

**September
2020**



of



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Pastoral Message
Pastor Allen Mothershed

When We Need a Prayer

There are times when we simply do not have the words we need when we are praying to God. Maybe we find ourselves feeling inadequate to dare and speak to God. Or perhaps it is a time when we are struggling, in pain, confused, but the words to express this simply do not come in a way that fully expresses our experience. The good news is that we do not have to have the right words. When we enter prayer, we do well to remember that God knows our heart, before a word is spoken. Sometimes just sitting in the silence and knowing that God understands us will be enough.

However, there are times when, for our own sake, we need to say to God words that adequately express our hearts. We are fortunate that we can often find the words that we need by praying from the Psalms in the Old Testament. We are not the first to experience this life and its challenges and joys. As different as the world is today from ancient times, we are connected with them by the same human emotions, desires, and fears. There is always a psalm you can find that will give you the words that you need, if you open your Bible and search for them.

I have been thinking this week about what a gift it is to have the written prayers of others. One of my favorite prayers comes from Christian tradition. It is a prayer by the great theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. The original version was, "Father, give us courage to change what must be altered, serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and the insight to know the one from the other." We know it as the Serenity Prayer, and it is spoken this way: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

I suspect this is one of the prayers many of us can find benefit in praying. Focusing on what we can do, and acknowledging what we presently do not have the power to do, is, in itself, a good exercise in both finding our power and the humility to know its limits. As I said this past week in the sermon, when we find ourselves in difficult positions, where few, if any, options seem good to get us to the next right thing, we must use the power we have and trust that God will provide a path forward.

Blessings~

Pastor Allen



September Sermons

The Way of Compassion

September 6th	Matthew 18:15-20	The Difficult Conversation: Love as Truth <i>Sometimes compassion requires conflict and saying what is difficult.</i>
September 13th	Matthew 18:21-35	The Obscenity of Ungraciousness <i>The path of compassion requires taking into account what has been done for you. We have hope when we are open to the grace God has for us.</i>
September 20th	Matthew 20:1-16	A Strange Way to Run a Business <i>Extravagant compassion.</i>
September 27th	Philippians 2:1-13	Put Yourself Aside <i>Letting go of self and finding something far better.</i>



Rally Day 2020

**Saturday, September 12th
at 4pm**

Join us for an outdoor worship service followed by socially distanced fellowship and games.

The annual Blessing of the Backpacks will take place during worship.

Bring a picnic dinner, beverage, and chairs!

St. Matthew will provide individually wrapped desserts.

Masks required.



Notes from the Music Room.....

"What a long, strange trip it's been," or so say the words of the song by the Grateful Dead. I don't think they had this summer with Covid-19 in mind when they wrote *Truckin'*. Nonetheless, that sort of sums up this summer, and if I were a betting man, I might place a wager that this strange trip will continue through the fall.

Normally we would be starting bell, choir, and praise band rehearsals at this time, looking forward to Rally Day and the start of the new church year. As it is anything but normal, there are no regular rehearsals scheduled for the groups. What is happening varies by group. The Praise Band has had one rehearsal, and a follow-up night has been scheduled to record the several pieces that they have practiced. As you have seen, when they have been at our current services, everyone is socially distanced from each other, and those not singing wore masks. Bells are a little more difficult, but you will see small quintets that have rehearsed, socially distanced, and then recorded ahead of time. This will keep the total number of people in the sanctuary to no more than 10 at any one time.

The Sanctuary Choir does not get to enjoy this type of rehearse/record setup. Because it is known that singing emits significantly more molecules than talking, and because the force of breath needed to sing spreads those molecules much farther than the six-foot social distancing, it is too much of a risk to rehearse together. However, we will be putting together more virtual choir pieces this fall. If you have sung with us for Cantata or Open Choir, please consider joining us. Here is how it works: I will send out a rehearsal track, an accompaniment track, and the music via email. You practice your part, and then record yourself singing your part while listening to the accompaniment track via earbuds or headphones. All that should be on the recording is you and your voice. Don't worry if you think you don't have a solo voice. Remember, you are not singing a solo. All recordings will be combined as you saw in the videos we did earlier this year. The finished product is a choir sound, just as if we were all together. If you are interested in taking part, even to try it, please let me know by sending me an email.

In the meantime, please stay safe, and "Just keep truckin' on." Please stay safe and healthy so we can sing together when it is safe to do so. Peace,

Jamie Jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org 630.202.6788

I know that many of you, like myself, are in need of some fellowship through music. And at this point, singing isn't an option. Might I suggest that you give handbells a try?

Here's how it would happen:

4 ringers needed = 1/corner of the room.

4 Tuesday rehearsals at 6pm or 7:30pm (Must attend 4 in a row).

Performance options are: September 13th or October 18th or
November 15th or December 20th.

Masks required.

Basic music knowledge would be helpful.

You will wipe down your own equipment prior to your use.



