

THE VOICE OF

St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189
630-665-1236
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www.stmatthew-ucc.org



April 2015

Practicing the Presence of the Risen Christ

We choose daily about whether we live or disregard our faith. There are important practices of faith which are essential if we choose to live our faith. One of the practices is looking in every situation of our lives for the presence of Christ. In this season of resurrection, I invite you to become aware of Christ's presence in your life.

Anne Lamott in "Help, Thanks, Wow" tells a story about prayer and the practice of the presence of Christ: "Recently I was going to meet my great and amazing friends Barbara and Susie for a walk, or rather, a stroll and roll, as Barbara has Lou Gehrig's disease... which has come to mean she uses a walker, feeding tubes, and a computerized speaking device called Kate that works through her iPad. So Susie drove us to see the Pacific Ocean from above San Francisco's Moraga steps. I had not yet settled down into what is true- that Barbara is pretty sick and getting worse- so I sat in a state of jovial nervousness in the backseat, feeling alone and useless and superficial. When we arrived, the view was socked in with fog. We gamely got out of the car anyway, and on top of everything- the Lou Gehrig's, the vichyssoise fog, my anxious sorrow- there was one of those mean winds that prick your body and your mind and your very being...

It was all hopeless. I had no choice but to pray. This is all a mess, I said to God. I love these two women so much, and I had had such high hopes for connection and joy today: Help. And I got my divine revelation: We all needed to get back into the car, immediately.

This took a while, as there is not much immediately when you're with someone who has ALS. But at some point, warmth and golden sun flooded through the car windows, and Susie drove us around the neighborhood, and from inside we took in the brilliant gardens of succulents and crazy bright splashy exotic petals...

We all got so happy. We talked about real things for an hour: life, death, families, feeding tubes, faith. I asked Barbara, who does not eat food anymore, 'What are you most grateful for these days?' She typed on her iPad, and Kate's mechanical voice spoke for her: 'The beauty of nature, the birds and flowers, the beauty of friends.' This is called radical gratitude in the face of whatever life throws at you.

I wish I prayed more and better. But I think that I have begun to learn that it is not worth one iota of energy to dwell in a place of self disregard. Not. one. iota. It takes time and energy away from the relationship that we already have with God— a God, remember, who knows the best and worst about us and loves us still and all."

-Pastor Allen

Food on the First

Thanks to all who donated in the months of February and March. Here is what has been asked for in the month of April:



- Canned fruit
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Hamburger and Tuna Helper
- Brownie Mixes
- Cake Mixes and frosting
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Cleaning Supplies

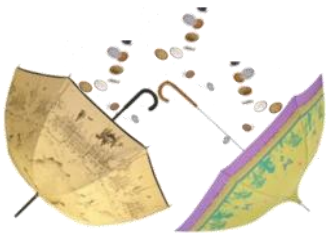


As always, please make sure the food is not expired and the packages are unopened. Please contact Betty Greer at 630.682.4084 if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Proverbs 19:17

*"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and
He will reward him for what he has done."*

Pennies from Heaven



Let's turn our umbrellas upside down! God provided manna for the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. They didn't have to do anything for it, just gather up what they needed for the day. Our MANNA program is just as easy. Simply order cards for the places you know you are going to shop anyway – grocery, drug stores, gas, etc. It costs you nothing and the retailers donate to St. Matthew.

Here's an example: I buy a \$100 Jewel card from Manna and Manna gives St. Matthew \$4. If I did this 50 weeks a year, the church would receive \$200. If 40 people did this, St. Matthew would receive \$8,000.

Last year we had 62 families who participated in Manna at one time or another, although our average is only 9 families per week. If all 62 families could participate regularly (weekly or even bi-weekly) we could easily make our fundraising goal for this year.

