

# THE VOICE OF

# St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.  
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189

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February 2014

## Should the Church Be Political?

An increasing number of Americans, church goers and non-church goers, are calling for a greater separation between church and state. Many believe that the business of the church is to stay out of politics and focus only on spiritual matters. This opinion is understandable when you consider the increased divisions that have plagued the church and the scandalous ways, over the past several decades, churches and some powerful church leaders have acted. The church has found that political involvement, especially the raising of money for political campaigns or advocating for one candidate or one party over another has blemished the church's image in the world.

My belief is that we are wise to learn from the negative experience of the church's involvement in politics. If we look back to the Middle Ages, we have much evidence about the ways political involvement can corrupt the church. In our own time, many of the tactics and the hard stances of church leaders on a variety of issues have made the church's witness to be unmerciful and judgmental, effectively turning people off to a church that is called to be "a light to the world."

The other side of this issue is that the church has at times been a powerful witness in the social and political world. Members of our own denomination (especially the Congregationalists) were deeply involved in the abolition movement, women's suffrage, and the civil rights movement. The church became involved because of our convictions that Jesus is to be Lord not only of our personal lives, but also the whole of our lives, including the political and social. We also read the scriptures (the Hebrew Bible and Jesus) as clearly speaking prophetically to issues of justice and peace.

The church has for centuries understood that our role as Christians is not only to practice charity and do acts of charity, but also to confront the injustice and evil in our world that cause needless suffering and strife.

The question is: how do we involve ourselves in a way that does not lead to a negative witness or allow the power of politics to corrupt and divide us? It is essential that we do not become partisan. Neither the Democratic party agenda nor the Republican agenda are the same as the church's agenda. We believe all political parties are imperfect and struggle, as every human being does, with their own bent towards sinning. Even when we judge one party or another, offering a solution that we believe to be a positive move towards justice and peace, we do well to remind ourselves that while we may find helpful common ground, our allegiance is to God's justice and not the political party. We also do well to remember that just as each political party is caught in brokenness, so are we. We are to speak the truth as we know it and to work to bring positive change that will alleviate suffering caused by unfair laws or immoral government budgets. But we are to speak with the humility that we are never absolutely right in our conclusions. Within the church, we will at times strongly disagree with one another. We are wise to show great humility with one another in our disagreements. Our being very prayerful and reflective is the most important way we can do our best to allow the compassion of our faith to generate loving outcomes when we speak out in the political and social world around us. Only by being turned towards the light of Christ in prayer and meditation can we speak in a way that reveals that light to the world.

*Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Allen*



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 1  | Kevin Cole             |
| 2  | Taylor Holland         |
|    | Tim Schubert           |
| 4  | Charles Hambrick-Stowe |
|    | Lee Staton             |
| 5  | Alberta Fine           |
|    | Pam Vargo              |
| 6  | Bruce Anderson         |
|    | Linnea Karpenske       |
| 7  | Kim Naydenoff          |
| 10 | Elizabeth Baird        |
|    | Tom Barker             |
|    | Marilyn Geise          |
|    | Kirk Stubbee           |
| 11 | Charlene Cooper        |
| 12 | Stuart Blake           |
| 13 | Andrew Sorgatz         |
| 14 | Daniel McGrath         |
|    | Amber Quinn Spicer     |
| 16 | Courtney Christensen   |
|    | Lee Craig              |
| 19 | Abby Johnson           |
| 21 | Mike Starr             |
| 22 | Carl Anderson          |
|    | Tom Macauley           |
|    | Karl Miller            |
| 24 | Liliana King           |
| 25 | Joyce Boyd             |
|    | Tony Kresl             |
|    | Amanda Starr           |
| 26 | Tracey Blake           |
|    | Cathy Miller           |
|    | Carol Mittman          |
| 27 | Dan Cetina             |

## A new era for *The Voice*: Opt-in for mailed copy

We are about to enter a new era with *The Voice*, made possible by technology and promoting both environmental consciousness and cost savings. This edition will be the last bulk mailing of the newsletter. Beginning with the March issue, to continue receiving *The Voice* by mail, you will need to express that preference to Diana in the church office (630.665.1236 or office@stmatthewucc.org) and she will be happy to send it to you. Otherwise, copies will be available for pick-up in the narthex or online on the church website.

