

THE VOICE

OF

St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.

WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189

630-665-1236

Fax 630-665-1436

www.stmatthew-ucc.org



October 2014

Honoring the Body

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

If I were to ask you to make a list of important practices that are part of living a Christian life, I suspect you would come up with practices like: prayer, regular worship, generous giving, giving thanks, acts of charity and love, maybe even fasting. I doubt you would place honoring the body on your list. However, I would dare to say that this practice is a particularly essential one for the time in which we live.

Christianity is reclaiming our appreciation for the goodness and beauty of our bodies. There is a shift away from a hyper-suspicion of the lustfulness of the flesh and the idea that our souls matter and our bodies do not. We recognize, as did our Hebrew forefathers and mothers, that our body, soul, and spirit are indivisible and intricately woven together. We are our bodies.

From the very beginning of the creation, God declared the creation as “Very Good.” That includes the environment, but also our bodies. Christian theology insists that Christ came to save not only people, but Creation itself. Christ comes to bring a new Creation. All this affirms that God is not only acting to save our souls, but our entire selves and the world we live in.

We often abuse our bodies. I asked a room full of men once to wrap red bandages on all the places on their bodies where they had been wounded in their lives. The room was covered in red. Men in particular have a way of sacrificing their bodies, using them as tools in work and play (think of intense sports and back-breaking work). Women are often encouraged to judge their body’s worth only in its value to attract, resulting in objectification. This also results in a great deal of insecurity when their bodies do not perfectly conform to some ideal standard.

No matter how our bodies are shaped or handicapped, whether they are fragile and aging; God affirms that they are good, wonderful, and beautiful. The world does not determine the value of our bodies, God does.

How can we affirm the value of our body at all stages of our lives? Perhaps a start is to take a good look in the mirror at our bodies as they are and give God thanks. St. Francis lived a rather stern and ascetic life in which he subjected his body to the abuse of the weather and work. In fact, he called his body “Brother Donkey.” At the end of his life, seeing his body broken down and fragile, he begged the forgiveness of his body for the abuse he had subjected it to. How might we look at our attitudes towards our own body and ask its forgiveness? How might we live more respectfully and thankfully towards the body we have been given?

*Christ’s peace,
Pastor Allen*

Food on the First

Many thanks for the September donations.

Here is what is needed now:

- Canned pineapple
- Canned peaches
- Salad dressing
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Ketchup
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Cake mixes
- Cake frosting



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.

As always, please make sure the food is not expired and the packages are unopened. Please contact Betty Greer at (630) 682.4084 if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Proverbs 19:17

*"He who is kind to the poor, lends to the LORD,
and He will reward him for what he has done."*



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 2 | Kevin Bute |
| 5 | Doug Miller |
| 13 | Jackie Keuck |
| 14 | Bill Beaton |
| 15 | Kerin Sanken |
| 16 | Lynn Thornton |
| 17 | Rocio Chumas |
| | Lou Holland |
| 18 | Cameron |
| | Rosenthal |
| 22 | Cheryl Heck |
| 23 | Sarah Muntz |
| 25 | John Umbeck |
| 26 | Amy Barnshaw |
| | Abby Jung |
| 28 | John Kouns |
| | Monte Schroer |
| 30 | Carol Young |
| | |
| | |
| | |

"Information Only" Directories



Updated directories (addresses and phone numbers only, no photos) are available for pick-up on Diana's desk in the Office. Please stop in on Sunday morning after Worship or during the week to pick up your copy. Since we are encouraging church members to be "green," only a limited number of directories will be available at this time. In case de-

mand for the directories is greater than we anticipate, there will be a sign-up sheet for printing more directories. Please stop by the office and pick up your picture directory (they are labeled with your name) if you ordered one.



Notes from the Music Room.....

As announced in church on September 28th, the Sanctuary Choir began rehearsing for the Christmas Cantata on Wednesday, October 1st. Rehearsals are from 7:30 – 8:30 pm.

