



THE VOICE

1420 S. Gables Blvd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
630.665.1236
www.stmatthewucc.org



APRIL
2017

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PASTORAL MESSAGE
Rev. Allen Mothershed

"HANDLING A PANHANDLER?"

So you pull up to a red light, and walking between the cars is a panhandler. What do you do? Turn and head the other way and attempt to freeze them out? Pray the light turns green soon? Wished the police would keep people like this off the roads? Take out some pocket change and quickly give it to the person before the light changes?

Some believe strongly about not giving for a variety of reasons. "Rather than having a real job, maybe he or she is professional beggar who is making money taking advantage of people's feelings of compassion." "Who knows how they will spend the money. Alcohol? drugs? cigarettes?" "If I give I'll be contributing to a 'public nuisance'." Or maybe we say to ourselves, "I give money to social service organizations as a better use of my money. They can determine the need and be more equitable than I can." Our reactions do tell us a lot about ourselves and the attitudes we have.

But sometimes our heart strings are pulled and we feel moved to do something. We see the face of the person and fear that in passing her up we have denied a person in need and betrayed our faith. After all, who are we to judge? Who has walked in this person's shoes? There are desperate people with great need and people who, for many reasons, do go hungry. This is true even in our country of abundance. Maybe this is actually someone God is hoping I will help. After all, Jesus said, "Give to everyone who asks you for something. Don't turn anyone away who wants to borrow something from you" (Matthew 5:42).

I recently read an article which refers to Pope Francis on this issue. The Pope encourages us to freely give to any who asks. He offers a fresh way to explore this issue. He tells us "to preserve dignity, to see another person not as a pathology or a social condition, but as a human, with a life whose value is equal to your own." So do not refuse him or her. If you have the means, give to this person and be sure to smile and look them in the eyes and acknowledge their humanity.

(cont'd. on pg. 2)

Maybe you will disagree with this, but what I like about his suggestion is that it shifts our way of thinking about this issue. Maybe the issue is not so much about the need or the character of the person asking, but more about our need to be in relationship to those less fortunate than we are and to practice unconditional generosity, which Jesus told us to do. Who knows the angels God places in our path to remind us of our common humanity?

So no easy answers here. Just a desire to live as close to the way of Jesus as possible.

Blessings - Pastor Allen

The Article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/03/opinion/the-pope-on-panhandling-give-without-worry.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

Pastor Allen's blog:

Visit Pastor Allen's blog and sign up for new posts at amothershed.blogspot.com

LENT TO EASTER - THE JOURNEY OF HOPE

This Lenten season we take our Lenten journey together by way of the Old Testament, with Adam and Eve, Sarah and Abram, Moses of the Hebrew People, Samuel and Ezekiel. We learn from the faith of ancient people what it means to trust in God and find the grace we need each step of the journey to hope. We hope you can join us for each Sunday.

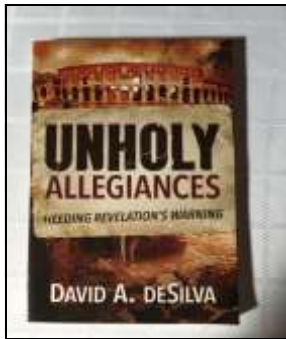


April 2	Can These Bones Live?	Ezekiel 37: 1-14
April 9	Palm Sunday	Matthew 21: 1-11
April 13	Maundy Thursday (Tenebrae and Communion)	John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
April 16	Easter Sunday 6-6:30am Sunrise Service (on the More property adjacent to St. Matthew). The service will include music, prayers, a homily, and Communion. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in Dobstaff Hall following the service. 9:30am service in the Sanctuary.	John 20: 1-18

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER - APRIL 13th, 6pm

We are in need of volunteers to make brownies or stew for dinner before the Maundy Thursday worship service. Brownie mixes may be picked up in the kitchen Sunday, April 9th, or Wednesday, April 12th. Ingredients for the crockpot stew may be picked up in the church kitchen on Wednesday evening, April 12th, from 4-7pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex if you are able to help, or if you plan to attend dinner. Sign-up deadline is Sunday, April 2nd.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



BOOK and BIBLE STUDY - **RETHINKING JOHN'S REVELATION**

Are you curious about the Book of Revelation? Then join our combination book and Bible study starting Wednesday, April 26th. In this class we'll read the book "Unholy Allegiances: Heeding Revelation's Warning," by Dr. David deSilva. The book explains how the Book of Revelation was written for early Christians living in the Roman Empire and how you can embrace John's message to become radically obedient to God.

The class meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm for five weeks, starting April 26th. The book is available for purchase in the church office for \$10. If possible, please read the first chapter prior to the initial meeting.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM



Spring is Here!