Sending out copies on request will reduce mailing costs, which have run more than \$300 per year for the newsletter alone. In addition, if you choose to access *The Voice* online instead of picking up a hard copy, we will adjust the number of copies printed to reduce the amount of paper and printing supplies used. Over the course of a year, printing the newsletter takes almost 10,000 sheets of paper – close to 20 reams – in addition to toner and other supplies. If you anticipate reading the newsletter online instead of in hard copy, please let Diana know so she can adjust the number of copies printed.

If you have questions or concerns about this new approach, please speak with Pastor Allen, Diana, or a member of the church staff or church council. Otherwise, we look forward to continuing to highlight the life of the church through a new 21<sup>st</sup> century *Voice*!

--submitted by Lee Staton





## Notes from the Music Room.....

One month of the new year is already behind us. January's cold has been brutal on all of us; I pray that things haven't been too difficult on you and your family.

I haven't mentioned this for a while: your Music Ministry needs you! With winter vacations, moves, school, and work conflicts, the number of participants in the Sanctuary Choir and Praise Band is down. Both singers and musicians are needed. Even if you don't read music, if you can carry a tune we can teach you the music. I know time can be tight with family and work commitments, but your church family needs you, too. If you are high school age or older, everyone is welcome.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for the praise band and 7:30 p.m. for the choir. Anyone who has joined us for the Christmas Cantatas can tell you that while the rehearsal is fast-paced, it is also fun at the same time.

Please join us.

*Yours in Christ through Song,*

*Jamie Craig*

# crazies

St. Matthew UCC

crazies dinners- the students love it, and it's also a good way for you to show your support of the youth ministry!

One or two Sundays a year at 6 p.m., would you please consider cooking and bringing a meal to crazies (estimate around 10-15 students)? I buy pizza every now and then, and we always have snacks available, but the students really enjoy a home-cooked meal sometimes. Feel free to sign up and bring your favorite recipe. I'll send you an email reminder that week. The youth budget can cover the cost of ingredients, just give Mark a receipt and we'll refund you.

Please contact Mark Restaino at [mark.restaino@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:mark.restaino@stmatthewucc.org) or call the office if you're interested in making a meal.

## crazies SHOUT OUT

In the beginning of January, during the students' Christmas break, crazies went on a two-night winter retreat to Dickson Valley. On the retreat, we went tubing, rock climbed, played laser tag and broom-ball, worked together as a team in a challenge course, and grew closer to God during morning and evening devotions. Lessons this month included "Blood" and "Release the Feast" led by Jennifer Buhmann. During the month, we also went roller skating at the Lombard Roller Rink, went to a church service at Harvest Bible Chapel, volunteered at Feed My Starving Children, attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration service, went to a Jewish Synagogue, donated blood, and went to a Wheaton College Improv show. On one Sunday night this month, the guys went to the Restainos' house and made bookmarks for the girls, while the girls went to the Ciners' house and made cupcakes for the guys. We have a lot planned for next month, as well. One event in particular will be the Pancake Breakfast on February 23rd following the Sunday service. We hope to see you there!



