

November
2019



of



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Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

Our Digital Self Versus Our Body Self

I am a gadget guy. My attention is easily captured by news articles parading the newest technological developments. I feel rather shallow confessing this slight obsession and distraction. But it's true, I am impressed by innovation, especially new phones with fantastic battery life or extraordinary cameras superior to many SLR cameras. I'm drawn to simplicity and elegant design, maybe because I'm not so technologically savvy. You have to keep it simple for me.

Recently, the Apple credit card took over my thoughts until I applied for one. This seemed to be a no-brainer: no late fees, annual fees, or international fees, lower interest rates, a running account of spending color-coded with graphs, and payments made with a click of a button. I'm overlooking my concern that a massive corporation is attempting to suck up even more power and wealth.

I worry about that. I wonder if we will find a way to break up such power and make sure such companies attend to the common good, like paying a fair share of taxes, paying their people a just wage, and caring for the environment. But hey, I do not want to miss out, and this innovation is rather brilliant. Brilliance and convenience draw me in.

More concerning is how depersonalized we are becoming with new technology and social media. Recently, I read a New York Times commentary by Bianca Vivian Brooks. On her blog she had amassed, for almost a decade, a large number of followers. She reached a point where she realized it had to end. Her private life was being sacrificed for her public one. Her digital self was minimizing her body self. She says, "Social media is no longer a mere public extension of our private socialization; it has become a replacement for it. What happens to our humanity when we relegate our real lives to props for the performance of our virtual ones?"

(continued)

It's a warning for us not to lose the essential self that is incarnated in a body that can be seen, known, and hugged. When someone laughs, I want to hear it and join the laughter, not type LOL. When someone cries, I want to hand them a tissue, not type a sad face meme on a computer. We are flesh and blood, and we do not fully encounter each other until we are present with our whole self.

John's gospel begins with an amazing affirmation of our body self. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." We are not a spirit up in the sky or electronic data on a server. May our "word" not be disembodied and lost as electronic pulses in the never-lands of the web, but embodied in living and breathing, flesh and blood in relationship to each other.

Peace, Pastor Allen

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Honoring the Past

Celebrating the Present

Looking Forward to the Future

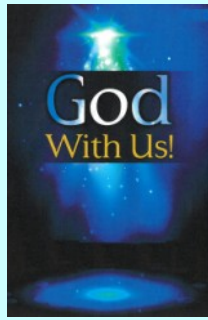
We only conduct one such campaign per year to solicit pledges that fund our annual operating budget and to seek volunteers for the many Church ministries and activities. All of the money used to operate the church, pay our dedicated staff, and support those in need comes from confidential donations by our members and friends. Stewardship packets have been mailed, which contain a pledge card and a *Giving at St. Matthew* document to help individuals and families discern their contribution. **Pledge cards can be returned during the service on November 10th (Commitment Sunday) or mailed to the church office.**

We ask that you give generously and with a gracious heart.

We continue to live out our statement, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome and accepted here." Thanks for being a part of our unique Christian community in Wheaton and our surrounding communities. You are making a difference!



Notes from the Music Room....



Cantata rehearsals have begun. We will perform "God With Us" on December 8th during Worship.

There are two more Open Choir dates this year. We hope you can join us on November 17th and December 1st.

Sanctuary Choir and Praise Band continue to grace our worship, but as always, we need more voices, even once in a while. We practice far enough ahead that missing a rehearsal or two will not mean you can't join us that particular Sunday. Please come out and sing with us and enjoy the fellowship that happens.

Peace to All and a Happy Thanksgiving,

Jamie

630-202-6788

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers

6pm

Chancel Ringers

7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band

6:30pm

Cantata Rehearsal

7:30pm

Sanctuary Choir

8:30pm

Worship

The Parables of Judgment Worship Series

This month, we will continue focusing on the Parables of Jesus, with a special focus on the ones which have something to say about judgment. A challenge parable makes you uneasy. It takes your absolute political, economic, religious, and social assumptions and tells you a story from the opposite direction that just might change your perspective. Be sure to join us for this series.