If you are looking for a short-term commitment and have always wanted to try handbells, Covid-19 is giving you that chance!

Email me at im2bz2p@gmail.com or text me at 309-397-9638

Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)



SCRIP orders are suspended until we resume in-person activities.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



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

Office hours are suspended until further notice.

Outdoor Worship Service



August
22nd



Mission News



Back Bay Mission

St. Matthew's annual adult mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, was scheduled for this October. After much discussion and prayerful consideration, the group decided to cancel this year's trip because of Covid concerns. As you can imagine, many other groups have also canceled their plans to help serve. However, Back Bay continues to need help. St. Matthew plans to help in the following ways:

- 1) As we have done in the past, we will collect money to help support the food pantry at BBM. You can send checks to the office marked for BBM.
- 2) New this year, you can support BBM by purchasing a brick in memory of someone. These will be used to build a walkway in front of the mission house. See more information below regarding the brick walkway campaign.

Brick Walkway In Memory of Mary Sue Wilson Fairchild



A beautiful brick walkway will be started at Back Bay Mission with the first placed bricks to be in memory of Mary Sue Wilson Fairchild, past Back Bay Mission board member. The First Congregational Church of Houston worked with Back Bay Mission to find a way to honor Mary's generous spirit for helping others. The bricks will be proudly displayed in a walkway starting

in front of the Mission House and then continuing down the sidewalk. You can participate and support Back Bay Mission by buying a brick or two or three to honor someone, commemorate a mission trip, leave an inspiring note, and so on. Help us pave a way to a stronger future and provide opportunities for those we serve. To place a brick order, please go to our dedicated webpage at www.brickrus.com/donorsite/backbaymission. If you have any questions please contact [Laura Payne](#) or [Kevin Kotula](#) by clicking on their name to send an email or calling Back Bay Mission at 228.432.0301.

ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30th.

We will use some of the money we collect to purchase bricks in honor of St. Matthew members who have passed that have helped support BBM over the years. **You may contact Mission chair, Stu Blake, at stutra@hotmail.com with any questions.** Thanks for supporting this important St. Matthew mission.



PADS

Thank you for your years of support of PADS. As you may be aware, there have been many changes to PADS in the last 5 months. We will be learning what the future of PADS will look like and will share the information when we know it. They are grateful for the generous contributions that we collected at our first outdoor worship service. Please stay tuned.

Thank you,

Julie Schubert, PADS chair, tijjr7@att.net

Family Camp 2020—Estes Park, Colorado

The YMCA of the Rockies (elevation 8,010 feet) served as home for a small group from St. Matthew this summer. We were a small group--just a dozen of us. We traveled by rail and by road with masks and hand sanitizer to experience creation more than a mile up in the mountains. As we spent time in our meeting room, beside our outdoor fire pit, enjoying a secluded campfire, and through fun activities like hiking, archery, horseback riding, and ax throwing, we reconnected with one another and strengthened the bonds of our St. Matthew family. One evening, Pastor Allen led us in Communion via Zoom. We all felt very blessed to have been able to enjoy this special time with one another, and are thankful that everyone made it back home safely.

Here is a picture of us on our last evening outside our Rocky Mountain home for the week.



Children's Ministry September 2020

What a thrill it was for me to see some of the Sunday School children at our outdoor worship service on August 22nd. It certainly was not the same as having the children gathered around me on the church steps, but it was wonderful seeing you sitting with your family and worshipping with your church family.

Rally Day will be quite different this year as we continue to keep families safe by not engaging in large gatherings. However, this does not mean that we cannot have our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" and some Rally Day fun.

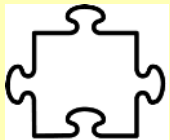


Blessing of the Backpacks: During the Saturday, September 12th worship service, children and youth, ages preschool to middle school, will be asked to stand with their backpacks. I will have the backpack tags, and Pastor Allen will bless them for the upcoming school year. We will close in prayer, asking God to be with the children, their parents, and their teachers. Each child will receive a tag that can be attached to their backpacks at home.

Blessing for educators within our congregation, and youth and young adults, high school - college. Tags for school bags, etc. will also be blessed during the service on September 12th. Please stand when asked to do so at this part of the service.

If families and educators are unable to attend the service, please let me know so we can deliver Rally Day bags and mail out educator tags.

At-home Rally Day fun fair: Each child will be given a Rally Day bag for take-home fun. It will include: minute-to-win-it games, prizes, a puzzle piece to decorate, back-to-school items and treats, motivational and scripture verses, backpack tags and more. We hope that you will celebrate Rally Day as a family at home, kicking off the Sunday School year. We will also have take-home bags for nursery-age children.



There will be a large **puzzle piece** in the Rally Day bags. I would like each child to decorate their piece, focusing on themselves: their faith, hobbies, goals, self-portrait or photo, etc. When they return to Sunday School, all the pieces will become one large puzzle on our bulletin board. Each one of us individually is important and loved by God. When the time comes to gather again for Sunday School, our puzzle will become whole as we once again worship as God's family.

