

THE VOICE



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1420 S. Gables Blvd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
630.665.1236
www.stmatthewucc.org



NOVEMBER
2016

WHAT'S INSIDE

Children & Youth
Page 2-3

Christian Education
Page 3

Notes from the Music Room
Page 4

Mission News
Page 4-5

Congregational Life & Upcoming Events
Page 6-8

*Trunk or Treat/
M&M Pictures*
Page 8-11

Financial Statement
Page 12

Calendar
Page 13



PASTORAL MESSAGE

Rev. Allen Mothershed

"Blessed are the Sorrowful. Blessed are the Meek. Blessed are the Persecuted."

Have you ever noticed how often Jesus' words were spoken to people who were victims? "When someone strikes you on the cheek..." "When someone takes your coat..." So many of the people Jesus addressed had been victimized. Maybe he had a lot to say to folks like that because there were, in fact, so many people who had in one way or another been caused harm by others and who did not feel the power to respond. It is clear that Jesus understood these people and had great empathy for them. Perhaps he was able to relate to them so well because he had himself been victimized. We certainly know that so many people in Israel in that time suffered much: not so unlike people in Syria in our time. So Jesus gave them blessings. He blessed all the variety of victims in his time.

I know that we certainly like to be blessed when we are victimized. We learn it as children. Fall down on the ground and skin a knee and Mom picks you up, holds you, kisses you, and says, "Mean ole ground, hurt my child!" "That's right...I did not fall, the ground hit me." We can gain a lot by being the victim. We can receive attention, support, and sympathy. We can be excused. We don't have to be responsible when we are a victim. But the danger is that we may start to celebrate our misfortunes and start to act helpless. There is something sick about that. Not that people are not rightfully understood as victims. It is just that how we respond to being victimized matters.

Jesus seems to have understood this danger. He saw the very real abuse and yet he offered people a way to not act like a victim. He said, "If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them." We may object, "But Jesus, you are telling us to be a victim!" But Jesus says, "No, I am not. I am telling you not to act like a victim. Find a way to seize the initiative from those who want to hurt you. Learn to transform a terrible situation by maintaining your dignity."

(cont'd. on page 2)

(cont'd.)

We may mistakenly assume that Jesus himself was a victim. After all, he was beaten, mocked, and crucified. We may believe people took his life. But in reality, Jesus gave his life. He gave his life. And so may we find ways to refuse in our lives to play the victim.

Blessings,
Pastor Allen

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Thank you to the teachers and shepherds who so lovingly gave their time and talents teaching and leading the *Going Green in God's World* workshop rotation: Marla Mothershed, Patti Woods Jungk, Kenna Anderson, Francine Alavi, Miegan and Kaitlyn Bresingham, Carol Honeywell, Kira Mothershed, Kelley Passini, Diane Mook and Leslie Ortman.



Thank you to the parents who donate snacks for the children to enjoy during Children's Worship on Sunday morning. They are greatly appreciated!



JOSEPH, LIVING IN A LAND OF MANY COLORS

The Joseph, Land of Many Colors workshop rotation begins on October 30th. Kids explore the stepping-stones in Joseph's life and how he lived through each one with faith and trust in God. They step out into Joseph's life starting with the coat of many colors that he received as a favorite son. They come to learn that through the bad situations in Joseph's life God was working His good plan.

Through Art, Cooking, Drama, Game, and Movie workshops, children will understand and explore the main concept: God is sovereign over their lives; working for good in the lives of individuals, families, and nations.

TEACHERS NEEDED

We are in need of Sunday School teachers for workshop rotation. Each session is four to six weeks long and teachers teach the same lesson for three weeks during the session: to a different age group each week. Commitments are for a single session. The children are wonderful to work with and they love the Sunday School program. Workshops are a variety of classes in Art, Science, Drama, Storytelling, Cooking, Movie/Popcorn, Games, etc. Curriculum is provided. Please call or email Susan Wold if you would like to learn more about teaching.