# Children's Ministry

February 2014

In workshop rotation the children are learning **The Lord's Prayer**. Through fun workshops, the children learn the meaning of the prayer and why Jesus taught the prayer to his disciples. In art, **Patti Woods Jungk** is teaching the prayer with a stained glass art project and painted prayer rocks. In cooking, **Kenna Anderson** is teaching her lesson by baking prayer pretzels with the children. In games, **Jan Beaton** is teaching with match games where the children match up pictures and words to the prayer. In music and motion, **Judi Gonzalez** is teaching the prayer through movement and song. **Thank you teachers for your time and talent in teaching this beautiful prayer.**

## Grand-Friends Dance– Saturday, March 22nd (Time to be announced)

Join us for our first Grand-Friends Dance. This family dance will include grandparents and grand friends, (an adult friend, neighbor, church member etc.). You will have fun doing line dances, hokey pokey, traditional dancing, etc. A fun Photo Booth for great photo opportunities is just one of the activities planned for the evening. Please mark your calendar for this fun event that brings Generations together!!



## M&M (Moments together & Memories forever) Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

M&M partners will gather together in Temple of Truth for their Valentine get-together. Partners will make heart pizzas to eat for lunch, decorate Valentine cards and tie fleece blankets to give to **Phil's Friends**, a Christ-centered non-profit organization that provides support and hope to those affected by cancer. To learn more about *Phil's Friends* go to [www.philsfriends.org](http://www.philsfriends.org).



## Annual military and college student care package collection

We are beginning our care package collection. We want our military men and woman and college students to know that though they are not near, they are in our Hearts. We will be collecting items through February 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have a college student or military friend or family member that you would like to receive a care package, please email their name and address to me at [swold45@hotmail.com](mailto:swold45@hotmail.com) Items needed: -toiletries - cards and games - school supplies - candy -snack food - cookies -slim jims -gum -mints -spray cheese - power bars -granola bars -stamps -lip balm -outdoor play -Frisbees - football, etc. -hand written notes and colored pictures -any additional items not listed

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tessa Stahulak 2/5, Grace Buhmann 2/7, Andrew Spicer 2/16, MaryBeth Buhmann 2/19

*Susan Wold*

*Director of Children's Ministry*

# Warm Fellowship on the Ice

By Lee Staton

An informal group from St. Matthew enjoyed fun, fellowship and learning the fundamentals of curling January 25 at the Waltham Curling Club in Triumph, IL. Joe Hall, who organized the trip, was the only one who had ever tried this interesting, surprisingly challenging sport. It involves pushing a heavy granite stone across the ice and might remind you of shuffleboard, except on a frozen surface. The ice is “pebbled,” so not as slick as you would expect, though several of us still managed classic wipeouts.

We learned the meanings of odd, unfamiliar terms such as hogline, hack, the house, and the skip. And as one of only two female participants, and the only one from St. Matthew, I promised the men I would report to their wives how good they were at sweeping with a “broom”. (It actually looks more like a type of mop – even better!)

The experience was so much fun that there is already discussion about making it an annual event, and we hope to convince more of our St. Matthew friends to join in. Many of the participants commented on how our newfound knowledge will motivate us to watch the curling events in the upcoming Olympics. As Rick Jungk noted, “Now I can say I’ve played an Olympic sport!”



**Tim Schubert demonstrates his curling stance.**



**Craig Schlenker gets ready to guide a curling stone across the ice.**



**Peter Lindquist "sweeps" the ice to propel the curling stone farther.**



**Peter Lindquist crouches in his curling stance while Joe Hall looks on.**



# **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**

Thank you to the 45 people who served at Feed My Starving Children. Together we packed 112 boxes of food, feeding 67 kids for a year. It was a great turnout. Thanks again to everyone who helped!



## Lenten Study Series: Beginning to Pray

At the very heart of living the way of Christ is prayer. Prayer is our conversation with God. In that conversation our relationship with God is formed and we are being shaped into a follower in the way of Jesus. Many Christians find prayer difficult, perhaps a waste of time, or they see prayer being for someone more spiritually knowledgeable than themselves. So many are intimidated by the thought of praying or feel guiltily that it is not something they do very often.

