

# THE VOICE OF St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SEPTEMBER  
2016

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## PASTORAL MESSAGE

Rev. Mothershed

### Two Blessings - Gifts from God to You

You may have noticed that I have started to use two different blessings for the benediction at the end of our worship services. Both are from scripture and are familiar blessings I am sure most in the congregation has heard from previous pastors. The first one is a prophetic blessing. It is a charge to go forth in the world and live the faith you have received. The words come from an adaptation of the Apostle Paul's words:

***"Go out into the world in peace. Have courage! Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit."***

The second blessing is a pastoral blessing from Moses. The blessing comes from the Old Testament book of Numbers and was given by Moses to Aaron to be spoken to the people.

***"The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace."***

**This blessing covers worshippers in a warm blanket of God's love. We are tempted to take the blessing at the end of worship for granted. The blessing is that part of worship that is a signal that worship is about to be over and we can soon talk to our friends and go home for Sunday lunch.**

I invite you to reflect more deeply about the words of blessing being spoken to you. Ancient Israel believed that blessings were powerful and that words of blessing (as well as words of curse) actually have an effect upon the ones blessed.

(Cont'd on page 2)

We all have a hunger to be blessed in our lives. Some of us have deep empty places in our hearts because we never felt the blessing of our mother, father, or significant others in our lives. **The blessing in worship is not the pastor's blessing, but God's blessing meant to be taken deep into ourselves that we may live our week out of God's abundant and unconditional love for us.**

*Grace & Peace - Pastor Allen*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### RALLY DAY

Rally Day is scheduled on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will have a carnival theme with games, prizes and lots of fun. Invite your family and friends to join us for this amazing day. Each committee will have a table with a carnival game and we will have lots of fun games outside as well. We will hold a bake sale and would appreciate donations brought to church that morning. Activities will begin right after morning worship. Come and join the fun!

### FALL ADULT EDUCATION

Please join us September 18th from 10:45-11:45am when Kay McKeen from SCARCE will talk to us about how St. Matthew is implementing suggestions in an effort to earn our Earth Flag. She will give an update on recycling and the process that takes place. This educational opportunity is just one requirement toward earning our Earth Flag.

Our adult education continues with a two-part series on poverty on Sunday morning September 25th and October 2nd from 10:45-11:45am. The series will include an amazing video on September 25th about poverty in DuPage County and the United States and on **October 2nd a speaker from the People's Resource Center will discuss how poverty right here in Wheaton affects us.** Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Child care will be available if there is a need. Hope you will attend!

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*I look forward to the start of the 2016-17 Sunday School year. It is an honor and privilege for those of us who dedicate our time in leading the children of St. Matthew on their faith journey. Mark your calendar with the dates for these upcoming special events as the summer comes to a close and the new school year begins.*

September 4th and 11th - *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss*: These are our last two weeks of the summer Sunday School Dr. Seuss lessons. We explored several of Dr. **Seuss' favorite books to learn a lesson about following the way of Jesus. We will celebrate** all we learned on September 18th with a Dr. Seuss party (see below).



September 11<sup>th</sup> - Blessing of the Backpacks during worship service: All St. Matthew students and educators are invited to bring their backpack or school bag to worship service and receive a special blessing for the upcoming school year. You will also receive a special key chain to hang from your bag as a reminder that the Lord is with you throughout the school year.

September 11<sup>th</sup> - Rally Day Fun Fair, following the worship service: Join your church family for a fun time of games, prizes, lunch, popcorn, snow cones, moon jump and display tables showing all the wonderful activities that take place at St. Matthew.

September 11<sup>th</sup> - Sign up begins for M&M, Moments together & Memories forever: **Come to the Children's Ministry table on Rally Day and receive a bag of M&Ms when you sign up to be an M&M partner.** This ongoing program gives adults and children at St. Matthew an opportunity to get to know one another better. During the year, events will be **planned by the M&M coordinator. Learn more at the Children's Ministry table on Rally Day.**

September 18<sup>th</sup> - First day of 11am Sunday School dismissal time: Parents, after worship enjoy a cup of coffee and snack while visiting with other families in Dobstaff Hall before picking your children up from Sunday School. Children preschool to first grade should be picked up by a parent or older sibling. Older children will be dismissed to meet **their parents downstairs. The schedule, showing your child's classroom, is on the wall in the stairway landing.**



September 18<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Seuss Party, during the Sunday School hour: Children will have a party to celebrate the close of Summer Sunday School. There will be games, prizes, craft and snack.

