

August
2020



of



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**All in-person
activities
and worship
services are
suspended
until further
notice.**

**We look
forward to
seeing you
again soon!**

Pastoral Message
Pastor Allen Mothershed

Keeping Hope

When I was about to start 7th grade, my parents approached me about whether I would prefer to attend a private school or did I want to continue to attend the public school. I remember being puzzled by the question as the only school I had ever attended was the public school. But this was the year when full integration of public schools was to occur. The white parents in our community were all deciding whether to send their children to the new segregated private school being built on the outside of town or to continue to go to an integrated public school. For me, it was an easy decision, I was going to go to the public school where my friends were going to be, and I did not see the problem with being in school with the same Black folks who frequented my father's retail business.

Quite a few white families went to the new private school, but in our community a substantial number of white students were willing to remain in public school and go through the challenges of integration. In the end, our school was about 45% Black and 55% white. I cannot imagine what would have happened had my parents or I made a different decision. I would have been robbed of the experience of learning to live with diversity and would not have been blessed with the strengths of Black culture.

I do not look at the Black community as some do and see weakness. I see strength and fortitude that I envy. I have witnessed the power of the Black church lifting people above their suffering and giving them hope when most people would have given up. I have seen how resilient and determined people who have been marginalized can be when the going gets tough. So much was handed to me by my birth, where many of those I grew up with had to work that much harder to make it. And make it they have.

We are in a time when it is easy to start to lose hope. The virus is wearing us down. Economically, so many have new fears they did not have before. We have a sense of insecurity, like the ground we are standing on might give way without warning. We find ourselves saying, "I do not know" when thinking about the future. We might be discouraged when we see America failing to overcome this virus while other nations are doing better than we are.

(continued)

They say Representative John Lewis was a man of great hope. He hoped when there was not always any reason for hope. His legacy from his Black experience has something to teach us all. He wrote words that may serve us all if we spend the time to meditate on them.

He said, "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year; it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

Blessings,

Pastor Allen



August Sermons

August 2nd Matthew 6:25-34
Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck presiding

Do Not Be Anxious

August 9th Matthew 5:13-16
Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck presiding

To Heal the World

August 16th Genesis 45:1-15

Mysterious Ways

August 23rd Exodus 1:8-2:10

Subversion in High Places

August 30th Romans 12:9-21

An Alternate Way



Have you been wondering when we will be able to worship together in person at St. Matthew UCC? Stay tuned!

We have put together a team to focus on all aspects of our reopening plans. We will keep you posted and look forward to being together — still at a social distance!

Notes from the Music Room....



"... What a long, strange trip it's been." Those words are some that come to mind as I think back on the first half of this summer, actually back to March. All of our worlds have changed in many ways, and I so miss seeing everyone on Sundays and hearing people singing and talking with each other. But the virus is not going away yet, and we must remain vigilant and safe in our interactions with others until we

can once again raise our voices together in praise of our God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. I am, of course, referring to when we can safely resume services. We always can and should praise God for the gifts and goodness we receive.

I want to say thank you to a few people who have volunteered to help bring our current services together. John Kouns and Marge Hall have been doing most of the singing with Brian, and it was nice to see Tina and Dan Ciner join us two weeks ago, with Joe Hall on bass. Lisa Curda has been present to take care of worship items and assist on the sound board. And Gwen Johnson is there to handle the taping and editing. Rick Jungk has been putting the slides together for us, and Joe Hall also helps in the AV booth. Normally it takes about eight people in total to put together one of our condensed Sunday services. Thank you all for your selfless contributions.

Looking ahead, any live services will not, at first, be like we used to have. Music will be different. You have already seen some of our recorded anthems – marimba solos, marimba and vocal, virtual choirs. More of these are in the works to ensure proper social distancing. As such, we will not be having regular rehearsals for any of our musical groups to protect our members, so there is a lot of self-practice to keep contact time to a minimum. It is interesting to see these works come together. We hope they add to your worship-from-home experience.

In the meantime, may you and your families please stay safe and healthy so we can sing together when it is safe to do so.

Peace to all, Jamie Jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org 630.202.6788

I know that many of you, like myself, are in need of some fellowship through music. And at this point, singing isn't an option. Might I suggest that you give handbells a try?

Here's how it would happen:

4 ringers needed = 1/corner of the room.

