

September
2018



of



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Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

The Gift of Listening and Affirming

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to Him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in My name welcomes Me."

Matthew 18:1-5

At some point in all of our lives, we have received the amazing gift of having another person simply sit with us and give us their full attention when we most needed it. They have listened without judgment, focused completely on hearing and understanding us without worrying about what they needed to say next. We felt seen, valued, and deeply affirmed by the experience.

In a recent sermon, I referred to my experience of seeing the documentary about Fred Rogers, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" I was surprised by my emotional response to seeing the way he could enter into the emotional world of a child (or anyone for that matter). His heart was tender and vulnerable, and yet strong and wise. Even enemies or those who were angry were disarmed by the intentional way he heard and affirmed them.

We do not think of such people as powerful and strong. We might even look at someone like Fred Rogers and say he is a weakling. But in the movie, the affirmation of Mr. Rogers by those who knew him and were witness to his life was that he was one of the most powerful people they had ever encountered.

Jesus said that unless we become like children we cannot enter the kingdom of God. It takes the trust, the vulnerability, the openness of a child to receive the gift of grace and forgiveness that God gives.

What would it mean for us to slow down, stop being distracted, stop judging and attempting to fix other people, and just listen and affirm them? What would it mean for each of us to be open to receiving that from others and from the Spirit of Jesus, who hears our prayers and deeply loves and affirms us?

-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 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 meet Wednesday nights, September 19th, 26th, and October 3rd, at 7pm in the St. Matthew parlor.

Our September presenters are:

September 19th - **Sally Miller** is an ordained United Church of Christ pastor serving as a hospital chaplain. Sally grew up Roman Catholic, became Evangelical, and then a part of the United Church of Christ at First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn where she discerned a call to ordained ministry.

September 26th - **Lauri Teagan** is an active Jewish laywoman who teaches confirmation at her synagogue, Congregation Etz Chaim, in Lombard. She will share the Jewish experience of claiming their identity as a unique religious community, while living in the larger culture.

Fall Scripture Series

On Being Family: Coming Together as the People of God

We begin the new program year by considering what it means to live as a family. The focus will be both on what that means as a church family as well as the challenge of loving in our homes and extended family.

September 9th - Rally Sunday *Luke 6:27-36*

"On Loving When It Is Hard to Love"

September 16th *James 2:1-7*

"Who Gets the Best Seat Around Here?: On handling privilege"

September 23rd *Luke 15:11-32*

"Is Forgiveness Beyond Us?"

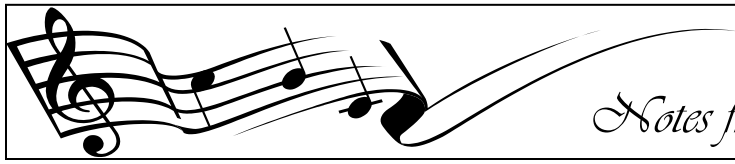
September 30th *Philippians 1:21-30*

"When Everyone Matters"

October 7th - World Communion Sunday *John 3:1-3*

"How Many Children Are Too Many?"





Notes from the Music Room.....

Welcome back from vacation! I hope it was fun and relaxing, and now you are ready for the new church year.

Rehearsals just started last week, so it is a good time to come out and join us. Singers, ringers, strummers (guitar), blowers (brass), bangers (percussion) etc., are wanted. Any time is good to join, but everyone is in the same place at the beginning of the year. Rehearsal times are as follows:

**WEEKLY REHEARSAL
SCHEDULE**

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers

6pm

Chancel Ringers

7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band

6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir

7:30pm

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. Finally, our Open Choir Sing was again a success, so we are continuing that option. Open Choir dates are the last Sunday of the month, with the exception of December and May. December Open Choir is on the 23rd and May Open Choir is on the 19th.

There is one additional Open Choir Sing on September 9th for Rally Day. Rally Day kicks off the year for music and Christian Education. We have been asked to reprise "Old Church Choir" with the children, which was our last Open Choir Sing selection. We will start singing at 8:50am.

Thank you to those who have shared music for our worship this summer. You made our worship that much more blessed.

