

November 2018



of



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Pastoral Message

Pastor Allen Mothershed

I Have Overcome the World

Today, in my front yard, a transformation of beauty is taking place for anyone who takes the time to notice. Our maple tree, which is centered between the road and the sidewalk, is changing from the green leaves of summer to a rainbow of fall colors. Every year we look for its transformation. In the best years, the brilliance of the colors is so stunning that more than once I have seen people walking by taking time to admire this work of God. Another time a man was across the street capturing the tree's transformation with his cell phone camera.

Sometimes we will pick up one of these multi-color leaves and leave it in a visible place to enjoy. Winter is coming and fall is a reminder of this. I've always loved fall as a break from the hot humidity and the mosquitos I feel I must be on guard to swat and destroy before they steal a taste of me. It is winter that I have hated and dreaded. I remember experiencing my first cold Chicago winter winds that cut through my poor quality, thin Southerner's coat. I wondered what sort of people would intentionally live in such an unfriendly area of the country. I complained and wondered for a time about my decision to move to such an area.

My classmates, most of whom grew up delighted with cold and the snow that allowed snowball fights and sledding, laughed at my lack of preparedness. "Where's your hat? Why don't you wear warm gloves? You need a windproof, warm coat. Put on silks. You are not in the South anymore, deal with it!" Silly me. I started dressing for my new surroundings and learned to adjust. Another friend points out how I treated the cold wind and weather as if it were a personal vendetta against me. She said, "You scrunch up your shoulders and run from building to building as if you are being shot at. Make friends with winter. Lean into the gift of this time of your life. Hold out your arms and take joy in its beauty. Go out and play in the weather and you might discover that it is not an enemy but a friend."

"Lean into what you resist" is a truism that applies to all aspects of our life. Stop running and avoiding what must be faced. Pain is a part of life. Struggle and conflict are never far away. Fear only gathers power when we avoid facing it and finding our options. So much of suffering comes from our refusal to deal with what needs to be dealt with. And then, most importantly, remember what Jesus tells us: "In this world you have many troubles. But take heart. I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Amen.

-Pastor Allen

A Sermon Series: Sundays, November 11th–25th

Jacob's Journey: Finding God in Our Dysfunction

November 11th *Genesis 25:21-34*
"Uncivil Sibling Rivalry"

November 18th *Genesis 28:10-16*
"Dreaming of Angels"

November 25th *Genesis 32:22-32*
"Wrestling with an Angel"



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

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 4th (Commitment Sunday) or mailed to the church office.**

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

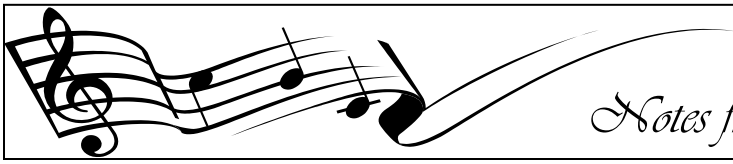
Here is what we hope to have happen this year:

- ♦ That those of us who do not give financially on a regular basis will take a small step of faith and do so for the first time. We need you with the rest of us, and letting go will be a real experience in trust and expanding your heart. What you put out into the world has a way of coming back to your own life.
- ♦ That each of us will give out of joy, rather than fear or guilt. It is more blessed to give than to receive. So many of us know this from years of experience.
- ♦ That we'll celebrate our life together at St. Matthew on November 4th and dedicate our "best estimates of giving" pledge cards. If you are unable to attend, you can mail your commitment to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.

So much good is happening at St. Matthew, and in the coming year we have areas which will need additional support, such as:

- ♦ greater visibility and increased hours with Mel Jerome, our new youth minister
- ♦ stipends for one or two college music students to enhance our choirs
- ♦ a growing and expanded Christian Education program

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 are going well. Maybe we are getting a bit of help from some angels, in one form or another. Either way, we will "Sing with the Angels" on December 9th during Worship.

November's Open Choir is on November 25th. Please mark your calendars now for the December Open Choir on December 23rd. We will be definitely be singing something seasonally appropriate.

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. Praise Band meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30, and for the next 6 weeks, Cantata rehearsal at 7:30 and Sanctuary Choir at 8:30.

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

Pennies From Heaven SCRIP (MANNA) Program

Now that this year's Stewardship Campaign is at full speed, 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 second 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 Andrea DiOrio at 630.881.8611, ADiOrioClarinet@gmail.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 corn—not creamed
- Canned green beans
- Stuffing
- Nuts for baking

- Baby wipes
- Disposable razors
- Soap
- Shampoo

The food pantry is no longer accepting empty egg cartons due to health reasons.

