

March
2020



of



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Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

In a culture that encourages us to be upbeat and happy and to appear to "be together," we need a safe way to acknowledge to ourselves, to each other, and to God that there are other aspects to being a human being. The season of Lent makes allowances for us to name, claim, and to experience our darker emotions. We are encouraged to take an honest look at our lives and to name how we are falling short of our best selves. We are given permission by God's grace to be imperfect human beings and to name our failures to have compassion for those who are weak, forgiveness for those who have hurt us, and to work for justice in our world. Therefore, Lent permits us to be sad, regretful, angry, and to grieve. This can be seen as a downer, but more helpful is to see that Lent offers us a freedom to be real and stop the pretending to ourselves and others that we are somebody we are not. The truth sets us free to experience God's grace and love for us despite not having it all together.

Therefore, in Lent, we sing some somber songs with words that can become prayers of repentance and regret and lead to our forgiveness. We hear the stories of Jesus' passion, how He loved His friends and enemies, and was faithful to God, even to the point of death on a cross. In so doing, Jesus is showing us what it means to be fully human. In the same stories of Jesus' passion, we also see ourselves in the failure of the disciples and are offered the grace to embrace our imperfections and to be forgiven.

Each liturgical year, on Ash Wednesday (February 26th this year), we begin the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes. The ashes are placed on the back of the hand or the forehead to remind us that from dust we have come and to dust we shall return. This is a reminder that we are not self-sufficient and invulnerable. We do not need to be God. We need only to embrace, with love, our lives, and the person we are. This is also a reminder that life is short, and that death is an inevitable part of life. By embracing death, we learn to embrace the gift of each day. It is in this way that Lent is an invitation to a fuller and fulfilling life.

(continued)

I pray that each of you will enter this year's Lenten experience with great intention through personal devotion and participation in worship. Only when we walk with sadness with Jesus to the cross will we be able to meet Him with joy at the empty tomb.
Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Allen



Lent Scriptures to Easter Sunday

February 26th
Ash Wednesday

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
"Ashes to Ashes"

March 1st
First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
"The First Bite"

March 8th
Second Sunday of Lent

John 3:1-16
"Not Having All the Answers"

March 15th
Third Sunday of Lent

John 4:5-42
"To Be Known"

March 22nd
Fourth Sunday of Lent

John 9:1-41
"The Gift of Not Seeing"

March 29th
Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 11:1-45
"At Death's Door"

April 5th
Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40
"Singing Rocks"

April 9th
Maundy Thursday

John 13:1-17, 31b-35
"The Approaching Darkness & Shining Light"

April 12th
Easter Sunday

John 20:1-18
"Jesus Resurrected in Us"

Notes from the Music Room....



We begin March as we begin Lent. One thing about Lent is that the music can be very powerful, even if it is simple and soft. But Lent does not have to be only soft, somber music. What is most important is the words, the message that the song conveys. The message is the heart of every song that has words, be it rock, pop, choral, solo, rap, jazz, praise, congregational singing... any others I have forgotten. As we go through this journey, I ask you to pay closer attention to the words of the music, and how it relates to the message and teachings of Jesus. Even the handbell selections are based on words from songs whose words are powerful and relate to this period. You will probably recognize them.

Our next Open Choir is on March 22nd, when we will meet at 8:30am to rehearse our selection. Of course, you are always welcome to come join us anytime. Wednesday evenings at 7:30 are the rehearsals, and while we work ahead several weeks, the coming Sunday's anthem is always the first item we go over. Please come join us. Our full music rehearsal schedule is on page 11 and included on the monthly calendar on page 12.

Oh, and don't forget to turn your clocks ahead Saturday night, March 7th!

Peace,

Jamie

630-202-6788



Lenten Worship Schedule

As we enter the season of Lent we would like to inform you of the upcoming Services.

Palm Sunday Service Sunday, April 5th at 9:30am
Maundy Thursday Supper Thursday, April 9th at 6pm
Maundy Thursday Service Thursday, April 9th at 7pm
Easter Sunday Service Sunday, April 12th at 9:30am



The Worship Committee has a sign-up sheet for Maundy Thursday supper asking for assistance in making stew and brownies and table set-up in Dobstaff Hall.

Order forms for spring flowers will be in the Sunday bulletins. These beautiful flowers will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for our Easter service.

We are ever thankful for the sacrifice Jesus made for us and rejoice in His everlasting life! We look forward to celebrating Lent as a loving church family.

Thank you, Lisa Curda, Worship Ministry Chair

Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)



Scrip is coming in "like a **lamb**" this month, but let's make it go "out like a **lion**"!!