Peace to All,

Jamie

630-202-6788

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

Pennies From Heaven

SCRIP (MANNA) Program

It's back-to-school time! Get school supplies through our SCRIP program at places like Office Depot, Best Buy, Target, Walmart, Meijer, and many shoe and clothing retailers.

By the end of September, we'll be through 3 quarters of the year. We have a **\$4,000** budget line for fundraising, but through mid-August, we've made only **\$1,670**.

THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU SHOP EVERY WEEK, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR YOUR GROCERIES AND GAS, AND BUY THOSE CARDS! We need everyone's help.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 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



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



September is a fifth Sunday month at the DuPage Convalescent Center!

Sunday, September 30th is a 5th Sunday at the DuPage Convalescent Center. Can you volunteer some time to help residents get to worship and also enjoy their company? Arrive

about 9:45am and be done before noon. If you can help, please contact John Adams at jadams1958@gmail.com.

Food on the First

Thanks to those who donated in August.

Here is what is needed in September:

- 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.

Foods Resource Bank

St. Matthew is once again sponsoring acreage in Forrest, Illinois, which will be planted, harvested and 100% of the proceeds used to help poor areas in the world learn how to grow crops to sustain themselves. This is not a handout but a hand-up. Please stop by the table in the narthex and see for yourself how your contribution can multiply and help stop the hunger in less fortunate areas around the world. We need your help. Sponsorships are accepted for as little as 1/8 acre

or \$31. Full acres can be sponsored for \$250 each, and you have until the end of September to pay. Please contact Terry Young with questions or for more information.

Please consider how you can help the hungry people in the world.



PADS ALERT

After a summer respite, St. Matthew's PADS commitment will resume in September.

As usual, we will be working the site at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard on the second Wednesday night/Thursday morning of each month, through next May.



Filling the staff and food requirements takes A LOT of volunteers! Please look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex and consider helping out this season.

Any questions, please contact the PADS committee: Tracey Blake, Wendy Fanning, or Lynn Thornton. Many thanks!

Digital Ministry News

What is social media? It's following a company or celebrity on Twitter. It's displaying pictures to your relatives using Snapchat or Instagram. It's organizing ideas and future projects on Pinterest. It's sharing your adventures with friends on Facebook through messages and photos.



We need your help in spreading the word about St. Matthew. If you use Google as your search engine to find St. Matthew online, you get a link to our website. To the right of this link, there is a box known as "Google My Business" which has a section for Google reviews. We need more reviews there to increase the St. Matthew visibility when using the Google search engine. If you have a Google email account, please use the following

link to give us a review. If you are short on words, you can rate us just using a 1-5 star system (and we're hoping for 5 stars!).

<https://tinyurl.com/y9aycblb>



We could also use some additional reviews on Facebook. Please use this Facebook link to help spread the word about St. Matthew. You will need a Facebook account to give us a review.

<https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewUCCWheaton>

Rally Day Fun Fair

Hosted by St. Matthew United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 9th
9:30am Church Service and Blessing of the Backpacks
10:30am-12:30pm FUN FAIR!
Bring the whole family!

Bounce House!
Face Painting!
Bake Sale!
Fun Food!
Games!
Prizes!

St. Matthew United Church of Christ
1420 S. Gables Blvd., Wheaton

630.665.1236
facebook.com/stmatthewuccwheaton
office@stmatthewucc.org

BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR RALLY DAY



Please join us for the Blessing of the Backpacks followed by Rally Day on Sunday, September 9th. Please invite your family and friends to join us as we enjoy committee booths and a bake sale and the kids have fun with games, sno-cones, face painting and the moon jump!

Donations to the bake sale would be appreciated before the church service on September 9th. Please package your goods on individual plates ready for sale. Proceeds of the sale will help Christian Education pay for the rental of the moon jump and the sno-cone machine. Thank you for your help!



Children's Ministry



I look forward to seeing all of the children on **September 9th** for the **Blessing of the Backpacks and the Rally Day Fun Fair**. This is such a fun way to kick off the new Sunday School year.

