

**August
2019**



of



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Pastoral Message
Pastor Allen Mothershed

Jesus and a Foreign Woman

When you read scripture, sooner or later, you are going to come across a scripture that will leave you baffled and disturbed. Jesus and the Canaanite woman is one of those stories (Matthew 15:21-28). This woman was from a despised origin, a non-Jew, and she is desperate to have Jesus heal her daughter, who is possessed by a destructive spirit and who is suffering greatly. She runs after Jesus, and the disciples do their best to tell her to scram. Frustrated, they tell Jesus that He is going to have to deal with this. So Jesus tells her clearly that His mission is not to help people of her race, but to the lost sheep of Israel, His own people. But she will not take no for an answer, and she continues to beg. Then He says words that I find difficult to believe came from Jesus' lips: "It is not right to give the bread made for the children to the dogs." Did I hear that right? Did my Jesus just call that poor, needy, foreign woman a dog? That is something I might expect to hear at an anti-immigration protest rally.

Any interpretation of this difficult story will be ambiguous, but our understanding of the setting of Jesus' time will help. The truth is that sharp distinctions between people were not unheard of in some circles in Jesus' time. Parts of the Jewish tradition (like the Old Testament book of Ezra) sought separation between Jews and other people who might corrupt the faith. It is possible that Jesus was raised in a culture and a way of reading scripture that justified distinctions between His people and other cultures as a way of protecting their identity as a people. We find this in our own faith, in some Amish communities, and with some conservative evangelicals who fear corrupting cultural influences on their children.

The conversation continues between Jesus and the woman. She is not yet done with Jesus. Remarkably, she surprises Jesus by saying, "Yes, my Lord, but even the dogs get the crumbs underneath the table." Jesus is awed and transformed by this woman's faith. He grants her wish, and her daughter is healed. Clearly, Jesus changes his mind. The most likely explanation of the story is that Matthew told it to signify Jesus' reception of non-Jews into the faith (something that had happened in His own churches). But it might also be heard as a story of Jesus' own faith transformed by an experience with a

(con't)

foreign woman. What we learn about Jesus is that He had humility, an openness to allow others to challenge Him and change Him. Then the story becomes an example of humility, an openness to change the way we see those different from ourselves. Like Jesus, we best reflect God when we are open to doing what is right, even if it means letting go of what we have always believed.

I find the way we talk about racism in our country most unhelpful. We are busy attempting to place the racist label on other people, and point away from ourselves. We talk about racism as if there is a deep, moral flaw that is woven into a person. "There is not a racist bone in my body," some politicians (both Republican and Democratic) insist. We seek to avoid the label of racist, and in so doing, we find ourselves unable to admit that each of us has our own prejudices and attitudes towards those different from us.

As most of you know, I was raised in Mississippi. I have become conscious of my own racial attitudes and commitments, and have relinquished many of them and have worked for social justice. But I am still aware I must be open to what I do not recognize in myself that is racist and hurtful. We need the openness of Jesus and the will to be freed from any attitude that divides and causes harm to others different from ourselves. We are right to speak out against those who fan the fires of racism. However, the place to begin is by taking out the plank in our own eye, so we might help another take out the splinter from their eye. We need to have honest conversations about racism, and our labeling each other as fundamentally flawed will not get us there.

Peace, Pastor Allen

Summer Scripture for Sunday Worship

August 4th: Luke 12:13-21
Guest Preacher, Rev. Godwin Raj

August 11th: Genesis 15:1-6
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
"Walking in the Dark"

August 18th: Isaiah 5:1-7
Luke 12:29-56
"God's Anger"

August 25th: Luke 13:10-17
"Doing Good"

September 1st: Luke 14:1, 7-14
"Know Your Place"





Notes from the Music Room.....



We are just past the middle of summer, and I hope yours is going well. Very soon, rehearsals will be starting for Rally Day and beyond, back to school sales will be advertised, and our summer will be drawing to a close. ***Thank you to those who have shared music for our worship. Your talents have been enjoyed by all!***

As noted, rehearsals will be starting in August. Please watch the St. Matthew Happenings and the Sunday bulletins for the actual dates as they get closer. We need everyone's support and participation.

Peace,

Jamie

630-202-6788

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

August Midweek Evening Worship

Traveling on the weekends and missing church? Not a problem! This August you have more than one chance to center your life in God through worship.