This year we have a deficit budget and this is a way for you to give more without spending more – just buy cards for the places you shop every week anyway, like groceries and gas. The retailers donate to St. Matthew. Let's go after those retailers and make our Scrip program **ROAR!**

If you are a Scrip participant, thank you for your continuing support. If you have not tried it yet, stop by the Scrip table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday for more information on this **no-cost-to-you fundraiser!**

Check out the Scrip table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Hillary Reckamp |
| | Jessica McGill |
| 6 | Bob Crooks |
| | Cheryl Umbeck |
| 8 | Erin Walsh |
| | John Price |
| 12 | Brian English |
| 16 | Julie Barnshaw |
| 20 | Lisa Curda |
| 21 | Adam Kirincich |
| 23 | Elijah Baird |
| | Andrew Kouns |
| 29 | Lori Chatten |
| 30 | Emily English |



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

Monday-Thursday: 10am-2pm
Friday: 9-11am

Adult Ed



We are offering a Faith at Work series on five Sunday evenings beginning Sunday, February 23rd and ending Sunday, March 22nd. We'll begin each evening by offering dinner with the crazies at 6pm and then moving to the Sanctuary for a presentation and discussion. Each week will bring a different speaker who will give a short talk on their experiences at work and the role that faith plays in it. We will provide childcare.

Beginning with the first Sunday, presenters include Kenna Anderson, Eric Lindberg, Marla Mothershed, Lou Holland, and Joe Leinweber. We hope the presentations and discussions will make it easier for you to express your faith at work or to a friend or neighbor, either by word or action.

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so that we have some idea of how much food we will need. Contact Byron Miller with questions at byronmiller@ameritech.net

Congregational Life

Wafflepalooza!!



Join us after church on Sunday, March 15th in Dobstaff Hall for St. Matthew's 4th annual Wafflepalooza. Congregational Life/Membership Committee members will be serving waffles with assorted toppings. We hope to see you there!

Food on the First

Thank you so much for the February donations. They are ALWAYS appreciated!

Here is what is needed in March:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Cold cereal
- Shampoo
- Baby wipes
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Body wash
- Diapers—any size
- Feminine pads—no tampons



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.

crazies

Deuteronomy 11:14 "Then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil."

Hello, Spring!

Crazies will meet on March 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 6-7:45pm.

We will NOT meet on March 29th because of Spring Break.

This month, we will continue to focus on the Fruit of the Spirit.



Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 26th, Youth Sunday! We will begin preparing for this special worship service led by the crazies. Please invite your family and friends to join us for the service.

The kids are very excited!

God Bless,

-Mel Jerome, Youth Director



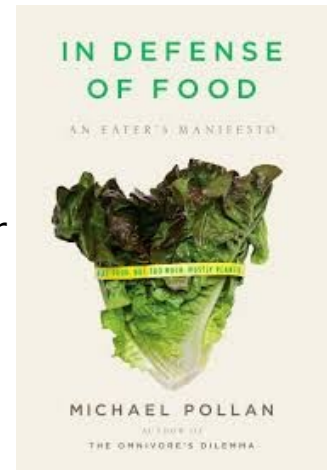
The Green Team

Snow and treacherous weather caused the Green Team to postpone our January movie, **In Defense of Food**. **The rescheduled night is Friday, March 13th.**

The 2015 documentary by Michael Pollan attempts to answer the question, "What should I eat to be healthy?"

We're planning on meeting at 6pm and enjoying a Potluck salad bar before the film. The Green Team will supply the lettuce; you bring your favorite salad topping, veggie, or dressing.

All ages are welcome. The sign-up is in the narthex.



On Sunday, February 16th, Kay McKeen from SCARCE presented a wonderfully informative program. Those present learned many interesting facts about recycling and about great resources in our community where we can donate items (besides SCARCE). The GREEN team will be providing useful info on a regular basis, and Kay left packets from SCARCE that have LOTS of good information. These packets can be found in one of the clear containers in the narthex.

We have collection bins in the narthex where you can bring the following items:

- Used gift cards and plastic bread tags
- Corks (non-synthetic only, please)
- Used printer cartridges

We will now begin to collect empty pill bottles (washed and with ALL labels and glue removed, please), so look for a separate collection bin. All of these bins will be labeled. Call Dawn Schubert or Carol Honeywell with any questions about these ongoing collections.

Children's Ministry

March 2020

Thank you to the teachers and shepherds who led the ***This Train is Bound for Glory*** workshop rotation unit: Kenna Anderson, Deb Felsenthal, Dawn Schubert, Sarah Muntz and Janella Holshouser. Thank you also to the youth helpers who shepherd the children on Sunday morning: Kira Mothershed, Jeremy Passini, Ethan Woods, Emily Sancken, Kayla Lindberg and Christy Banaszewski. Thank you Miegan Bresingham, for leading our M&M program and providing amazing activities for the participants.