November 3rd: Luke 12:13-21
"Playing the Fool"

November 17th: Hebrews 11:39-12:3
"So Great a Crowd of Witnesses"

November 10th: Matthew 13:44-46
"Today is Your Lucky Day"

November 24th: Matthew 25:31-46
"Where Are We Going?"

Pennies From Heaven

It's that time of year again—the Stewardship campaign— and we'd like you to think about taking a step up in your giving. If that seems difficult for you to do, consider using the SCRIP program to get the retailers to donate to our church. **Make your money stretch!** Every time you buy a card, you get full value AND the retailers give a donation to St. Matthew.

DON'T THINK OF THE SCRIP CARDS AS GIFT CARDS, BUT AS ANOTHER FORM OF CASH. Use them where you shop **every week**, even if it's only for your **groceries** and **gas**. Are you hosting Thanksgiving this year? Stock up on grocery cards! Check out the order form on our website's "Donate" page to see the hundreds of retailers that are in this program.

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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Karen Rudnik |
| 3 | Betty Luessenhop |
| 8 | Pastor Allen
Mothershed |
| 11 | Joe Hall |
| 14 | Dianne Hutchison
Rick Jungk |
| 23 | Kristine Schroer |
| 28 | Lindsay Christensen
Ryan Christensen
Betty Greer |



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

MARIAN PARK CHRISTMAS STORE



St. Matthew will continue our ongoing support for Marian Park's residents by holding our annual Christmas Store in early December. Like last year, we will be asking St. Matthew members to purchase items that many of the Marian Park residents rely on to care for their families/households. Please watch for our "Giving Tree" in the narthex which will be going up in early November.

We'd ask that you choose one or more items listed on the tree which will be donated to Marian Park for use at the store. You will find that most of the items listed are things that we find common in everyday life, such as household supplies, grooming items (lotion, shampoo, soaps, etc.), diapers, wipes, adult undergarments, and paper products (toilet paper/towels). Unfortunately, such necessities are not eligible for purchase by the Marian Park residents with their SNAP benefits, so our supply of such products is truly helpful.

We will also need 10-15 members of the congregation to help run the store at Marian Park in December.

Additional details will follow. If you have any questions please contact Liz Westergaard at lizzzz742@yahoo.com or John Adams at jadams1958@gmail.com.

Food on the First

Thanks to those who donated in October!

Here is what is needed in November:

For the holidays:

- Canned pumpkin
- Canned green beans
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned corn—not creamed
- Stuffing
- Soap
- Baby wipes
- Shaving cream
- Feminine pads (no tampons)
- Disposable razors
- Shampoo
- Diapers—any size

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

Prairie Path clean-up #4 is but a memory. Thanks to Lee Anderson, Rod Irey, Dave Johnson, and Dawn Schubert for their efforts. See you all next year!



NEW MEN'S GROUP



A new men's group will begin on Tuesday, November 12th. It will meet on Tuesday mornings from 8-9am. All men of the church are welcome. We will propose a topic each time but conversation may take an unexpected direction. Our objective is to

build community and encourage men in their role as husbands, fathers, and members of the community. Coffee and treats will be served. Contact Byron Miller with questions.

crazies

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His love endures forever. Psalms 107: 1**

Crazies are thankful this month to raise awareness about homelessness. On Saturday, November 2nd, they will participate in Sleep out Saturday! We are collecting donations to support Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program. Donations can be made here: <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/group102>.

November meeting dates:

November 2nd—Sleep Out Saturday

November 3rd—No crazies

November 10th—crazies at 6pm

November 17th—crazies at 6pm

November 24th—No crazies



Happy Thanksgiving from the crazies!

-Mel Jerome, Youth Director

Meet Jean Wescher!

We are pleased to welcome Jean Wescher as our new Business Manager. Jean began work at St. Matthew on September 23rd and she will work two days per week (generally Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Jean is a neighbor and friend of Rob and Janella Holshouser. She was referred to us for the job by them. Jean currently lives in Carol Stream, and she and her husband have two children. Emma is 7 and Jackson is 5, and Jackson recently started kindergarten.

