



THE VOICE

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JUNE/JULY
2017

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PASTORAL MESSAGE
Rev. Allen Mothershed

"A PEBBLE UNDER THE FOOT OR A ROCK TO THE HEAD?"

Back when I was a young United Methodist pastor, I heard a respected older Bishop who was the preacher for the week at the Mississippi Annual Conference. He was preaching a sermon on the need for humility. With great emotion and dramatics, he stepped out from behind the pulpit and pointed to his shoe. He took one shoe off, took out a tiny pebble and held it up for us to see. Then he said, "Every step," he explained to us, "every single step I take, this pebble that I keep in my shoe is God's little reminder that I am a human being like everybody else."

Well, my first thought was "that's gotta hurt." My second was, "Why would you do that to yourself?" My third was "man, I don't need a painful pebble reminding me of my humanity, the world is doing a very good job at that." To be truthful, I thought he and his sermon were a bit too sanctimonious, but I have to admit, he made his point and he made enough of an impression for me to share this with you decades later.

Life has its way of bringing us all back down to earth. The trouble is that sometimes it can feel more like a rock to the head than a pebble under our foot. We lose a job; we receive bad news from our doctor; a friend or a loved one dies; or a relationship is in danger of being lost. The Apostle Paul says we are troubled, we are in doubt, we have enemies, we can be badly hurt at times. And Paul is one to know. How many times was he shipwrecked, beaten, deeply disappointed, sick to the point of death? He also talked about having a thorn in the flesh which he had to learn to live with, one that God would not take away from him.

Paul was a realist. He was not attempting to act like being a Christian would exempt him from the harder realities of this life. In fact, his experience was that it was because he was Christian that he exposed himself to some of the **more painful experiences of life. But he goes on to say, "We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed."** (Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12)

(Cont'd. on page 2)

His image is that of clay pots. We are clay pots. Not a bad image. Sooner or later, we realize that we are just that fragile, temporal, mortal. But he goes on to say, we are a clay pot filled with an amazing treasure, the good news of God which is the power of life over death. The gift of faith is also the gift of resilience and hope.

Blessings - Pastor Allen

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM



Another year of music has gone by! In September there seems to be so much time to include so many great anthems, and then before we know it Music Appreciation Sunday is upon us. I

wish to thank everyone who participated in music this year, whether it was in Bells, Praise Band, Sanctuary Choir, Cantata, Open-Choir Sing, or as a soloist, instrumentalist, or whatever category I have forgotten to mention. The music would not be possible without all of you!

And now we are in summer. Time to give these folk a bit of a break from weekly rehearsals and such. It is time for the rest of us to sign up to share your talents on Sunday mornings. It could be something from the hymnal, or your favorite church type song from years ago. Perhaps an instrumental piece? A few of you could get together to present something. I know there are several of you with voices and other musical talents. Please sign up on the sheet in **the narthex. Everyone would love to hear your "Joyful Noise".**

Have a Great Summer!

Peace,

Jamie

630.202.6788

Lanni1@comcast.net

MISSION NEWS



FOODS RESOURCE BANK

St. Matthew is once again sponsoring acreage in Forrest, Illinois, which will be planted, harvested and 100% of the proceeds used to help poor areas in the world learn how to grow crops to sustain themselves. This is not a hand-out but a hand-up. Please stop by the table in the narthex and see for yourself how your contribution can multiply and help stop the hunger in less fortunate areas around the world. We need your help. Sponsorships are accepted for as little as 1/8 acre or \$31. Full acres can be sponsored for \$250

each, and you have until the end of September to pay. Please contact Terry Young with questions or for more information. Please consider how you can help the hungry people in the world.



FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

St. Matthew will again be participating in the Wheaton 4th of July parade as our "Shopping Cart Brigade" will collect food and cash for two local food pantries. We need marchers for the approximate time period of 9am to noon. Please sign up in the narthex or contact John Adams at jadams1958@gmail.com or [630.235.3698](tel:630.235.3698) so we know how many carts to obtain. We also encourage members to consider inviting friends to join us for this fun family event, or consider donating items for the People's Resource Center to stock the carts. This is a wonderful way to help others in need and have a great time doing it. See you on the 4th!



FOOD ON THE FIRST

Thanks to those who donated in the month of May. Here's what's needed for June and July.

- Feminine pads (no tampons)
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Dish soap
- Band-aids
- Diapers—sizes 4,5, & 6
- Training pants
- Baby wipes

Make sure items are not expired and packages are unopened.

Please call Betty Greer, [630.682.4084](tel:630.682.4084) if you have any questions.

Blessings to all.

SHRIMP BOIL 2017







CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP NEWS



CHURCH PICNIC

The all-church picnic will be held Sunday, June 4th after church. Please sign up, and bring a side dish or dessert, and your favorite outdoor chair. We will provide the rest! Hamburgers, hot dogs, all the fixings and drinks will be provided. **We'll also have games for all ages including bags, 3-legged race, and our annual egg toss. Please come rain or shine, we'll move indoors into Dobstaff if it rains.**

EUCHRE NIGHT

The next Euchre night is planned for Wednesday July, 19th, 7pm in Dobstaff Hall. We have moved the date to mid-week for the summer. College and high school students welcome! Please watch the Happenings for any updates as summer schedules are a bit more fluid.

COUGARS GAME

We are looking to secure an August evening for Cougars Baseball again. Based on feedback from last year we will look to get seats higher up and closer to the lawn. If you are interested, it would be helpful for you to contact Rob Neufelder and let him know how many tickets you would like. Watch for more details in upcoming communications.

SUMMER EVENING GATHERINGS

Based on the popularity of the Monday night \$5 burgers event last year at Arrowhead, we are **planning a return visit. We are also planning a pizza night at Pal Joey's along the Fox River in Batavia.** More details to follow.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR

We wish to express our gratitude to Linnea Karpenske for her years of setting up the Sunday morning coffee hour - thank you, Linnea! Linnea will continue to do the 1st and 3rd Sunday setup, which means we are looking for volunteers to help with the 2nd, 4th, and occasional 5th Sunday. If you have an interest in doing the setup once, occasionally, or even on a regular basis, please contact Wendy Fanning or Rob Neufelder. We have detailed instructions on what needs to be done – it requires you to arrive about 30 minutes before the service time.



It's Official: We have adopted a mile of the Illinois Prairie Path!

In our effort to be good stewards of the planet and take responsibility for a part of our community, we have adopted a 1-mile stretch of the Main Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path. This section begins in downtown Wheaton at West Street and extends east to President Street. The mile section that runs behind the church property had already been claimed by another group, although that was our first choice. A sign will be posted at the start of our mile crediting us with the clean-up (GOOD and free PR)!

We must agree to pick up trash/debris from this section of the path a minimum of 4 times between April 1 and November 1. Our first date was in May and we have committed to the following dates to complete our commitment for 2017 (and can re-schedule with advance notice):

Sunday, July 9th

Saturday, September 16th

Saturday, October 28th

If you want to participate, you will need to complete a waiver (only ONCE), available in the narthex. Please call Dawn Schubert, [630.665.9860](tel:630.665.9860) if you have any questions.



MANNA/SCRIP UPDATE

The Manna Group Scrip Company, located in Palatine, has been purchased by Great Lakes Scrip Center, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. You can check out their website at

www.shopwithscrip.com.

We have started placing our orders with Great Lakes Scrip and new order forms have been uploaded to our website

(Donate/Pennies from Heaven page). The Manna/Scrip cards are

now being shipped from Grand Rapids and arrive later in the week. The cards should be available for early pickup by **Thursday** afternoon or at the Manna/Scrip table on the following **Sunday** as usual.

