

October  
2020



of



**WHAT'S  
INSIDE**

*Pastor's  
Message  
Pages 1-2*

*Stewardship  
Page 2*

*Music Ministry  
Page 3*

*Birthdays  
Page 4*

*Mission  
Page 5*

*crazies  
Page 6*

*Children's  
Page 7*

*Announcements  
Pages 8-9*

*Online Giving  
Page 10*

*Financial  
Page 11*



**Pastoral Message**

*Pastor Allen Mothershed*

**A Word You Can Trust**

I recently started a new read, "Journey to Eternity," a personal spiritual travel journey by Timothy Egan, who decided to take a pilgrimage on the Via Francigena, the ancient path from Canterbury, England to Rome, Italy. One of his early stops is in the ancient French town of Saint-Omer, where he explores an ancient scriptorium where monks spent their lives transposing and copying books. A large team of monks would work at their desks from first light until dark for two years on a rare copy of a religious work or a copy of the Bible. The work was holy. The writing was a devoted spiritual practice. Each word is a work of art, every word sacred. Egan points out that this continued for a thousand years until the invention of the printing press. Then books were mass produced and available for many common people.

Today, with the internet, the weight of a word is a tiny leaf in the wind. Words are so diluted in a sea of opinions and ideas that they have lost their potency. Truth is relative and reduced to opinion and manipulation. Words often do not communicate reality as they are bent into falsehoods. Sometimes, outrageous conspiracies are quickly disseminated by eager followers, whose first commitment is not truth but control of a message and gaining power. Today, as never before, we find it more difficult than ever to know who to trust and what to believe. If we feel insecure, a significant reason is that our words have little weight or gravitas. The truth we stand on is on earthquake-prone ground.

In the beginning, God spoke a word and creation came into being. The Word of God was the power of creation. Such a Word had weight, substance, and power. Jesus speaks of this power when He commands His disciples to avoid oaths. He tells us not to swear on heaven or earth. "All you need is to say 'yes' or 'no'; anything else comes from the evil one." We are to be people who speak carefully, like the sort of people we occasionally meet who speak out of silence and with great thought and care. We are to treat words not lightly but as having weight and power. What gives our words power is that we value the truth more than anything. What makes a person believable is that their actions have integrity. What is said is reflected in reality and the actions of the one speaking. As scripture teaches us, we know what is true by the fruit that is produced.

*(continued)*



We are living in a time of contradictions about the virus and how to protect ourselves and our world. We need to know what is fact and what is manipulation. Does the one delivering the information have integrity? Are their words proven by clear evidence? Jesus is an example of one whose Word we could trust. As the Gospel of John proclaimed, in Jesus, the Word became flesh. We look to His way, His action as our guide. Through seas of words and nonsense, He speaks the truth. His light reveals both those hiding in the darkness and those who walk in the light. Let us look closely at what is being revealed so we too can walk in the light.

Blessings~

Pastor Allen



## **Stewardship 2021—Rooted in Love**

*How is St. Matthew Doing During These Unusual Times?*

Many of you may wonder how St. Matthew is faring. Are we making ends meet? The good news is that through the remarkable generosity of the congregation, and friends of the congregation, we are indeed making it, and close to budget. We offer our gracious and sincere thanks for your continued support.

We have started our planning for the new year and ask your commitment to giving for 2021. Our theme is "Rooted in Love," a reference to St. Paul's blessing:

*"May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high God's love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God's self."  
(Ephesians 3:17b-19)*

Our giving is all about love. We love God because God first loved us, and everything flows from that love. My experience is that when we have an abiding sense that we are loved, and that our life is a gift that flows from God, making financial commitments to a community, a family of people we love and serve, is relatively easy.

We do not know what this next year will bring. Just as in any loving family, we will need for those of us who can give a bit more to do so, to support what some are challenged to do by circumstance.

Since we are unable to meet in-person, we have been hard at work creating an online pledge and volunteer form. [Click here to access the form.](#) The link will also be available in the Friday Happenings. A letter and pledge card was mailed to those who don't access email. Contact the office with any questions. We are asking that you notify us electronically or send in your pledge card by November 8th, Commitment Sunday. (Hey, that's my birthday! What a birthday gift to have pledge cards all in!)

