



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 S. Gables Blvd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
630.665.1236  
[www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)

# THE VOICE



February  
2017

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PASTORAL MESSAGE  
Rev. Allen Mothershed

## "TELLING SECRETS"

"No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a washtub or shoves it under the bed. No, you set it up on a lamp stand so those who enter the room can see their way. **We're not keeping secrets; we're telling them. We're not hiding things; we're bringing everything out into the open.**" (Luke 8:16-17, The Message Bible Paraphrase)

That is a scary thought, everything secret out in the open. It makes me think about the common recurring dream people have while sleeping, of walking in some public place and realizing you have forgotten all or part of your clothing. **Exposed. Shame and Humiliation. "We do not discuss our family's dirty laundry," we have heard said. And it is true. There is a necessity that our privacy** be honored and respected. There is a time and a place for revealing our secrets and not everyone deserves privy to them. Thank God our courts have managed to find a right to privacy in our Constitution, even though it was not made explicit by our founding Fathers.

But there is a big difference between our need for privacy and covering up truths that need to be somehow and in some place shared. Some secrets we may think of as saving us, when in reality they are destroying us. Frederick Buechner writes in his book "Telling Secrets" :

**"Our secrets are not hid from God, says the ancient collect, but they are hid from each other, and some of them we so successfully hide even from ourselves that after a while we all but forget they exist."** He goes on to list some of his family secrets: **"a father who at parties drank himself into a self I could hardly recognize as my father, and a mother who in her rage could say such wild and scathing things to him that it made the very earth shake beneath my feet when I heard them, and a two-and-a-half years younger brother who for weeks at a time would refuse to get out of bed because bed, I suspect, was the only place he knew in the whole world where he felt safe. I knew that my father's suicide was a secret when that time came, but it was only a great deal later still that I realized that his life too had become a secret, almost the very fact that he had existed at all—the way he had looked and talked, the way it had felt to be with him, the way it had felt to be without him back there at the**

(cont'd. on pg. 2)

start before I had learned that the rule was that I was not to speak about such feelings and **thus finally lost them to silence.**"

We are saved by the truth. The truth sets us free. Allowing the light of Christ to help us see the truth about ourselves, our world, and one another can literally save us when that truth also includes grace and a lot of compassion with it.

And what is true on a personal and an interpersonal level is also true on the national level. **"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing,"** said Edmund Burke. When we allow falsehoods to exist we allow evil to triumph. My experience of the silence of good Christian people while unspeakable things were allowed to happen to people of color in my home state of Mississippi has taught me how essential it is that we **"turn the light on" whenever we see injustice in our world. That means shining the light on** our racial attitudes, police brutality, and the nonchalant attitudes of sexism towards women.

**There is a time to say with Jesus, "We are not keeping secrets; we are telling them."** Let's shine the light in our lives and in our world.

Blessings,  
Pastor Allen

Buechner, Frederick (2009-03-17). Telling Secrets (pp. 73-74). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Taking Back Your Relationship: Turning Off Autopilot and Creating Intimacy

Relationships go through many stressful changes and begin to function on autopilot, locking into unconscious patterns which hinder intimacy and understanding of each other. This workshop will support couples in shutting off autopilot and reclaiming intimacy with one another.

The purpose of this workshop is to give couples an opportunity to:

- *Learn new tools for handling conflict and experiencing healing forgiveness.*
- *Create an atmosphere of affirmation and intimacy amidst the stress of family, work, financial concerns, and aging.*
- *Recognize the normal cycles of change and discover the spirituality of death and resurrection as a way to create vibrancy and closeness in their relationship.*

You are invited to join us for this time of learning and renewal:

Sunday, February 26th, 3-5pm  
St. Matthew United Church of Christ  
1420 South Gables Blvd., Wheaton

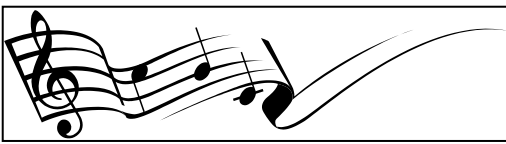
The workshop will include three brief presentations by therapist Jack Berkemeyer from the DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center, followed by one-on-one discussion allowing couples to bring the newly learned strategies into their relationship.