4 Tuesday rehearsals at 6pm or 7:30pm (Must attend 4 in a row).

Performance options are: September 13th or October 18th or
November 15th or December 20th.

Masks required

Basic music knowledge would be helpful.

You will wipe down your own equipment prior to your use.



If you are looking for a short-term commitment and have always wanted to try handbells, Covid-19 is giving you that chance!

Email me at im2bz2p@gmail.com or text me at 309-397-9638

KC

Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)



SCRIP orders are suspended until we resume in-person activities.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Laura Schlenker |
| 2 | Susan Wold |
| | Quinn Rosenthal |
| 3 | Miegan Bresingham |
| 4 | Amy Achammer |
| 6 | Nancy Baird |
| | Mark Christensen |
| | Marge Hall |
| 7 | Emily Cortez |
| | Sandy Uhrig |
| 10 | Sue Lellbach |
| 11 | Sue Erickson |
| 15 | Tammy Cetina |
| 16 | Tina Ciner |
| | Rob Neufelder |
| 19 | Kyle Roggenbuck |
| 20 | John Barnett |
| 22 | Terry Young |
| 23 | Haley Skirmont |
| 25 | Brad Stoller |
| 27 | Barbara Evans |
| 28 | Joe Fanning |



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

Office hours are suspended until further notice.

Building Committee

Security Project Update

Over the past few months, new access control, security camera, and video doorbell systems have been installed. The exterior doors for the Main entrance, Nursery entrance and Dobstaff Kitchen entrance have been replaced. Additionally, an automatic door opener has been installed on the Circle Drive entrance.

There are access control keypads installed on the Main entrance, Circle Drive entrance and Dobstaff Kitchen entrance doors. People who need access to the building will be issued an access code or keycard. The existing physical keys will still work to open the doors as before, but eventually the exterior door locks will be rekeyed and the keypads will be used to allow access to the church.

Four security cameras have been installed to provide an interior view of the Main entrance, Circle Drive entrance, Dobstaff Kitchen entrance, and the Nursery entrance. A monitor in the office provides a real-time view of the four cameras. The security camera system is also recording all activity for review.

The new video doorbell system installed on the Main entrance provides the ability for the office staff to see who is at the door and remotely allow people to enter the building.

The remaining tasks on this project include installing signage around the church regarding access to the building, programming the unlock schedules in the system, and creating documentation for the system.

Lodalia Estates Update

Kingsland Development Corporation has begun the development of Lodalia Estates (the former More Property). The developer has plans to eventually build seven houses on the site. One of the first phases of this project will be to install new storm sewer lines that will connect the storm drainage system of St. Matthew to a new water detention system at the back of Lodalia Estates. It is hoped that this new drainage system will alleviate the flooding issues we have experienced during periods of heavy rain. The developer will also increase the size of our existing water detention system in the front of the church. The portion of Gables Blvd. in front of the church will be repaved and sidewalks, curbs, and streetlights will be installed. It is hoped that these improvements will be completed by early fall.

If you have any questions regarding these projects, please contact Rick Jungk.

Building Committee continued

St. Matthew Angels

Even though we have not been meeting in person to worship these past months there is a lot of activity at St. Matthew that has been going on behind the scenes. Howie Peterson has refinished all the Dobstaff Hall window frames and painted the new doors. Tim Schubert has replaced all the window screens in Dobstaff Hall. Rose Pankratz maintains the landscaping by our Main entrance. Lee Anderson and Rod Irely continue to keep the Memorial Garden beautiful. Hi and Nancy Baird have helped clear brush around the property, cleaned up the landscaping, and manned the pumps during heavy rains. Bruce and Kenna Anderson have removed trees and brush and cleaned up landscaping.

Dave Boyd has been the contact person for the Lodalia project facilitating information flow with the contractor and the city. Jim Woods, in his capacity as a licensed engineer, reviewed the developer's construction plans to make sure St. Matthew got treated fairly and correctly. Dorothy Peterson worked with Dave Boyd to finalize the agreements we needed with the developer regarding the project.

Hi and Nancy Baird, Joe Hall, and Rick Jungk have coordinated the installation of the new security systems. Dani de Leon has been instrumental in helping configure the new access control system.

Many people have contributed to the creation of the online services by pre-recording messages or music. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group who meets each week to record the service.

Thanks to all of you who so willingly give of your time to keep St. Matthew alive, safe, and beautiful!