God's Peace Abide with You!

~Pastor Allen



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

Music. Something so simple that we all create. Some sing. Some hum. Some play an instrument. Some just sing in their head. But we all do it, one way or another. It calms us. Energizes us. Makes us feel. And when we do not have it, or cannot have it, we feel that, too. As Joni Mitchell sang, "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." Missing our music together feels a bit like

that. Our own Joe Hall has said to me and others that when we celebrate Music Appreciation Sunday, maybe we should have no music so we really will appreciate what we have. It was said tongue-in-cheek, but in a way, COVID-19 has forced that on us. I long for the day when we all can meet and sing loud and proud the praises to our Lord. To hear the choir together, in service and rehearsal, the full bell choirs, and the Praise Band standing next to each other instead of 6-8 feet apart with no one in the sanctuary. That day will come, but it must be safe for everyone. So, we bide our time and remain socially distanced.

That does not mean there is no music. Different members of the Praise Band show up each week for the recording of our services. We had a recording session one evening with the band to build up a small repertoire/library of songs to use. KC had a small group of ringers rehearsing -- distanced, of course -- and we recorded them one evening. You saw them on the September 8th service. We will be recording bells every month through the fall, a different small group each time. The choir is working on recording the next virtual choir, with another one ready to go out to them. That is the hardest, I think, as they are pretty much on their own.

So, until we meet again to sing the joys of the Lord, stay safe, stay healthy, and make some music somehow.

Peace to all,

Jamie [Jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:Jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org) 630.202.6788

---



### **Welcome, Dawnelle!**

We would like to introduce our new Business Manager, Dawnelle Muff. Dawnelle started in late August and has been busy at work ever since. Originally from Iowa, she and her husband, Don, moved to Wheaton 20 years ago. They have three children: Jimmy, a freshman at the University of Nebraska; Tommy and Katie, a junior and freshman, respectively, at Wheaton Warrenville South High School.

Dawnelle has been an active volunteer at her children's schools. At Madison Elementary, she served on the PTA Board, in addition to the many activities she helped facilitate. She currently volunteers at the high school as the Spirit Wear coordinator. Dawnelle is very involved with CYT (Christian Youth Theater), as her son Tommy appears in many of their plays. Recently, she

worked at a Parents' Day Out program at another local church.

Dawnelle came out of "accounting retirement" to join the St. Matthew staff. She says she is really enjoying having a space away from the house that is just hers since there is always something going on at home (especially with e-learning!). She is enjoying her new job and looks forward to meeting more of our members. Dawnelle's normal work days are Wednesday and Thursday mornings. You can also email her at [dawnelle.muff@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:dawnelle.muff@stmatthewucc.org). Welcome, Dawnelle!

## Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)



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



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Karen Leimberer                            |
| 2  | Kevin Bute                                 |
| 5  | Doug Miller                                |
| 14 | Bill Beaton                                |
| 15 | Kerin Sancken<br>Jessica Edgar             |
| 16 | Lynn Thornton                              |
| 17 | Rocio Chumas<br>Lou Holland                |
| 18 | Cameron Rosenthal                          |
| 22 | Cheryl Heck                                |
| 23 | Sarah Muntz<br>Greg Henderson              |
| 25 | John Umbeck                                |
| 26 | Amy Barnshaw<br>Abby Jung<br>Bernie Rudnik |
| 28 | John Kouns<br>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](mailto:office@st.matthewucc.org)

Office hours are suspended until further notice.



# Mission News



## Back Bay Mission

St. Matthew's annual adult mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, was canceled 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.bricksrus.com/donorsite/backbaymission](http://www.bricksrus.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](mailto:stutra@hotmail.com) with any questions.**

## PADS UPDATE



PADS is operating quite differently than before as their participants are currently in hotels. PADS is looking for assistance on an individual basis right now rather than a group of people. On Wednesdays, they are looking for a volunteer to sit in the donation area and collect the items that are dropped off from 12-4pm. They are also looking for people to help with food deliveries on Tuesday mornings from 8am-12pm. These volunteer positions are needed on a weekly basis.