We welcome younger to older couples, married couples, and unmarried committed couples. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation welcoming and accepting all.

There is no fee for this workshop.

Contact Kathy at [630.665.1236](tel:630.665.1236) or [office@stmatthew.org](mailto:office@stmatthew.org) for more information and to register. Childcare is available. Registration deadline is Sunday, February 19th. Please leave names, address, phone number, email, and the number of years in a relationship **with one another. Also, please leave your children's names and ages for childcare if applicable.**

*Jack Berkemeyer (MDiv, MEd, MA, LCPC) is a licensed clinical professional counselor who received a Master of Arts degree in professional counseling from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Athenaeum of Ohio, a Master of Education degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a Master of Arts degree in theology from the University of San Francisco. Additionally, Jack is an Anger Management Specialist and a Gottman Institute Early Marriage Counselor. Jack specializes in working with couples, family systems, and adults with anger, stress, depression, anxiety and sexual addiction. He is the Director of Marriage Ministry at Old St. Patrick's Church in the West Loop of Chicago.*



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

A reminder of upcoming "Open-Choir Sing" dates for this spring: February 19th, March 19th, April 30th. I have found some new music that will be fun for all to learn and share. Please join us.

### BELL NEWS

**Did you know, our own "KC" Congdon is in the Guinness book of World Records?** As a member of the Handbell Musicians of America, she and 663 other ringers were part of the largest handbell choir in the world! She has graciously shared the story with us:



Handbell Musicians of America (of which we are members) joined forces with the Salvation Army and the Mall of America to pull off a chance to make the Guinness book of World Records (GWR) to be held by the United States as the largest handbell choir. **We broke Japan's record of 500 ringers!**

On November 19th, 2016, hundreds of ringers gathered in Bloomington, Minnesota to kick off the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign. Here's what we had to do in order to meet the GWR requirements:

Step 1: Those ringers participating had to play a recognizable piece of music for a minimum of five minutes. At the request of the Salvation Army, the Guild commissioned Hart Morris to write an arrangement combining *Silver Bells* and *Carol of the Bells*.

Step 2: Next the Guild put together a planning team which consisted of your very own handbell director, KC Congdon, and 3 others from around the states (IL, OH, KY, and AZ).

Step 3: We had to recruit ringers from North America through *E-Notes*, *Overtones* and social media. Seven hundred ringers signed up!

Step 4: Once we received the final score, we had to review the rules that stated that *all ringers must be kept busy; no long periods of rests*. This required some creative assigning which is where KC came in.

Step 5: Rehearsals and memorization were to be done on their own for which the Guild supplied the score and created an mp3 file. They also set up a Facebook page so that people could communicate and organize group rehearsals or offer tips on practicing alone.

Step 6: No bell tables or foam or music stands would fit in the facility, so everyone had to pack their own bells in their suitcase.

Step 7: Organizing that many ringers requires quite a process. We set the ringers up in groups of 50, gave them wristbands and told them where to go and when at the mall. Each group of 50 had a qualified moderator to make sure everyone was participating once the timing began based on the criteria.

Step 8: The Salvation Army and the Mall of America did the publicizing and marketing by getting this on all the social media available, news feeds, newspapers, along with television and radio.



Step 9: With a giant video screen in the rotunda of Mall of America, we were able to post the music, along with our mission as well as the mission of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign.

Step 10: The final countdown did not go as smoothly as we had hoped. Some of the original 700 ringers couldn't make it due to the blizzard that was heading toward Minnesota. Then we found out that the staging area we had originally been promised was double booked and was now being used by a Norwegian reality show holding a casting call. This required some reworking of the processional and entrance to the rotunda. BUT, we pulled it off. When it was all finished and the numbers tallied, the GWR adjudicator stepped to the microphone and announced the results: 664 ringers met the requirements! The US of A now holds the Guinness record for the largest handbell ensemble.

As the Executive Director said, "Handbell Musicians of America is honored to have been part of this wonderful event and to support the worthy mission of the Salvation Army."