Wednesdays in August!
August 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th
6:30pm
Dobstaff Hall

We will have a beautiful, informal worship service led by Pastor Allen and our Youth Director, Mel Jerome. We will sing with guitar, and pray and reflect on scripture together. The theme of the four services is "Stories that Jesus Told." Come, and bring a friend!



Pennies From Heaven

It may be the "dog days" of summer, but throw some of those dawgs on the grill! Don't have a grill? Check out Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Menards, Lowes Home Improvement, Target, or Walmart and don't forget Gordons Food Service for crowd-sized packages of food and drinks.

Thinking about travel before school starts again? American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Avis, Budget, Hilton Hotels, Royal Caribbean, and Disney (Cruises, Stores, and Resorts) are all SCRIP retailers.

**You get full value for the cards you buy (there are no fees) AND the retailers give money to St. Matthew!
Win, Win!!**



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Laura Schlenker
- 2 Quinn Rosenthal
Susan Wold
Miegan Bresingham
Reid Stubbe
- 4 Amy Achammer
- 6 Nancy Baird
Mark Christensen
Marge Hall
- 7 Emily Cortez
Sandy Uhrig
- 10 Sue Lellbach
- 11 Sue Erickson
- 12 Sandy Sapa
- 15 Tammy Cetina
- 16 Tina Ciner
Rob Neufelder
- 18 Matthew Gonzalez
- 19 Kyle Roggenbuck
- 20 John Barnett

- 22 Terry Young
- 23 Haley Wold
- 25 Brad Stoller
- 26 Joanne Papp
- 27 Barbara Evans
- 28 Joe Fanning



**Through Labor Day,
office hours are
Monday-Thursday:
9am-noon
Friday:
closed**

Adult Education

Adult Education Celebrates 60 Years of Ministry at St. Matthew United Church of Christ!



Plans are underway to focus on St. Matthew milestones this fall.

Our church will mark our 60th anniversary in 2019. It is important to reflect and reminisce on the pathway we have shared, and give attention to Finding God in Our Story. There will be five Sunday Adult Education sessions dedicated to an exploration of our congregation's ministries and relationships with each other, our community, and our denomination.

September 29th *Finding God in Our Story*

Pastor Allen will introduce this series in his sermon and lead the Adult Education follow-up session.

October 6th *Telling Our Personal Stories*

Pastor Allen will lead us in sharing how our personal life journeys brought us to St. Matthew and what we have learned from our experience.

October 13th *Telling the Story of Wheaton*

Guest speaker and author of "32 Wheaton Notables," Mary Anne Phemister will share milestones of Wheaton's development, and we can reflect on St. Matthew's impact on the community.

October 20th *Telling the Story of the UCC Denomination*

Guest Speaker Rev. John Thomas will outline how the UCC has grown and changed over these years. We can discuss how St. Matthew has participated in the greater ministry of outreach.

October 27th *Telling the Story of St. Matthew*

Charter, long-time, and newer members will have an opportunity to create a timeline of events and remembrances that have forged the St. Matthew family over the years.

It is in the telling of the story that we find God's presence. Come join us! Tell your part and celebrate our journey. Contact Al or Kathy Skwara with questions.

Mission News



Prairie Path Clean-up

Prairie Path Clean-up #3 will be on Sunday, August 18th at 2pm.

Details will also be in the bulletin and the Happenings. The final 2018 clean-up will be on October 20th. A one-time annual waiver

must be filled out prior to helping, and these can be found in the narthex. Please call Dawn Schubert with any questions at 630.542.0160.

Food on the First

Thanks to those who made donations at church and at the 4th of July Parade!

Here is what is needed in August:

- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned peaches
- Canned vegetables
- Feminine pads (no tampons)
- Baby wipes
- Disposable razors
- Ketchup, mustard, mayon-
naise
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Band-aids
- Shaving cream



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.



**GROWING
HOPE**
G L O B A L L Y

Formerly
Foods Resource Bank

Growing Hope Globally

(formerly Foods Resource Bank)

St. Matthew is once again sponsoring acreage in Forrest, Illinois, which will be planted, harvested and 100% of the proceeds used to help poor areas in the world learn how to grow crops to sustain themselves.

This is not a handout but a hand-up. Please stop by the board in the narthex and see for yourself how your

contribution can multiply and help stop the hunger in less fortunate areas around the world. We need your help. Sponsorships are accepted for as little as 1/8 acre or \$31. Full acres can be sponsored for \$250 each, and you have until the end of September to pay. Please contact Terry Young with questions or for more information.