Jean grew up in the Schaumburg area, and her most recent job was at a church in Schaumburg. Her prior work experience includes several years as the catering manager for the Chicago Hilton downtown.

During her years at the Hilton, Jean began running with a group of co-workers and continued to develop a love of running. Jean ran cross country in high school but had not run or trained for marathons. She recently completed her 23rd marathon, which includes two 50K runs and an ultra-marathon of 50+ miles.

Jean has replaced Alicia Drabik, who left in early August to accept a full-time position at Franklin Middle School. Welcome, Jean!



Congregational Life/Membership News

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars and Sign Up!



Movie Night at St. Matthew – We will show a Christmas-themed movie appropriate for all ages and provide snacks on **Sunday, December 8th at 4pm**. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the coming weeks.



Pickleball – We are planning our next Pickleball event and are currently targeting **Saturday, January 11th** at the Warrenville Park District. A sign-up sheet and additional information will be in the narthex closer to the event.



Additional Events – We will plan a breakfast/lunch outing after church in January or February. Our annual Wafflepalooza will be planned for March.



*Honoring the Past
Celebrating the Present
Looking Forward to the Future*
St. Matthew United Church of Christ

Please join us in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of St. Matthew United Church of Christ on Sunday, November 17th during and after the service.

Our church family has come a long way since our founding members began meeting in a warming shelter in Wheaton in 1959. The warm and welcoming message established by our early members led to growth – resulting in two additions to the original church building and the construction of our 'new' sanctuary in 1989.

During the service on November 17th, we will pay tribute to our founding members and learn how St. Matthew has affected the lives of many.

After the service, we will convene in Dobstaff Hall to enjoy brunch, a slideshow, the presentation of artifacts from our history, and play some St. Matthew trivia.

The main dish for the brunch will be provided by Membership/Congregational Life. We invite members and guests to bring a side to share (pastries, breads, bagels or fruit).

Please sign up in the narthex by November 10th or call/email Dani de Leon in the office to let us know how many are attending and what you'd like to bring.

As one might expect for an occasion such as a 60th anniversary, our celebration will include special music. The combined choir and handbell ensembles will open the day with an exciting arrangement of "Surely, the Presence of the Lord," commissioned from composer Joel Raney for St. Matthew's 50th anniversary. The congregation will also join in singing during this energetic start to worship. Both groups will also present music thematically tied to the founding of the congregation and Jesus as the foundation of our community, and the band will lead a rousing close to the service.

As part of the celebration, a newly-composed hymn tune will be sung. The tune, composed by organist Brian Dobbelaere, is called "St. Matthew's Double." The name is obviously a reference to the place of its inception, but there was already an existing hymn tune called "St. Matthew," so the metrical length – 8.7.8.7 D, the "D" meaning double – was added. The tune was conceived as an alternate melody to the two principal tunes St. Matthew frequently uses with interchangeable hymn texts selected to match scriptural themes. This new song will actually be used throughout November as a celebration month, using the hymn "God of Love, We Sing Your Glory" by hymn writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. We have sung many of her hymns in worship. They have a strong social justice perspective and a rich scriptural poeticism, both of which seem to fit our congregation so well.

We hope that bells, choir, and praise band will lift our congregational spirits as we honor the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future and another 60 years and more at St. Matthew.

Children's Ministry

Thank you **Dawn Schubert, Deb Felsenthal, Patti Woods, Marla Mothershed, Leslie Ortman, and Kenna Anderson** for teaching our Creation "God's Work in Progress" unit. Thank you also to all the youth who come up week after week to shepherd the children. A thank you to **Miegan Bresingham and Sarah Muntz** for getting the M&M program up and running for the 2019/2020 Sunday School year.



Thank you to everyone who decorated cars and donated candy to our **Annual Trunk or Treat** on Sunday, October 27th. Thank you to **Kerin Sancken and Lisa Miller** for leading the **Christian Ed portion** and to **Congregational Life and Membership** for all your work making this a fun, safe event for the children from St. Matthew and the neighboring community.

