

# February

## 2021



of



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### **Pastoral Message**

*Pastor Allen Mothershed*

## **A Simple Faith**

Sometimes the greatest accomplishments of faithful Christians, whose lives and works we remember so many centuries later, have nothing to do with having a new idea or developing a new theology. This is true for St. Francis of Assisi, the great saint who many believe was the holiest man to ever walk the earth, other than Jesus, whom he followed. We don't have many of his writings. He never verbally or theologically challenged the church, of which he was a part, even though it had become grossly corrupt and far from reflecting the faith and way of Jesus. He had a moment in his life when he heard God speaking to him through Holy Scripture. He listened and did exactly what God told him to do. "Go and sell all that you have and give to the poor." He did just as he was told and, by doing that, he changed the world and lived a joyful life.

It was a simple idea. Take a few of the words of Jesus literally and trust that the promises He attached to them would be the absolute truth. This is not usually a good idea. Lots of troubled people waded into deeper, darker waters as literalists. But these words for this man were the keys to paradise.

Sometimes you get to a place where the only path you can take is one that begins with an enormous jump, like a baby bird's first leap off the branch. St. Francis took the leap, and he soared.

We are in a new year, a new beginning. What if we listened more closely to what God's words are to us this year and, simply, with great attentiveness and commitment, put them into practice?

Blessings,

Pastor Allen

## **Lenten Sermon Series: The Light in the Darkness**

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>February 17th</b><br>Ash Wednesday  | <b>Isaiah 58:1-12</b>   | Your Light Shall Break Forth   |
| <b>February 21st</b>                   | <b>John 1:1-14</b>  | John and the Light of Christ   |
| <b>February 28th</b>                   | <b>John 3:1-21</b>  | Nicodemus  |
| <b>March 7th</b>                       | <b>John 4:4-26</b>  | The Woman at the Well  |
| <b>March 14th</b>                      | <b>John 9:1-41</b>  | The Blind Man  |
| <b>March 21st</b>                      | <b>John 11:1-45</b>   | The Resurrection of Lazarus  |
| <b>March 28th</b><br>Palm Sunday       | <b>John 12:12-19</b><br><b>John 19:28-37</b>  | The Arrival of the King<br>The Light Lifted Up   |
| <b>April 1st</b><br>Maundy<br>Thursday | <b>Lenten Lessons and Carols</b><br><b>John 13:2-17</b><br><b>John 18:1-14</b><br><b>John 18:19-23</b><br><b>John 18: 28-40</b><br><b>John 19:16-27</b> | Washing the Feet<br>In the Garden<br>Peter on Trial<br>Pilate on Trial<br>The World on Trial |
| <b>April 4th</b><br>Easter Sunday      | <b>John 20:1-18</b>   | The Light that Cannot Be Extinguished  |



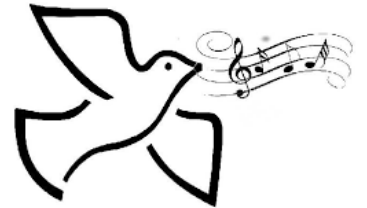


## *Notes from the Music Room....*

This is February 2021. Yet the feelings of 2020 will not go away, like a recurring nightmare. We started the New Year with promise, and all saw what has transpired.

No matter what happens around us, we have the constant of God's love and support. It makes walking in the way of Jesus more important than ever. We sing that when Jesus walked that lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself. We are so fortunate in that we don't have to walk it alone – we have Jesus to walk with us. Yet we can lose sight of that in the daily bombardment of news and information.

Music has the power to help us through. Many songs speak to our hearts and souls. A few from our hymnal -- ***Amazing Grace, Trust and Obey, Brother James' Air, Help Us Accept Each Other*** -- give us strength and comfort in times of trial. ***Help Us Accept Each Other*** is particularly poignant these days, calling us to accept others as Jesus accepted us, asking for help learning to care for all people, to renew us with His Spirit. There are several in the choral library that come to mind: ***Be Not Afraid, Celebrate the Life of Jesus, Find Us Faithful, Order My Steps, The Lord's Prayer***, and many others. I'm sure each of you has your own favorites that speak to you with strength and peace.



With the vaccine starting to roll out, I see hope for when we can sing together. I see hope for when the choir can safely meet to sing some of these songs. Until that time, keep a song in your heart and Jesus in your soul.

Peace, and stay safe.

Jamie Craig

[jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org)

Music Director, 630.202.6788

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## Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)



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



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 1  | Kevin Cole           |
| 2  | Taylor Holland       |
|    | Tim Schubert         |
| 4  | Leona Staton         |
| 6  | Bruce Anderson       |
|    | Linnea Karpenske     |
| 10 | Elizabeth Baird      |
|    | Marilyn Giese        |
|    | Kirk Stubbee         |
| 11 | Charlene Cooper      |
|    | Mary Henderson       |
| 12 | Stuart Blake         |
| 14 | Daniel McGrath       |
|    | Amber Quinn          |
| 16 | Courtney Christensen |
|    | Lee Craig            |
| 19 | Abby Johnson         |
| 22 | Carl Anderson        |
| 24 | Liliana King         |
| 25 | Joyce Boyd           |
|    | Anthony Kresl        |
| 26 | Tracey Blake         |
|    | Cathy Miller         |



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.