Congratulations KC, and to all who participated.

Jamie Craig, Director of Music  
630-202-6788  
[Lanni1@comcast.net](mailto:Lanni1@comcast.net)

#### WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

##### Tuesday

IntergeneRingers

6pm

Chancel Ringers

7:30pm

##### Wednesday

Praise Band

6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir

7:30pm

## MISSION NEWS

### FOOD ON THE FIRST

Thank you so much for the January donations, they are always appreciated!

Here is what is needed in February:

- Canned pineapple slices
- Cold cereal
- Oatmeal
- Shampoo
- Feminine pads

For Men:

- Body wash
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Spray deodorant

*Please make sure items have not expired and are unopened.*

Call Betty Greer, [630.682.4084](tel:630.682.4084) if you have any questions.

Blessings to all.



## Feed My Starving Children

Thank you to all the St. Matthew volunteers who helped pack food on January 16th at Feed My Starving Children. The group of volunteers we were part of packed 121 boxes, or 52,272 servings of food in less than two hours, feeding infants in El Salvador, Haiti, and the Philippines. This was our 8th straight year packing food for starving children in other countries. Thank you again to everyone who took time out of their day to make a difference in the world!







## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEL APPROACHES

The next novel to be approached is "The Story of B" by Daniel Quinn. Continuing the visionary journey begun in *Ishmael*, "The Story of B" is a remarkable and provocative novel of intrigue involving the Antichrist and the hidden history of the world.

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

Date: Friday, February 3rd at 7:30pm

Location: the Coopers, 422 W. Evergreen, Wheaton

## PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



Participation in the Manna program is still languishing. I am encouraging all of you to become a "Fanna Manna". If we could double our participation, we could double our profits. Remember - retailers are willing to make donations to us, so this is a fundraiser that costs us nothing! Incredible!



**Thinking of Valentine's Day?** Order your manna cards by February 5th so they can be picked up on February 12th.

Think candy (Fannie May donates 24%), flowers, a unique gift, travel, dinner at a nice restaurant, or a romantic movie!

Check out the Manna table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday.

## EUCHRE NIGHT

The latest winner of the newly named "Sheila Spinner memorial" euchre trophy was Joe Chumas, with help from a band of rotating partners. Look for our next tournament in March.



- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 1  | Kevin Cole       |
| 2  | Taylor Holland   |
|    | Tim Schubert     |
| 4  | Charles          |
|    | Hambrick-Stowe   |
|    | Lee Staton       |
| 6  | Bruce Anderson   |
|    | Linnea Karpenske |
| 10 | Elizabeth Baird  |
|    | Marilyn Giese    |
|    | Kirk Stubbee     |
| 11 | Charlene Cooper  |
|    | Mary Henderson   |
| 12 | Stuart Blake     |
| 14 | Daniel McGrath   |
|    | Amber Quinn      |
| 16 | Courtney         |
|    | Christensen      |
|    | Lee Craig        |
| 19 | Abby Johnson     |
| 22 | Carl Anderson    |
| 24 | Liliana King     |
| 25 | Joyce Boyd       |
|    | Anthony Kresl    |
| 26 | Tracey Blake     |
|    | Cathy Miller     |



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

*Thanks*

A great big thank you to those who generously donated mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, placing them on our Mitten Tree in honor of Mary Jane Schnack. The warm items were taken to **People's Resource Center** and will keep many warm this winter.

Collection begins for our annual Military/College Student care package mission project.

- Lists with donation suggestions can be found on the poster in the narthex.
- We are also asking for donations for shipping costs. Each box costs \$10 to ship. If you would like to sponsor a box, please put your donation in the offering plate, leave on the desk in the church office, or in the basket with care package donations.

- If you have a military family member or college student, please email their name and rank (military), or name, school/year (college student), and address to [swold45@hotmail.com](mailto:swold45@hotmail.com) with **"care package"** in the subject line.

- The collection will continue through February 26th.

- Following worship service on February 26th, Sunday School parents will join their children upstairs to pack boxes, pray for the recipients, and enjoy a snack.