This Lenten Season we invite you to a series of conversations on prayer meant for the many who do not pray as a consistent part of their lives, as well as those with a lot of experience in prayer. Our conversations will be based on a short, accessible Christian classic called Beginning to Pray by Anthony Bloom.

Each week we will have a short presentation, followed by discussion, and then time to experience the practice of prayer. ***We will meet twice each Wednesday, from noon to 1 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 8.*** We have copies of the book for \$9 in the church office for those who would like to read it (not required for the class).

March 12th	"The Absence of God"
March 19th	"Knocking at the Door"
March 26th	"Going Inward"
April 2nd	Spring Break- No Meeting
April 9th	"Managing Time"
April 16th	"Addressing God"

### **And now for something completely different...The poem for February 2014**

From Linda Leinweber, back in Kazakhstan!

#### ***A Red, Red Rose***

***By Robert Burns (1769-1796)***

O my Luve's like a red, red rose,  
That's newly sprung in June;  
O my Luve's like the melody  
That's sweetly played in tune!

As fair art thou, my bonny lass,  
So deep in love am I;  
And I will love thee still, my dear,  
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,  
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;  
I will love thee still, my dear,  
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only Luve,  
And fare thee weel a while!  
And I will come again, my Luve,  
Though it were ten thousand mile.



Well, here I am, back in Kazakhstan and reminded of Robert Burns because the Almaty International Women's Club is sponsoring a Bobbie Burns night in honor of his birthday. So, it being February, the month of Valentine's Day, I had to recognize what may be the sweetest love poem ever written. Readily available on the web, this version was taken from *The Top 500 Poems, a Columbia Anthology*, edit by William Harmon. Columbia University Press: (New York, 1990). ENJOY!





## Stewardship Corner

Thank you for pledging your Time, Talent, and Treasure!! Thank you all for your continued financial support. As was noted during the Annual Meeting, we ended the year up roughly 3.5% vs. our pledge budget for the year. It took a little December magic to make it happen, but St. Matthew came through as usual.

As for our 2014 Stewardship campaign, our average pledge increasing year over year and the total amount pledged was up just over 1%. As Pastor Allen noted at the Annual Meeting, we can all help the church by telling a friend about all the wonderful things we have going on at St. Matthew. Spreading the good news about St. Matthew is essential since it is rare for people to find us tucked back in our beautiful location along the Prairie Path.

We were also blessed to have several people step up to fill a variety of committee/ministry roles. It truly takes all of us in community to do God's work at St. Matthew.

Finally, Edie DeBoard introduced two opportunities for St. Matthew members and friends to support the church by making purchases for everyday items with retailers that kick back a portion of each sale to designated beneficiaries. Go to the St. Matthew website and click on the Donate tab at the top right-hand side for more information on **The Manna Group** and **iGive.com**. Thank you all for your continued support!

*-The Stewardship Committee*

## Congregational Life News

Chili Cook-off Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. in Dobstaff Hall. Back by popular demand, the Congregational Life Committee is planning our annual Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, **February 9<sup>th</sup>**. Participants can sign-up to bring Chili and enter it in the People's Choice Contest or they can bring Mac and Cheese or Cornbread. A nominal prize and tremendous fame will be awarded to the cook of the best chili. Please sign up in the narthex or call/email Diana in the office. Save the date for several other upcoming events as follows:

- ◇ **March 8<sup>th</sup>** – Shrimp Boil
- ◇ **April 27<sup>th</sup>** – Bags Tournament
- ◇ **June 1st** – Church Picnic
- ◇ **October** – Trunk or Treat

In addition, the Committee has begun talking about partnering on an Easter Egg hunt and a progressive deck crawl in the August timeframe. If you have ideas that you believe would help to bring our members, neighbors and friends together, please let us know.