Thank you to all who participated in the March "Open-Choir Sing". It was wonderful to see all of you join together in song for our worship service. For those who were unable to be there, we have one more date scheduled for this season on April 30th. Please mark you calendars.

Are you ready for a contest? The name "Open-Choir Sing" needs a lift. While it says we are open to anyone who wants to show up and sing on those Sundays, it may imply that participation on other Sundays is limited to current choir members. That statement cannot be further from the truth. We welcome anyone to sing with us at any time, but recognize that due to schedules, a special date may be needed. So, what might be a good name for this, any ideas? **Something welcoming for those who can't make weekly rehearsals but** which also does not imply any exclusiveness of the Sanctuary Choir. Send me your ideas and I'll put them in the next VOICE.

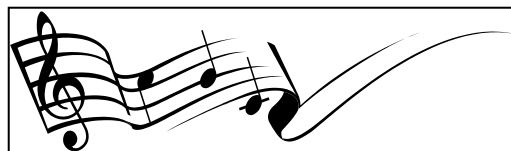
While we haven't had an "Open-Praise Band Sing," the Praise Band also is open to those who would like to join in. Currently, due to the Wednesday evening Lenten series, Praise Band rehearsals are being held after church on Sunday. Get some coffee and a snack, and come into the Sanctuary to run through the upcoming songs. Guitarists, bass players, percussionists (not only drum sets), instrumentalists - all are welcome.

One last plea for singers. A very full choir adds immensely to the service. We have three important dates in the church year fast approaching - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. Extra voices would do so much for these services. Please try and come to one or two rehearsals. If there is enough interest, we could have an early Sunday morning rehearsal on Palm Sunday (there is no time on Maundy Thursday or Easter Sunday to do much more than a warm-up).

Hope to see you.

Peace, Jamie
630.202.6788

Music.director@stmatthewucc.org





CONCERT TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE & EMERGENCY RELIEF

On Sunday, May 21st at 4pm, St. Matthew will host a concert to support worldwide refugee ministries. The concert will feature guest musicians Andrea Bartolomeo, piano; Maria Storm, violin; and Paul Semanic, trumpet, in a varied program of music, including the Premiere of a new piano and violin work by St. Matthew musician Brian Dobbelaere that focuses on refugees. Other selections will include works by American composers Amy Beach and **George Gershwin, Czech composer Antonin Dvořák, and Armenian composer Alexander Arutiunian.**

A free-will offering will be taken in support of the UCC International Emergency Relief Fund. Natural and human-caused disasters affect millions of people worldwide every year. Millions of others are forcibly displaced either within or beyond their national borders. UCC Disaster Ministries and UCC Refugee Ministries are well-positioned to respond in most parts of the world through its longstanding partnerships and connections. Donations to the International Emergency Relief Fund enable the United Church of Christ to support refugee emergencies as well as disaster relief efforts, long-term rehabilitation, advocacy and sustainability efforts. If you are unable to attend the program and would like to donate, please make checks payable to International Emergency Relief Fund and send to St. Matthew Mission Concert, 1420 S. Gables Blvd., Wheaton, IL 60189.

MISSION NEWS

WHO WANTS TO HAVE SOME FUN?

If you said YES, please join the St. Matthew Mission Committee on Friday, April 28th as we gather in Dobstaff Hall at 6:30pm for our 2017 Shrimp Boil.

Back Bay Mission Work Camp Leader Craig Steenkamp will be joining us for an evening of great food, music and fellowship. The cost to attend is \$15 per adult and \$10 for kids, with a \$40 maximum.

Please note that in addition to the shrimp boil we will have salad, bread, and dessert. Macaroni and cheese will be served for kids and those with allergies to shellfish. Water and soft drinks will be supplied, but feel free to bring your own beer or wine. Look for the sign-up in the narthex or contact John Adams at [630.235.3698](tel:630.235.3698) with questions.



FOOD ON THE FIRST

Thanks to those who donated in the month of March. Here's what's needed in April.

- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned mixed fruit
- Canned carrots
- Canned mixed vegetables
- Small canned chicken
- Small canned tuna
- Cold cereal
- Salad dressing
- Chocolate & yellow cake mixes
- Mayonnaise
- Feminine pads (no tampons)
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream

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.



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 Easter Sunday, April 16th.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & UPCOMING EVENTS

EUCHRE NIGHT

Come join us Friday, April 7th at 7pm for our next euchre tournament. We've eliminated the speed and scorekeeping to encourage novices and experienced players alike. Come back and join us! Feel free to bring friends who may want to get to know St. Matthew better. Bring a snack or drink to share.

NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in April is "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead. This book is a suspenseful tale of escape and pursuit, combining elements of fantasy and the counter-factual with an unflinching, painfully truthful depiction of American slavery (National Book Foundation judges' citation).

The date: Friday, April 21st at 7:30pm

The place: the Skwaras'

2935 Cromwell Drive, Wheaton

All are welcome, join us for fellowship, food and friendly discussion.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH
ST. MATTHEW U.C.C.**

**EASTER EGG HUNT
STARTS PROMPTLY AT
10:00AM**

*Have your picture taken with
the Easter Bunny!
Enjoy donuts and crafts after
the hunt.
-Bring your own basket-*

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FAMILY CAMP 2017

Have you turned in your sign-up sheet yet? The deadline to sign up is May 1st! If you've never been, this is a great year to come and see what Family Camp is all about. This year we are visiting Mt. Olivet Conference & Retreat Center in Farmington, MN - an easy 6 hour drive from Wheaton. Camp dates are Saturday, July 22nd to Friday, July 28th.

Family Camp is perfect for anyone who likes to be in fellowship with others in our church family. Families with young kids, older kids, or no kids at all, as well as single people have been a part of our Family Camp tradition that goes back more than 30 years. Mt. Olivet is surrounded by an exceptional area of natural beauty, and has a strong commitment to green and sustainable initiatives. How you spend your time at camp is up to you - there's nearby hiking, golf, hot air balloon rides, a historic river town, local brewpubs, wineries, and craft spirits distilleries. Some of us will take a trip to Minneapolis/St. Paul, visit the Mall of America, take a boat cruise, or go on a canoe trip. In addition, there are plenty of activities on-site at Mt. Olivet, including over five miles of nature trails, volleyball and basketball courts, horseshoes, an outdoor patio with a fireplace (which looks perfect for our Happy Hours!), a game room, and an indoor pool, whirlpool, and sauna. Also, back by popular demand, we will be building and flying kites and model rockets! If all this sounds like too much, don't worry - every year at Family Camp there are folks who spend their week reading or relaxing in a rocking chair.

Sign-up forms are located in the narthex by the Family Camp poster. Please contact Mark Hutchison, markah22@gmail.com or [630-639-1448](tel:630-639-1448), with any questions, or to have a sign-up form emailed to you. Come be a part of our great St. Matthew tradition!

MANNA PROGRAM



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 70 families who participated in Manna at one time or another, although our average is only 9 families per week. If all 70 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.



GREEN FLAG CELEBRATION

Are you curious how St. Matthew earned an Earth Flag certification from SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education), an educational non-profit in DuPage County whose purpose is to create sustainable communities? For nearly five years lots of people have been involved in making St. Matthew an eco-friendly church.

We've become eco-friendly by having SCARCE conduct a "green audit" at

church to identify areas where we can improve, staff members attended environmental training sessions and volunteers are replacing incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs. Over the years church members have participated by recycling things like ink cartridges and Altoid containers. Recycling for churches and businesses is not automatic, but we arranged with our waste hauler to recycle because we felt that was the responsible thing to do. We use non-toxic cleaning products in the building, and limit the use of disposable dishes and utensils in the kitchen. We publish The Voice and Church Directory electronically to save paper. You can find environmental tips in The Happenings to use at home. Our Sunday School children complete projects using recycled materials, cultivated a vegetable garden on church property and will be planting a monarch butterfly garden this spring to help reverse the decreasing butterfly population.

On Green Flag Sunday, April 23rd, we will be celebrating our accomplishments to be good stewards of the earth. Celebrate with us as Kay McKeen from SCARCE presents us our Earth Flag, we view a video presentation about the St. Matthew efforts to care for the living environment and we praise God for the wonders of Creation.

We will be wearing green to church to celebrate and would like you to help us with our **"green treats" for Coffee Hour. Think green rice krispies, green cupcakes, green mint cake, and green jello (or search online!).**

CROP WALK



We hope you will join us on Sunday, May 7th, as St. Matthew participates in the annual CROP Hunger Walk with other churches from Glen Ellyn and Wheaton. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, and the walk raises awareness and funds to fight poverty and hunger across the U.S. and in more than 35 countries around the world.

The walk this year will be hosted by St. Thomas United Methodist Church, 2S511 IL Rt. 53 in Glen Ellyn. To sign up as a walker or donate to the St. Matthew team, please go to bit.ly/cropwalkstm. **Alternately, you can write a check payable to "CWS/CROP Walk" and put it in the collection basket during worship service.** Sign-up and registration to walk starts at 1pm on Sunday, May 7th, with the walk beginning at 2 pm.