You can go to the volunteer website at <https://dupagepads.org/solutions/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/> for more information and to register.

One new change is that everyone who volunteers has to have a background check.

Monetary donations are much appreciated to help supply food and meals.

If you have questions, please contact Julie Schubert, 630.936.6118 or [tijjr7@att.net](mailto:tijjr7@att.net).

# crozies

October is here so that means more pumpkin spice, picking out your pumpkins to carve, and cold nights to drink some hot chocolate.



Since the church is still closed, we will continue alternating outdoor and online meetings on Sunday evenings from 5-6:15pm.

Our in-person meetings, held outside, will be on October 4th and 18th.

October 11th and 25th will be check-in Zoom meetings.

Also we have some great news to share with the church! We are blessed to announce that we will be having a second child, due in March. Please continue to pray for us.

God bless! ~ Mel

## Children's Ministry October 2020

I am still working on an online Sunday School program for this fall. I will send the information to parents in a family email once I have it ready. I have also found some links to Bible apps, videos, and worship songs for children. I will include them in an email attachment as well. I encourage parents to set aside a few minutes each week for children's worship; it will benefit your children greatly. Though the children are unable to attend Sunday School in our church home, your family is still able to watch the children's sermon, pray, sing, and worship God, through Jesus Christ.

Let us always remember the words Jesus spoke in Matthew 19:14:

**"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."**

I believe, with all my heart, that the heavens burst with joy whenever a child lifts their voice in heartfelt prayer. I encourage you, as a family, to pray without ceasing:

**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for  
this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

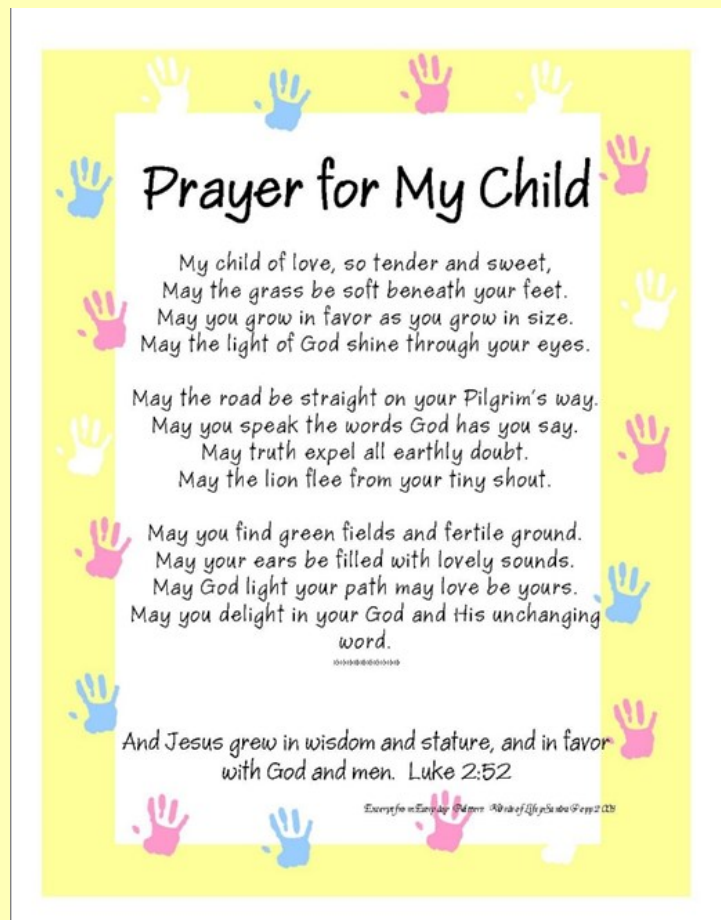
I look forward to seeing the Sunday School families at our outdoor worship services this fall!



### October Birthdays:

Anastasia (Anna) Ortman	October 14th
Andrew Woods	October 14th
Adrienne Hammond	October 16th
Cameron Miller	October 31st

Susan Wold  
Director of Children's Ministry



---

# Announcements



## Prairie Path Clean-Up #3

We are planning to meet on Sunday, October 11th at 2 pm for our 3rd clean-up of the year. Please email Dawn Schubert (rural\_rococo@msn.com) if you want to help-- first come, first served!