Please consider how you can help the hungry people in the world.

BACK BAY MISSION TRIP



St. Matthew UCC will be working at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi from October 20th–25th. The cost for each participant is \$250, which includes funds for material costs, as well as for our housing on the BBM campus in Biloxi. The opportunities to serve include work on various housing rehab projects, the Micah Day Center, Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen, and the BBM Food Pantry. It is a tradition with the St. Matthew team that dinner is used to sample fare from some of the local restaurants. Look for a sign-up in the narthex or email John Adams at jadams1958@gmail.com if you'd like to participate. You can visit the BBM web-site at <https://thebackbaymission.org/> to learn about this wonderful ministry. Please call John with any questions at 630.235.3698.

PADS ALERT

After a summer respite, St. Matthew's PADS commitment will resume in September. As usual, we will be working the site at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard on the second Wednesday night/Thursday morning of each month, through next May.

Filling the staff and food requirements takes A LOT of volunteers! Please look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex and consider helping out this season.

Any questions, please contact the PADS committee: Tracey Blake, Wendy Fanning, or Lynn Thornton. Many thanks!



Happy 60th Anniversary, St. Matthew!

In honor of St. Matthew's 60th anniversary we are collecting old photos and memories to create a history photo archive.

If you have any photos from decades past, please send them to fice@stmatthewucc.org or the office can scan them for you.



St. Matthew is the ESSE Church Of the Month for September!



In September, St. Matthew is the volunteer church of the month for ESSE Adult Day Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church located at 515 S. Wheaton Avenue. As we have done for MANY years, we will provide treats for the 12-15 clients and provide volunteers as we are able. They have asked us to provide treats any day.

Here are some ideas of how you can help:

I can bring TREATS!

Need ideas? In an effort to meet newer health guidelines (and because they get donations of baked goods from local stores—Jewel, Trader Joe's, and Panera), we are trying to have more donations of cheese, crackers, fruit, etc. rather than baked treats. If you LOVE to bake, you can still bring in a baked treat!

The guests LOVE fruit, cheese (individually-wrapped sticks are good), crackers, veggies and dip, fruit/pudding cups. Please avoid anything with nuts. You do not have to cut up the fruit—the staff will be happy to do that. A donated watermelon or cantaloupe is much appreciated. Grapes are always welcome.

I can help with LUNCH!

I can help from 11:30am-1pm to set up lunch, help clients with their food, and help clean up afterward. This gives the staff a little break as well, although they are always present and available to help.

I can VISIT or ENTERTAIN!

An hour or less is ALL it takes. Feel free to sign up on any of the other days to help or entertain in some way. Need ideas? You can share a collection or a hobby, play a musical instrument, tell or read a story or poetry, lead a game, or bring a child or pet. They LOVE pet visits, and they LOVE kids.

There will be a calendar in the narthex in mid-August to sign up. Any questions? Call Dawn Schubert at 630.542.0160. Thanks in advance for your help with this VERY worthwhile experience and a true service to the elderly in our community.



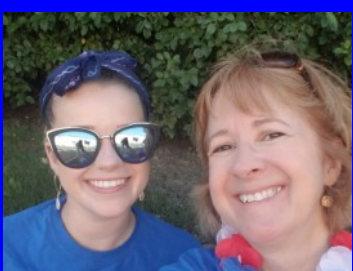
FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help St. Matthew in the 4th of July Parade. We raised over \$900 and collected a lot of food to benefit the People's Resource Center and Interfaith Food Pantry!

St. Matthew was also the proud recipient of the "Best Neighborhood" Award.

Way to make a difference, St. Matthew!!



Children's Ministry



Thank you to **all the volunteers** who gave so much of their time to make our **Wildwood Forest Vacation Bible School** such a success. The decorations were amazing this year and the children had so much fun. We had many volunteers during the program, a hard-working crew of volunteers for decorating and breaking down and a large number

of members who cut out decorations and donated needed supplies. I especially want to thank my co-committee members **Kenna Anderson** and **Dawn Schubert**, who gathered with me over three months in advance to help with curriculum choice, recruiting, decorating, snacks, crafts, etc. I honestly could not successfully achieve the same results without them. We at St. Matthew are so blessed by the dedication of so many!