This caring mission project shows love and support for family members living away from home.



The children are learning about the Fruit of the Spirit in Workshop Rotation Sunday School. Through workshops in art, science, video, Bible Story, cooking and drama the children will get a deeper understanding of the nine attributes of a Christian life that Paul shared in his letter to the Galatians: Love, Patience, Joy, Kindness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Peace and Self Control.

In **Children's Choir** the children are learning three songs: **"Fruit of the Spirit," "Joy Joy Joy,"** and **"Jesus Loves You and Me."** An email will be sent to families when a date is chosen for the children to sing these songs in the worship service.



February Birthdays

Zelda Chapple 2/8  
Andrew Spicer 2/16

Children, parents and leaders gather to pray for care package recipients. (2016)



### Military and College Student Care Package Mission Project Donation Deadline - February 26th

We are collecting care package items for St. Matthew college students and military family members. Donations can be placed in the basket, located in the narthex.

If you have a student or military family member, please email their name and address to [swold45@hotmail.com](mailto:swold45@hotmail.com)

We are also asking for help with the shipping cost. If you would like to sponsor a box for **\$10, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Care Package" and place** either in the offering plate or on the desk in the church office.

Suggestions: Candy - Cookies - Crackers - Spray Cheese - Slim Jims - Mints-Gum - Snack food - Granola Bars - Power Bars - Beef Jerky - School supplies - Frisbees - Flashlight - Small Game items (cards, dice, etc.) - Bath items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair brush, shampoo, soap, hand cream, sanitizer, etc.) - Lip balm - Pictures colored by children - Handwritten notes - Any other ideas you can think of are appreciated.

Everything has been going great, which is easy to say after you've just gone laser tagging with a bunch of seventh graders. Kylie put us all to shame on the scoreboard, although the two pastors, myself and Allen,

were up there too. Surprising, maybe there's some killer instinct there. In all seriousness, the past few weeks have been great at crazies. Folks are emerging from their holiday hibernation and as we go back to school and work, we throw ourselves more into church life, youth and adults included.

I'm extremely grateful for the adult helpers and crazies dinner providers that I've had lately; you've scarcely missed a week. If you've provided a meal or chaperoned for an evening, I can't thank you enough. You deserve a pat on the back. If you haven't volunteered yet, please sign up if you're willing and able. I'll try not to make it too much of a hardship. We like to have fun.

At crazies, I am planning to get tough on tackling some of the polarizing social issues of our place and time which are currently in the news. I'm also planning to spend an evening playing a murder mystery theater game completely created by our own Ben Achammer. Never a dull moment for the Youth Director, you understand.

I am announcing weekly office hours effective immediately. Every Saturday from 1-6pm I will be in the office planning. If you have anything you want to run by me you can stop by church, drop me an email, or call so we can talk over coffee.

We have a couple of events coming up which I'd like to draw your attention to. February 5th is our annual Super Bowl Party. All crazies, siblings, and parents are invited. We'll have it at the church starting at 5pm until the game ends. Please bring a snack and/or drink.

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn has also extended an invitation to our youth group to join them in an educational retreat that follows the Our Whole Lives program, a resource that the UCC uses to talk to young people about sex. If you are interested in finding out more about this program on behalf of your middle-schooler or high-schooler, please contact Pastor Allen or myself ASAP.

