

THE VOICE OF

St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.stmatthew-ucc.org



January 2016

Is Peace Possible?

This Christmas Eve proved to be one of the most worshipful times I can remember for many years. Ask any pastor and they will tell you how difficult it is to both have the responsibility for leading worship and feel engaged in the worship at a personal level. But Christmas Eve as we sang the carols, heard the good news, and celebrated the birth of Jesus in dance and choral music and bells, I found a profound sense of peace coming over me. Now as we enter this new year, I find myself wondering if I can hold on to the peace that I have felt.

To say the least, peace is elusive in our world. We are still reeling from the attacks in Paris and the shootings in more places than I can name. Many hearts are in deep grief as we enter this new year. There is an ugly faith in hatred and violence that has a grip on many nations, groups espousing terror, and lone wolf individuals committed to doing horrific harm. Protestors in our streets have brought our awareness of the long-standing problems of violence in our cities and unresolved tensions between police and parts of our communities. But they have not brought peace or the justice they demand. The political season is heating up and much of the rhetoric we are hearing plays on our fears, is divisive and destructive of our national unity in a time when we need to come together.

How are we to hold on to the peace that our faith has promised by angels singing in the sky? How do we live in a world committed to violence and hold to a faith committed to a way of peace?

I am not entirely sure, but I do know it will have much to do with where I keep my focus. I can focus on the world and find myself caught in the battles that are raging or I can focus on this Christ child born in a chaotic and indifferent world just like the one we live in. His way is a peace that comes quietly in unexpected ways and place. His peace is subversive. It does not come by a frontal assault or reactive response to violence with more forceful violence. As Jesus says, the kingdom of God is among us and within us. The peace comes only to those who are open and hungering for a new possibility, like the shepherds in the fields.

Jesus was certainly attentive to the social injustice of His time and the violence that He witnessed. He confronted it by speaking to it boldly and truthfully. But He spoke out of a deep sense of peace and He proposed an alternative to the world's violence which involved clearing our own hearts of violence. As He said, *"You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 'But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court...' (Matthew 5:21-22).* Jesus understood that the road to peace begins with each of us and the way we stay in God's love in the midst of the world's violence. It is only from a place of peace that we have any chance of bringing peace.

Happy New Year! May this be a year of peace regardless of what comes next.

Pastor Allen

Food on the First

Thank you to all who donated in the month of December.

Here is what is needed for January:

- Feminine pads
- Diapers - Size 5
- Baby wipes
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned carrots
- Cereal (no corn flakes)
- Ketchup and mustard
- Birthday candles



As always, please make sure items are not expired or opened. Thank you for your generosity and if you have any questions please call Betty Greer at 630.682.4084.



January Birthdays

- 1 Kathy Oswalt
- 3 Heather Madsen
- 4 Darcy Holland
- 6 Ruth Copeland
- 8 Gaye Justice
- 9 Bill Matthei
- 13 Leah Kulczewski
- 15 Linda Dome
Laurie Madsen
- 17 Dan Achammer
Jim Fanning
Kay Kullman
- 18 Bob Cooper
- 19 Mike Justice
- 20 Rachel Schubert
- 22 Mark Hutchison
- 23 Jen Eugea
Ryan Phillips
- 28 Brian Nessel

MANNA Program

All the holiday activity is out of the way, but “this little piggy” still needs to go to the market. We all still need to shop for groceries and gas, even in the snow, so buying Manna cards for the places you shop brings extra money to St. Matthew.

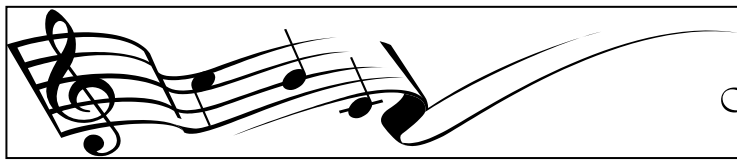
Manna – it’s not just for gift cards any more.

Check out the Manna table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday.



"The Law of Love" Sermon"

If you would like a printed copy of Pastor Allen’s Open and Affirming sermon, copies are available on the information table in the narthex. You may also view the sermon on the church website www.stmatthewucc.org.



Notes from the Music Room.....

Happy New Year to one and all!!

Please join me in thanking all the wonderful people who provided music for our worship in December. Each week was a meaningful journey through Advent, culminating with two celebrations on Christmas Eve.

As we move into the New Year, we have much to look forward to, but I need your assistance. The Sanctuary Choir, Praise Band and bells each need additional people – both vocalists and instrumentalists. Please join us and help provide the wonderful music that graces our worship services.

May your new year be blessed with happiness and peace.