Visit the Manna table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday for more information.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tama Menini
- 3 Drew Luessenhop
Kendall Thornton
- 4 Amy Gimre
Cindy Leonard
- 6 Wes Curda
- 7 Uriel Ambrosia
- 8 Leo Mittman
Julie Price
- 10 Don Macauley
- 11 Joe Leinweber
- 12 Leslie Ortman
- 13 Francine Alavi
Carol Justice
- 16 Hiram Baird
Ann Marie Matthei
- 18 Nancy Franz
- 19 Sarah Madsen
- 21 Elise Anderson
- 22 Dawn Schubert
- 23 Craig Schlenker
- 24 Gwen Johnson



Opening and Affirming

The national church of the United Church of Christ has taken bold stands on issues of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender equality. However, in the United Church of Christ, it is understood that national church does not speak for individual congregations

and believers. A process called “Open and Affirming” was set up for congregations to determine whether they are willing to declare themselves as both open to people of different orientations and also affirming of them as created by God as they are.

Our church has shown openness and its affirmation of different orientations. However, there is value in the church prayerfully deciding if they wish to declare themselves as open and affirming. A church making a declaration creates a safe place for people of different orientations, many of whom have suffered shame and guilt in churches that have left them fearful of the church and the Christian faith. It is a way to make sure what we mean when we say, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” Also, coming to a clear understanding helps a church clarify who it is and how it will handle issues as they may come up in the future. Churches that become “Open and Affirming” still do not speak for the viewpoints of all their members, but attempt to come to as close to a consensus as is possible. We are a family at St. Matthew and we want to be a “healthy family” which means having the mutual respect to discuss our attitudes and feelings with one another. I believe we have a healthy respect for different viewpoints in our church and that we are at a place where we can have a healthy dialogue of what are, for some, difficult issues.

The first step is to assemble a team of 4-5 people who can understand the process and help implement it. We have a couple of people who have expressed interest and we would like to add 2 or 3 more people. Our hope is to include people who can create a safe place for people of different viewpoints to express themselves. Therefore, it is helpful to have people who feel they are open and affirming as well as those who are more ambivalent or even opposed. All should be represented in this leadership group. This group will then make a recommendation to the church council about what they believe needs to be our next steps. Contact me at allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org if you are interested.

Treats Needed – Coffee Fellowship



The fellowship time after Worship is very important and we need YOUR help for our Coffee Hour. The Coffee Committee takes care of the behind-the-scenes details of our coffees (setting up, providing coffee and paper products, and cleaning up).

Everyone else needs to participate to ensure we have enough treats to share. Store-bought items are appreciated as much as home-baked goods. Fruit, cheese and crackers are always gobbled up.

If following a schedule works best for you, we suggest those with last names beginning with A, B, C contribute on the 1st Sunday of the month; D, E, F, G on the 2nd Sunday; H, I, J, K on the 3rd Sunday: and L-Z on the 4th Sunday. In months that have a fifth Sunday (May, August, and November this year), please help us have a successful Coffee and donate again in those months.

Thanks for helping!



Children's Ministry

April 2015

Thank you to the teachers and shepherds who taught our Easter Sunday School session: **Marla Mother-shed, Deb Felsenthal, Dawn Schubert, Diana Padilla, Miegan Bresingham, Leslie Ortman, Emily Ciner and Julie Barnshaw.** You were a blessing to the children, bringing the Easter season alive for them.

On April 12th we begin our Zacchaeus Sunday School lesson. This lesson, combined with the Children's musical, "What's Up Zac," will teach the children how Jesus loves everyone, even tax collector Zacchaeus. They will learn how we can always turn our lives around to live according to God's word and be forgiven for our past mistakes. Workshops will include puppets: acting out the story; movie: watching the story, eating popcorn; art: making a name plaque because no matter who you are, Jesus knows your name, the way he knew Zacchaeus' name.



May 10th, "What's Up Zac?" Children's musical, directed by Children's Choir director Wendee Passini. The performance is during the Sunday morning worship service and is dedicated to the Christian Education volunteers and mothers of St. Matthew. There will not be Sunday School due to the musical. Please make a special attempt to attend this performance, showing the Sunday School children how important they are to our congregation.