As Joe Hall mentioned in his words a couple of weeks ago, this is a great time to join for a short commitment. I hope that many of you will join us for fun, fellowship, and music. Youth, young adults, and the rest of us are more than welcome. Friends, too.

Of course, if you want, you can stay for regular choir rehearsal that will start at 8:30 pm, and perhaps join us for some Sundays throughout the fall. Or maybe you would like to combine singing in the Cantata with the Praise Band. Their rehearsals are also on Wednesday evenings before cantata rehearsal, starting at 6:30 pm.

We hope you will join us.

Peace,

Jamie
Lanni1@comcast.net
630-202-6788



Fellowship Hour Volunteers Needed



Our Fellowship time after Sunday Worship is vital in so many ways. We reconnect with old friends, we introduce ourselves to newer members and we show extravagant welcome to those who are visiting St. Matthew. And of course, for our children, it's a great way to refuel after Sunday School.

We are looking to change our Coffee procedures at the beginning of 2015. Diane Mook and her team tirelessly provide us with coffee, a well-set treats table, and clean up after we reconnect with members of the congregation. That team is ready move on to serve St. Matthew in other ways.

We are looking for a person, or a team of people who would be in charge of making coffee before Worship and cleaning up afterwards. Duties could possibly be divided into a before Church Service group (making the coffee and setting up the room) and a Clean-Up crew. Or a person could be responsible for an entire coffee (set-up and take-down), and donate their time to this ministry once every 8 weeks.

Please consider helping St. Matthew with the Fellowship Hour. Contact Cathy SooHoo at (630) 653-6625 or casooohoo@ameritech.net if you feel a call to this ministry. Thanks!



Children's Ministry

October 2014



We are off to a good start in Sunday school. Our preschoolers are in their own classroom learning all about God's love: God Helps us Pray, God used Jeremiah, God's Little Helper, God Helps us Grow, Working for Jesus, and God Made me Special. **Thank you: Abby Jung, Summer Scalora, Diana Padilla and Miegan Bresingham** for teaching and shepherding this special group of children. In workshop rotation the children are learning about how God chose a special young boy, Jeremiah, to do an important job for Him. Through this lesson, the children learn that God calls people of all ages for His kingdom work. **Thank you to our teachers and shepherds: Marla Mothershed, Deb Felsenthal, Kenna Anderson, Patti Woods Jungk, Judi Gonzalez, Emily Ciner and Julie Barnshaw.**

Parent Meeting: On October 19th, after worship, parents and Children's Ministry leaders will gather for a brief meeting to discuss the upcoming year. Some of what we will discuss is: Children's Choir, Acolytes, Workshop Rotation, and volunteer opportunities. Please join us in the parlor at 10:30 am while the children are in Sunday School.

Session II of the Sunday School year will begin on October 26th. The preschool children will continue with God's love for them: God Protects Me, God Blesses Me, God Gives us Friends, God Gives us the Bible, and God Gives us Jesus. In workshop rotation the children will learn about a strong and determined woman named Rebekah, who was chosen by God because of her kindness. God chooses us, as God chose Rebekah. Like Rebekah, we can show hospitality and kindness to others. God gives us opportunities to serve and we can recognize these opportunities.

M&M, Moments together & Memories forever: This is a wonderful program where children (Pre-6th) and adults from St. Matthew come together to have fun and build friendships. More information and sign up is on the table in the narthex.



October 26th, 3-5 pm

Trick-or-Treating, Indoor games, Food, Crafts, Music

This community event will be fun for your family and a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to visit your church.

Pick up fliers in the narthex to share with others.

**If you would like to decorate your trunk, please sign up in the narthex. **

September and October

Birthdays: Andrew Bourne 9/25

*Fourth Grade Bible Recipients,
September 28th*



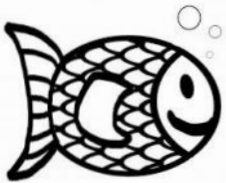


Moments Together and Memories Forever

M & M is an ongoing program intended to give adults and children of St. Matthew an opportunity of get to know one another better. Those who sign up will be randomly paired together for an opportunity to become better acquainted over the next 12 months.

