

**August  
2018**



of



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**Pastoral Message**

*Pastor Allen Mothershed*

**The Choice**

Maybe you have had the same experience that I have: Sometimes I hear words coming out of the mouth of Christian religious leaders that leave me appalled and wondering, "How is it that we worship and follow the same Jesus? How can we be brothers and sisters of the faith and have an entirely different view of the Good News of Jesus the Christ? Are we practicing two different religions?"

Increasingly, we live in divisive times. The culture wars of our society are front and center and we are asked to choose which side we are going to take. Many who would rather keep politics out of religion are being asked to choose who they will serve and who they will support. Do we support abortion rights or not? Do we embrace a more receptive and merciful immigration policy or not? Are you a Bible-believing Christian who stands against the perversion of gay, lesbian, and transgender rights or are you one of those liberals who believe in a radically inclusive God? Is our country somehow God's chosen nation or do you believe that God's kingdom includes all the people of the world and stands in judgment of all nations?

It is sad that we have come to this, but perhaps it was inevitable. We have had a false divide between our personal walk with Jesus and social justice. I believe the same God who has shown me mercy and compassion and who calls me to live a righteous (just) life in my personal walk is the same God who has compassion and demands justice in our world. The love and forgiveness of God which I know in my personal life is the same love that guides me on the great issues of our day. How do I know about this love? I know about it through my walk with God, and also from the scriptures.

The real choice we have to make goes to a deeper level than deciding where we stand on the dominant social issues of our day. This has to do with how we read and understand our scriptures. I do not read the scriptures as the literal Word of God, written by the hand of God as an eternal law relevant in the same way for all people and all time. People used to quote to me, "God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow!" "Yes," I agree, "But God's Word to us is a living word spoken anew to us in our own time and place. (cont.)

The scriptures are not an eternal law book to be enforced (usually on other people I judge) by the church against transgressors. The scriptures are the vast and varied experiences of God by people from different times and places. The Word of God is not the text of scripture, but the Word that God is speaking through the pages of scripture in my time and place."

Conservative Christians will say that this leads to a permissiveness in the Christian life and is a dangerous liberty sought by those who seek to justify "doing their own thing." But no one said being Christian is going to be an easy path to follow. We live in the realm of grace and not law, the Apostle Paul tells us. We must take responsibility to dare and believe *God is Still Speaking*. Scripture is not a dead book, it is a living document brought to life by the One who speaks through it. The Bible can become idolatrous, a desire for absolutes, rather than following daily the God we know as merciful and just. It can become a weapon to be used against those whose values contradict my own culturally defined values. When I see the Bible being used to judge people not like myself, to back up racism, sexism, and prejudice towards people born with a different sexual orientation, I see the bad fruits of a perspective on the Bible that does not dare to trust that God is alive in my life and speak to our time the Word we are now able to hear.

Jesus said the law of God is summed up in love of God and love of the neighbor as the self. Do we believe this? Are we guided by this? Or do we just give it lip service? We have to first choose how we understand our scripture and then let the Spirit of God guide us with God's mercy and compassion that is formed in us when we have experienced such extravagant love.

Peace, Pastor Allen

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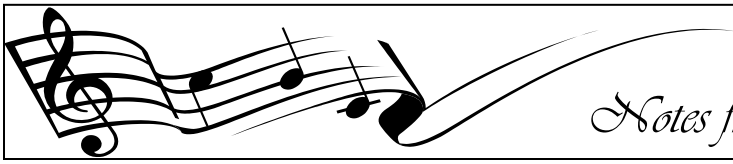
## Summer Scripture for Sunday Worship

In August, we will complete a series of scriptures from the lectionary (recommended scripture for each Sunday) on the life of King David in the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel. Then we will have a couple of weeks in John's gospel. On Labor Day weekend, we study a "steamy" scripture so we can look at the place of pleasure and passion in life.