Because families are involved in both e-learning and in-school learning, we want to make at-home Sunday School a fun part of the week, without being looked at as more work. I have found an online Sunday School company and am in the process of looking over their curriculum at this time. I will wait until the academic school year is well under way before introducing it to the families. An email regarding this will come in late September.

Parents, please feel free to reach out to me if you or your children need prayer at this time. I would be honored to pray to God on behalf of those who ask, and as always, anything shared will remain confidential.

Please know that St Matthew and the St. Matthew families continue to be in my prayers.

September Birthdays:

Maddie Legatzke September 18th



Susan Wold
Director of Children's Ministry



Hi all,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe.

Last month, we had a parent meeting regarding what we will be doing in the near future in crazies. **Starting September 20th, we will be meeting outside of church from 5-6:15pm. We will meet every other Sunday. The Sundays that we don't meet in-person, we will be having a Zoom meeting. This new schedule will be in effect until the end of October.**

We are walking into the unknown. We started back in March, when we didn't know the outcome of the virus. But with trust and hope in God, we know that once this is all done, we will soon see each other.

God bless! ~ Mel

Announcements

Prayer Requests



Please send prayer requests via the following links and we can share them (or keep them private, if you prefer). You can also email them to the office.

You can make a public prayer request here:

<https://www.stmatthewucc.org/joys-and-concerns>

Private prayer requests can be made here:

<https://www.stmatthewucc.org/prayer-chain>



Yoga will still be offered outdoors at St. Matthew, but with the changing weather, the times may be changing.

Currently, it is Wednesdays at 9am, but let Marla know if you are interested in any changes.

Beginners are welcome!

Donations accepted and will be given to Missions.

Contact Marla Mothershed, mmothershed63@gmail.com or 630.441.5963 to sign up.



The Men's Group continues to meet via Zoom at 8am every Tuesday morning.

We typically have eight men on the call and discussion is vigorous and usually uplifting. All men are welcome!

To get a Zoom invitation, please contact

byronmiller@ameritech.net

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.

September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, and December 13th.

Simple Communion Bread

Ingredients:

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/3 cup vegetable oil

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup water

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Mix flour, oil, and salt together in a bowl; add water and mix using a pastry cutter until dough is soft. Form dough into 6 balls and press into disks onto the prepared baking sheet using your hands.

Bake in the preheated oven until bread is cooked, 8 to 10 minutes.

While any bread or juice will do for Communion, if you like to do something creative, then try this simple communion bread recipe.



Check out the St. Matthew website

For the most up-to-date St. Matthew information, please check the St. Matthew website! You will find instructions on accessing the Sunday online service, make a prayer request, sign up for the newsletter, learn about online giving, and so much more!

<https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>



Online Sunday Worship

While we are unable to share Sunday worship as a group, please join us online for Pastor Allen's weekly message and worship service. The service will be posted by Saturday evening.

There are three ways to access Sunday worship:

Through YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StMatthewUCC>

****Once you are on YouTube, you have the option to turn on closed captioning and resize the font. Once the video is playing, click on the setting wheel in the lower-right of your screen, choose Subtitles/CC, then choose English.****

Through the St. Matthew Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmatthewucc/>
Select YouTube on the left side.

Through the St. Matthew website: <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>
Click on Full Service under the banner.



Online Giving

During this time when we cannot worship together in-person, please make an effort, if able, to continue your offerings. We are so grateful for your continued support of St. Matthew.

If you would like to give to St. Matthew UCC, you can donate in the following ways:

- **Mail a check to the church (1420 S. Gables Blvd., Wheaton, IL 60189)**
- **Online with PayPal**
 1. Simply click here to be directed to PayPal (or copy and paste): <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/donate> and click the yellow DONATE button.
 2. You will then be directed to PayPal where you can use your own personal PayPal account or a credit card to make your donation.
 3. Click on either [+Write a note \(Optional\)](#) on the first page or [+Add special instructions to recipient](#) on the "Review your donation" page. Please indicate Sunday Offering so the money gets credited to the correct account.
 4. Please include your phone number so that we may contact you if we have any questions, and your address if you would like to receive a giving statement.
- *NOTE: You will be credited for the full amount of your gift on your giving statement; however, PayPal charges a \$.30 + 2.2% fee on each transaction. St. Matthew will receive the net amount. **The minimum amount for this online contribution method is \$25.***
- **Monthly electronic donations from your checking account**

If you would like to set up monthly electronic donations, please download this form: **Electronic Donation Authorization**, fill it out, and mail it to the church. You can also scan this form, along with a voided check, and email it to financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org.

These options are also listed on the St. Matthew website: www.stmatthewucc.org

Questions can be directed to Edie DeBoard at financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org.

**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.

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