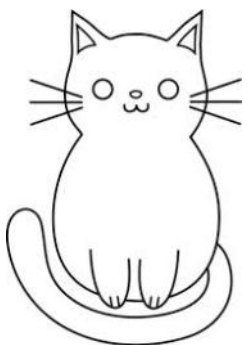
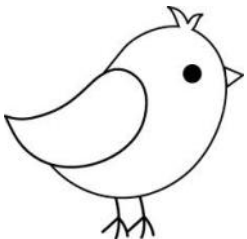
During the year, events will be planned by the M&M coordinator. These events include lunch, games, mission projects, crafts, and more.

Sign-up for this fun program is on the ministries table in the narthex. It is a great way to make new friends within our "church family." Children (Preschool-6th) and adult men and women of all ages are welcome. Sign-up will continue throughout the early fall and pairing will take place in October. If you have any questions, please contact Krista Caprini 630-665-1128, caprini2323@gmail.com



PET BLESSING AND REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, October 19th at 3pm for our annual pet blessing. There will also be a special remembrance for pets that are no longer with us. There will be a short worship service, a blessing for pets and caregivers, snacks for people and pets, and fellowship time. If the weather permits we will gather outdoors, otherwise we will gather in Dobstaff Hall.





St. Matthew UCC

So, what are your spiritual gifts?

In Christianity, we say that "spiritual gifts" are endowments given by the Holy Spirit. These are the supernatural graces we are given to fulfill the mission of the church. Mostly, they're described in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4). And, mostly, they're an abstract thing that we church people don't really dig into. Perhaps that's what made the crazies' month-long series on these gifts so engaging. Since September, we've been digging into these gifts from the Spirit and trying to figure out what roles they might play in our lives. It's been a month of awesome conversation, new understandings of each other, and new understandings of ourselves. Next time you see them, ask the crazies about what they learned. And keep an eye out for an art installation in the fellowship hall that helped us explore our own individual gifts.

Upcoming Events:

Apple Picking & Lock-in, October 12-13
Trunk-or-Treat & Halloween Party, October 26
Sleep Out Saturday, November 1-2
(And don't forget our regular meetings every Sunday night!)



St. Matthew Crazies

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 @ 2PM –

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13 @ 7AM

Come join us for an afternoon
of apple-picking, followed
by a night of worship,
fellowship, food, and FUN!

We'll depart from the church parking
lot PROMPTLY at 2pm for Honey
Hill Orchard in Waterman, IL.
After enjoying the farm, we'll return
to St. Matthew for the night.

CONTACT PERSON: EMMY DAVIS
YOUTH.MINISTRY@STMATTHEWUCC.ORG
630-665-1236

Fall Overnight

St Matthew United Church of Christ

**Hosts a Night at Muldoon's
Sunday, October 19th from 4-10pm**



MULDOON'S

an Irish-American eatery

**Mmm...Burgers, nachos, wraps, soups, and salads!
Who's hungry for delicious food at Muldoon's in downtown Wheaton?**

**Muldoon's is hosting a fundraiser for St. Matthew UCC on Sunday, October 19th from 4-10pm; 15% of ALL pre-tax sales will be donated to our church. Grab your family, friends, and neighbors and head on over to Muldoon's at 133 W. Front Street for great food, fellowship, and a chance to help St Matthew. We NEED your support!
Please call Dawn Schubert at (630) 542-0160 for details.**

ALL are welcome!

Manna Participation Has Increased!

I want to thank everyone who stepped up to participate in Manna in September. If we could do this every month, we could earn over \$7,000 a year.

I hope this momentum will continue and even build. We have had 49 different families participate in Manna at one time or another. If just half of those could participate on a weekly basis (or everyone on a bi-weekly basis) we could be looking at an average of 25 families a week. That would put us at over \$11,000 per year. Wow! – a lot of money for just using Manna cards instead of cash or checks.