Thanks to those who donated.

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

TEAM UP  **to**
CLEAN UP

A hearty **thanks** to the following who came out to help with the 4th and final clean-up of 2018 on October 21st:

Lee Anderson, Rod Irely, John Kouns, Kira, Luke, and Marla Mothershed, and Dawn Schubert. Thanks also to our furry friend Shelby (Mothershed).

You are appreciated!! See you next Spring and look for the schedule after the 1st of the year! Hope to see many of you in 2019!

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING DURING OCTOBER!

Thanks to the following angels of St. Matthew who volunteered by visiting, assisting with lunch, and/or sharing snacks at ESSE during our Volunteer month of October:

Lee Anderson, Hi Baird, Tracey Blake, Wendy Fanning, Barb Giordano, Betty Greer, and Linda Raymond.

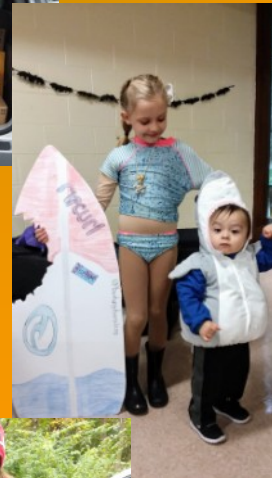


ESSE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The 22nd Annual ESSE Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 10th from 7:30-11am at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$5, and Dawn Schubert has some for sale. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. There are numerous raffle prizes and Silent Auction items. Please support this important fund-raising event and a mission of St. Matthew!



Trunk or Treat



Children's Ministry

When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water." Exodus 2:10 (NIV)

There are few things that bring more happiness than the birth of a new baby. For weeks before the baby is born, the preparations are made. The parents make sure the baby will have everything it needs. They buy clothes, baby bottles, little blankets to keep the baby warm, soft, fuzzy pajamas for the baby to sleep in. After the baby is born, care is taken to make sure that the baby has everything it needs to grow into a strong and healthy child. Good parents will do everything they can to keep their baby safe.



In Sunday School, beginning October 28th, the children will learn about a little baby boy who was born in a very dangerous time. They will learn about the amazing things his mother did to keep him safe and make sure he had every opportunity to grow, learn, and have the best of everything in his life.

Workshops in Story, Games, Drama and Movie will bring the story of baby Moses alive.

Thank you

Thank you to those who donated to help dogs and cats in need of rescue. We hope your pets enjoyed the treats and blankets. We raised \$100 to donate to rescue groups who help to remove animals from kill shelters. We also made 12 kennel blankets to donate to rescue groups so when they pick up the dogs and cats they have something nice and soft to lie on.



Thank you to the teachers who taught our Sunday School unit on "Animals, God's Creation"— Janella Holshouser, Dawn Schubert, Kenna Anderson, Sarah Muntz and Deb Felsenthal. Thank you to our shepherds who guide our children: Miegan Bresingham, Lesley Ortman, Kira Mothershed, Kelley Passini, Ethan Woods and Christy Banaszewski. Thank you to Miegan Bresingham for being an awesome M&M leader.

THANKS

Fourth Grade Bibles



On November 4th, Anna Muntz and Kyle Bresingham will receive their Bible gift from St. Matthew. Once received, I ask that you keep them in your prayers asking God to speak to them through His word, giving them wisdom, understanding and patience as the words speak to their hearts

Looking Ahead to Christmas

We started singing Christmas songs in Sunday School. The children will sing three of the songs at the 6pm Christmas Eve service. **If your child will be at the Christmas Eve service and would like to be one of Angel Gabriel's sidekick angels, please contact me swold45@hotmail.com so I can add them to the list.** The girls will wear white



dresses with pretty new feather wings and the boys are to wear white shirts. Mark Hutchison will be Angel Gabriel and the narrator of the story. Once we have all three songs I will send a cd home with the children so you can practice the songs.



Does your child play an instrument? **We are looking for children to play during the prelude at the 6pm Christmas Eve service.** Any instrument welcome! Contact Susan Wold at swold45@hotmail.com if your little angel would like to make some joyous noise!