August 5th:	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a "Judging God"
August 12th:	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 "Fathering God"
August 19th:	John 6:51-58 "Living Bread"
August 26th:	John 6:56-69 "Staying True"
September 2nd:	Song of Solomon 2:8-13

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## *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. There have, unfortunately, been a few Sundays without Music for Worship from volunteers. But fret not, there are still opportunities in August. The sign-up sheet disappeared for a couple of weeks, but it is back. Please sign up so all can enjoy your talents to support our worship.

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](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org)

## YOUTH NEEDED

### Are you an aspiring musician?

IntergeneRingers is looking to lower the average age of the group. If you are between the ages of 10-18, we would love to have you come try us out. Reserve your spot for a semester:

August-December OR January-May

Rehearsals:

Tuesdays  
6-7pm

Performances:

1x a month

Contact KC at:

309-397-9638  
[im2bz2p@gmail.com](mailto:im2bz2p@gmail.com)



## NEW LIGHTS!

While we have been enjoying our great weather this summer, Rick Jungk, Joe Hall and Hi Baird have spent their summer inside replacing our fluorescent light fixtures and bulbs with LED fixtures and bulbs. While this might not seem like a big deal, keep in mind that they have replaced over 183 (YES, 183) fixtures throughout our church! I know many of us put off the task of replacing one bulb when it burns out so imagine the time and effort it has taken to take down the old fixtures, order the materials, install new fixtures and bulbs and test them all. That is a lot of back-breaking work and climbing. This has all been done on their own time. We are blessed to have many people in our church who handle many jobs but I think these three men have gone over and above, all because they love St. Matthew. Please take the time to thank them for all their hard work. (Kenna Anderson)

## 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**



# Mission News

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## Prairie Path Clean-up

Prairie Path Clean-up #3 will be on Sunday, August 19th at 2pm.

Details will also be in the bulletin and the Happenings. The final 2018 clean-up will be on October 21st.

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.

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## 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, mayonnaise

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.

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ROOTED IN COMMUNITY  
GROUNDED IN FAITH

## 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 table 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.**

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# FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help St. Matthew in the 4th of July Parade. We raised almost \$1200 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!!





## **BACK BAY MISSION TRIP**



Members of St. Matthew will be venturing down to Biloxi, Mississippi to serve at Back Bay Mission from October 21st-26th. You can learn more about how this UCC ministry serves the Gulf Coast communities in and around Biloxi by visiting <https://thebackbaymission.org/>. If interested in participating, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex or email John Adams at [jadams1958@gmail.com](mailto:jadams1958@gmail.com). Please feel free to call John with any questions at 630.235.3698. We need to have our final participant count by August 15th.

## **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!



# crozies

## ***Best Wishes, Quinn!***

As many of you already know, Quinn has accepted a new job as a chaplain at the University of Missouri Health Center in Columbia, MO and starts this new job on September 4th. His last day with us at St. Matthew will be on Sunday, August 19th. Please join us at a reception in Dobstaff following the service that day to say farewell to Quinn. He will have his final crazies meeting that night from 6-8pm.

The SRC is currently looking at candidates for the Youth Ministry Position, and we will let you know when we have a replacement.

# Children's Ministry

## Looking ahead in Children's Ministry:

### September 9th

**Rally Day Fun Fair:** Sunday morning, September 9th is our kick-off to the new Sunday School year. Following worship we will have an all-church fun fair with a bake sale, snow cones, popcorn, snacks, games, prizes and face painting. As parents browse the ministry tables the children can play a game at each table to win a prize.