The Resurrection Revealed – Easter Seen Through Symbols: March 5th - April 5th



©2020

Many children think that Easter is primarily about Easter bunnies and Easter baskets. It is up to us to point them to the Good News of Christ's resurrection at Easter. So many of the popular Easter symbols can help them keep the Good News in their hearts during Easter. During this unit, the children will discover how these Easter symbols point to the real reason of Easter: jelly beans, hot cross buns, Easter eggs, lambs, rocks, palms, thorns, and wine and bread. The children will not only learn and understand the Easter story; they will be able to tell the Good News of the Easter story to others.

Sunday School Care Package mission project



© Can Stock Photo

We are collecting items for our College Student and Military Care Package Project. Donated items for the care packages and \$10 donations for postage (\$10 per box sent) are appreciated. The poster in the narthex gives some ideas of items needed. We feel strongly that we need to maintain relationships with those members of St. Matthew who are away from home. ***Donations can be made until March 8th*** and placed in the narthex. The children and their parents will pack boxes on the 8th following worship. If you have a college student or military family member please email their name, school, branch, and address to susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org.

Mark your calendar:



March 22nd: The next M&M event, following Sunday School, more information to follow.

June 15th – 19th: Vacation Bible School, more information to follow.



March Birthdays:

Christy Banaszewski
Bryce Holshouser
Ava Sancken
Cole Hutchison
Grayson Hammond
Luke Mothershed

March 15th
March 21st
March 21st
March 23rd
March 30th
March 30th



St. Matthew UCC invites you to our annual

EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday, April 4th
10am prompt**

**1420 S. Gables Blvd, Wheaton
630.665.1236**

office@stmatthewucc.org

www.stmatthewucc.org

[Facebook.com/StMatthewUCCWheaton](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewUCCWheaton)

Free family fun!

Meet the Easter
Bunny!

Treats and crafts!

Bring your own
basket

EASTER EGGS

The Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on April 4th. If you are willing to donate candy for the hunt, please put your candy in the bins located in the narthex. Pre-filled eggs are greatly appreciated! Please bring candy and/or eggs by March 29th.

THANK YOU!



Save the Date!

Vacation
Bible
School

**Vacation Bible School
June 15th-19th**

Announcements and Events

NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in March is "The Secrets We Kept" by Lara Prescott. A thrilling tale of secretaries turned spies, of love and duty, and of sacrifice – inspired by the true story of the CIA plot to infiltrate the hearts and minds of Soviet Russia, not with propaganda, but with the greatest love story of all times, "Doctor Zhivago" (NYTimes)

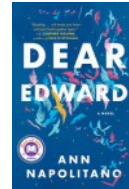
"The Secrets We Kept" combines a legendary literary love story – the decades-long affair between Boris Pasternak and his mistress and muse, Olga Ivinskaya, who was sent to the Gulag and inspired Zhivago's heroine, Lara – with a narrative about two women empowered to lead lives of extraordinary intrigue and risk. (Amazon)



The Date: Friday, March 27th at 7:30pm.

The Place: Linnea Karpenske's, 21W144 Glen Park Road, Lombard.

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



LOOKING AHEAD: "Dear Edward" by Ann Napolitano

YOGA CLASSES: Meditation and Yoga



Would you like to worship with your entire body?

Join Marla Mothershed in the sanctuary for a Yoga and Meditation practice during the Lenten season, Thursday evenings from 6:45-7:45, March 5th through April 2nd.

All are welcome; just come in comfortable clothes. We have a number of yoga mats. Please contact Marla with questions and to let her know if you can come!



Thursday morning yoga will continue to be offered as well.

Thursday, March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th at 10am

This is a gentle class, appropriate for all.

*Contact Marla Mothershed, mmothershed63@gmail.com, 630.441.5963
with any questions.*

Our Prairie Path Clean-up ministry resumes SOON!

As we have done for the past two years, we are once again committing to clean a 1-mile section of the Main Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path in an effort to be good stewards of our community and our planet. This section begins in downtown Wheaton at West Street and extends east to President Street. We have committed to the following dates in 2020 (but can re-schedule with advance notice or if the weather isn't cooperative):



Sunday, April 19th Sunday, June 14th

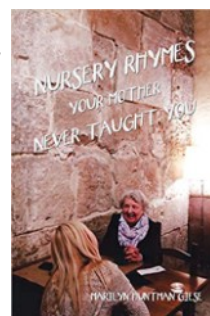
Sunday, August 16th Sunday, October 4th

(Please note new June date)

If you want to participate, you will need to complete a waiver (once a year), and they will be available in the narthex in early April. Please call Dawn Schubert at 630.542.0160 if you have any questions. The exact start time may vary, but in general, we will meet around 2pm. Watch the Happenings and bulletin for updates as the date approaches.