While we are unable to meet, we need to keep each other in thoughts and prayers. We don't want anyone to feel isolated or alone. Please send prayer requests via the following links and we can share them (or keep them private, if you prefer). You can also email them to the office.

You can make a public prayer request here:

<https://www.stmatthewucc.org/joys-and-concerns>

Private prayer requests can be made here:

<https://www.stmatthewucc.org/prayer-chain>

"Miss Seeing You"



"Miss Seeing You" will debut in the next few weeks during the Prelude portion of the online Worship Service, while "Silver Linings" is going on hiatus.

We miss seeing everyone in person and we'd like to see how you're doing. Every week will include pictures from members of the congregation in a slideshow during the worship service. Show us what's happening at your house – maybe it's you in your garden, playing with your kids, or reading a book while enjoying the sunshine. It can be a group photo or just you in a selfie.

Landscape (horizontal) photos work best, but if you've got a great picture that's portrait (vertical) – send it in! Make sure your picture is in focus and in .jpg format. Just so you know, the pictures may be cropped. Please only send in pictures of regular attendees of St. Matthew because we don't have permission to post photos of non-church members.

We've got a Tuesday deadline for the following Sunday worship service to allow time to assemble the slideshow. The pictures will NOT include your name. The pictures should be sent to Dani in the office at office@stmatthewucc.org.

Remember, we adopted a Social Media policy late in 2019. The complete policy can be found at the top right corner of the church homepage online, just under the social media icons or use the link here: <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/social-media-policy>.

These photos will be included in the video of the worship service which is posted to the church website, Facebook and YouTube. **By submitting your photos for the worship service, you are giving permission that these images can be posted online.** If you would like to opt out of any of your church photos appearing in publicity for St. Matthew, please fill out the "Opt-Out" form that is contained in the St. Matthew Social Media policy.

Things to remember:

- In focus landscape (horizontal) photos work best, .jpg format only, please.
- Deadline is Tuesday morning for the following Sunday service.
- Names will NOT be used.
- Images WILL be posted online to our church website, Facebook, and YouTube.
- We will only accept photos of regular St. Matthew attendees.
- The Social Media Policy contains an "Opt-Out" form that you may sign and submit to the office. This will prevent your image from being used.

Congregational Life

The Congregational Life Committee hosted a Bingo night in the Church parking lot on July 15th. The group enjoyed a beautiful summer night and many prizes were awarded!
Thanks to Tracey Blake, who called all the games.





Children's Ministry August 2020

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I am writing this from Washington Island, where Tucker and I enjoy time in the woods: hiking, swimming, and spending time with my mother, who has a never-ending cookie and dog treat jar. Every day is filled with prayer and worship as I marvel at God's beautiful creation. I am very blessed and thankful that my job allows me this month each year to return to my roots and spend time in relationship with God, through Christ Jesus. It restores my soul.

As always, Children's Ministry has an army of faithful volunteers. I want to thank Kenna Anderson, Dawn Schubert, and Deb Felsenthal for doing the children's sermon while I am away. Thank you, Kenna and Dawn, for putting the senior boxes together and delivering them. Thank you, Kenna, Dawn, and Marla for helping me deliver the Sunday School bags to those who could not pick them up. Thank you to the Henderson, Scalora, Walsh, Banaszewski/Fernandez, Young/O'Connell, and Lindberg families for designing and delivering the teacher appreciation yard signs. Thank you, Kenna and Dawn, for helping with the Takeout Sunday School and Shepherd boxes.

We have discussed the reopening of our Sunday School at great length. As you can imagine, we miss the children so much and look forward to the day we can come together. However, the safety of the children and teachers is our number one priority. The Christian Education committee has made the decision that there will be no Sunday School or nursery until further notice. We are watching the CDC guidelines and will reopen when it is safe for our children to be together. Please know that we miss you and cannot wait to see you! We hope your children will continue to watch the children's sermon and we will continue to find fun ways to remain connected.



Happy Birthday to our Shepherds:

Kira Mothershed August 13th
Emily Sancken August 15th

crazies

In crazies, we have been meeting outside at church for an hour and doing fun activities.

In August, we will meet on the 2nd, 14th, 23rd, and 30th. The kids are required to wear a face mask and we do check their temperature.

Blessy and I met with Dawn and Pastor Allen to talk about the upcoming school year and believe we have a great plan for crazies.