**Blessing of the backpacks:** During the worship service the children will bring their backpacks and school bags forward to receive a blessing for the upcoming school year. Our blessing will be for their schools, teachers and each of the children. All St. Matthew educators will also come forward to receive a blessing for their upcoming school year. All will receive a blessing reminder to hang from their backpacks and school bags. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BACKPACK!**



© Can Stock Photo

### September 16th



#### **Workshop Rotation:**

Sunday School Workshop Rotation begins September 16th, along with the 11am dismissal time. The children will once again gather together during worship for a children's sermon that follows the lectionary. Upstairs we share a time of Blessings and Bumpers and begin learning the new songs that will be sung during workshop at a later date. Following, they will go with their shepherd leader to their workshop which will focus on a Bible lesson and rotate each week. Parents will have a few minutes before the children are dismissed to spend time with other adults in Dobstaff

Hall. Coffee and snacks are served at that time. Younger children who are not picked up by a parent will be brought downstairs by a shepherd leader, so feel free to continue visiting in Dobstaff Hall. Older children are released to go to Dobstaff on their own.

**Teacher/Shepherd/M&M Leader Dedication:** During the morning worship we will share a blessing and dedication, asking God to be with our Children's Ministry educators.





© Can Stock Photo

Thank you to **all the volunteers** who gave so much of their time to make our **Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School** such a success. The decorations were amazing this year and the children had so much fun. We had 31 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. **John Kouns** spent a great deal of time building the sunken ship that was the center focus of our décor. 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**

**crozies**

*Dear St. Matthew,*

I hope by now that most of you have been made aware that I am leaving town at the end of August, my residency year in hospital chaplaincy having been completed and my finding a new job as a chaplain at the University of Missouri Health Center in Columbia, MO. It's been an amazing two years for me working here with all of you and especially with your youth group. These kids have been one of the biggest blessings I have ever known in my life. I have learned so much about how to truly be a part of God's church and it is thanks to all of you. I must extend as much gratitude as I can possibly offer to all of you. Going back to when I was as young, as the youngest ones in my youth group are now, this church has taught me as much as anything else in my life about what it means to be a man, a minister, and a follower of Christ. So, I don't know that there's anything else I can say but thank you. Thank you for every kind word, validation, coffee conversation, gift card, cookie, sermon comment, and volunteer hour you've put forth since I first darkened this church's doors. I won't be gone forever, but know that when I am gone, your spirit goes with me, and I do what I will do, in part, to make you all proud. Blessings to you all in whatever God has in store for you. I, or anyone else, would be so lucky to find a church as giving as I know you all can be.

-Quinn

# Announcements and Events

## BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR RALLY DAY

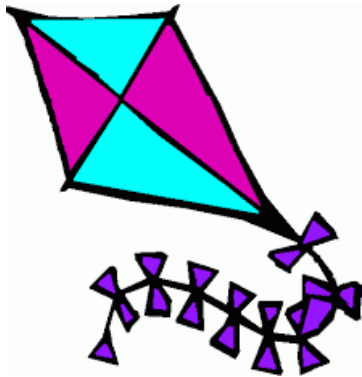
Please join us for the Blessing of the backpacks followed by Rally Day on Sunday, September 9th. Please invite your family and friends to join us as we enjoy committee booths and a bake sale and the kids have fun with games, sno-cones, face painting and the moon jump!



**Donations to the bake sale would be appreciated before the church service on September 9th.** 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!



## SUMMER KITE FLY & ROCKET LAUNCH-NEW DATE



Just because there is no Family Camp this year doesn't mean there will be no rocket or kite flying! Join us with the "Rocket Man" (John Kouns) on Saturday, August 11th from 9am-2pm at Camera Park, 101 E. Fullerton Rd., Glendale Heights for a day of kite flying and rocket launches. Bring your kites/rockets from previous family camps. Loaners will be available. Rocket engines (if you don't have any) can be purchased on-site for a nominal fee. Light refreshments will be provided. Please sign up in the narthex if you are interested.

## NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in September is "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones.

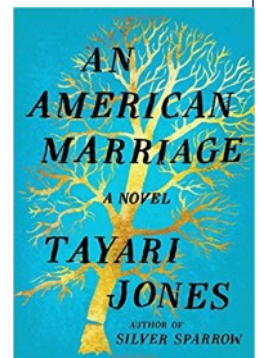
"This book asks hard questions about injustice and betrayal and answers them with a heartbreaking story in which nobody is wrong and everybody is wounded. Tayari Jones has written a complex novel about people trapped in a tragic situation, struggling to reconcile their responsibilities and desires." (Tom Perrotta)

The Place: Char & Bob Cooper's, 422 W. Evergreen, Wheaton

The Date: Friday, September 22nd at 7:30pm

All are welcome. Join us for lively discussion, food and fellowship.