Some Late Winter Cheer

As the snowdrifts melt and the sun brings longer days, *Nursery Rhymes Your Mother Never Taught You* (Xlibris) could be a good way to greet spring. Funny and thoughtful parodies on familiar nursery rhymes come together reflecting 2020 and its social milieu. Few newer members of St. Matthew may know their Charter member, Marilyn Huntman Giese has authored several books, *Nursery Rhymes* being her latest.



The earlier two, *The Eye of God* (2010) and *When the World Changed* (2002) are in the church library. *The Eye of God, A Fisherman's Tale* is an historical novel in St. Peter's voice; *When the World Changed, A Revolutionary Peace* is a pictorial story of the life of Jesus with photos the author took on her research trips to Israel and Turkey. For more information contact Marilyn at rainbow365@comcast.net.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers 6pm

Chancel Ringers 7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band 6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir 7:30pm

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.

March 22nd, April 19th, May 24th, July 19th, August 23rd, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, December 13th.

The Voice is not published in July.



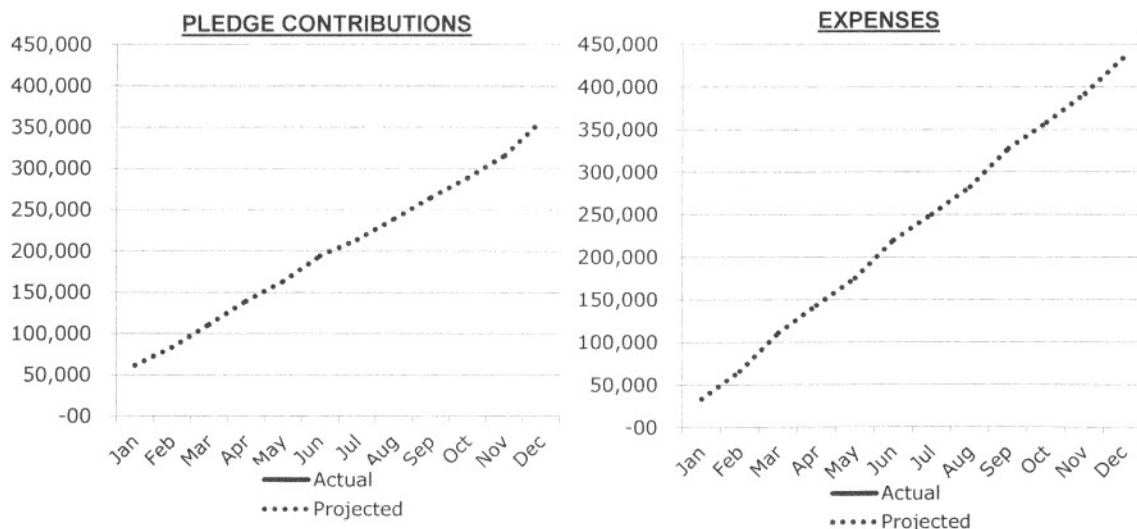
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship Communion 6pm crazies 6pm Adult Ed	2	3 8am Men's Group 7:30pm Missions	4 1pm Women's Prayer Group	5 10am Yoga 6:45pm Lenten Yoga & Meditation	6	7
8 9:30am Worship 6pm crazies 6pm Adult Ed Daylight Saving Time begins	9	10 8am Men's Group	11 1pm Women's Prayer Group PADS	12 10am Yoga 6:45pm Lenten Yoga & Meditation	13 6pm Green Team Salad Potluck and movie	14
15 9:30am Worship Wafflepalooza 6pm crazies 6pm Adult Ed	16	17 8am Men's Group Primary voting Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18 1pm Women's Prayer Group	19 10am Yoga 6:45pm Lenten Yoga & Meditation	20 Happy Spring! 	21
22 9:30am Worship Open Choir 11am M&M 6pm crazies 6pm Adult Ed	23 6pm SRC 7pm Council	24 8am Men's Group	25 1pm Women's Prayer Group	26 10am Yoga 6:45pm Lenten Yoga & Meditation	27 7:30pm Novel Approaches	28
29 9:30am Worship NO crazies	30  Spring Break	31 8am Men's Group Office closed	TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene- Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir		

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

For the Period Ending January 31, 2020

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	92,682	92,682	358,364
Loose Offerings	285	285	5,000
Rental Income	600	600	9,600
Fund Raising	139	139	2,200
Investment Income	14	14	120
More Property	-00	-00	37,000
Miscellaneous Income	650	650	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	94,370	94,370	417,284
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	18,594	18,594	245,572
Building & Admin	5,550	5,550	116,678
Loans & Notes	-00	-00	26,750
Mission / OCWM	200	200	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	988	988	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	-00	-00	3,000
Music	213	213	4,895
Worship	93	93	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	-00
Stewardship	-00	-00	-00
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	25,638	25,638	434,645
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$68,732	\$68,732	\$(17,361)

2020 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

Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor
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