August Birthdays:

August 13th Kinley O'Connell

August 15th Emily Sancken

August 15th Ashley Caprini

-Susan Wold, Children's Ministry Director



St. Matthew United Church of Christ
invites you to attend...

Bounce House!
Face Painting!
Bake Sale!
Fun Food!
Games!
Prizes!

Sunday, September 8th

9:30am Church Service and
Blessing of the Backpacks

10:30am-12:30pm

FUN FAIR!

Bring the whole family!

St. Matthew United Church of Christ
1420 S. Gables Blvd., Wheaton

☎ 630.665.1236

📘 facebook.com/stmatthewuccwheaton

✉ office@stmatthewucc.org

crazies

Have you finished school supply shopping or are you planning to wait till the last minute? Can't believe summer is coming to an end and the crazies are planning to make the most of it!

Crazies will meet at the regular time (6pm) on Sunday, August 4th, 11th, and 25th.

On Friday, August 9th, crazies will be going to Six Flags Great America. Meet us at the park at 9am. More information to follow. If you would like to volunteer and be a chaperone please contact Mel or Dawn.



On Sunday, August 18th, we will be having a parent meeting at 5:30pm. We will go over what the crazies will be learning and how the parents can help during the next school year. Please take the time to join us.

To the crazies, and to everyone starting school or college, I hope you had a memorable summer. Have a great start to the new school year!

-Mel Jerome, Youth Director

**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL**

Family Camp

Family Camp – What's in a Name?

In this month's "Fond Remembrances," we take a moment with Aimée Legatzke to think about the name Family Camp.

Family Camp has been a part of my life since I was 5 years old. In the past 34 years, it has introduced me to at least seven new states and countless experiences. It has given me some of the fondest memories of my childhood, and most vivid memories of my father. If not for St. Matthew Family Camp, I may not have had vacations as a child. It also introduced me to handbells, which has been a huge part of my life for 27 years. Now I am so privileged and excited to introduce my own children to the fun of Family Camp.

It was such a part of my life I never really thought about the name "Family Camp" until I was an adult. The "camp" part can mean anything from an air-conditioned hotel-style experience to a rustic cabin. It often means sharing meals with your church members, singing a grace to begin. It also means a day of work giving back to the location, a campfire, and outdoor vespers at sunset. The "family" part has such a bigger definition. Many will travel with their mother, father, children, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, or grandparents, but they will find that this is not the only family at camp. We become a family of church members during this summer trip. I remember joining other families for fun so that my dad could go golfing, or having youth fun while adults were socializing.

Every camp is different and unique and I have loved them all for different reasons. If you like sitting in a rocking chair on a porch with a book, Family Camp is the place to go. If you like exciting adventure and nonstop action—white water rafting, ziplining, hiking, horseback riding—Family Camp is the place to go. If you want to get closer to your family and your church family, then Family Camp is the place to go. If you want an affordable vacation in a place you might not think of visiting on your own, then Family Camp is the place to go. If you love the Lord and want to feel closer to Him through nature, then Family Camp is the place to go.

Thanks to Aimée for her take on this great St. Matthew tradition. Join us and find out for yourself! The next Family Camp will be July 19th-25th, 2020, at the YMCA of the Rockies, just outside Estes Park, Colorado. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex, and Mark Hutchison would be happy to answer any questions. Find him at 630.639.1448 (call/text), markah22@gmail.com, or at church.



Announcements and Events

BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR RALLY DAY

Please join us for the Blessing of the Backpacks followed by Rally Day on Sunday, September 8th. Please invite your family and friends to join us as we enjoy committee booths and a bake sale and the kids have fun with games, sno-cones, face painting and the moon jump!



Donations to the bake sale would be appreciated before the church service on September 8th. Please package your goods on individual plates ready for sale. Proceeds of the sale will help Christian Education pay for the rental of the moon jump and the sno-cone machine. Thank you for your help!



YOGA CLASSES Last year, I noticed how yoga kept me healthier, stronger, and more in the present moment. I kept thinking how a church should be a place where we find and celebrate this mind-body-spirit practice. Beginning this summer, I am offering weekly classes on movement, balance, and mindfulness to all who are interested. Feel free to bring a friend!



Yoga in the Sanctuary

Thursdays, August 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 10-11am.

This is a gentle class, appropriate for all.