Jamie

630.202.6788

lanni1@comcast.net



Slip-sliding Fun

It's becoming a yearly winter fellowship event – a trip to tiny Triumph, IL, for a night of fun on the ice at the historic Waltham Curling Club, the oldest in the state. The third annual trip, organized by Joe Hall, was January 2nd. A good combination of “veterans” and newcomers can now say they have tried an Olympic sport and participated in what's becoming a fun St. Matthew tradition!



crazies

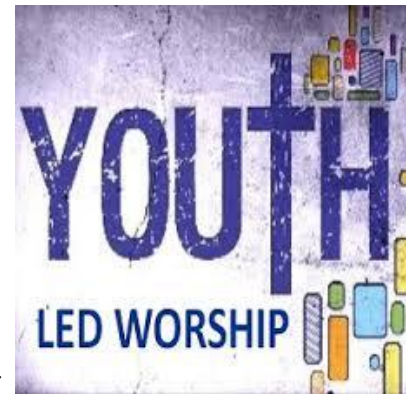
St. Matthew UCC

crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, January 10 th	6-8pm
crazies Winter Retreat	Friday, Jan. 15 th – Sun., Jan. 17 th	
NO crazies	Sunday, January 17 th	OFF
Feed My Starving Children	Monday, January 18 th	2:30-4:30pm
Youth-Led Worship	Sunday, January 24 th	9:30-11am
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, January 24 th	6-8pm
Annual Meeting	Sunday, January 31 st	10:30am
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, January 31 st	6-8pm
SOUPer Bowl of Caring & Lunch	Sunday, February 7 th	9am-Noon
NO crazies	Sunday, February 7 th	OFF
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, February 8 th	6-8 pm
Ash Wednesday Service	Wednesday, February 10 th	7pm
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, February 14 th	6-8 pm
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, February 21 st	6-8pm
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, February 28 th	6-8pm

WINTER RETREAT OVER MLK WEEKEND

From Friday, January 15 – Sunday, January 17 the crazies will be away on their annual winter retreat. This year we'll be at Pilgrim Park in Princeton, Illinois, and we hope that YOU can join us! Contact Emmy for more details.

JOIN US FOR YOUTH-LED WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 24! Mark your calendars for this wonderful event! Come hear what the crazies learned and talked about on our winter retreat as they lead the entire congregation with songs, sermon, and prayer.



FAMILY CAMP SIGNUPS HAVE BEGUN!

Sign-ups are continuing for Family Camp 2016, which will be Sunday, July 24th to Saturday, July 30th at Watson Homestead in the picturesque Finger Lakes region in western New York. Join us for a week of "Wine and Waterfalls" where possible group activities include hiking among the region's gorges and waterfalls, visiting some of the wineries and breweries in the area, and exploring the many museums in and around town--including the world-renowned Corning Glass Works. In addition, there are plenty of activities on-site at Watson Homestead, including an indoor pool, archery range, hayrides, and a climbing wall. Sign-up forms are located in the narthex. Please see Mark Hutchison, Dianne Hutchison, Sam Kouns, John Kouns, or Hi Baird with any questions. We hope that you will be a part of our great St. Matthew tradition!

UPCOMING EVENTS

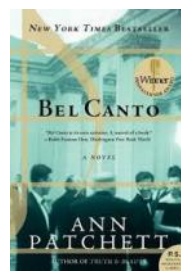


DADS & KIDS BOWLING Sunday, January 10th - Fox Bowl, 1101 Butterfield Rd., Wheaton. Some dads in the church have organized a night out for children with their dads. We will be going bowling at 4pm and will order pizzas at the bowling alley. **Moms, you have some time off!** Mark your calendar and plan to join us. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN The annual Feed My Starving Children trip will be on January 18th, 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 50 spots reserved. Please sign up on the board in the narthex. - Alex Johnson



NOVEL APPROACHES The novel to be approached in January is “Bel Canto” by Ann Patchett. Although this book came out in 2001, it continues to be very timely today. A quote from the Detroit Free Press states “A provocative and enchanting look at the power art has to suspend real life and create a better world, one in which the differences between people can be erased and the barriers to our best selves can be hurdled.” **The date:** Friday, January 29th at 7:30pm. **The place:** the Skwara’s, 2035 Cromwell Drive in Wheaton. All are welcome! Please join us for lively discussion, food, and fellowship.



EUCHRE NIGHT Friday, January 22nd at 7pm in Dobstaff Hall. Following the popularity of our Euchre tournament in November, join us for another friendly tournament featuring this traditional card game.. Singles and couples welcome as you will be rotating throughout the evening with different partners. Feel free to bring friends who may want to get to know St. Matthew better. Not sure that you remember how to play? Come at 6 pm for a refresher course. Bring a snack or drink (add comma) Sign up at church or email Roseanne King at kingz@me.com.