FOURTH GRADE BIBLES

Ashley Caprini and Christy Banaszewski will receive their gift Bible during worship service on Sunday, November 20th. Please join us in worship to share in their special day.



November Birthdays

Parker Holshouser 11/1, Avery Scalora 11/12,
Kyle Bresingham 11/25, Bonnie Bailey 11/28

crazies
St. Matthew UCC



Sleep-Out Saturday is November 5th - youth, save the date and join us.
Adult members of St. Matthew are encouraged to donate to Bridge
Communities.

Sunday, November 13th, 6pm (before crazies) - Informational meeting about the August 2017 Mission trip to Boundary Waters. We will discuss finalizing the date and talk about cost and other details. Anyone from St. Matthew interested in this trip is encouraged to attend.

Sunday, December 4th - crazies will help with childcare for "Parents' Shopping Day Out" after worship service until 2pm, then will meet from 2-4pm.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - UPCOMING EVENT

Parents Shopping Day Out

hosted by Santa's Little Helpers

Parents, we invite you to enjoy a few hours of shopping or wrapping Christmas presents without your kids on **Sunday, December 4th** from after church until 2pm. At the church we will provide crafts, songs, games and a movie to keep your Sunday School aged children (3+ and potty trained) happy and having fun. (Please send a sack lunch with your child.) Sign up in the narthex so we know how many volunteers will be needed and which children will be staying upstairs after dismissal. If you would like to help, please contact Susan Wold.

Merry Christmas!

-The Christian Education Committee





NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

While choir, Praise Band and handbells are in full swing, it is not too late to join us. IntergeneRingers rehearse on Tuesdays at 6pm, Praise Band Wednesdays at 6:30pm, and Sanctuary Choir Wednesdays at 7:30pm. In November, cantata rehearsals are at 7:30pm with choir immediately following at approximately 8:30pm. We always need more voices and we work far enough ahead so missing a rehearsal or two is manageable. The Praise Band can always use additional instrumentalists as well as singers.

The final “Open-Choir Sunday” for the fall season is November 27th. This is also the first week of Advent, so our selection will be appropriate for the season. Several singers have joined us and I hope to see others of you as well. Open-choir dates for the first half of 2017 will be announced next month. Remember, we meet at 8:15am on Sunday morning to rehearse the anthem for the service.

Please be sure to add December 11th to your calendar and plan to attend worship service, **when we will present this season’s Christmas Cantata, “Mary, Did You Know?”**

If you have questions about choir, Praise Band, or bells, please see KC, Brian, me, or anyone in these groups.

A Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Peace - Jamie Craig
630.202.6788
music.director@stmatthewucc.org.
Lanni1@comcast.net

WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

<u>Tuesday</u>
IntergeneRingers
6pm
Chancel Ringers
7:30pm
<u>Wednesday</u>
Praise Band
6:30pm
Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm

MISSION NEWS

FOOD ON THE FIRST

Thank you for the October donations. Here is what is needed in November:

For the holidays-

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Canned corn | • Baby Wipes |
| • Canned green beans | • Diapers—all sizes |
| • Canned pumpkin | • Soap |
| • Stuffing | • Shampoo |
| • Nuts for baking | • Toothpaste & toothbrushes |



Please make sure all items are not expired and packages are unopened. If you have any questions please call Betty Greer, 630.682.4084. *Blessings to all.*

BACK BAY MISSION

On October 16th, nine St. Matthew members gathered in Biloxi, Mississippi to spend a week of service and fellowship at Back Bay Mission. Back Bay Mission has been a force for good on the Mississippi Gulf Coast since 1922. Through the Civil Rights movement, battles with local governments, and multiple hurricanes, Back Bay Mission has been serving the poor and marginalized of the Gulf Coast and the people of the United Church of Christ. This year St. Matthew's volunteers spent most of their time working on two homes in neighboring Gulfport, readying them for sale to low-income families at well below market value. Our members also had a chance to work in the Back Bay Food Pantry as well as the Micah Day Care Center and at the local soup kitchen Loaves and Fishes. We had a wonderful week of work and fellowship while helping our underprivileged neighbors in Mississippi. You can learn more about Back Bay by visiting their website, <https://thebackbaymission.org>. St. Matthew will return to Back Bay in 2017. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office or John Adams, jadams1958@gmail.com.



