

October
2018



of



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Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

The Power of Letting Go

We talk a lot in Christianity about the necessity of sacrifice, something that sounds painful, and not something many of us want to hear much about. As Christianity has at the center of its faith the cross of Christ, this should not surprise us. After all, Jesus said that if anyone wants to follow Him, then they are "to take up their cross and follow Him." The "take up the cross" part is something we wished Jesus could have simply left out. Why is sacrifice so necessary? Can't we have a religion that is more joyful and less costly? Can I have a faith that gives me more than I have to give?

Let me see if I can help us out, not by removing this imperative, but by reframing the way we are inclined to think of sacrifice. A better word for sacrifice is "letting go." Letting go is something we all recognize as an integral part of life. We live our lives by letting go. I doubt there is a day in our lives where we do not have to let go of something. If you think back on your life, you have always been letting go of one thing so you can pick up something new (and hopefully better). If you are married, at one point you let go of the single life for a life with a partner you love. If you have children, you let go of the freedoms of doing what you want to do for the joys of our children and the enormous bond of love that we share with each other. If you retired, you let go of daily work commitments to invest in other values of your life. The truth is that not one of us has the power to hang on to our life the way it is. Life is change, and the better we are at learning to let go and adapt the happier we are in our life.

When we are asked to let go (to sacrifice) and follow the way of Jesus, we are asked to trust that in letting go something richer and more satisfying is being offered to us. By learning to let go, we create an empty space where something more satisfying can fill our lives. Most of all we learn to let go of self. Holding on to self is the way of death and pain. The tighter we hold on, the more restrictive we live. Letting go of self-preoccupation makes room for loving relationships and community. In letting go, we learn to trust and make room for love.

Think about this when we talk this month about stewardship and what it means to be a generous person. You can choose to see your giving as a burdensome sacrifice, or you can see it as an opportunity to let go and experience the joy of being about something far larger than yourself, and far more life-giving. Amen.

-Pastor Allen

Adult Education Series

Living in the World, But Not of the World: Being Faithful in a World at Odds.

All of us have struggled to be ourselves, even when that pulls against friends, family and others who believe differently. How do we make room to allow our more authentic self to emerge? How can we maintain respectful relationships and dialogue with others who see politics, social issues, or religious issues differently? Fortunately, this is not a new struggle, and we can learn from how different communities of faith have worked through this.



Join us for the last of three interfaith presentations on how different people have worked to be true to themselves and/or to their faith when it put them at odds with others. We will meet Wednesday night, October 3rd, at 7pm in the St. Matthew parlor for our final presentation.

October 3rd - **Sana Syed** is a recent graduate of the Chicago Theological Seminary. Sana, a Muslim woman, will be sharing her experience of living her faith in a larger culture that is often different from her own.

Getting Our Priorities Straight: Living by Our Values

A Sermon Series: Sundays, October 14th - November 4th

October 14th *Matthew 6:25-34*

"Seeking First the Kingdom of God: Living Beyond Worry"

October 21st *Ecclesiastes 12:1-8*

"Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is?: Valuing Life"

October 28th *Luke 18:18-30*

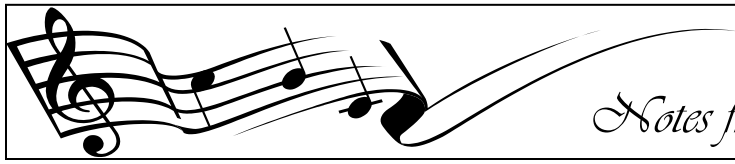
"Is the Price Too High?"

November 4th—*Philippians 4:10-20*

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

"Thanks for the Gift"





Notes from the Music Room.....

October is here! That means it is time to start rehearsing for the cantata. This year we will "*Sing with the Angels!*" thanks to some help from the pen and musical talent of Joel Raney. It walks us through the Christmas story from the vantage point of angels – from Gabriel's first appearance to Zacharias, to the glorious scene of angels filling the heavens singing "*Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*" Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, October 3rd, from 7:30-8:30pm. Rehearsals continue each Wednesday up until we perform it on Sunday, December 9th during worship. Please come out and join us. The more voices, the more wonderful it sounds. As for rehearsals, please don't let having to miss some rehearsals be your reason not to sing. You will find that we are very accommodating. There is no need to choose between singing and going to Back Bay. You can do both, as some are planning to do. Obviously, the more rehearsals you can attend the better, but life happens. There are work reasons, mission reasons, family reasons, illness reasons, all that can and do prevent making every rehearsal, and that is fine. Please consider joining, and see me, Brian, or any choir member for more information or questions.