November Birthdays



Parker Holshouser 11/1

Avery Scalora 11/12

Kyle Bresingham 11/25

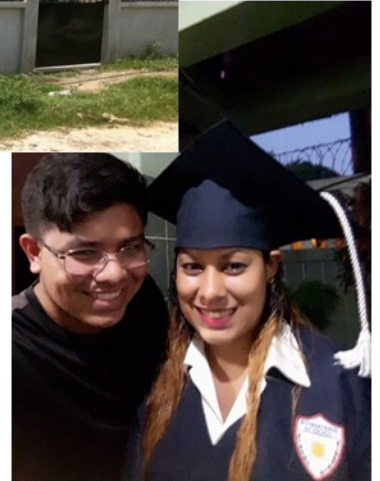
Kayla Lindberg 11/28

Bonnie Bailey 11/28

-Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

Guzman family update and letter

An important mission at St. Matthew is nurturing and maintaining our relationship with the Guzman family in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. In 2001, while building homes in Honduras, God led us to Catalina Guzman and her three children, Claudeth, Cinthia and Daniel. This hard-working mother and her children were living in very poor and unsafe conditions when we met them. Since that time, St. Matthew members have generously donated funds to help the Guzman family in a number of ways. We have worked alongside the family to build them a new and safer home and we sent Daniel and Claudeth to private school in order to break their cycle of poverty. With each visit to Honduras and each visit that Daniel and Claudeth have made to the US our relationship with the family grows. Since graduating, Daniel is working for Comcast in Honduras and attending the university at night. Claudeth is in the process of looking for a job. In Honduras, where 80% of the population lives below poverty level, we have been led to help others with houses, medical bills, medicine, food, school supplies, clothes, building materials and more. Because of a woman's prayer for help and a church's love for mission, a bridge has been built across the miles, showing that short term mission trips can lead to long term relationships when we allow God to lead our way.



Daniel's visit

Daniel came to visit his St. Matthew friends last month for two great weeks. He stayed at the homes of many members and enjoyed a lot of outings: 2 museums, 2 movies, hiking at Starved Rock, a bike ride, saw the trolls at Morton Arboretum twice, went to the zoo, got a haircut, had his first yoga lesson, shopped, went to church and a church outing where he got to meet more of the St. Matthew family, and ate at a lot of great restaurants, not to mention multiple trips to McDonald's. He ended his stay with a group chili dinner. When asked what his favorite part of his vacation was, he said "The best part was seeing all my friends again." That night he gave us a letter addressed to St. Matthew from his mother, (left):

Dear brothers and friends,

I am sending my love to all of you in the name of Jesus. It is my wish that you are all doing good and in good health. I pray to God every day that you will come and visit me. I give thanks to God and all of you for giving my children their education. I really appreciate it so much. May God bless you all. I love you so much. See you soon, Catalina Guzman

Aug. 2, 2018.

Dc: Catalina Guzman:

para: Iglesia San Mateo

Queridos hermanos y amigos
les estoy enviando un saludo y un abrazo
a cada uno de ustedes en el nombre del
Señor Jesus.
mi mejor deseo es que todos ustedes
estén bien.

yo le pido a Dios que un día vuelva
a visitarme. y doy gracias a Dios
y a ustedes por haberme entregado
a mis hijos graduados.
en verdad les agradezco mucho.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos
los amo mucho
hasta pronto

Catalina Guzmán

Announcements and Events

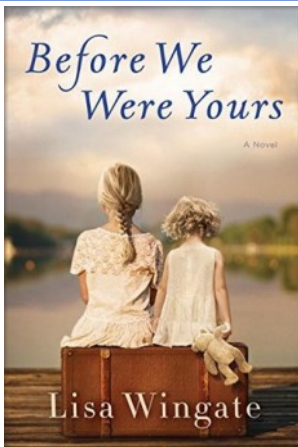


We are happy to announce that St. Matthew has a new Youth Director, Mel Jerome. Mel will be joining our staff on November 1st and will be at Crazies for the first time on November 11th at 6pm. Mel is an active member in the Tamil UCC community which meets as St. Matthew on Sunday afternoons. He will be working 15-20 hours per week. Mel comes to us with a degree in Youth Ministry and has a love of youth and a desire to support their growth in faith. Mel is married to Blessy and they have one son, Luke.

We look forward to introducing him in worship soon. Welcome, Mel!

VILLAGE VOICES CONCERT

Join us on Sunday, November 11th at 7pm in the sanctuary for "Songs of Remembrance", a fundraising event for St. Matthew. Once again, we will be featuring the choral sounds of the Village Voices of Downers Grove, of which our own John Kouns is a member. Selections will include patriotic, gospel, jazz, contemporary and show/film tunes. Tickets are \$8 and are available from John Kouns 630.542.4641, the church office, in the narthex on Sundays or at the door.



NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in November is "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate

In this poignant novel, inspired by a true story, two families, generations apart, are forever changed by a heartbreaking injustice.