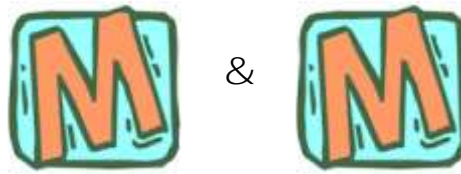
September 25<sup>th</sup> - Teacher/Shepherd dedication and blessing, during worship service: Teachers, Shepherds and Christian Education leaders will receive a blessing during the first part of the worship service.



September 25th - First day of Workshop Rotation Sunday School program.

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

*Happy Birthday to Andrew Bourne - September 25th*



## MOMENTS TOGETHER and MEMORIES FOREVER

M&M is an on-going program intended to give adults and children of St. Matthew, an opportunity to get to know one another better. Those who sign up will be randomly paired together for an opportunity to become better acquainted over the next twelve months.

Partners will participate in events planned throughout the year including having lunch together, games, mission projects, crafts, and more.

Sign up for this fun program in the narthex beginning Rally Day. It is a great way to make **new friends within our "church family"**. Children (Preschool-6<sup>th</sup>) and adult men and women of all ages are welcome. Sign-up will continue throughout the early fall and pairing will take place in October.



***Sign up at the Children's  
Ministry table on Rally Day  
and receive a bag of M&Ms***



Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> - **during the Children's sermon**

Children Preschool – High School: Bring your backpack, school bag, sports or activity bag to church and receive a *Back-to-School Blessing* and a blessing keychain to hang from your bag.

Teachers: You will also be invited to receive a blessing for your upcoming school year and receive a blessing keychain.



September 18th  
Summer Dr. Seuss Party  
during the Sunday School  
hour!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL BOYS and GIRLS

Come to our end-of-summer  
Dr. Seuss party.  
We will end our summer Sunday  
School lesson "Gospel According to  
Dr. Seuss" with a fun morning of  
snacks, games/prizes, and  
crafts.

**crazies**  
St. Matthew UCC

September 4th: (Labor Day weekend) - NO crazies

September 11th: Rally Day and new crazies  
schedule-(6-8pm)

September 14th: 6:30-8pm-First Confirmation class  
of the new school year.

## MESSAGE FROM THE NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you."*

*-Jeremiah 29: 11-12*

Grace and peace to the congregation of St. Matthew United Church of Christ. As of writing this yesterday, I signed on as your new Youth Director. Starting on Rally Day, September 11<sup>th</sup>, I will be tasked with sustaining the amazing community in the youth groups at this church that was revitalized by my predecessor Emmy, has existed at least since I came up in the church so many years ago, and I'm sure was built long before that. I'm not sure if you can tell, but I wanted to take the opportunity to let anyone who will read this know that short of the Chicago Bears plugging me in as their new starting Center (and let's face it, any of us might have a shot at this rate) I don't think there's a job in the world that I could be more excited about.

Some of you probably know who I am. I'm a pastor's kid who started attending St. Mathew around 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I grew up in the days when Rev. Neal Sadler ran the church and Rev. Kirk Moore ran crazies. I respected them both a lot and honestly enjoyed almost all the time I spent here.

(Cont'd. on next page)

I went to South for four years and got a State Championship ring to go with all my Scholastic Bowl accolades. I preached my first sermon on my Graduation Sunday, and it was awesome, at least in my memory. After that I left for Grinnell College in central Iowa. I played football there for four years. We won a lot less, but I had a lot more fun; that's usually how it goes. That was also the time when I really found my faith, the one I'd had since I sat in youth group when I was about eleven years old and heard Kirk tell me that God loved everyone. In response to the rapid life changes that come with one's freshman year, I fell in with a group of other weird Christians who had a community on campus. I loved what they did with welcoming, Bible study, singing, and cookies, but as time went on, I realized that I wasn't down with the overarching organization's theology. As it turned out, I wasn't alone, and I was able to join with some amazing women of Christ to found a new student-run progressive Christian community on Grinnell's campus. I spent the rest of my college years leading Bible study and worship groups to my heart's content.

It was that 'heart's content' feeling that led me to apply and get accepted to the University of Chicago Divinity School, where I have been subjected to all the dead languages, dead white men, and death and bereavement counseling role-plays a young man could ever want in his life. With the free time I get when I'm not studying, writing, hiding in a classroom, or spending time with the youth of St. Matthew or my previous workplace, Church of the Three Crosses in Old Town, Chicago, I play pick-up soccer, participate in the graduate co-ed league with all five of the Divinity School's intramural sports teams, do research for my upcoming Master's thesis on the intersection of theology and video games (yes, that does mean I play computer games to study), and spend as much time as I can with my lovely and talented partner, Kiva.