-Rally Day Fun Fair: Following worship we will have an all-church fun fair with a bake sale, sno-cones, popcorn, snacks, games, prizes, bounce house and face painting. Each ministry of the church will have a table, with a game. As parents browse the ministry tables the children can play games and win prizes.

-Blessing of the Backpacks: During the worship service the children will bring their backpacks and school bags forward to receive a special blessing for the upcoming school year. All St. Matthew educators will also be invited forward to receive a blessing for their upcoming school year. All will receive a blessing tag to hang on their backpacks and school bags.



DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BACKPACK!

September 16th is our Sunday School leader dedication, the start of Workshop Rotation and the first day of the Sunday School 11am dismissal time.



-Workshop Rotation: Sunday School Workshop Rotation begins 9/16, along with the 11am dismissal time. The children will once again gather together during worship for a children's sermon that follows the lectionary. Upstairs we share a time of Blessings and Bumpers and begin learning the new songs that will be sung during worship at a later date. Following that, they will go with their shepherd leader to their workshop, which will focus on a Bible lesson and rotate each week. Parents will have a few minutes before the children are dismissed to spend time with other adults in Dobstaff Hall. Coffee and snacks are served at that time. Younger children who are not picked up by a parent will be brought downstairs by a shepherd leader, so feel free to remain visiting in Dobstaff Hall. Older children are released to go to Dobstaff on their own.

-Teacher/Shepherd/M&M Leader Dedication: During the morning worship we will share a blessing and dedication, asking God to be with our Children's Ministry educators.



We are in need of individually wrapped snacks for our Children's Worship time upstairs.

Some ideas: fruit snacks, crackers, goldfish, pretzels, veggie sticks, etc. You can put the snacks in my office or bring them upstairs.



© Can Stock Photo

A big THANK YOU to Deb Felsenthal, Kenna Anderson, Dawn Schubert and Erin Walsh for being the children's Summer Sunday School leader while I was out of town.



September Birthday:

September 18th Madi Legatzke

-Susan Wold, Children's Ministry



Moments Together and Memories Forever

M&M, Moments together and Memories Forever sign-up begins on Rally Day Sunday. Visit the Christian Education table to sign up, get information and receive a bag of M&Ms.

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

During the year, events will be planned by the M&M coordinator. These events include snacks, ice-breaker games, mission projects, crafts, and more.

We hope that you will sign up for this fun program. It is a great way to make new friends within our church family. Children (preschool-6th grade) and adult men and women of all ages are welcome. Sign-up begins on Rally Day at the Christian Education table and will continue throughout the early fall. Partners will be notified with the pairing date and each following get-together.

**If you have any questions, please contact Miegan Bresingham
630.865.5196, msbres@yahoo.com**

Announcements and Events

crazies

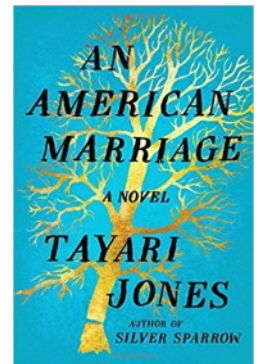
As we adjust to life A.Q. (after Quinn), we want to reassure everyone that our search for a Youth Director replacement is underway, and we are actively

interviewing candidates. We know that change can be difficult, but we want the youth to know that they are respected and valued, and we want their youth program to be strong and vibrant. In the interim, Allen will be leading Confirmation. Allen, Dawn, and some other adults will be covering crazies. Parental involvement will be key, but we also need others who can lend a helping hand with supervision and the occasional meal. Please contact Allen, Dawn, or Kenna if you can help.

NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in September is "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones.

"This book asks hard questions about injustice and betrayal and answers them with a heartbreaking story in which nobody is wrong and everybody is wounded. Tayari Jones has written a complex novel about people trapped in a tragic situation, struggling to reconcile their responsibilities and desires." (Tom Perrotta)

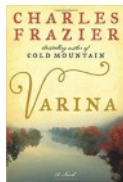


The Place: Char & Bob Cooper's, 422 W. Evergreen, Wheaton

The Date: Friday, September 21st at 7:30pm

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

LOOKING AHEAD: "Varina" by Charles Frazier, "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate



Dear St. Matthew family,

Mom and I would like to say thank you to everyone for all of the prayers, cards, calls, food and visits. This year has been a most trying one for the two of us. Having all the love and support has made these difficult times easier to get through. Thanks again and may God bless you all.