May 10th, CE Volunteer Appreciation during worship and followed with a reception in Dobstaff Hall. We ask that the Sunday School families and congregation join us in thanking our many volunteers.



April Birthdays

Kennedy Scalora 4/1, Molly Hutchison 4/3
Olivia Henderson 4/5, Chris Achammer 4/7
Nicole Bute, 4/12, Nicholas McGrath 4/22



Save the date

The Armor of God VBS

June 15 – 19

9 am – Noon

Music, Games, Snacks, Story

Family Ice Cream Social, Thursday evening 6/18, 7:00 p.m.



Summer Volunteers Needed

VBS volunteers, June 15 - 19

Summer Sunday School leaders

Children's sermon volunteers

Contact Susan Wold for more information

Childrens.ministry@stmatthewucc.org



St. Matthew UCC

It's time to SIGN UP FOR THE MISSION TRIP!

This summer, we'll spend a week in downtown Chicago! We'll stay at Fourth Presbyterian Church (located in the heart of the Magnificent Mile) and work with them to serve some great inner-city organizations that are dedicated to stamping out homelessness, poverty, violence, hunger, and prejudice.

Trip Dates: June 21 -27

Trip Cost: \$350 for all meals, lodging, and projects

Fundraising Opportunities: Plant Sale, Car Wash, and any other opportunities you need to make the trip happen. If you need financial help, we WILL make it happen! Please do not let cost stop you from participating in this amazing week. Your friends are welcome as long as they're willing to work!

RSVP YES BY MONDAY, April 13

30-Hour Famine Thank-You's

Thank you to all the Crazies who participated in the 30-Hour Famine on March 6-7! Thank you to all who donated funds to Compassion International in support of our mission! (We raised more than \$300!) And a special thanks to Dawn Schubert for providing us with an amazing meal on Saturday to break our fast!



urban youth mission
uym
be a light in the city
Fourth Presbyterian Church



IT'S MISSION TRIP TIME!!!

**WE NEED YOUR
RSVP!**

MISSION TRIP

THE LEAST YOU NEED TO KNOW

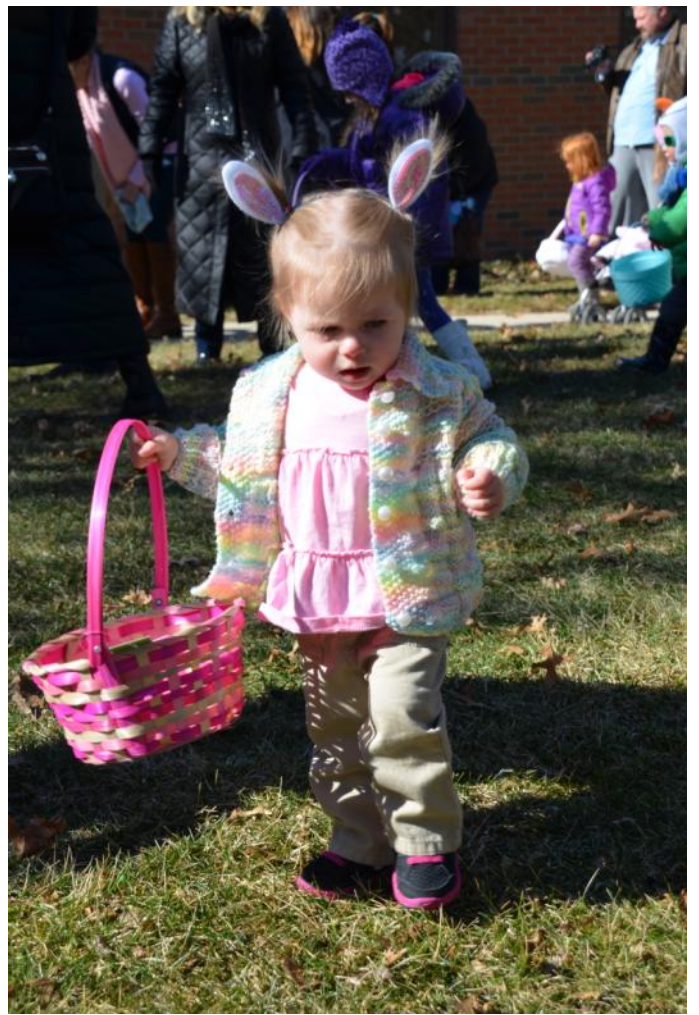
- Trip Dates: June 21 (leave at 2pm) – June 27 (return at 2pm)
- Trip Cost: \$350 for all meals, lodging and projects
- Fundraising Opportunities: Plant Sale, Car Wash, and any other opportunities you need to make the trip happen!