So...think about the stores where you do your weekly shopping, and don't forget to bring a check for Manna next Sunday! Thank you for your continued support of St. Matthew.

<><

Edie DeBoard



Angola Mission and Offering

St. Matthew is known for its generous spirit of giving, both at home and abroad. The UCC Conference is no different and has been raising much-needed funds for student housing at the Dondi Seminary in Angola.

The Conference has set a goal of \$60,000 by the end of 2014, and a little over \$40,000 has been raised to date.

We will be having a second collection here at St. Matthew on Sunday October 19th for the Angola Partnership team, and we

ask for your support for an area of the world where there is great need and the church is a powerful witness.



Pig Roast: THANK YOU!



The Pig Roast held on Saturday, September 20th was a huge success, and we sincerely thank the very generous couple who donated the entire catered meal to the members of St. Matthew. A 140+ pound pig was served along with multiple side dishes. The wine pull and free-will offering were also VERY successful, and we generated \$876 for our fundraising efforts. Thanks also to the members of the Congregational Life committee for all of their hard work and their efforts in making this event such a fun evening!

ESSE (Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly) News

Heartfelt thanks are extended to the following individuals who either donated their time or delivered treats to the ESSE clients in September: **Lee Anderson, Tracey Blake, Betty Greer, Ruth Greer, Diane Mook, Cathy SooHoo, & Monnie Stoller.**



ESSE is holding a fundraiser on Wednesday October 8th from 5-8 pm at the Potbelly Restaurant at 552 Roosevelt Road in Glen Ellyn. Potbelly will donate 25% of all sales to ESSE Adult Day Services. Just mention ESSE and enjoy some delicious food!

ESSE's 18th Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 8th from 7:30 -11 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church (515 S. Wheaton Ave). Tickets are only \$5 each, and Dawn Schubert has them available for sale. PLEASE support this important fundraiser. Come for delicious food, raffle baskets, and a Silent Auction with some great donated items.



Bridge Communities 10th Annual Sleep Out Saturday (SOS)



On November 1st more than 1,500 teens, children, and adults will spend the night sleeping outside in tents, boxes, or cars to raise awareness about family homelessness and funds for Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program. Here at St. Matthew, we'll be participating too!

With your help, we can help house more than 100 families and provide 71,000 nights of housing and supportive services to homeless families in DuPage County. Please donate to show your commitment to helping homeless families build a bridge to a brighter future! Contact Emily Davis or Dawn Schubert for more info and look for materials in the narthex SOON.

**And now...for something completely different, a poem for October
from Linda Leinweber:**

Up-Hill

By Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long day?
From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting place?
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yes, beds for all who come.



I bring you this simple, but contemplative poem, which you can interpret in a variety of ways. Whether you see it literally as a journey or trip that you must make in the immediate future; life's journey; the journey from birth to death; or a metaphor for a difficult task ahead of you; it offers comfort in the answers to the eight questions. I think it resonates for me, in part, because I will be facing my own rather long but happy journey home to Wheaton for the holidays in November. Widely anthologized, I took this poem from *Committed to Memory*, edited by John Hollander.



Upcoming Events

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM Please plan on joining us at our upcoming classes on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. this fall on **The Great Questions**-questions that disturb and intrigue us: October 8th: If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions? October 15th: Why does God let bad things happen? October 22nd: What does God think about war?

PET BLESSING AND REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Join us on Sunday, **October 19th** at 3pm for our annual pet blessing. There will also be a special remembrance for pets that are no longer with us. There will be a short worship service, a blessing for pets and caregivers, snacks for people and pets, and fellowship time. If the weather permits we will gather outdoors, otherwise we will gather in Dobstaff Hall.