THANK YOU, ST. MATTHEW MEMBERS

The Mission Committee would like to thank the members of St. Matthew for your generous support in raising over \$1,200 in Walmart gift cards used to stock the shelves of the Back Bay Mission Food Pantry. The staff at Back Bay asked that we share their gratitude for the gifts that will assist many in their community.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & UPCOMING EVENTS

STEWARDSHIP

Drive just a few miles west of Wheaton on any weekend day and you will see that the growing season has come to an end and the harvest season is in full force as farmers reap the fruits of their labor. This time of year also marks the beginning of our annual Stewardship Drive.

Our theme this year is HLA, which stands for Hope Lifted by Action. In the coming weeks, we will introduce you to the campaign and explain the inspiration behind the theme. We invite you to join together with the entire St. Matthew Family on Sunday, November 13th to commit your time, talent, and treasure to help support our annual budget, drive our many ministries, and provide hope for a better tomorrow.



SLEEP OUT SATURDAY 2016: #HomelessNoMore

On November 5th, join nearly 2,000 DuPage County residents who will spend a very frosty night inside tents, boxes and cars to raise awareness about family homelessness and money for [Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program](#) (click the link for more information).



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The 20th Annual ESSE Pancake Breakfast is right around the corner, so get your tickets NOW! The Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 12th, from 7:30-11:30am at St. Paul Lutheran Church (515 S. Wheaton Ave.). Tickets are \$5 each, and the event includes a silent auction and raffle baskets. Please contact Dawn Schubert for tickets.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Come join us Friday, November 18th at 7pm for our next euchre tournament and attempt to dethrone the current champs, Edie DeBoard and Hi Baird. Feel free to bring friends who may want to get to know St. Matthew better. Bring a snack or drink to share. Sign-up at church or email Roseanne King, kingz@me.com to aid in planning.

NOVEL APPROACHES

The next to be approached in November is "The Valley of Amazement" by Amy Tan. Spanning more than forty years and two continents, this book resurrects pivotal episodes in history from the collapse of China's last imperial dynasty to the rise of the Republic, the explosive growth of lucrative foreign trade and anti-foreign sentiment, to the inner workings of courtesan houses and the lives of the foreign "Shanghailanders" living in the International Settlement, both erased by World War II.

Date: Friday, December 2nd - 7:30pm

Place: Linnea Karpenske's - 21W144 Glen Park Road, Lombard

FAMILY CAMP 2017

Camp sign-up is underway! We are heading to the Mt. Olivet Conference & Retreat Center in Farmington, MN from Saturday, July 22nd to Friday, July 28th.

Family Camp is perfect for anyone who likes to be in fellowship with our church family. Families with young kids, older kids, or no kids at all, as well as single people have been a part of our Family Camp tradition that goes back more than 30 years. Mt. Olivet is an easy 6-hour drive from Wheaton and is surrounded by an exceptional area of natural beauty. How you spend your time at Family Camp is up to you - there's nearby hiking, golf, hot air balloon rides, a historic river town, local brewpubs, wineries, and craft spirits distilleries. Some of us may take a trip to Minneapolis, the Mall of America, a boat cruise, or a canoe trip. In addition, there are plenty of activities onsite at Mt. Olivet, including over five miles of nature trails, volleyball and basketball courts, horseshoes, an outdoor patio with a fireplace (which looks perfect for our Happy Hours!), a game room, and an indoor pool, whirlpool, and sauna. We will also be building and flying kites and model rockets! If all this sounds like too much, don't worry, every year at Family Camp there are folks who spend their week reading or relaxing in a rocking chair.

Sign-up forms are located in the narthex. Please contact Mark Hutchinson, markah22@gmail.com or [630-639-1448](tel:630-639-1448), with any questions. Come be a part of our great St. Matthew tradition!