Contact Marla Mothershed mmothershed63@gmail.com, 630.441.5963.

Kane County Cougars Game

Friday, August 9th at 6:30pm, Fireworks night.

Come enjoy a Kane County Cougars baseball game at a special Faith Night at Northwestern Memorial Field in Geneva. Fireworks and run the bases post-game! Tickets are only \$5 each plus a small processing fee which is \$8 off already low ticket prices. These are bleacher seats with a back rest, so they should provide plenty of comfort.



You can purchase tickets at <https://groupmatics.events/StMatthewUCC>. If you have any questions, please email Roseanne King at kingzme.com

2019 Voice, Happenings, and Bulletin Due Dates

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

Remaining 2019 VOICE deadlines: Typically the second to last Sunday of the month, with exception of December.

August 18th, September 22nd, October 20th, November 17th, and December 15th.



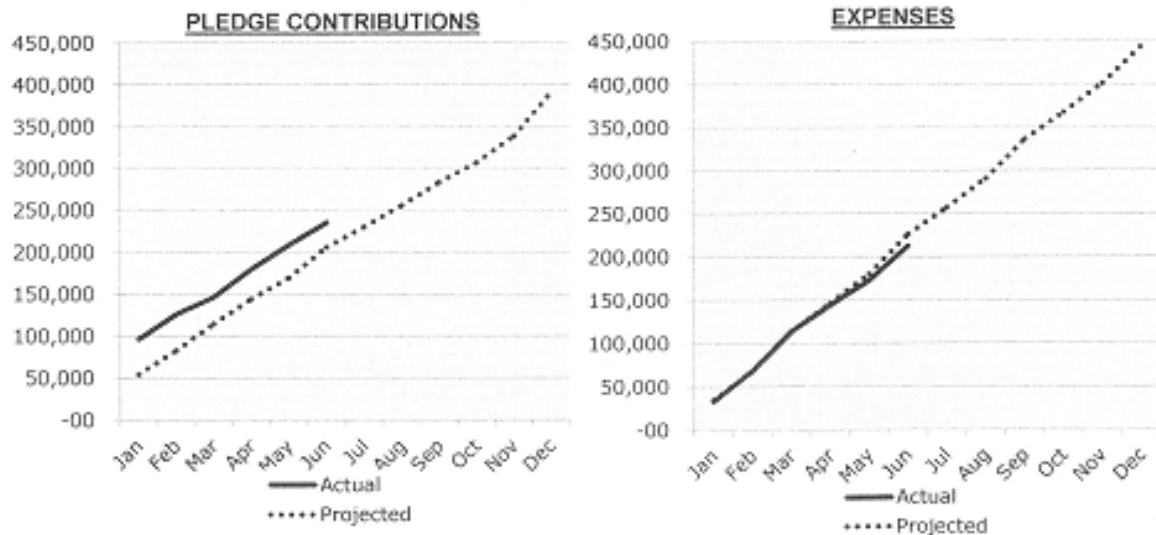
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer Office Hours M-TH: 9am-noon F: closed		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	1	2	3
4 9:30am Worship Communion 6pm crazies	5	6	7 6:30pm Midweek worship	8	9 9am crazies at Six Flags 6:30pm Kane County Cougars Game	10
11 9:30am Worship 6pm crazies	12	13	14 6:30pm Midweek worship	15	16	17
18 9:30am Worship 2pm Prairie Path Clean-Up 5:30pm crazies Parent meeting VOICE articles due	19	20	21 6:30pm Midweek worship Choir resumes	22	23	24
25 9:30am Worship 6pm crazies	26	27 Bells resume	28 6:30pm Midweek worship	29	30	

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

For the Period Ending June 30, 2019

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	26,909	235,455	391,001
Loose Offerings	453	4,945	5,000
Rental Income	1,000	4,950	10,500
Fund Raising	177	1,000	2,001
Investment Income	157	1,049	300
More Property	-00	-00	20,000
Miscellaneous Income	125	5,375	1,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	28,822	252,774	429,802
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	21,312	118,247	248,522
Building	7,079	59,322	123,050
Loans & Notes	6,688	13,375	26,750
Mission / OCWM	4,650	13,050	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	159	5,394	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	136	1,612	3,000
Music	6	1,399	4,895
Worship	-00	234	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	40,030	212,633	444,166
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$(11,208)	\$40,141	\$(14,364)

2019 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: 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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