## Food on the First

**Thank you to all who donated in January!**

Here is what is needed in February:

- Canned pasta
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Cereal (hot or cold)
- Soup
- Rice
- Baby wipes
- Feminine pads (no tampons)
- Pull-Ups
- Diapers—any size
- Disposable razors
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream



Please make sure items have not expired and are unopened. If you have any questions, please call Betty Greer at 630.682.4084.

**Since we are not meeting in-person right now, Betty will be at church on Saturday, February 20th and 27th from 1-2:30pm to collect donations.**

Food and monetary donations are greatly needed right now. To make a monetary donation, go to <http://www.peoplesrc.org/donate/>.



DuPagePads

### DuPagePads

Due to COVID-19, PADS is still on hold.

They are still in need of monetary donations. You can either go directly to their website or contribute to our PADS account for the future.

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

Thank you! Julie Schubert



### Did You Know?? Meals on Wheels is a SMUCC ministry!

One of the ongoing ministries here at St.

Matthew is our 25+ year involvement with the Meals on Wheels Program run by the DuPage Senior Citizens Council. Our dedicated team (currently about 11 people) shares a route two days a week (currently Mondays and Fridays). We pick up anywhere between 6 and 10 hot meals (and sometimes frozen meals) at Marian Park and deliver them to seniors and others who are homebound.

The schedule is coordinated by Dawn Schubert, and there is lots of flexibility for switching when the need arises. All involved find the ministry very rewarding and so needed (especially now)! If you'd like to get involved, contact Dawn at [rural\\_rococo@msn.com](mailto:rural_rococo@msn.com).



## **Children's Ministry** **February 2021**

In February, the Sunday School families will receive the Valentine lesson **God Loved Me First**. Because we are still not gathering in the church, the children and their families will be able to do the lesson together in their homes. The lesson includes a story, skit, craft, game, and extra fun things to do throughout the Valentine's Day week. The children will also have an opportunity to make a valentine for someone from St. Matthew. It can be a Sunday School teacher, shepherd, M&M partner, staff member, or they can just choose someone they do not even know out of the directory. It will be a nice way to spread love.

**Memory Verse: 1 John 4:19, We love because He first loved us.**

**Synopsis:** When two people love each other, someone must be first to say, "I love you." God said "I love you" to every person before we were ever born. He wants us to love Him, and others, because He loved us first!

**Scripture: Jeremiah 1:5**

**Objective:** Kids will learn that we can love God and others, because God loved us first, even before we were born!

Ash Wednesday, February 17th, is the beginning of the Lenten season. I am in the process of reviewing **Easter/Lenten curriculum and devotions for families** to take part in at home. I plan to get the materials to families later this month.

**Care Packages for college students and military.** If you have a student or military family member who is away from home, please send me their address at [susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org). We hope to get the care packages out in early March. Also, if you would like to donate towards the postage or items in the care packages, please specify that the donation go to the "Sunday School care packages." I will then shop for the care packages, as that will be the easiest way.

**A special thank you to Dawn Schubert and Kenna Anderson** for always keeping in touch with me and offering to help in any way they can. It is such a blessing to have their love and support at a time when we are unable to get together for meetings and planning.

Susan Wold  
Director of Children's Ministry

crazies

Even though we have entered 2021 and still we aren't able to meet in person, crazies are finding different ways to see each other. After having a meeting with Pastor Allen, we will be trying to have more outdoor activities, weather permitting. Some ideas include going sledding, doing a scavenger hunt at Blackwell, and even having a snowman contest at church.

The times that we don't meet, we will continue our sessions on Zoom over characters of the Bible. We do hope to see everyone in person, but until then we are praying that things will get back to normal.

**Psalm 46:1-3** God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

God Bless,

Mel Jerome, Director of Youth Ministry

# Announcements



## Volunteer Opportunity

The DuPage Senior Citizens Council (the organization that runs the Meals on Wheels program) has a new service that might be a good fit for those looking for a safe and easy volunteering opportunity. The "Friendly Phone Call service" is a program that connects seniors with DSCC volunteers. This program provides you with a senior, and you then spend a few minutes each week connecting with that person via telephone. The program has been well-received and is helping with the growing problem of social isolation, especially during the current pandemic.

If you are interested, or have questions, please call Dawn Schubert 630.665.9860, and she can help you get connected with this program. A Zoom orientation is required before you begin to volunteer.