So that was the obligatory introduction, now onto business. I have mentioned Kirk Moore a couple of times. He became almost like a second dad to me as I came up in the youth group at St. Matthew, and I got a ton out of crazies. It was a community where I felt affirmed and fully accepted. I got so much out of it in terms of a foundation of faith that I've built on as an adult, and some much-needed confidence. That feeling of belonging and ability to be yourself is something that doesn't happen often in life, so I hope that I can bring it to young people who need it while I'm at the church. Many of you know that Kirk was amazing at that, which is why I am excited to have the job that I once saw him in, and why it feels so crazy that I actually have it. I want to bring professionalism and passion to the Youth Director position at St. Matthew. That's my goal; please hold me to it.

My first crazies evening will be Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you're a rising 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader, please bring an appetite, a smile, some good questions for me, and clothes that you can get wet and/or dirty. My first confirmation class will take place on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. To prepare for that, make sure you've read all three volumes of Paul Tillich's Systematic Theology. Just kidding...but seriously, let's make it a good year. I'm going to do my best.

*-Quinn Rosenthal*



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Open-choir Sundays start on September 25th. This is for all who like to sing but are unable to make weekly choir rehearsals. We will meet at 8:15am to rehearse an anthem for the service. I have found some new arrangements that are good for learning in one practice. The turnout we had in May was good and there were even more people who wanted to participate but were unable. There are two additional Sundays scheduled for Open Choir this fall, October 30th and November 27th. If you are helping as a shepherd or teacher for **Sunday School, you still can participate, as we sing before the Children's Message. Please mark your calendars for these dates.**

While rehearsals for bells, Praise Band and choir have started, you can still join us. Choir and Praise Band both try to rehearse a few weeks ahead, so if you are unable to make all practices, you still have several opportunities to rehearse. Handbells are a bit different. **The 'team' nature of bells makes it very important to make rehearsals. If one person is missing, those notes won't be played, whereas if someone in the tenor, bass, alto, or soprano section is missing, others are singing the notes.** That being said, the IntergeneRingers have a need for additional ringers. The Praise Band can always use additional instrumentalists, which is not limited to guitar or drums. Both band and choir also need singers.

While it is just the beginning of September, Cantata rehearsals will begin at the end of the month. Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm to 8:30pm, followed by regular choir rehearsal. This annual presentation, while always different, offers a wonderful and inspirational telling of the Christmas story. The more voices and instruments we have only adds to it.

Please see KC, Brian, myself, or anyone in these groups if you have questions. Remember, participating in the music ministry is not only fun, but it is rewarding, too. Hope to see you with us.

*Peace*  
*Jamie Craig*  
630-202-6788  
[music.director@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:music.director@stmatthewucc.org)  
[Lanni1@comcast.net](mailto:Lanni1@comcast.net)

### WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

IntergeneRingers  
Tuesday 6pm

Chancel Ringers  
Tuesday 7:30pm

Praise Band  
Wednesday 6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir  
Wednesday 7:30pm

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

## WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Women's Prayer Group will resume weekly meetings in the parlor on Wednesday, September 7th at 1:30pm. We are presently using the book "May I Have This Dance?" by Joyce Rupp. All women are invited to join us as we pray for the concerns of the church and study to increase our understanding of prayer.

## AED-TRAINED VOLUNTEERS

St. Matthew has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) used to administer CPR. The AED is stored in the narthex by the coat racks. We need to update the list of people who are qualified and able to use that unit in the event of a medical emergency. If you have been trained in the use of an AED and would be able to use it, please contact Kathy in the church office and let her know if you are willing to be added to the list.

**LIFE LINE SCREENING** Do you know how to recognize the warning signs of a stroke? If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the below symptoms, call 911 right away. It is important to seek medical treatment immediately.



- Sudden Numbness
- Difficulty Speaking
- Severe Dizziness
- Loss of Coordination
- Sudden Loss of Vision
- Sudden Intense Headache
- Brief Loss of Consciousness

Protect your health by participating in the Life Line Screening health screenings that will be at St. Matthew Thursday, September 8th. Through ultrasound we evaluate the carotid arteries for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke.