-Ruth and Betty Greer

September 2018

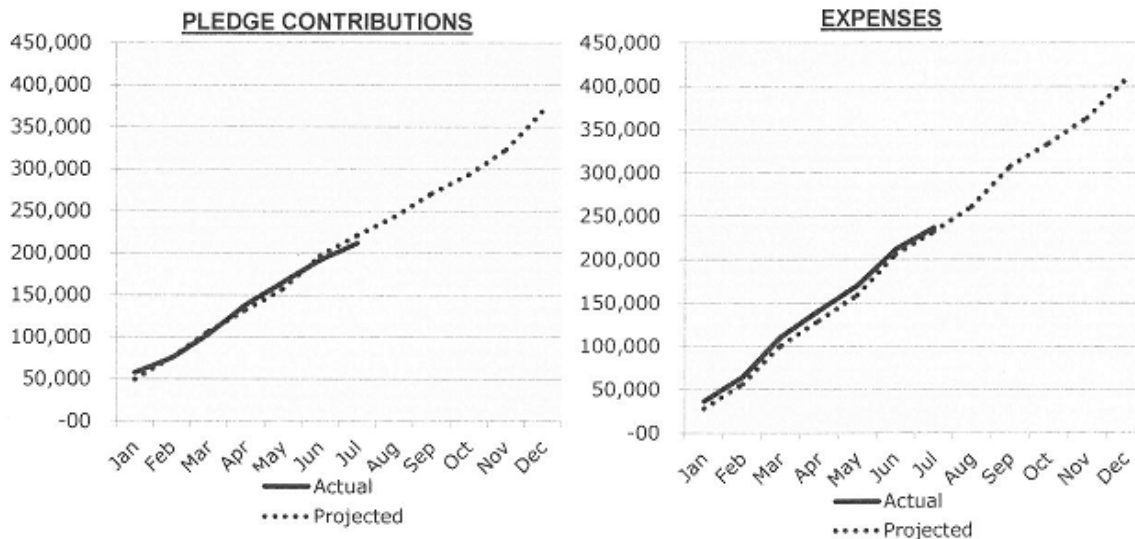
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies	3 Labor Day Office closed	4	5	6 1pm Women's Prayer Group	7	8
9 9:30am Worship Service Blessing of the Backpacks Rally Day Fun Fair 6pm crazies	10	11	12 PADS	13 1pm Women's Prayer Group	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Service Teacher Dedication 2pm Prairie Path Clean-Up 6pm crazies	17	18 12:30pm Digital Ministry meeting	19 7pm Adult Ed	20 1pm Women's Prayer Group	21 7:30pm Novel Approaches	22
23 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies VOICE articles due	24 6:30pm Dinner outing at Mullen's	25	26 7pm Adult Ed	27 1pm Women's Prayer Group	28	29
30 9:30am Worship Service Open Choir 9:45 5th Sunday at Convalescent Center 6pm crazies		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene- Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNES- DAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir			

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

For the Period Ending July 31, 2018

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	19,847	211,701	370,000
Loose Offerings	593	3,102	4,000
Rental Income	650	4,500	9,300
Fund Raising	198	2,062	4,000
Investment Income	1,475	1,920	300
More Property	-00	-00	15,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	7,032	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	22,764	230,318	407,600
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	16,135	128,947	230,855
Building	8,022	74,775	104,580
Loans & Notes	-00	13,375	26,750
Mission / OCWM	500	14,644	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	324	2,091	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	50	814	3,000
Music	-00	939	4,200
Worship	-00	615	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	600	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	50	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	25,031	236,850	407,035
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	<u>\$(2,267)</u>	<u>\$(6,532)</u>	<u>\$565</u>

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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