On August 16th, we will be having a Zoom meeting with the parents to talk about our plans moving forward. Crazies miss everyone at church and we all are praying that we can come back to worship again really soon.

God bless! ~ Mel

Making Connections



Announcements



Prairie Path Clean-Up #3

Many thanks to those faithful members who helped with the earlier clean-ups. Pics were posted on Facebook!

We are planning to meet on Sunday, August 16th at 2 pm to clean our 1-mile stretch of the Prairie Path.

Since we still need to take precautions, I think we should limit this event to 8 people (up to 4 people at each end of the 1-mile stretch), and wear masks in addition to the gloves and vests we always wear. Please email Dawn Schubert (rural_rococo@msn.com) if you want to help.



The Men's Group continues to meet via Zoom at 8am every Tuesday morning.

We typically have eight men on the call and discussion is vigorous and usually uplifting. All men are welcome!

To get a Zoom invitation, please contact

byronmiller@ameritech.net



Join us for some outdoor Yoga at the church at 9am on Wednesday, August 12th, 19th, and 26th.

Beginners are welcome!

Donations accepted and will be given to Missions.

Contact Marla Mothershed, mmothershed63@gmail.com or 630.441.5963 to sign up.

2020 Voice, Happenings, and Bulletin Due Dates

All submissions for the weekly Happenings and bulletin should be submitted to the office no later than 9am Tuesday for the week it runs.

2020 VOICE deadlines: Typically the second to last Sunday of the month, with exception of November and December.

August 23rd, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, and December 13th.





Church Council minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like an emailed copy, please contact the office.

Simple Communion Bread

Ingredients:

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/3 cup vegetable oil

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup water

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Mix flour, oil, and salt together in a bowl; add water and mix using a pastry cutter until dough is soft. Form dough into 6 balls and press into disks onto the prepared baking sheet using your hands.

Bake in the preheated oven until bread is cooked, 8 to 10 minutes.

While any bread or juice will do for Communion, if you like and need something creative to do during this time at home, then try this simple communion bread recipe.



Check out the St. Matthew website!!

For the most up-to-date St. Matthew information, please check the St. Matthew website! You will find instructions on accessing the Sunday online service, make a prayer request, send a Silver Lining, sign up for the newsletter, learn about online giving, and so much more!

<https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>



Online Sunday Worship

While we are unable to share Sunday worship as a group, please join us online for Pastor Allen's weekly message and worship service. The service will be posted by Saturday evening.

There are three ways to access Sunday worship:

Through YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StMatthewUCC>

****Once you are on YouTube, you have the option to turn on closed captioning and resize the font. Once the video is playing, click on the setting wheel in the lower-right of your screen, choose Subtitles/CC, then choose English.****

Through the St. Matthew Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmatthewucc/>
Select YouTube on the left side.

Through the St. Matthew website: <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>
Click on Full Service under the banner.



Online Giving

During this time when we cannot worship together in-person, please make an effort, if able, to continue your offerings. We are so grateful for your continued support of St. Matthew.

If you would like to give to St. Matthew UCC, you can donate in the following ways:

- **Mail a check to the church (1420 S. Gables Blvd., Wheaton, IL 60189)**

- **Online with PayPal**

1. Simply click here to be directed to PayPal (or copy and paste): <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/donate> and click the yellow DONATE button.
2. You will then be directed to PayPal where you can use your own personal PayPal account or a credit card to make your donation.
3. Click on either +Write a note (Optional) on the first page or +Add special instructions to recipient on the "Review your donation" page. Please indicate Sunday Offering so the money gets credited to the correct account.
4. Please include your phone number so that we may contact you if we have any questions, and your address if you would like to receive a giving statement.

- *NOTE: You will be credited for the full amount of your gift on your giving statement; however, PayPal charges a \$.30 + 2.2% fee on each transaction. St. Matthew will receive the net amount.*

The minimum amount for this online contribution method is \$25.

- **Monthly electronic donations from your checking account**

If you would like to set up monthly electronic donations, please download this form: **Electronic Donation Authorization**, fill it out, and mail it to the church. You can also scan this form, along with a voided check, and email it to financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org.

These options are also listed on the St. Matthew website: www.stmatthewucc.org

Questions can be directed to Edie DeBoard at financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org.

**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: 9am-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

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