If you need financial help, we will find it.

- RSVP YES BY MONDAY, APRIL 13

*Pictures from the
Maundy Thursday
Worship Service and
Drama*





Easter Egg Hunt



Take Steps for Crohn's and Colitis Walk

Matt and Samia Bono have formed a team to walk in the 2015 Take Steps for Crohn's and Colitis Walk taking place on May 31st at the Naperville Riverwalk. Their team, the C&C Crushers, walks in honor of two young family members who struggle daily with these diseases. One cousin in particular has had an extremely difficult year in her battle with Crohn's Disease. Julia, a 21-year-old student at North Central College, has been in and out of the hospital numerous times over the past year. She recently underwent surgery as medication was no longer enough to manage her symptoms. It wasn't until Julia's surgery that our family began to really understand how serious and life-altering these two diseases are. Our goal is to create more awareness about these diseases and to fundraise for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. The CCFA not only supports research for the treatment and cure of these diseases, also provides patient education resources and support groups. Please consider joining us in supporting the CCFA in one of the following ways:

1. Participate in our team's fundraiser at bd's Mongolian Grill in downtown Naperville on Thursday, April 9th between 5-9p.m. Come enjoy a nice dinner out with family or friends and mention that you are there in support of the CCFA fundraiser and bd's Mongolian Grill will donate a portion of your bill in support of our team.
2. Donate online at <http://online.ccfa.org/goto/SamiaBono>
3. Consider forming a team to participate in the walk or join our team. It will be a fun family event and we would love to see members of our church walk alongside us! Strollers are allowed and even pets are welcome!

Any questions, please feel free to contact Samia Bono at 248-767-8838 or zbonos@gmail.com

Confirmation Breakfast Help Needed

We are looking for help hosting the Confirmation Breakfast on Sunday, May 3rd for our confirmands and their family members. Confirmation is such a wonderful experience in the lives of our youth and their families, and each year we host a breakfast in recognition of the effort these young Christians have invested in their spiritual metamorphosis. If you have been looking for a new way to get involved in the life of the church and/or have an interest in helping prepare and serve this meal, please contact Rob Neufelder, rneufelder@ipmcinc.com, or call 630-355-9684.

Bags Tournament

Congregational Life is hosting our annual Bags Tournament on Sunday, April 19th in the late afternoon. Please join us for a little friendly competition in this much anticipated event.



P.A.D.S.

Seven down, only two to go....St. Matthew's monthly stints at P.A.D.S. for the 2014-2015 season!



Let's end on a high note, with all time slots and food slots filled.... and the good feeling of having provided some of our less fortunate neighbors with nourishing meals and a safe, warm place to sleep! Please check the P.A.D.S. board in the narthex to see where you might be able to help. *Thank you!! Your P.A.D.S. Committee*



*You Are Invited
to the 2nd Annual
"Ladies Tea Party!"*

Stop by to sip tea and show off your hat
(if you still own one!)

Open house Saturday, May 2nd

From 1-3 p.m.

At Marla Mothershed's home:

1011 Arbor Ave, Wheaton.

Please RSVP by email to office@stmatthewucc.org, by phone to 630.441.5963 or 630.665.1236, or sign up in the narthex.