Our **Noah Rotation** goes from November 3rd through November 24th. The people of Noah's time broke God's heart with their evil ways. In Noah, God found a man who respected God and lived a righteous life. As painful as it was for God to destroy creation, God's heart still had hope because of Noah. Children learn that sin separates us from God and God grieves. Thankfully, God always desires reunion with us and provides us a path to a fresh start. Through the **Game** workshop, children make decisions about how to obey and respect limits and learn what it means to live like Noah and please God. Through a **scriptless drama**, children learn how Noah faithfully built the ark and how they too can put their faith in action. In the **Art** workshop, children learn what a covenant is and create a "Rainbow Promise" t-shirt to wear as a reminder of their ongoing part in God's covenant. In the **Movie** workshop, the children will watch the Noah story and, of course, eat popcorn.



In Children's Choir the children will begin learning their Christmas songs.



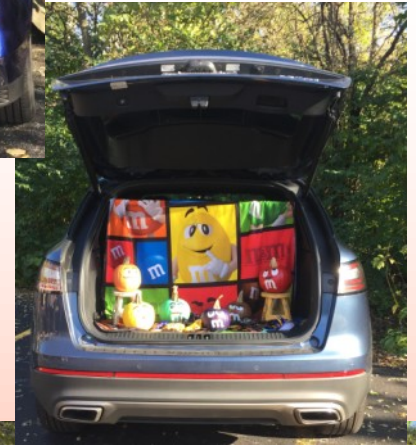
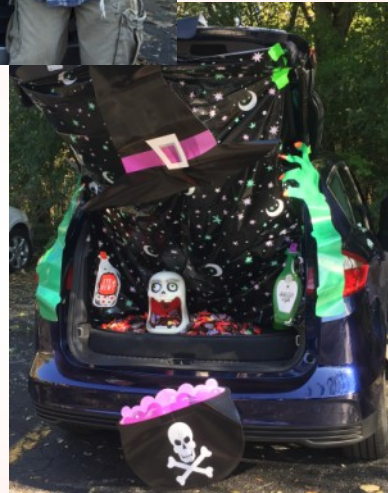
November Birthdays:
Kyle Bresingham
Fiona Chapple
Parker Holshouser
Kaela Leimberer
Kayla Lindberg
Avery Scalora

-Susan Wold, Children's Ministry Director

Trunk or Treat!



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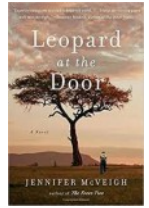




Announcements and Events

NOVEL APPROACHES

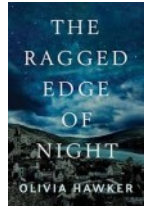
The novel to be approached in November is "Leopard at the Door" by Jennifer McVeigh. "A novel set in Kenya in the 1950's against the fading backdrop of the British Empire, it is a story of self-discovery, betrayal, and an impossible love." (Google Books)



The Date: Friday, November 22nd at 7:30pm

The Place: Marilyn Giese's, 2572 Westminster Lane, Aurora

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



LOOKING AHEAD: "The Ragged Edge of Night" by Olivia Hawker

YOGA CLASSES



Thursday, November 7th, 14th, and 21st from 10-11am.

\$10 donation per class with all proceeds going to the Missions Fund. This is a gentle class, appropriate for all.

*Contact Marla Mothershed, mmothershed63@gmail.com
630.441.5963.*

The 23rd Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser will be held this year on **Saturday, November 9th** from 7:30-11am at St. Paul Lutheran Church.



Dawn Schubert has these \$5 tickets, and she would be happy to sell them to YOU. Please join us for breakfast. We have many fabulous raffle baskets and Silent Auction items as well.

2019 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.

Remaining 2019 VOICE deadlines: Typically the second to last Sunday of the month, with exception of December.

November 17th and December 15th.



Congratulations,
Rev. Tyler Spellious!