*Rob Neufelder – Committee Chair*





## Upcoming Events

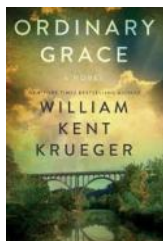


**M&M (Moments together & Memories forever) – Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** M&M partners will gather together in Temple of Truth for their Valentine get-together. Partners will make heart pizzas to eat for lunch, decorate Valentine cards and tie fleece blankets to give to *Phil's Friends*, a Christ-centered non-profit organization that provides support and hope to those affected by cancer. To learn more about *Phil's Friends* go to

**P.A.D.S. February 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>** Our next P.A.D.S. date is quickly approaching. Many of our regular volunteers will be out of town and not available to help in February. We will need people to step up and work the late night/early morning shifts. The P.A.D.S. Committee is purchasing roasted chicken to serve, but there are many other food items needed for dinner, breakfast, and sack lunches. Please consider donating your money, food items, and/or time to help our neighbors during this long, cold winter. Sign up is in the narthex or you may contact Tracey Blake at [stutra@hotmail.com](mailto:stutra@hotmail.com).



**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** The Men's Fellowship meets **February 15<sup>th</sup>** from 8-10 a.m. Al Skwara will provide the breakfast and Bill Staton will provide the program about antique and classic cars and answer general car questions.



### **NOVEL APPROACHES**

The novel to be approached in February is "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger. *That was it. "That was all of it. A grace so ordinary there was no reason at all to remember it. Yet I have never across the forty years since it was spoken forgotten a single word."* This is a novel that will affect readers in unusual, interesting and, quite possibly, surprising ways. **The date:** Friday, **February 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. **The place:** The Boyds' home, 510 South Aurora Way, Wheaton. Everyone is welcome. Please join us for lively discussion, food, and fellowship.

### **SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 6-10 p.m.**

The Mission committee is sponsoring a Shrimp Boil and Blues fest at church on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-10pm. The proceeds from this event will go to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. Shrimp, salad and dessert will be provided. Cost - \$15.00 per person or max of \$40.00 per family. Sign-up will begin in February.



### **Grand-Friends Dance– Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> (Time to be announced)**

Join us for our first Grand-Friends Dance. This family dance will include grandparents and grand friends, (an adult friend, neighbor, church member etc.). You will have fun doing line dances, hokey pokey, traditional dancing, etc. A fun Photo Booth for great photo opportunities is just one of the activities planned for the evening. Please mark your calendar for this fun event that brings Generations together!!

### **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AT DUPAGE CONVALESCENT CENTER**

Many thanks to the St. Matthew members who came out to help transport over 50 DPCC residents to worship on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Bob Barnshaw coordinated a crew that included Edie De-Board, Bill Matthei, Marilyn Giese, and Joe and Linda Leinweber, with Linda leading the singing for us. Our next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is **March 30<sup>th</sup>**. Come and give us a try- you'll be glad you did. The Convalescent Center residents will be even more delighted!