CROP Walk: On May 3rd, members of St. Matthew UCC will join other churches in Glen Ellyn and Wheaton for the CROP Walk. Twenty five percent of the funds raised will be used in our local community, with the rest going to fight poverty in more than 80 countries around the world. If you are unable to walk, please consider making a donation by

writing a check to "CWS/ CROP Walk" or donate online at <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/stm15>.

On May 3rd, registration will start at 1pm, and the walk will begin at 2pm. The starting and ending point is in Glen Ellyn at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 493 Forest. Please contact Janine Orrico (jdorrico@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!



MARIAN PARK

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking an adult or college student who would be willing to invest 1 to 2 hours a week assisting 10 year-old student develop solid reading skills. Teaching and online materials will be available. Day(s) and times to be arranged between student's family and volunteer. Projected commitment April and May 2015. For more information or to volunteer, call Terry Young at 630-665-3269.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
HELP NEEDED**

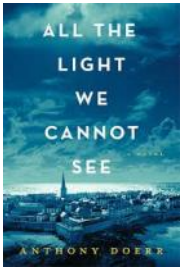
Tall, refrigerator-size cardboard boxes for VBS.

WANTED: Volunteers who are creative and enjoy making theater sets.

Our goal is to create a large castle in the sanctuary, for VBS, June 15 - 19. Contact Susan Wold if you can help with either of these, swold45@hotmail.com or 630-373-4323.

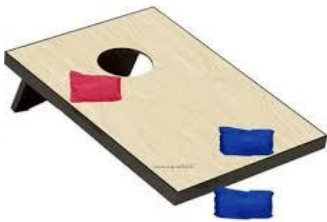


Upcoming Events



NOVEL APPROACHES The novel to be approached in April is “All the Light You Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr, a deeply moving novel that illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. The date: Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. The place: The Boyds at 510 S. Aurora Way, Wheaton. Join us for lively discussion, food and fellowship. LOOKING AHEAD: “Heaven Lake” by John Dalton.

BELLS CONCERTS BELLS IN MOTION, an auditioned jazz group, will be performing in Bloomington, IL! Come down and support our very own Kirsten Hendrickson and the director, KC Congdon (bonus - it's KC's birthday). Date: Sunday, May 3, at 4pm, St John's Lutheran Church, 1617 E. Emerson in Bloomington. Song titles include but are not limited to: Alexander's Ragtime Band, I Got Rhythm, In the Mood, Pine Apple Rag, and All That Jazz from the musical Chicago. The Agape Ringers (with Kirsten & KC) will be performing locally on Sunday, May 17, 4pm at LaGrange Bible Church, 850 S. 7th Ave. in LaGrange. A free-will offering will be taken.



BAGS TOURNAMENT Sunday, April 19th starting at 2pm. Come join the fun at Congregational Life's 4th Annual Bags Tournament. Come to watch, play for fun, or compete in the tournament. Teams of 2 can compete in the Novice or Experienced divisions, with prizes awarded. To compete in the tournament, your team must be signed up by noon (after church) on April 19th. The sign-up board is in the narthex. Call Tracey Blake at 630-579-8432 with questions. Drinks provided – bring snack or sweet to share.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ. This important program transforms lives through health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. From supporting impoverished countries in Africa, tsunami relief in Japan and recovery from natural disasters here in the U.S., money from this offering supports those in need in our community and around the world. St. Matthew will be taking up this collection on Mother's Day, May 10th.



FAMILY CAMP 2015 Sunday 7/19 to Friday 7/24. This year is a close one (270 miles, about 5 hours) at the Landmark Resort in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin, in Door County. There are lots of activities at the resort as well as lighthouses, theaters, beaches, and wineries nearby. You've heard about Washington Island during Susan's children's sermons; now is your chance to experience it in person. Please fill out the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Dianne Hutchison, John Kouns, or Hi Baird.