EIGHT TO DINE Have dinner with a group of eight folks from the congregation in someone's home. Enjoy the company, laugh together, and get to know each other a little bit better. Help build a Christian community from the ground up! Our first Eight to Dine date is coming up on **November 8th**. Here's how it works: the Host provides a main dish, others provide sides and dessert. Sign up in the narthex to be part of it. If you can host, mark that as well. We'll put together the groups and the Host makes a few phone calls to establish what time; then the fun begins!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT Sunday, **October 26th** from 3-5 pm. Come in costume to Trick or Treat from trunk to trunk, collecting candy from church volunteers who have decorated their car trunks to serve as a backdrop for this family event. Hotdog lunch, dessert, crafts, games, and prizes will be indoors following trick or treating. There is no charge for this event which provides a fun and safe activity for families within our community.



NOVEL APPROACHES The novel to be approached in October is "Putting Away Childish Things" by Marcus Borg. This is a page-turning tale grappling with issues of faith confronting today's church. It is an inspiring and compelling story that will be treasured and revisited. Borg's illuminating insights and all-too-human characters make theology accessible to all. This is a story that promises to leave us different in the end than when we started, as we learn how even in the twenty-first century, God works in mysterious ways. **The date:** Friday, October 24th at 7:30 p.m. **The place:** Dave & Diane Mook's, 1523 Surrey Drive, Wheaton. Join us for lively discussion, food, and fellowship.

TREATS NEEDED FOR COFFEE HOUR St. Matthew is in need of a miracle of the loaves (well, mostly bagels and other coffee treats, not so much the fish) for our Fellowship Hour and we know you've got the "faith" to make donuts, fruit, cheese, crackers, and other goodies multiply! We are thrilled to have so many new visitors and new members, but unfortunately our donations of treats are not keeping up; recently the amount of treats provided by the congregation has dropped and there has been very little left for the children after Sunday School and they are crying out about it. Please help in providing treats for this important time of community and fellowship, thanks for helping!





Mom's Day Out

Are you looking for a way to get involved at St. Matthew that doesn't take a lot of time? We are looking for a person/persons willing to plan a Mom's Day Out for December. This would involve doing some local advertising (we will provide sources), planning activities for kids for a morning and recruiting volunteers to watch the kids at St. Matthew. The goal is to give parents a chance to Christmas shop for their kids without them around and to provide this service to the community and our members. Interested? Please contact Kenna Anderson at Kenna1@comcast.net or 630-209-5710. Thank you!



Trunk-or-Treat Volunteers Needed

Trunk-or-Treat is a wonderful community event where we invite families from the area to our church for trick-or-treating, a meal and games. This year Trunk-or-Treat is October 26th from 3 -5pm. We are in need of people to decorate their trunks and pass out candy. The more cars that are decorated, the more successful our event will be. Sign-up is in the narthex.

Sprucing Up Emily's Office

As the Youth Director's office gets cleaned up and cleaned out, we're putting out the call to our congregants. Do you have a desk lamp sitting, unused, in a basement or attic? If so, please consider donating it for use in Emily's church office.