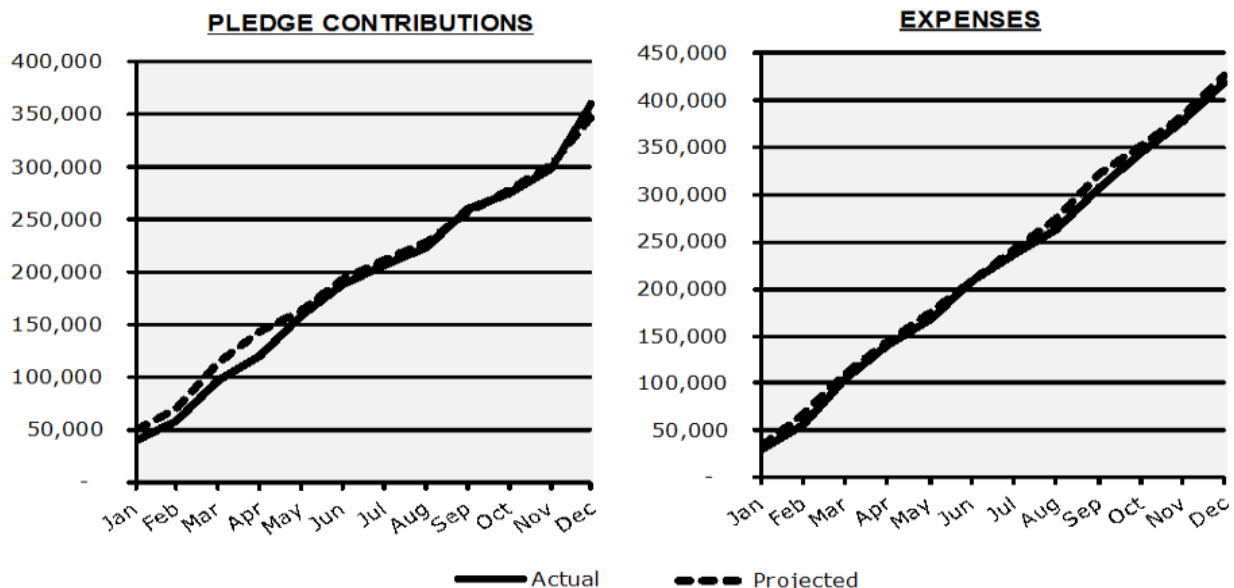


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ended December 31, 2013

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	61,877	359,599	347,136
Loose Offerings	1,381	6,059	8,000
Rental Income	800	4,440	6,000
Fund Raising	275	11,119	10,000
Investment Income	(13)	(126)	500
More Property	(13,000)	41,500	54,500
More Property (special projects)	-	3,429	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	100	500
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>51,320</b>	<b>426,120</b>	<b>426,636</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	18,552	214,927	224,061
Building	9,246	131,348	121,775
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	26,750	26,750
Mission / OCWM	7,975	29,421	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	734	9,992	10,150
Membership	122	1,629	3,900
Music	1,617	3,673	4,200
Worship	90	880	3,500
Congregational Life	-	477	800
Misc. & Contingency	150	513	2,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b> (before Special Projects)	<b>40,715</b>	<b>419,610</b>	<b>426,636</b>
Special Projects	-	3,429	-
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 10,605</b>	<b>\$ 3,081</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**2013 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**



*Please contact John Adams if you have questions or need additional information.*

# February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Every Tuesday: 6p IntergeneR- ingers 7p Bells Potluck 7:30p Chancel Ringers</i>	<i>Every Wednes- day: 1:30p Prayer Group 6:30p Praise Band 7:30p Choir</i>					1
2 -9:30a Worship Service with Communion - 5p crazies Su- per Bowling Party	3 -7p Christian Education	4 -7p Membership Committee -7:30p Mission Committee	5	6	7	8 -12:30p Me- morial Service for Ruth Huss
9 -9:30a Worship Service -10:30a Memo- rial Committee -5p Chili Cook- Off	10 -7p Worship Committee	11	12 -P.A.D.S.	13	14	15 -8a Men's Fel- lowship
16 -9:30a Worship Service	17 -7p Finance Committee	18	19	20 -7p Church Council	21	22 -3p crazies 30- hour Famine and Pancake Breakfast
23 -9:30a Worship Service: Bells Sunday -11:30a crazies 30-hour Famine and Pancake Breakfast	24	25	26	27	28 -7:30p Novel Approaches	





## **St. Matthew United Church of Christ**

(630) 665-1236 (Office)

(630) 665-1436 (Fax)

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

Web Site: [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School: 10:00 a.m.

### **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.

## **Our Staff**

**Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor**

[allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org)

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

[susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org)

**Mark Restaino, Director of Youth Ministries**

[mark.restaino@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:mark.restaino@stmatthewucc.org)

**Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director**

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**Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist**

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**Kim Congdon, Handbell Director**

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**Karen Lindquist, Business Manager**

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**Diana Padilla, Administrative Assistant**

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