Open choir began the church school year with a fabulous sound. "*Old Church Choir*" with the children set a wonderful tone for the year, both for the children singing on a more regular basis, and the Open choir. The last Sunday of the month has worked well, so that is when the Open choir Sundays have been scheduled. The next one is October 28th. Just show up in the sanctuary at 8:30am for rehearsal/warm-up.

Choir and Praise band always welcome individuals, whether for a few times a month, every week, or whenever schedules permit. Both groups work far enough ahead that missing a rehearsal or two does not mean you don't know the music. Please come out and have some fun while making music.

Peace to All,

Jamie

630-202-6788

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers

6pm

Chancel Ringers

7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band

6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir

7:30pm

Pennies From Heaven

SCRIP (MANNA) Program

If you are like some of us who have a limited income, this is the fundraiser for you. The retailers donate to our church, so it's a way to make your dollars stretch to include a little extra for St. Matthew.

No need to buy things you really don't want. THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU SHOP **EVERY WEEK**, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR YOUR **GROCERIES** AND **GAS**, AND BUY THOSE CARDS!

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 fundraiser!**



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 2 | Kevin Bute |
| 5 | Doug Miller |
| 14 | Bill Beaton |
| 15 | Kerin Sanken |
| 16 | Lynn Thornton |
| 17 | Rocio Chumas
Lou Holland |
| 18 | Cameron Rosenthal |
| 22 | Cheryl Heck |
| 23 | Sarah Muntz
Greg Henderson |
| 25 | John Umbeck |
| 26 | Amy Barnshaw
Abby Jung |
| 28 | John Kouns
Monte Schroer |
| 30 | Carol Young |



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

Mission News

Help Back Bay Mission



St. Matthew will be sending 12 members down to Biloxi in October to work at Back Bay Mission. As part of our ministry, we will again be donating Wal-mart cards which will be used to stock the BBM food pantry. We hope you will consider donating cards to assist those in need along the Mississippi coast. Wal-mart cards can be ordered through the Manna (SCRIP) program (you need to order by October 14th to get them in time). You can help St. Matthew and BBM! Gift cards can be given to John Adams, left in the locked mailbox outside the office, or put in the offertory plate. Thank you!

Food on the First

Thanks to those who donated in September.

Here is what is needed in October:

- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned chicken
- Canned tuna
- Shaving cream
- Feminine pads (no tampons)
- Baby wipes
- Disposable razors
- Cake mixes and frosting
- Birthday candles

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.



Prairie Path Clean-Up



A hearty thanks to the following who came out to help with the 3rd clean-up on September 16th: **Carol Honeywell, Gwen and Dave Johnson, Joe Leinweber, and Leslie Ortman.** Your efforts are appreciated!

Prairie Path Clean-up #4 (our last one in 2018) will be held on Sunday, October 21st at 2pm. Details closer to the date will be in the bulletin and the Happenings. A one-time waiver must be filled out prior to helping, and these can be found in the narthex. Please call Dawn Schubert with any questions @ 630.542.0160.

PADS TRAINING

Current and potential volunteers are invited to Peace Lutheran for DuPage PADS Volunteer Training on Tuesday, October 16th at 6pm. Volunteers will learn about:

DuPage PADS Population
Client Services
Agency Programs
Volunteer Procedures
Emergency Management
Crisis Intervention



The training will be led by Josie Mattern, Volunteer Coordinator for DuPage PADS.

Last year Volunteers helped move 330 people from a pad on the floor, to a key in the door! Thank you to all St. Matthew volunteers for your dedication and support in DuPage PADS mission to end homelessness in DuPage County!

Blessing of the Animals



..and service of remembrance

All pets welcome!

St. Matthew UCC

Sunday, October 14th

3pm

**If your pet can't come,
bring a picture!**

**Special remembrance for
pets who are no longer
with you.**

(Bring a picture.)

- **Short worship service, led by the children**
- **Time of remembrance**
- **Blessing of pets and caregivers**
- **Snacks for both pets and people**
- **Fellowship time**

If weather permits, we will gather outside.