However, if you register on shopwithscrip.com and choose the PrestoPay option (direct withdrawals from your bank account), you can order your own cards online or from your cell phone. Selected cards can be reloaded as well.

Check out the SCRIP (Manna) table on Sunday for more information.



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will be at St. Matthew on Friday, July 28th from 9am-5pm.

Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for cardiovascular disease include Carotid Artery (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), Peripheral Arterial Disease (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a Heart Rhythm Screening (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment for men and women.

Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early. Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Aimee McGrath
- 3 Noah Baird
Allan Franz
- 6 Bob Armstrong
- 8 Jim Mathieson
- 9 Wendy Fanning
Randy King
- 14 Andrea DiOrio
- 15 Kenna Anderson
- 16 Bill SooHoo
- 17 Lesley Ebel
- 18 June Adams
Aimee Legatzke
Will Matthei
- 19 Jan More
- 20 Justin Ciner
Ellen Ribe
- 23 Kelly Chapple
Tim Raymond
- 25 Roseanne King
- 26 Andrew Craig

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Derek Breese
Martin Breese
Mikaela Breese
Alison McGrath
David Uhrig
- 3 Diane Breese
- 5 Brooke Stubbe
- 9 Nancy Lewis
Becca Staton
- 15 Patti Woods
- 16 Marla Mothershed
- 17 Priscilla Barnett
- 19 Cindy Bute
- 22 Karen
Banaszewski
- 25 Hope Erickson
- 27 Lindsay Schaal
Michelle Kirincich
- 29 Carol Honeywell
Jack Schlenker
Dan Miller
- 31 Marge Brooks

CHILDREN & YOUTH



Children's Ministry

Thank you to all the teachers, shepherds, leaders, helpers and nursery volunteers who made Children's Ministry so special for the children this past Sunday School year. Thank you also to the parents who allow us to spend time with your children helping them grow in faith and love.

I am looking for volunteers to help out with the Children's Sermon over the summer. You would prepare a 3 to 4 minute sermon of your choice, or one centered on the scripture. If you are interested, please let me know.

In Summer Sunday School, beginning this spring, we will be planting and maintaining our butterfly garden. We will have activities that center around God's creation and will spend time outside as much as possible. If you would be interested in leading a Summer Sunday School session during July when I am out of town, please let me know. You would have the children from 10-10:30am and you could plan your own activity or choose one from a list I can provide.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



June 12th -16th
9am to Noon

Games, Crafts, Music, Snacks & Science Activities

Family and Friend Ice Cream Social, 7pm Friday, June 16th

Please take a registration form from the table in the narthex and share it with family, neighbors and friends. On Friday morning, June 9th, we will be decorating the church for this fun outreach program. If you are available to help, sign up in the narthex or just show up between 9am and 12pm. Donuts will be provided.

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry
Susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org



June/July Birthdays

Michael Henderson 6/19, Sean Walsh 6/13, Annabel Sturm 6/14, Tyler Bute 7/2

crazies
St. Matthew UCC

CRAZIES NEWS

Happy June everyone! We've finally reached that time of year when people stop complaining about the cold and rain and start complaining about it being too hot and humid. Praise God!

I'll start off this message by saying that you really missed something if you weren't at church on Confirmation Sunday. St. Matthew should be very proud of its sons Chris Achammer and Justin Kirincich. These are two impressive young men with strong faith foundations who will certainly be an asset to our community.