We will tentatively plan our final clean-up of 2020 on Sunday, November 8th, but please watch the Happenings for updates.

Many thanks to our faithful volunteers for your commitment to the environment and your service.

---

## 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, if the weather cooperates! Our meeting time has changed. **In October, we will meet on Thursday mornings at 10am.**

Contact Marla if you're interested in Yoga in the Sanctuary (masks as we enter and exit, generous space between us). I think it can work safely, but am interested in feedback.

Beginners are welcome!

Donations accepted and will be given to Missions.

Contact Marla Mothershed, [mmothershed63@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

**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](mailto:financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org).

These options are also listed on the St. Matthew website: [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)

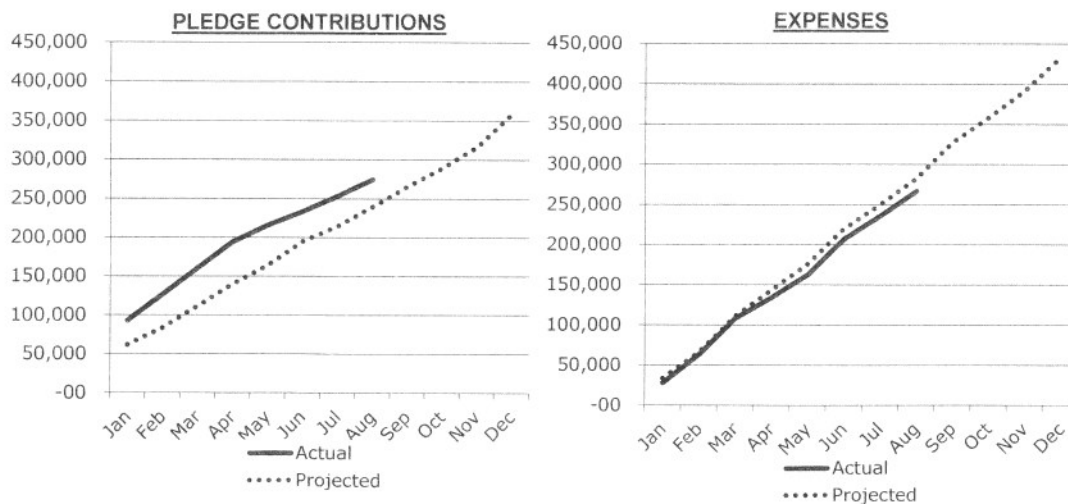
Questions can be directed to Edie DeBoard at [financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org).

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

For the Period Ending August 31, 2020

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	21,498	274,639	358,364
Loose Offerings	100	772	5,000
Rental Income	-00	4,000	9,600
Fund Raising	48	407	2,200
Interest Income=Bk accts	9	135	120
Investment Income	-00	1,115	-00
More Property	-00	-00	37,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	47,182	5,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>21,654</b>	<b>328,251</b>	<b>417,284</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	19,816	163,659	245,572
Building & Admin	8,573	69,575	116,678
Loans & Notes	-00	13,375	26,750
Mission / OCWM	2,150	15,050	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	66	3,513	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	-00	26	3,000
Music	175	1,120	4,895
Worship	-00	457	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	-00
Stewardship	-00	-00	-00
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>30,781</b>	<b>266,775</b>	<b>434,645</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b><u>\$(9,126)</u></b>	<b><u>\$61,476</u></b>	<b><u>\$(17,361)</u></b>

**2020 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](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

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

**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)

**Mel Jerome, Director of Youth Ministry**  
[mel.jerome@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:mel.jerome@stmatthewucc.org)

**Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director**  
[jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org)

**Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist**  
[brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org)

**Kim Congdon, Handbell Director**  
[kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org)

**Dani de Leon, Administrative Assistant**  
[office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

**Dawnelle Muff, Business Manager**  
[dawnelle.muff@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:dawnelle.muff@stmatthewucc.org)