Tyler wearing the stole given to him by Pastor Allen



Tyler Spellious with Emily Davis, former
St. Matthew Youth Minister

Tyler Spellious, who served as a summer intern at St. Matthew while attending the Chicago Theological Seminary, celebrated his ordination as a minister on October 20th in his home church, First Congregational UCC in Moline. Edie DeBoard and Lee Staton attended the ceremony on behalf of our congregation. Tyler has been called to serve the United Church of Byron, Illinois (southwest of Rockford).

We wish him well!



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

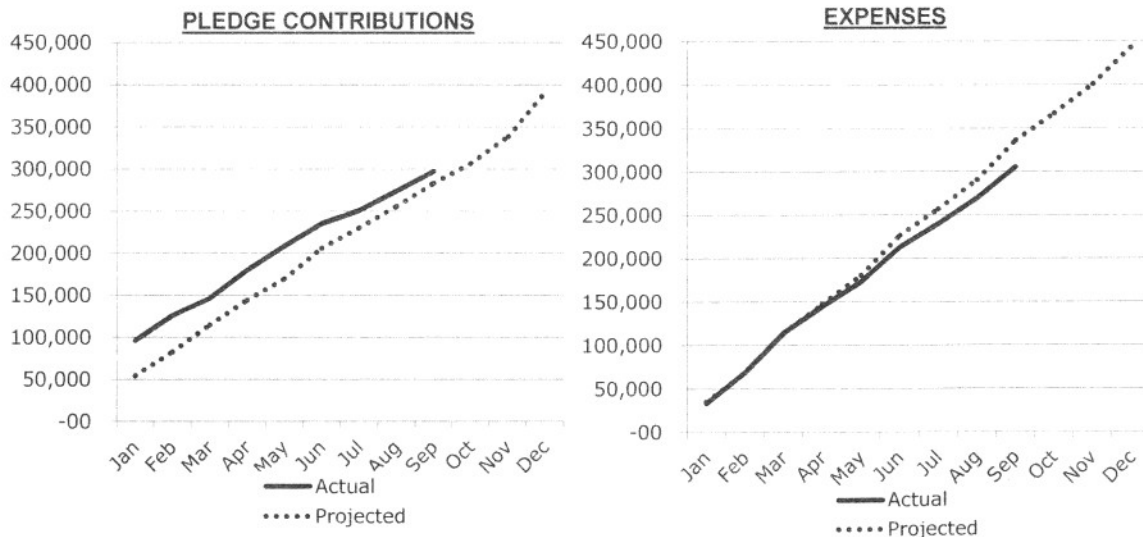
		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm IntergeneRingers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:45pm Praise Band 7:30pm Cantata 8:30pm Sanctuary Choir		1 7pm Euchre	2 5pm wedding crazies Sleep Out Saturday
3 9:30am Worship Communion, Bells NO crazies Daylight Saving Time Ends	4	5 7:30pm Missions mtg.	6 1pm Women's Prayer Group	7 10am Yoga	8	9
10 9:30am Worship Commitment Sunday 6pm crazies	11 Veterans Day 	12 LifeLine Screening 8am Men's Group	13 1pm Women's Prayer Group PADS	14 10am Yoga	15	16
17 9:30am Worship Bells, Open Choir Anniversary brunch Voice articles due 6pm crazies	18	19 8am Men's Group 6pm SRC 7pm Council	20 1pm Women's Prayer Group	21 10am Yoga	22 7:30pm Novel Approaches	23
24 9:30am Worship No crazies	25	26 8am Men's Group	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving 	29 Office closed	30

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

For the Period Ending September 30, 2019

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	23,109	297,212	391,001
Loose Offerings	375	6,107	5,000
Rental Income	850	7,150	10,500
Fund Raising	184	1,467	2,001
Investment Income	14	1,519	300
More Property	-00	-00	20,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	5,375	1,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	24,533	318,830	429,802
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	18,928	174,997	248,522
Building	6,589	81,660	123,050
Loans & Notes	6,688	20,063	26,750
Mission / OCWM	1,000	19,200	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	(22)	5,239	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	133	1,745	3,000
Music	117	2,080	4,895
Worship	9	243	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	33,441	305,226	444,166
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$(8,908)	\$13,604	\$(14,364)

2019 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

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