*LOOKING AHEAD:* "Varina" by Charles Frazier, "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate



# August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Summer Office Hours</b> M-TH: 9am-noon F: closed			1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> 9:30am Worship  Communion  6pm crazies	6	7	8	9	10	<b>11</b> 9am-2pm Kite Fly/Rocket Launch
<b>12</b> 9:30am Worship  11am Worship Comm. Mtg.  6pm crazies	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>19</b> 9:30am Worship  11am Farewell, Quinn  2pm Prairie Path Clean-Up  6pm crazies  VOICE articles due	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>26</b> 9:30am Worship  Prairie Path Back-up date	27	28	29	30	31	

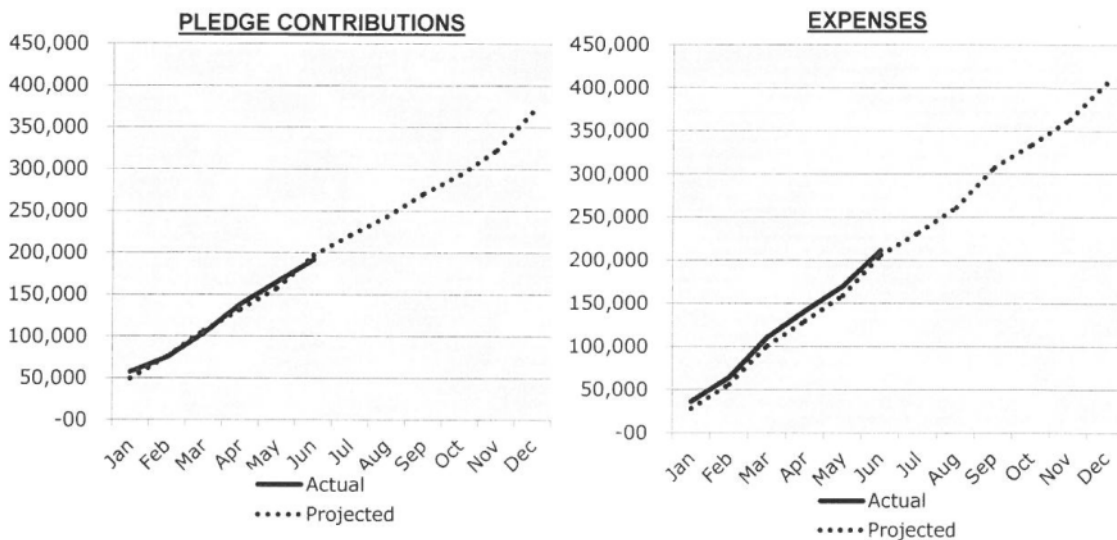


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2018

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	26,628	191,854	370,000
Loose Offerings	417	2,509	4,000
Rental Income	750	3,850	9,300
Fund Raising	219	1,863	4,000
Investment Income	56	445	300
More Property	-00	-00	15,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	7,032	5,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>28,070</b>	<b>207,554</b>	<b>407,600</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	21,855	112,813	230,855
Building	8,232	66,753	104,580
Loans & Notes	6,688	13,375	26,750
Mission / OCWM	4,650	14,144	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	510	1,767	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	129	765	3,000
Music	-00	939	4,200
Worship	-00	615	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	600	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	50	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>42,064</b>	<b>211,819</b>	<b>407,035</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b><u>\$(13,994)</u></b>	<b><u>\$(4,265)</u></b>	<b><u>\$565</u></b>

**2018 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](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

**Web Site:** [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday: 10am-2pm

Friday: 9am-12pm

**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](mailto:allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org)

**Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry**  
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