If raining, we will gather in Dobstaff Hall.

Rally Day



Children's Ministry

Workshop Rotation— The children are learning about God's love for animals and how He created us in His image so we too would love and care for His creation. Our workshops teach about pets, homeless animals and wildlife. We are:

- ♦ Making kennel blankets for shelters
- ♦ Making dog and cat treats
- ♦ Making bird feeders
- ♦ Planting a bulb for our pollinators
- ♦ Watching and listening for animals on the Prairie Path



Workshop rotation



Children's choir



Handprint tree "lifting our hands in worship."



October birthdays:

Andrew Woods - October 14th

Adrienne Hammond - October 16th

Cameron Miller - October 31st

Trunk or Treat



St. Matthew
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, October 28th

3-4:30pm

**Bring your family for a
safe trick-or-treat event**



1420 S. Gables Blvd, Wheaton

630.665.1236

office@stmatthewucc.org

**Facebook.com/
StMatthewUCCWheaton**



DECORATE YOUR CAR FOR TRUNK OR TREAT!

There are a lot of ideas online and hundreds on Pinterest! It can be simple or as elaborate as you want! You can provide your own candy or use the candy that has been donated by the congregation. Please sign up on the board in the narthex. We are grateful for your participation in this fun community event!

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!

If you are willing to donate a bag or two of Halloween candy for Trunk or Treat, please deposit your donations in the monster in the narthex. Thanks so much for your help!



Announcements and Events



OCTOBER IS ST. MATTHEW VOLUNTEER MONTH AT ESSE

Look for the poster/calendar in the narthex, and please sign up to help sometime in October. You can sign up for multiple spots! Your presence is ALWAYS welcome, and the clients love visitors who bring pets or young children. We will also try to provide snacks as indicated on the calendar.

ESSE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The 22nd Annual ESSE Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 10th from 7:30-11am at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$5, and Dawn Schubert has some for sale. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. Please support this important event and a mission of St. Matthew!

NOVEL APPROACHES

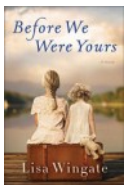
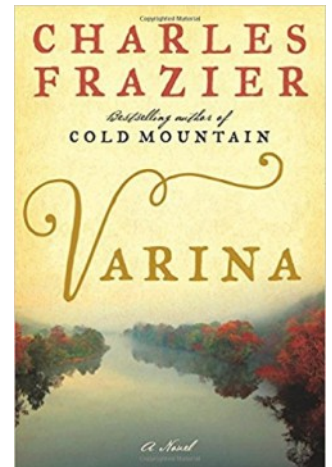
The novel to be approached in October is "Varina" by Charles Frazier.

In this powerful new novel, Charles Frazier returns to the time and place of "Cold Mountain", vividly bringing to life the chaos and devastation of the Civil War. The story of Varina Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis, is a portrait of a woman who comes to realize that complicity carries consequences.

The Place: Joe & Linda Leinweber's, 121 N. Cross Street, Wheaton

The Date: Friday, October 19th at 7:30pm

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



LOOKING AHEAD: "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate

Thank You!

Thank you, my St. Matthew family, for the cards, calls and prayers I received as my bruises and dignity healed. Nothing like a fall to remind one that gravity will have its way. Your prayers and moral support were much appreciated.

~Love and blessings, Marilyn Giese

Announcements and Events

VILLAGE VOICES CONCERT

Join us on Sunday, November 11th at 7pm in the sanctuary for "Songs of Autumn", a fundraising event for St. Matthew. Once again, we will be featuring the choral sounds of the Village Voices of Downers Grove, of which our own John Kouns is a member. Selections will include patriotic, gospel, jazz, contemporary and show/film tunes. Tickets are \$8 and are available from John Kouns 630.542.4641, the church office, in the narthex on Sundays or at the door.



Please join us in a farewell to David L. Weck as he retires from The Agape Ringers.

Sounds of the Season
Saturday, December 15th at 4pm
Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church
149 Brush Hill, Elmhurst

www.agaperingers.org

\$19 tickets until November 20th
\$25 tickets after November 20th

Retirement party requires an additional ticket (which is free).