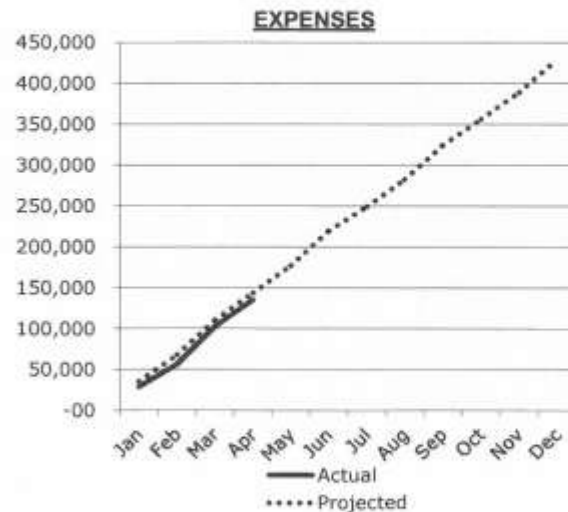
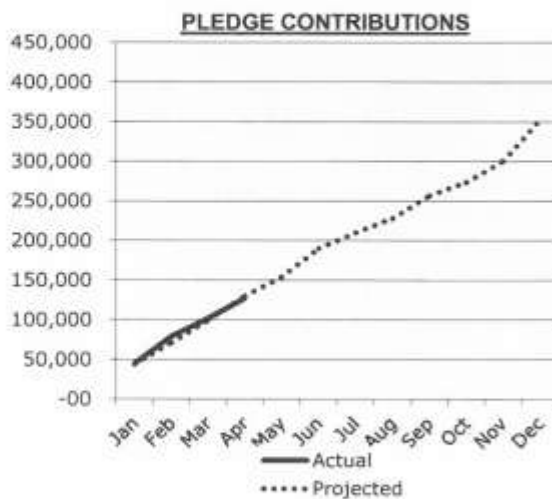
As far as looking forward goes, please look out for our annual **Father's Day Car Wash** during the regular Worship service on Sunday, June 18th. It's a really important fundraiser for the youth. Keep an eye out as well for those clean-up days for our church's section of the Prairie Path. Let's get involved in that, many hand make light work. In addition, I'd like to hold some visioning meetings soon about how our ministry will look during the summer months. Some people have expressed interest in a midweek dinner/worship meeting for the summer which I'd like to get started or at least talk about. If you have enthusiasm or ideas for that kind of event, please get in touch with me. We'll also think about adjusting our crazies schedule for the summer, so if you are someone who's invested in the youth, let me know how you feel about that as well. Stay cool, everyone!

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

For the Period Ending April 30, 2017

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	25,514	127,266	350,000
Loose Offerings	394	1,057	10,000
Rental Income	150	1,420	3,300
Fund Raising	334	996	4,000
Investment Income	218	1,121	300
More Property	-00	-00	21,000
Miscellaneous Income	90	461	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	26,700	132,321	393,600
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	18,278	77,131	234,971
Building	10,652	40,133	102,216
Loans & Notes	-00	6,688	26,750
Mission / OCWM	2,500	6,500	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	1,136	3,027	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	49	578	3,000
Music	125	1,087	4,200
Worship	18	403	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	32,759	135,546	408,787
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$(6,059)	\$(3,225)	\$(15,187)

2017 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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

JUNE 2017

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4 9:30am Worship Service 11am Church Picnic	5 7pm Building Committee 7pm Christian Education	6 7pm Membership 7:30pm Mission	7	8	9 10am-12pm Decorating for VBS	10
11 9:30am Worship Service	12 9am-12pm VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	13	14	15	16	17
					7pm VBS Ice Cream Social	
18 FATHER'S DAY 9:30am Worship Service crazies Car Wash	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:30am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY 2017

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

						1
2 9:30am Worship Service	3	4 FOURTH OF JULY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5	6	7	8
9 9:30am Worship Service Prairie Path Clean-Up	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Service August VOICE articles deadline	17	18	19 7pm Euchre Night	20	21	22 FAMILY CAMP →
23 9:30am Worship Service FAMILY CAMP →	24	25	26	27	28 9am-5pm Life Line Screening	29
30 9:30am Worship Service	31					



Find us at: www.stmatthewucc.org
Facebook, Pinterest and YouTube



St. Matthew United Church of Christ
630.665.1236 (Office)

Office Email:
office@stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 9am-4pm
Friday: 9am-1pm

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.***

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