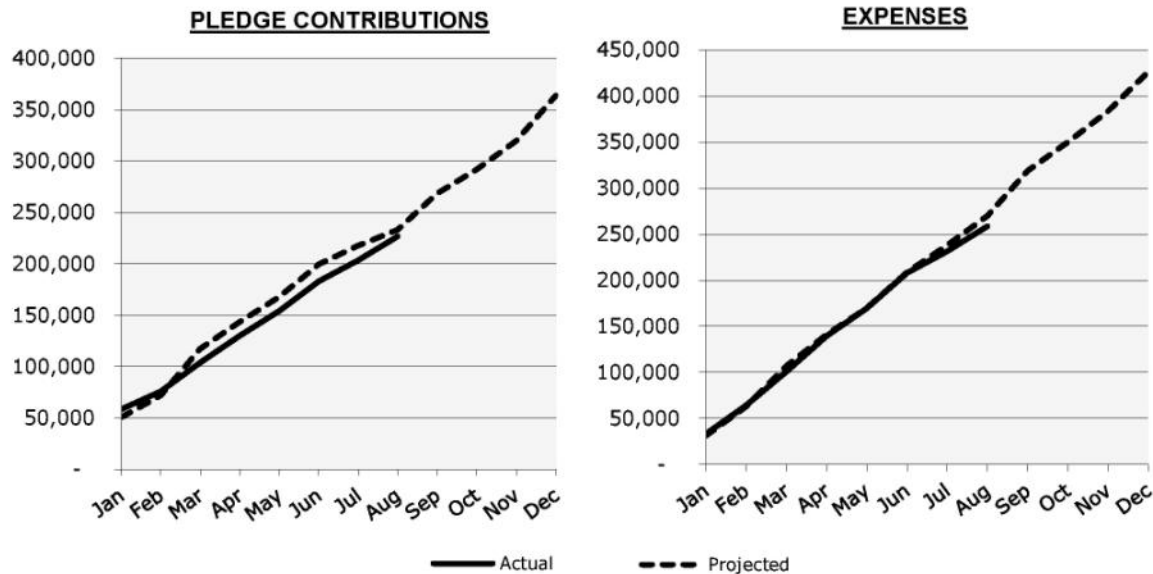


ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

For the Period Ended August 31, 2014

| | ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH | ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE | ANNUAL BUDGET |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <u>RECEIPTS:</u> | | | |
| Pledge Contributions | 28,496 | 231,668 | 363,658 |
| Loose Offerings | 294 | 4,038 | 6,000 |
| Rental Income | 440 | 2,105 | 5,000 |
| Fund Raising | 211 | 1,868 | 10,000 |
| Investment Income | 118 | (145) | - |
| More Property | - | 20,750 | 41,500 |
| Miscellaneous Income | - | - | - |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 29,559 | 260,284 | 426,158 |
| <u>EXPENDITURES:</u> | | | |
| Ministry | 14,227 | 135,533 | 224,348 |
| Building | 6,535 | 79,191 | 122,810 |
| Mortgages & Notes | 2,229 | 17,833 | 26,750 |
| Mission / OCWM | - | 8,880 | 29,000 |
| Committees: | | | |
| Christian Education | 283 | 4,842 | 9,600 |
| Membership | - | 1,240 | 2,750 |
| Music | - | 1,720 | 4,500 |
| Worship | (472) | 766 | 2,500 |
| Endowment | - | - | 1,000 |
| Congregational Life | - | 135 | 800 |
| Memorial | - | - | 100 |
| Misc. & Contingency | 4,005 | 7,931 | 2,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 26,807 | 258,071 | 426,158 |
| SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) | \$ 2,752 | \$ 2,213 | \$ - |

2014 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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

October 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Every Tuesday: 6p IntergeneRingers 7p Bells Potluck 7:30p Chancel Ringers | Every Wednesday: 1:30p Women's Prayer Group 6:30p Praise Band 7:30p Choir | | 1 -7p Adult Education -7:30p Cantata Rehearsals Begin | 2 | 3 | 4 -Biloxi Adult Mission Trip -Confirmation Day at Elmhurst College |
| 5 -9:30a Worship Service: Bells Sunday & World Communion -Memorial Committee after worship -6p crazies | 6 7p Christian Ed Committee | 7 7p Membership 7:30 Mission | 8 -5-8p ESSE Potbelly Fundraiser -7p Adult Education | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 -9:30a Worship Service -5p Italy Pilgrims Reunion -crazies Overnight | 13 Columbus Day -7p Finance -7p Worship Committee | 14 1p Digital Ministry | 15 7p Adult Education | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 -9:30a Worship Service: Angola Offering 3p Pet Blessing -4-10p Muldoon's Fundraiser -6 crazies | 20 | 21 | 22 7p Adult Education | 23 -6p SRC -7p Council | 24 7:30p Novel Approaches | 25 |
| 26 -9:30a Worship Service -Parent Meeting after worship -3p Trunk-or-Treat -5p crazies Halloween Party | 27 | 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, 9a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday, 9a.m.-1p.m.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School: 10 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

susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org

Emily Davis, Director of Youth Ministry

emily.davis@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

Karen Lindquist, Business Manager

karen.lindquist@stmatthewucc.org

Diana Padilla, Administrative Assistant

diana.padilla@stmatthewucc.org