Register today for the Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package, which includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation. To register for this event and receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).



## NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in September is "High Rise" by J.G. Ballard. This story depicts a luxury high-rise building as its affluent residents gradually descend into violent chaos. Join us for lively discussion, food and fellowship.

*Where? The Mooks, 1523 Surrey Dr., Wheaton*  
*When? Friday, September 9th - 7:30pm*



# Rally Day Fun Fair

Hosted by St. Matthew UCC



Come join the  
fun as we  
kick-off the  
Fall season!

We start the morning off with a **Blessing of the Backpacks** for the new school year during the church service.

Immediately following join us at the **Fun Fair!** Bring the whole family to enjoy a **moon jump, balloons, hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, face painting, games and prizes.**

**Sunday, September 11th**

Church Service and Blessing of the Backpacks from **9:30 – 10:30 am**

Fun Fair from **10:30am to 12:30pm**

**1420 S. Gables Blvd, Wheaton**



630.665.1236



[facebook.com/groups/stmatthewucc](https://facebook.com/groups/stmatthewucc)



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

# A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

## LET'S SPREAD THE WORD!

We have an awesome church. We all should cherish our facilities, pastor, staff and, most of all, our family of worshippers. All we are missing is a packed house for Sunday services.

**This is an issue we have all discussed for years. It's part of a cultural shift where the traditional role of Sunday has been changing.** It's become just another day of the week. But I feel that if more people experienced the unique personality and family atmosphere of our congregation, they would realize that this church could be an important part of their lives.

Unfortunately, one of our biggest assets - this beautiful tree lined location at the dead end of a quiet residential street - is also our biggest liability in terms of attracting new worshippers. So what's the solution? Church council is exploring several things from a marketing standpoint, but the biggest source of new visitors has been and will always be word of mouth.

Each of us needs to be more mindful of inviting friends and neighbors to come and experience our church family. Now is the perfect time with the school year starting and Rally Day coming up. You may have met new families who have moved to the area in time for the new school year. Or maybe you have been talking to people who are just now getting back into a routine after a summer of activities. Be inquisitive. Find out if they have a church home and if not, suggest they check us out. If you have young kids, consider inviting their friends to Rally Day or to crazies, especially now that we have a new Youth Minister with a lot of enthusiasm and a passion to grow the members in that group.

So, am I asking all of you to put the hard sell on all of your friends? No, just be open to telling others what you love about this church. Some of you eat at a new restaurant or see a good movie or go to a new hairstylist and then rave to your friends or post on Facebook about how awesome the experience was. All I'm asking is that you are at least that enthusiastic about sharing your good opinion of St Matthew.

## Let's pack the house!

Bruce Anderson  
Church Council President

# MISSION NEWS



## FOOD ON THE FIRST

Thank you very much for your August donations; they were most greatly appreciated. Here is what is needed for September:

- Bottled water
- Canned chicken
- Canned, sliced pineapple
- Canned peaches
- Canned tuna
- Ensure
- Juice
- Diapers-all sizes
- Baby wipes
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- **Toys for children's birthday bags**

Please make sure items have not expired and packages are un-opened. If you have any questions please call Betty Greer, 630.682.4084. *Blessings to all.*

## ESSE CHURCH OF THE MONTH

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 Ave. We will once again provide treats for the 12-15 clients and provide volunteers as we are able. Please sign up on the calendar in the narthex and call Dawn Schubert, 630.665.9860 with questions.

Thanks in advance for your support, and remember to stop at the ESSE table on Rally Day to purchase your Pancake Breakfast tickets!

## 4TH OF JULY THANK YOU

**On behalf of the Mission Committee, thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Fourth of July parade.** We had over 30 people who helped by marching, collecting money, holding our banner, collecting donated food and putting it on the truck, sorting bags, driving the truck, and passing out information cards and candy. All of this resulted in our collecting over 90 bags of groceries and a wonderful \$1,483.52 to be donated to the Inter-faith Food Pantry and People's Resource Center! Thank you also to those parade watchers who donated. We did a lot for our local food pantries and had fun doing it.

We were also the recipient of the 2016 Wheaton Fourth of July Mayor's Spirit Award! Congratulations to the spirited St. Matthew marchers. Hope to see you next year!