Quinn Rosenthal,  
Youth Director



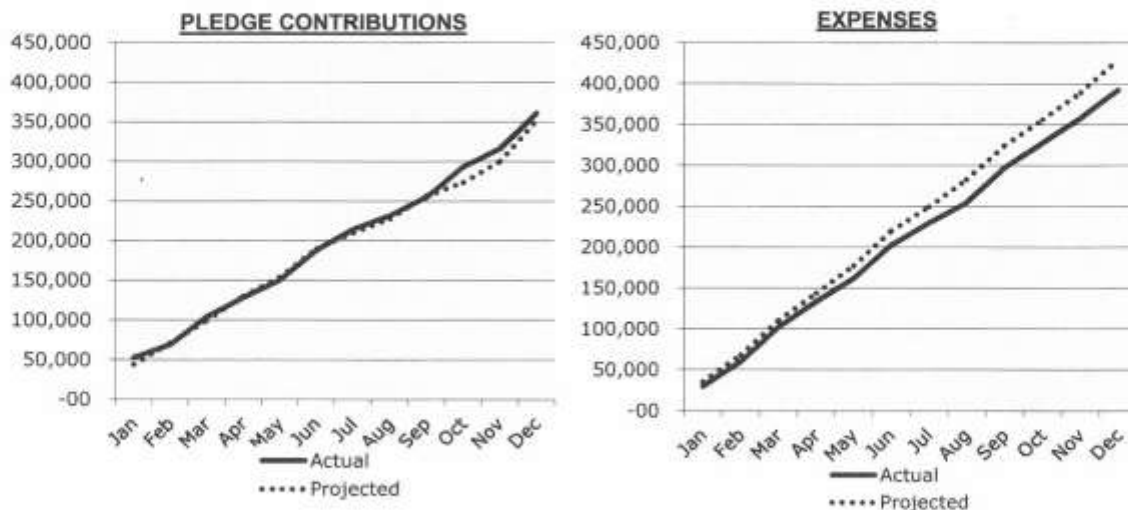


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending December 31, 2016

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	45,077	361,520	353,000
Loose Offerings	7,049	11,077	10,000
Rental Income	650	3,505	5,000
Fund Raising	517	4,103	8,000
Investment Income	30	334	-00
More Property	-00	-00	-00
Miscellaneous Income	-00	5,060	-00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>53,323</b>	<b>385,600</b>	<b>376,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	21,713	227,978	234,195
Building	8,020	93,965	118,253
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	26,750	26,750
Mission / OCWM	3,134	27,916	29,200
Committees:			
Christian Education	282	7,519	9,970
Membership	164	928	2,750
Music	683	3,956	4,700
Worship	103	1,009	1,500
Congregational Life	-00	833	800
Memorial	-00	45	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	500
Misc. & Contingency	-00	440	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>36,328</b>	<b>391,340</b>	<b>429,718</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$16,995</b>	<b>\$(5,741)</b>	<b>\$(53,718)</b>

**2016 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**



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

# FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 10am <b>Women's Prayer</b> Group	2	3  7:30pm Novel Approaches	4
5  9:30am Worship Service  5pm crazies Super Bowl Party	6  7pm Building Committee  7pm Christian Education	7  1pm Digital Ministry Meeting  7pm Adult Bible Study  7pm Membership  7:30pm Mission	8  10am <b>Women's Prayer</b> Group   PADS	9  PADS   7pm Finance	10	11
12  9:30 am Worship Service   6pm crazies	13	14	15  10am <b>Women's Prayer</b> Group  6pm SRC  7pm Council	16	17	18
19 8:15am Open Choir  9:30am Worship Service  11am M&M Event  6pm crazies	20  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26  9:30am Worship Service  <b>3pm Couple's</b> Relationship Work- shop  6pm crazies	27	28		TUESDAY NIGHTS  6pm Intergene- Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNES- DAY NIGHTS  6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	



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Find us at: [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)  
Facebook, Pinterest and YouTube



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St. Matthew United Church of Christ  
630.665.1236 (Office)

Office Email:  
[office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday: 9am-4pm  
Friday: 9am-1pm

Sunday Worship: 9:30am  
Sunday Church School: 10am

Our Purpose:

*Become, Live, and Serve as Disciples  
of Jesus Christ.*

Our Identity:

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's  
journey, you are welcome and accepted here at  
St. Matthew United Church of Christ.***

### STAFF

Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor  
[allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org)

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry  
[susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org)

Quinn Rosenthal, Director of Youth Ministry  
[quinn.rosenthal@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:quinn.rosenthal@stmatthewucc.org)

Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director  
[jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org)

Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist  
[brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org)

Kim Congdon, Handbell Director  
[kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org)

Kathy Robson, Administrative Assistant  
[office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

Alicia Drabik, Business Manager  
[business.manager@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:business.manager@stmatthewucc.org)