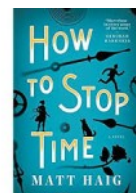
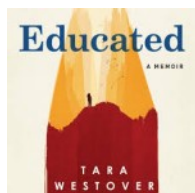
(Publisher) "Lisa Wingate takes an almost unthinkable chapter in our nation's history and weaves a tale of enduring power." (Paula McLain)

The Place: The Boyds', 510 South Aurora Way, Wheaton

The Date: Friday, November 16th at 7:30pm

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

LOOKING AHEAD: "Educated, a memoir" by Tara Westover, "How to Stop Time" by Matt Haig



November 2018

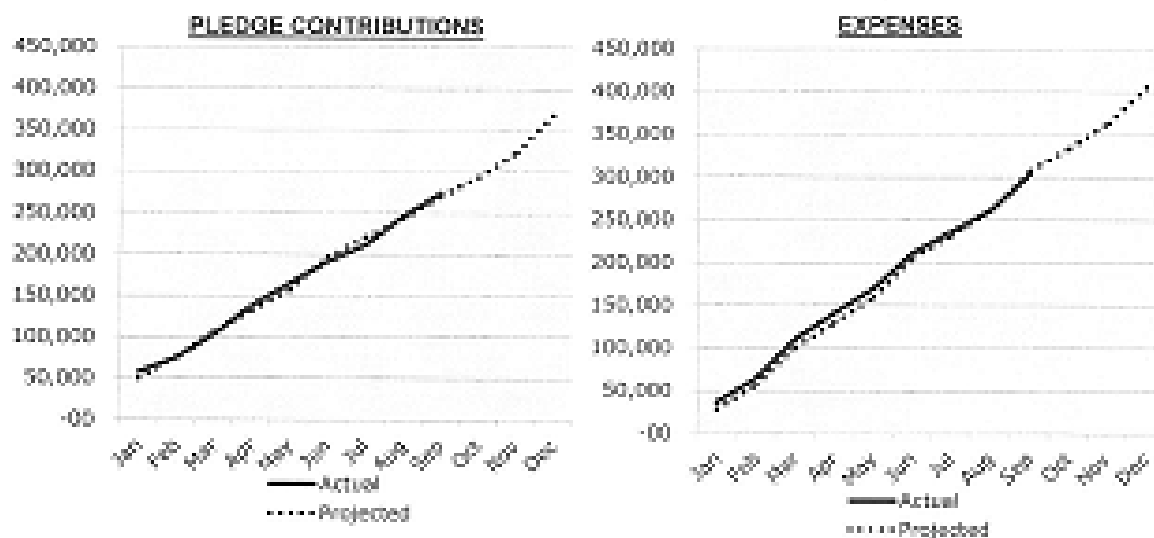
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Can-tata rehearsal 8:30pm Sanctuary Choir	1 8-10am office hours 1pm Women's Prayer Group	2 Office closed 7pm Euchre	3
4 9:30am Worship Service Commitment Sunday Bells 6pm crazies	5 Office closed	6 Election Day 	7	8 1pm Women's Prayer Group	9 6pm Congo Life Movie Night <i>"Won't You Be My Neighbor?"</i>	10
11 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies 7pm Village Voices fundraiser	12 6pm Confirmation meeting	13 12:30pm Digital Ministry meeting 6pm SRC 7pm Council	14 PADS	15 1pm Women's Prayer Group	16	17
18 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies VOICE articles due	19	20	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving 	23 Office closed	24
25 9:30am Worship Service Open choir 6pm crazies	26	27	28	29 1pm Women's Prayer Group	30	

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

For the Period Ending September 30, 2018

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	27,883	274,784	370,000
Love Offerings	383	3,857	4,000
Rental Income	950	8,100	9,300
Fund Raising	284	2,530	4,000
Investment Income	(149)	522	300
More Property	-00	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	7,032	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	29,351	309,805	407,600
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	21,587	156,000	230,855
Building	7,394	88,350	104,580
Loans & Notes	8,858	20,063	25,750
Mission / OCWM	4,000	20,794	25,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	1,510	3,671	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	80	884	3,000
Music	528	2,138	4,200
Worship	47	961	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	500	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	50	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	41,823	303,510	407,035
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$12,472	\$6,295	\$665

2018 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



Please contact Howard Peterson if you have questions or need additional information.

THE VOICE
OF
St. Matthew
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1420 South Gables Blvd.
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189



St. Matthew United Church of Christ
630.665.1236 (Office)

Office Email: office@stmatthewucc.org

Web Site: www.stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10am-2pm

Friday: 9-11am

Sunday Worship: 9:30am

Sunday Church School: 10am

Our Purpose:

Become, Live, and Serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Identity:

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome and accepted here at St. Matthew United Church of Christ.

STAFF

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