Annual Meeting & Reports

Annual Reports are due Friday, January 15th. Reminder emails and a copy of last year’s report will have been emailed out. Please contact Kathy in the office with any questions or if you would like a copy of your last year’s report.

This year’s annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 31st after worship service.

January 2016

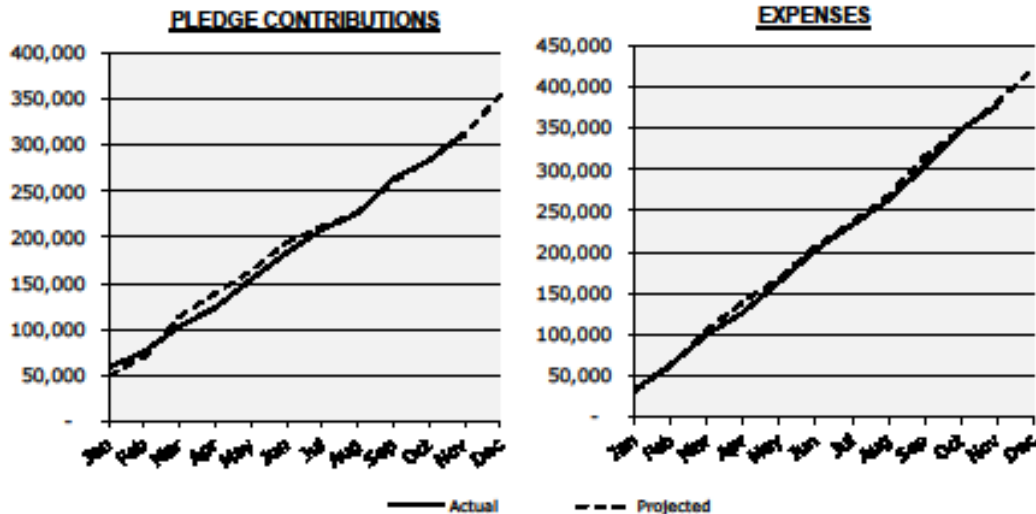
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year (Office Closed)	2 <i>5p Curling</i>
3 <i>9:30am Worship Service: Holy Communion & Remembrance Sunday</i> <i>-no crazies</i>	4 <i>-7pm Building Committee</i> <i>-7pm Christian Ed</i>	5 <i>-1pm Digital Ministry</i> <i>-7pm Membership</i> <i>-7:30pm Mission</i>	6 Epiphany	7	8	9
10 <i>9:30am Worship Service</i> <i>-4pm Dads & Kids Bowling</i> <i>-6pm crazies</i>	11 <i>7pm Worship Committee</i>	12	13	14 <i>7p Finance Committee</i>	15 <i>-Annual Reports Due</i> <i>-crazies Winter Retreat</i>	16
17 <i>9:30am Worship Service</i> <i>-no crazies</i>	18 MLK Day Office Closed <i>2:30 FMSC</i>	19	20	21 <i>-6pm SRC</i> <i>-7pm Council</i>	22 <i>-7pm Euchre Night</i>	23
24 <i>9:30am Worship Service: Youth Sunday</i> <i>-Voice articles due</i> <i>-6pm crazies</i>	25	26	27	28	29 <i>7:30p Novel Approaches</i>	30
31 <i>9:30am Worship Service</i> <i>-Annual Meeting</i> <i>-6pm crazies</i>				Tuesdays <i>6pm IntergeneRingers</i> <i>7:30pm Chancel Ringers</i>	Wednesdays <i>2:15pm Women's Prayer Group</i> <i>6:30pm Praise Band</i> <i>7:30pm Sanctuary Choir</i>	

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

For the Period Ended November 30, 2015

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			
Pledge Contributions	29,508	313,138	354,327
Loose Offerings	711	5,913	10,000
Rental Income	440	2,920	5,000
Fund Raising	723	4,320	8,000
Investment Income	(1,079)	62	-
More Property	-	16,500	46,000
More Property (special projects)	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	30,302	342,852	423,327
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>			
Ministry	17,361	204,597	229,129
Building	7,201	104,177	116,028
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	24,520	28,750
Mission / OCWM	3,290	28,488	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	575	7,598	10,270
Membership	-	1,854	2,750
Music	-	3,343	4,500
Worship	(301)	976	1,500
Endowment	-	-	-
Congregational Life	-	627	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Stewardship	57	501	500
Misc. & Contingency	-	1,122	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	30,412	377,604	423,327
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ (110)	\$ (34,752)	\$ -

2015 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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



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: 9am-4pm

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.

Our Staff

Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor

allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

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Emily Davis, Director of Youth Ministry

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Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director

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Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist

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Kim Congdon, Handbell Director

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Joan Johnson, Business Manager

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Kathy Robson, Administrative Assistant

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