JOIN OUR ST. MATTHEW FACEBOOK GROUP

Please take a moment to join our [St. Matthew Facebook Group](#) to stay up-to-date on church news, events and a little bit of fun! It's a great way to stay connected with other members, share reminders, calls for mission help and just a friendly connection. The group is 'private' so only members of the group can see posts and photos. Contact [Mary Henderson](#) with any questions.

MANNA PROGRAM

Now that this year's Stewardship Campaign is at full speed, we'd like you to think about taking a step-up in your giving. If that seems difficult for you to do, consider using the Manna program to get the retailers to donate to our church. Make your money stretch! Every time you buy a card, you get full value AND the retailers give a donation to St. Matthew.



DON'T THINK OF THE MANNA CARDS AS GIFT CARDS, BUT AS ANOTHER FORM OF CASH. Use them where you shop every week, even if it's only for your groceries and gas. Are you hosting Thanksgiving this year? Stock up on grocery cards! Check out the order form on our website's "Donate" page to see the hundreds of retailers that are in this program. If you are a Manna participant, thank you for your continuing support. If you have not yet tried it, stop by the Manna table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday for more information on this no-cost fundraiser!

MARIAN PARK THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Marian Park Thanksgiving dinner will be held Tuesday, November 22nd at 6:30pm. Roberto will be cooking his famous turkey again this year. The residents always look forward to this dinner. We are looking for people to help serve the meal and clean up afterwards. Please email Julie Schubert at tijjr7@att.net if you are available. Thank you.

MARIAN PARK CHRISTMAS SHARING

As another Christmas season approaches, St. Matthew UCC once again will reach out with generosity to people of need in our own community. We are embarking on our 28th year of Marian Park Christmas Sharing, one of our most joyous missions! On November 6th there will be a wonderful Christmas tree in the narthex, filled with the Christmas wishes of individuals from Marian Park families and senior citizens ready for adoption. **If you are a busy bee and don't have time to buy a gift, feel free to make a monetary donation in any amount!** All monetary donations will be divided equally among families and seniors to purchase a grocery gift card for each. Checks should be made out to St. Matthew United Church of Christ.

All donations should be returned in the box in the narthex. Gifts need to be wrapped, labeled and returned to St. Matthew by Sunday, December 11th for delivery on Wednesday, December 14th.

On a table near the Christmas tree, there will be a list of all gift recipients, listed by family letter and first name, with room for each donor to write his/her name and phone number on the same line. Please take the time to fill out this important list to make sure that no present is lost. Additionally, we will have a sign-up sheet for drivers to help with delivering gifts to Marian Park on December 14th from 6-8pm. For more information, please contact Andrea DiOrio, oreoseven@yahoo.com, 630.881.8611.