April 2015

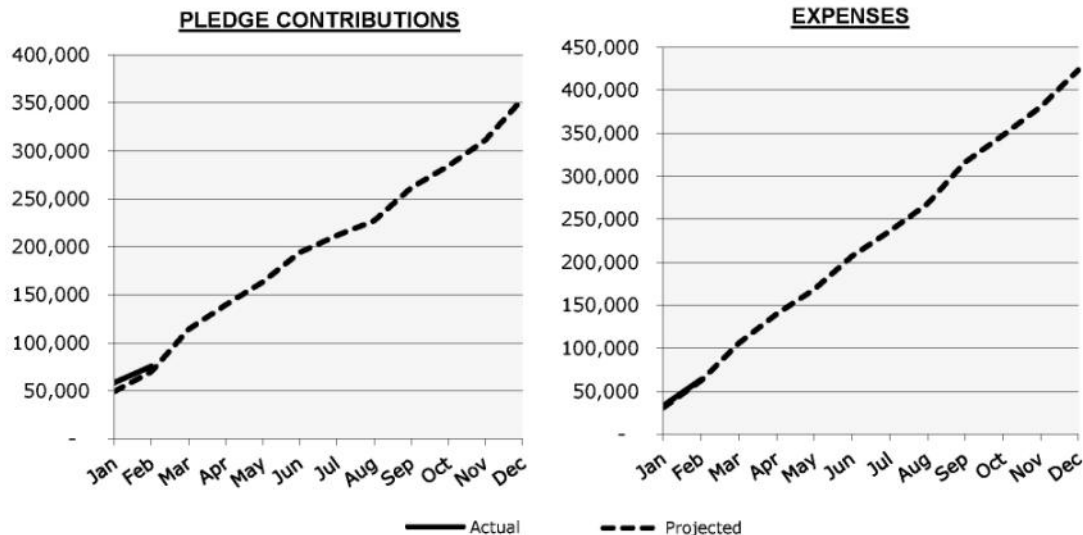
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>6p Stew Dinner 7p Maundy Thursday Worship Service</i>	3 Good Friday <i>Office Closed</i>	4
5 <i>Easter -9a & 11a Wor- ship Services -6p crazies</i>	6 <i>7p Christian Ed Committee</i>	7 <i>1p Digital Ministry</i>	8 <i>PADS</i>	9	10 <i>-WWS Cabaret -7:30p Novel Approaches</i>	11 <i>WWS Cabaret</i>
12 <i>-9:30a Worship Service -6p crazies</i>	13 <i>-7p Finance Committee -7p Worship Committee</i>	14	15	16 <i>-6p SRC -6:30p Confir- mation -7p Council</i>	17	18
19 <i>-9:30a Worship Service -3p Bags Tourna- ment -5:30p Youth Mis- sion Trip Meeting -6p crazies</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>-9:30a Worship Service -Voice articles due -6p crazies</i>	27	28	29	30 <i>6:30p Confirma- tion</i>		

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

For the Period Ended February 28, 2015

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			
Pledge Contributions	35,778	58,322	354,327
Loose Offerings	332	765	10,000
Rental Income	200	200	5,000
Fund Raising	261	585	8,000
Investment Income	(15)	(31)	-
More Property	-	-	46,000
More Property (special projects)	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	36,556	59,841	423,327
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>			
Ministry	16,587	33,769	229,129
Building	10,781	17,758	116,028
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	4,458	26,750
Mission / OCWM	-	-	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	898	960	10,270
Membership	-	(10)	2,750
Music	-	641	4,500
Worship	-	847	1,500
Endowment	-	-	-
Congregational Life	-	-	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Stewardship	-	-	500
Misc. & Contingency	-	-	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (before Special Projects)	30,495	58,423	423,327
Special Projects	-	-	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 6,061	\$ 1,418	\$ -

2015 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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



St. Matthew United Church of Christ

630.665.1236 (Office)

630.665.1436 (Fax)

Office Email: office@stmatthewucc.org

Web Site: www.stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm

Friday, 9am-1pm

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Sunday Church School: 10 am

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

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org

Emily Davis, Director of Youth Ministry

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Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director

jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist

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Kim Congdon, Handbell Director

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Diana Padilla, Administrative Assistant

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