Gwen Johnson, Mission Committee



4	Rob Kirincich
7	Edith DeBoard Ruth Greer
9	Liz Henderson
11	Summer Scalora
13	Diane Mook
16	Monica Holland Marty Philipchuck
17	Steven Gimre
19	Karen White
20	Lee Anderson
21	Kendal Franz
23	Annette English
24	David Johnson
25	Laurie Jordan Becky Cole
29	Jen Fanning
30	Alex Johnson

# SEPTEMBER 2016

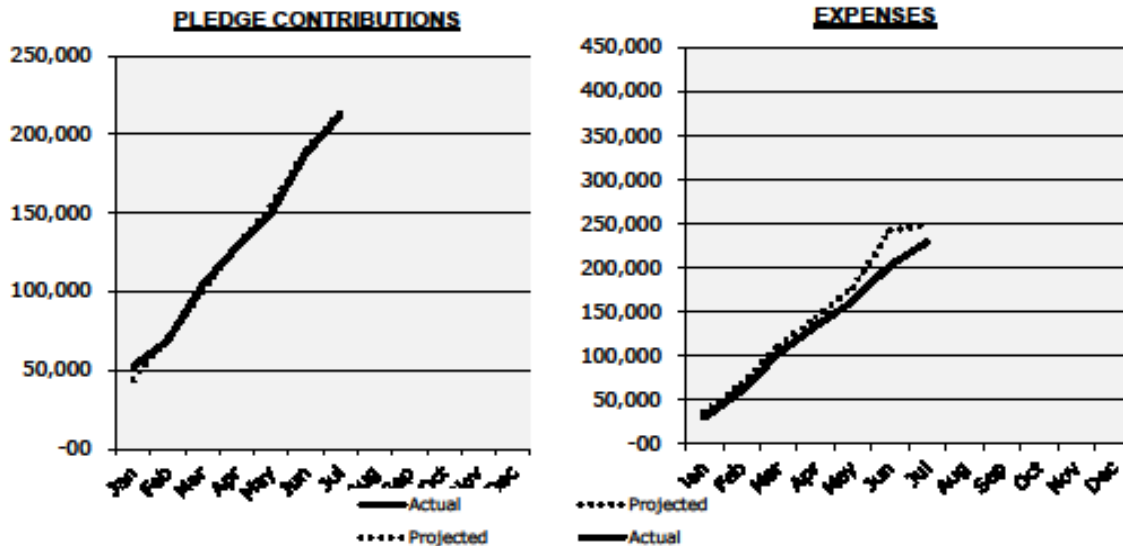
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Tuesday Nights  6pm IntergeneRingers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	Wednesday Nights  6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	1	2	3
4 9:30am - Worship Service  No crazies	5  LABOR DAY  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6  7pm - Membership 7:30pm - Mission	7  1:30pm - <b>Women's</b> Prayer Group	8 9am-5:30pm Life Line Screening  7pm - Finance committee	9  OFFICE CLOSED	10
11 9:30am - Worship Service Blessing of Backpacks RALLY DAY 11am-Worship Committee  6pm-crazies	12	13  1pm Digital Ministry	14  1:30pm - <b>Women's</b> Prayer Group  6:30 Confirma- tion	15  6pm - SRC 7pm - Council	16  7pm - Euchre Night	17
18 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Adult Educa- tion) VOICE ARTI- CLES DUE  6pm - crazies	19	20	21  1:30pm - <b>Women's</b> Prayer Group	22	23	24
25  8:15am - Open-choir 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am - Adult Education  6pm - crazies	26	27	28  1:30pm - <b>Women's</b> Prayer Group	29	30	

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

For the Period Ending July 31, 2106

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b><u>RECEIPTS:</u></b>			
Pledge Contributions	26,838	214,811	353,000
Loose Offerings	291	2,140	10,000
Rental Income	650	2,065	5,000
Fund Raising	338	2,118	8,000
Investment Income	2	13	-00
More Property	-00	-00	-00
Miscellaneous Income	-00	-00	-00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>28,119</b>	<b>221,148</b>	<b>376,000</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURES:</u></b>			
Ministry	17,129	132,426	234,195
Building	5,310	58,619	118,253
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	15,604	26,750
Mission / OCWM	17	14,586	29,200
Committees:			
Christian Education	2,169	5,211	9,970
Membership	176	630	2,750
Music	42	1,728	4,700
Worship	-00	410	1,500
Congregational Life	-00	325	800
Memorial	-00	45	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	500
Misc. & Contingency	-00	100	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>27,072</b>	<b>229,684</b>	<b>429,718</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$1,047</b>	<b>\$(8,536)</b>	<b>\$(53,718)</b>

**2016 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**



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





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