TRUNK or TREAT 2016





M&M - MOMENTS TOGETHER AND MEMORIES FOREVER





Birthdays of the Month

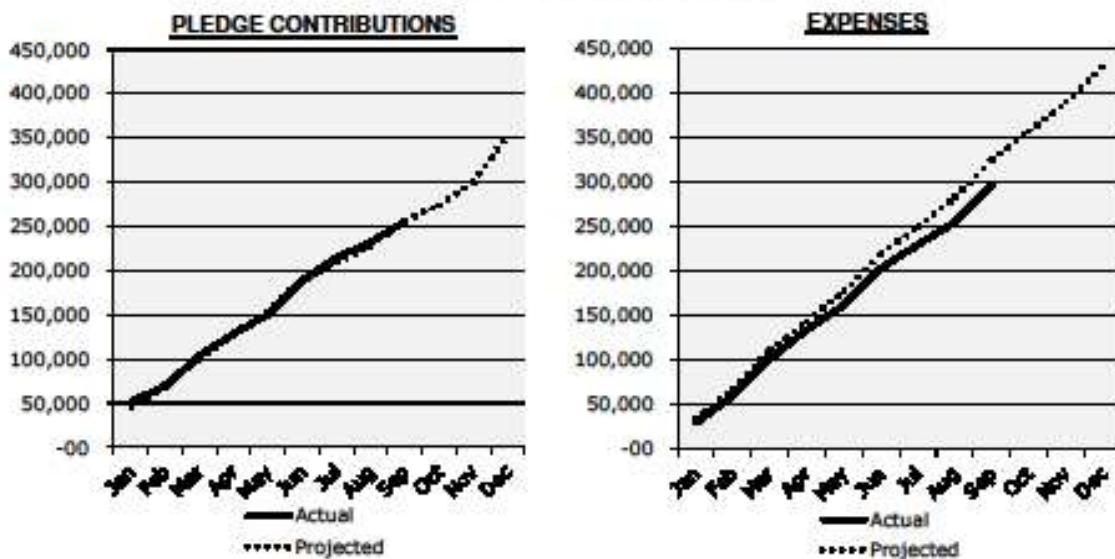
- 3 Betty Luessenhop
- 8 Pastor Allen Mothershed
- 11 Joe Hall
- 14 Dianne Hutchison
- Rick Jungk
- 15 Diana Padilla
- 23 Kristine Schroer
- 28 Lindsay Christensen
- Ryan Christensen
- 29 Betty Greer
- 30 Jose Padilla

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

For the Period Ending September 30, 2016

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	23,475	255,390	353,000
Loose Offerings	1,129	3,518	10,000
Rental Income	-00	2,405	5,000
Fund Raising	203	3,076	8,000
Investment Income	(3)	130	-00
More Property	-00	-00	-00
Miscellaneous Income	5,000	5,000	-00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	29,805	269,520	376,000
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	23,555	172,006	234,195
Building	8,632	73,121	118,253
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	20,062	26,750
Mission / OCWM	8,975	23,561	29,200
Committees:			
Christian Education	1,133	6,427	9,970
Membership	-00	630	2,750
Music	317	2,223	4,700
Worship	-00	559	1,500
Congregational Life	170	710	800
Memorial	-00	45	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	500
Misc. & Contingency	340	440	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	45,351	299,784	429,718
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	<u>$-(15,547)$</u>	<u>$(30,264)$</u>	<u>$(53,718)$</u>

2016 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



Please contact Howard Peterson if you have questions or need additional information.

NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm IntergeneRingers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir			
		1 1pm Digital Ministry Committee . 7pm Membership Committee	2 1:30pm Women's Prayer Group 7:30-8:30pm Cantata Rehearsal	3 7:30pm Mission Committee	4	5 <i>SLEEP OUT SATURDAY</i>
6 9:30 Worship Service Daylight Saving Time Ends 6pm crazies	7 7pm Building Committee 7pm Christian Education	8	9 1:30pm Women's Prayer Group 7:30-8:30pm Cantata Rehearsal PADS	10 7pm Finance Committee	11	12
13 9:30am Worship Service Commitment Sunday 11am Worship Committee VOICE ARTICLES DUE 6pm Mission trip mtg./ crazies	14	15	16 1:30pm Women's Prayer Group 7:30-8:30pm Cantata Rehearsal	17 6pm SRC 7pm Council	18 7pm Euchre	19
20 9:30am Worship Service - Presentation of 4th grade Bibles 6pm crazies	21	22 6:30pm Marian Park Thanksgiving Dinner	23 1:30pm Women's Prayer Group No Music Rehearsals	25 8am Turkey Bowl - crazies HAPPY THANKSGIVING	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 8:15am Open-Choir 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies	28 7pm Ministry Chairs Meeting	29	30 1:30pm Women's Prayer Group 7:30-8:30pm Cantata Rehearsal			



Find us at: www.stmatthewucc.org
Facebook, Pinterest and YouTube



St. Matthew United Church of Christ
630.665.1236 (Office)

Office Email:
office@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.*

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

Kathy Robson, Administrative Assistant
office@stmatthewucc.org

Alicia Drabik, Business Manager
business.manager@stmatthewucc.org