspirational, Educated tells the story of a young girl's escape from violence and emotional prison. It is about the love of family and the pain of family both, the ferocity of the human spirit, and the power of education to change lives." (Amy Chua, Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother and Yale Law Professor)

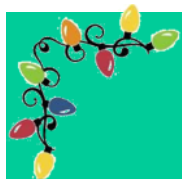
"Educated is a wise and deep reflection about surviving one's family." (Kelly Corrigan)

The Place: the Skwaras', 2035 Cromwell Drive, Wheaton

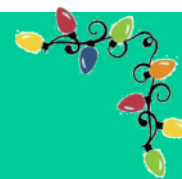
The Date: Friday, December 21st at 7:30pm

LOOKING AHEAD: "How to Stop Time" by Matt Haig





December



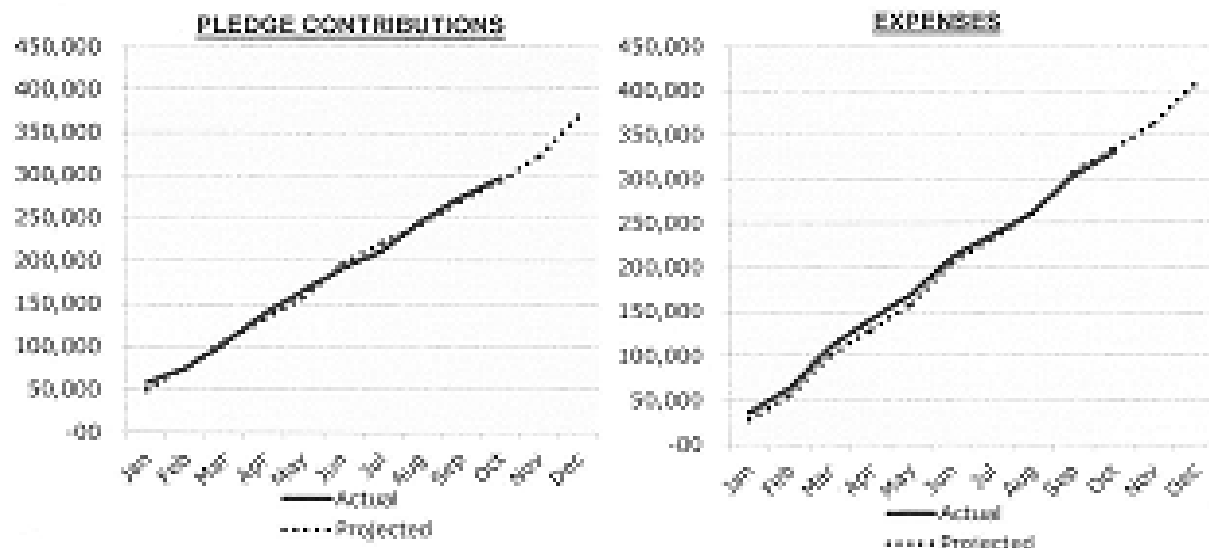
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir			1 1pm Church decorating
2 9:30am Worship Service Communion 6pm crazies	3	4	5 7:30pm Cantata rehearsal 8:30pm Sanctuary Choir	6 1pm Women's Prayer Group	7	8 9am Cantata Dress rehearsal
9 9:30am Worship Cantata Sunday 11am M&M's 6pm crazies	10	11 6pm SRC 7pm Council	12 PADS 5:30pm Marian Park store	13 1pm Women's Prayer Group	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Service, Bells Birthday Party for Jesus 3pm Open House 6pm crazies VOICE articles due	17	18	19	20 1pm Women's Prayer Group	21 7:30pm Novel Approaches	22
23 9:30am Worship Service Open choir	24 Christmas Eve services 6pm Family-friendly 10pm Candlelight	25 Merry Christmas 	26 Office closed	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship Service	31 Office closed					

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

For the Period Ending October 31, 2018

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	21,974	298,738	370,000
Loose Offerings	439	4,296	4,000
Rental Income	200	5,300	8,300
Fund Raising	219	2,749	4,000
Investment Income	285	807	300
More Property	-00	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	7,032	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	23,117	332,822	407,600
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	16,564	102,565	230,855
Building	8,437	96,788	104,580
Loans & Notes	-00	20,063	25,750
Mission / OCWM	1,000	21,784	25,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	755	4,427	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	26	909	3,000
Music	298	2,436	4,200
Worship	168	1,125	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	600	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	60	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	27,249	330,769	407,035
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$14,132	\$2,163	\$665

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)

Office Email: office@stmatthewucc.org

Web Site: www.stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10am-2pm

Friday: 9-11am

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

Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor
allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry
susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org

Mel Jerome, Director of Youth Ministry
mel.jerome@stmatthewucc.org

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jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

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