PS I have the honor of being hired as his replacement starting in January! ~ KC Congdon

Looking for a loving home for a soon-to-be orphaned 9-year-old mixed terrier who is great with kids! Please see Eric or Sunita Lindberg if you are interested or know of someone who might be able to provide a new home!



Oasis is a connection group for the local LGBTQ community on issues of faith. Hosted by FCCGE, it will meet for four weeks on Sunday evenings at 6:30pm starting October 7th.

Discussion will be facilitated by Pam Trice, PsyD, who is a professional counselor and member of the LGBTQ community.

Who: Members of the LGBTQ community

What: Foster connection around faith

When: 6:30-8pm on Sunday evenings (October 7th-28th)

Where: First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn in the parlor

Contact Pam Trice with questions at saintgingersnap@gmail.com



October 2018

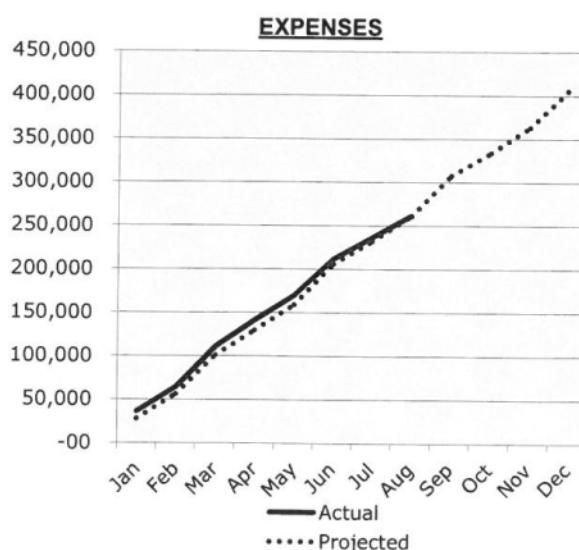
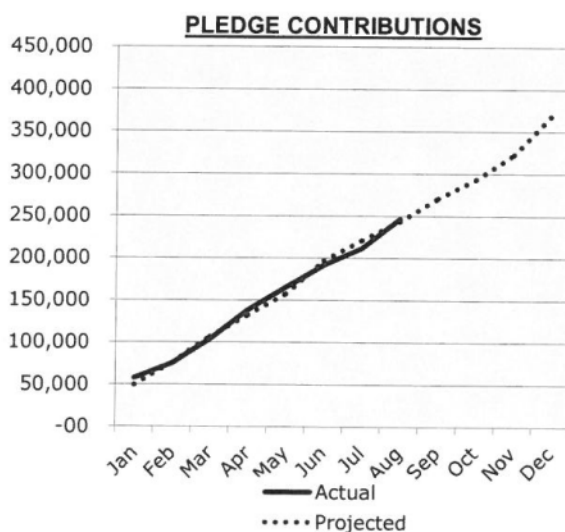
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7pm Adult Ed	4 1pm Women's Prayer Group	5	6
7 9:30am Worship Service World Communion Sunday 6pm crazies	8 6:30pm Confirmation meeting	9	10	11 1pm Women's Prayer Group	12	13
14 9:30am Worship Service Bells 3pm Blessing of the Animals 6pm crazies	15	16 7pm Council meeting	17	18 1pm Women's Prayer Group	19 7:30pm Novel Approaches	20
21 9:30am Worship Service 2pm Prairie Path Clean-up 6pm crazies VOICE articles due	22 Back Bay	23 Mission	24 Trip	25 1pm Women's Prayer Group	26	27
28 9:30am Worship Service Open choir 3pm Trunk or Treat 3pm crazies	29	30	31 Happy Halloween 		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 August 31, 2018

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	35,180	246,882	370,000
Loose Offerings	372	3,474	4,000
Rental Income	650	5,150	9,300
Fund Raising	184	2,246	4,000
Investment Income	(156)	671	300
More Property	15,000	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	7,032	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	51,231	280,455	407,600
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	15,466	144,413	230,855
Building	6,181	80,956	104,580
Loans & Notes	-00	13,375	26,750
Mission / OCWM	2,150	16,794	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	71	2,161	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	-00	814	3,000
Music	671	1,609	4,200
Worship	299	914	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	600	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	50	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	24,837	261,687	407,035
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$26,394	\$18,767	\$565

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

Web Site: www.stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10am-2pm

Friday: 9-11am

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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Director of Youth Ministry

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