## 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>



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)

## 2021 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.

**2021 VOICE deadlines: Typically the second to last Sunday of the month, with exception of November and December.**

**February 21st, March 21st, April 18th, May 23rd, July 18th, August 22nd, September 19th, October 24th, November 14th, December 12th.**

**The Voice is not published in July.**



## **February Yoga**

Join us for Yoga in the sanctuary on Thursdays in February at 10am. Learn to bring vitality, as well as calm, to your body and mind.

Masks required and generous social distancing will be practiced.

**\*\*New:** Classes will also be offered via Zoom! Please contact Marla if you would like to participate on Zoom (no mask required, and you do not need to have your camera on!) at [mmothershed63@gmail.com](mailto:mmothershed63@gmail.com) or 630.441.5963.

Donations accepted and will be given to Missions.

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## **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.



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## **Check out the St. Matthew website**

For the most up-to-date St. Matthew information, please check the St. Matthew website. You can make a prayer request, sign up for the newsletter, learn about online giving, and more!

<https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>





## Online Sunday Worship

While we are unable to share Sunday worship as a group, please join us on Sunday morning at 9:30 online for Pastor Allen's weekly message and worship service.

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 our homepage: <https://www.stmatthewucc.org/>



## 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)

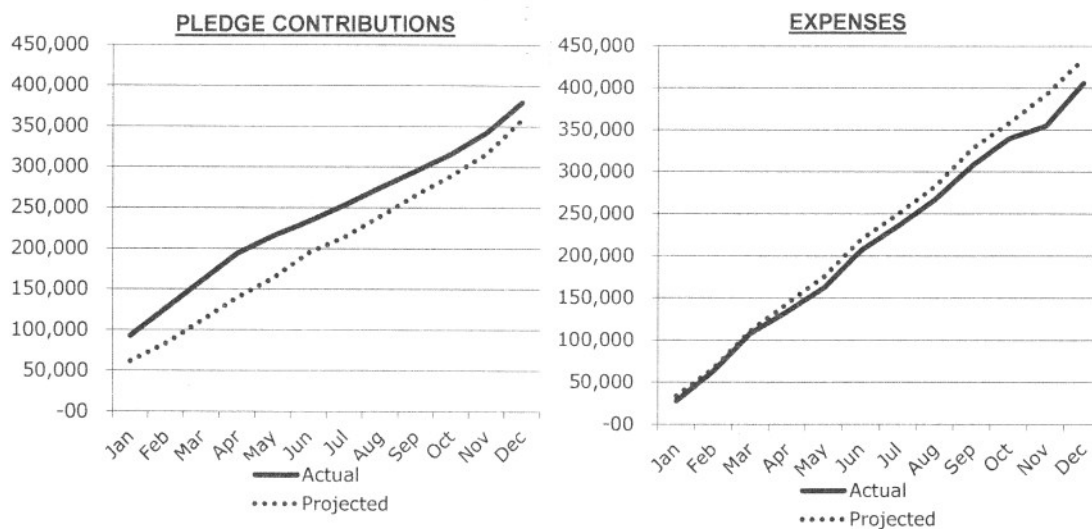
Questions can be directed to Edie DeBoard at [financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org).

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

For the Period Ending December 31, 2020

|                                | ACTUAL<br>CURRENT<br>MONTH | ACTUAL<br>YEAR-TO-<br>DATE | ANNUAL<br>BUDGET  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS:</b>               |                            |                            |                   |
| Pledge Contributions           | 37,135                     | 379,229                    | 358,364           |
| Loose Offerings                | -00                        | 972                        | 5,000             |
| Rental Income                  | 100                        | 4,100                      | 9,600             |
| Fund Raising                   | 59                         | 520                        | 2,200             |
| Interest Income=Bk accts       | 14                         | 166                        | 120               |
| Investment Income              | 0                          | (321)                      | 0                 |
| More Property                  | -00                        | 37,000                     | 37,000            |
| Miscellaneous Income           | 44,983                     | 47,527                     | 5,000             |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>          | <b>82,291</b>              | <b>469,193</b>             | <b>417,284</b>    |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>           |                            |                            |                   |
| Ministry                       | 22,358                     | 229,625                    | 245,572           |
| Building & Admin               | 18,070                     | 117,443                    | 116,678           |
| Loans & Notes                  | 6,688                      | 26,750                     | 26,750            |
| Mission / OCWM                 | 2,595                      | 24,277                     | 27,250            |
| Committees:                    |                            |                            |                   |
| Christian Education            | 333                        | 4,667                      | 8,000             |
| Membership/Congregational Life | 0                          | 26                         | 3,000             |
| Music                          | 409                        | 1,809                      | 4,895             |
| Worship                        | 261                        | 1,121                      | 1,500             |
| Memorial/Endowment             | 0                          | 0                          | 0                 |
| Stewardship                    | 0                          | 0                          | 0                 |
| Misc. & Contingency            | 0                          | 0                          | 1,000             |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>      | <b>50,714</b>              | <b>405,717</b>             | <b>434,645</b>    |
| <b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>     | <b>\$31,577</b>            | <b>\$63,476</b>            | <b>\$(17,361)</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)

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