For questions, please contact Lee or Bill Staton at 630.510.3128 or leehood@gmail.com. On behalf of the Mission Committee, we thank you for supporting this worthy cause!



You Are Invited for Afternoon Tea Saturday, May 13th 1-3pm

Come enjoy an afternoon with friends.
Meet Special Guest, **Renee Pollino**, social
entrepreneur and founder of
My Half of the Sky.

Harp music provided by Karen Banaszewski

Hostess: Marla Mothershed
1011 Arbor Ave., Wheaton

RSVP to office@stmatthewucc.org or call
630.441.5963 or 630.665.1236

**Hats Encouraged*



GETTING IN TUNE WITH NATURE Sensory Awareness Activity

Watch the clouds in the sky for 15 minutes. What do you see, and how does it make you feel? Think about the words to this hymn:

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, How great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Refrain

(From "Connecting Nature, Spirit and Health" - A spiritual guide for encountering nature)



- 3 Drew Luessenhop
Kendall Thornton
- 4 Bill Staton
- 6 Wes Curda
- 7 Uriel Ambrosia
- 8 Leo Mittman
Julie Price
- 11 Joe Leinweber
- 12 Leslie Ortman
- 13 Francine Alavi
- 16 Hiram Baird
Ann Marie Matthei
- 18 Nancy Franz
- 21 Elise Anderson
- 22 Dawn Schubert
- 23 Craig Schlenker
- 24 Gwen Johnson

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Lenten Workshop Rotation

In April, the children will continue to learn about the events that took place during Holy Week. Each week, following the lesson, the children color pages in their Easter coloring/**story book, which tells the story of Jesus's final days and His resurrection. At the close of** our Easter lesson, the children will take their book home to share with their family.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 8th - 10am

Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends to our fun Easter Egg Hunt. In addition to hunting for plastic eggs filled with goodies, the children can meet the Easter Bunny, have their picture taken, make Easter crafts and enjoy donuts and juice. If the weather is poor the hunt will be inside. Remember to bring a basket for collecting eggs.

Easter Sunday, April 16th - 9:30 family worship service, NO Sunday School.

Green Flag Sunday, April 23rd during the 9:30am worship service

St. Matthew is working hard to become a "Green" church. Staff and leaders have met several times with members of "SCARCE" in Glen Ellyn to learn about changes that need to be made in order for St. Matthew to comply with what is needed to receive our Green flag. The worship service will be devoted to the environment and the children will sing "The Earth Promise Song," which they have begun practicing on Sunday morning. We ask that you and your children wear something any shade of green that Sunday, so we can be a united front as we move forward on our mission to "Go Green." Following worship, we will celebrate by eating fun green snacks in Dobstaff Hall. There will be no Sunday School so the children can experience the entire service and celebration after worship.

The Sunday School department is doing their part to become environmentally friendly. We are making changes to our program by using more recycled craft supplies, products without chemicals and avoiding helium (which is at a dangerous low). We will also continue teaching the children that God created us as the keepers and caretakers of all creation, which includes land, air, water and creatures.

Monarch Butterfly



This spring, as the children continue learning ways to help God's creation, we will be planting a Monarch Butterfly garden. This once-abundant butterfly population is at a dangerous low, and by planting milkweed and other flowers that attract the monarch we will be doing our part to restore the population. We will also watch as caterpillars transform into butterflies with our very own butterfly habitat. When the time is right we will release the butterflies in an area abundant with plants that feed and expand their population. More information will be shared as we get closer to planting season.

Looking ahead: Vacation Bible School, June 12th-16th





April Birthdays

Kennedy Scalora 4/1, Olivia Henderson 4/5, Molly Hutchison 4/13



It seems like Spring is finally springing, my Master's thesis is done (almost), and my last quarter of school is coming up. Living the dream. I announced a few weeks ago in church that I've signed on to be a chaplain resident at

Rush University Medical Center next year. It's a full-time job, but it'll keep me local so that I can keep doing crazies stuff. It's a great hospital and I can't wait to do ministry there, but staying at St. Matthew was a big selling point too. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made my ministry here easier and awesome. Thanks!

Now, onto business. Boundary Waters will be here before we know it. I'm trying hard to get a head count, so as you read this, if you or someone you know is interested in coming, please email me.

Please don't plan on buying plants through the Plant Sale fundraiser this year, we're discontinuing it and replacing it with another one to be determined. Upcoming events include an Easter Sunrise service which will be held on the More property from 6-6:30am, with doughnuts and coffee following, Confirmation Sunday on May 14th, and we will still have the Father's Day car wash.

Other than that, let me know if you want to help out with crazies, or if you think of something that would be cool to do with the youth group.

Quinn Rosenthal,
Director of Youth Ministry

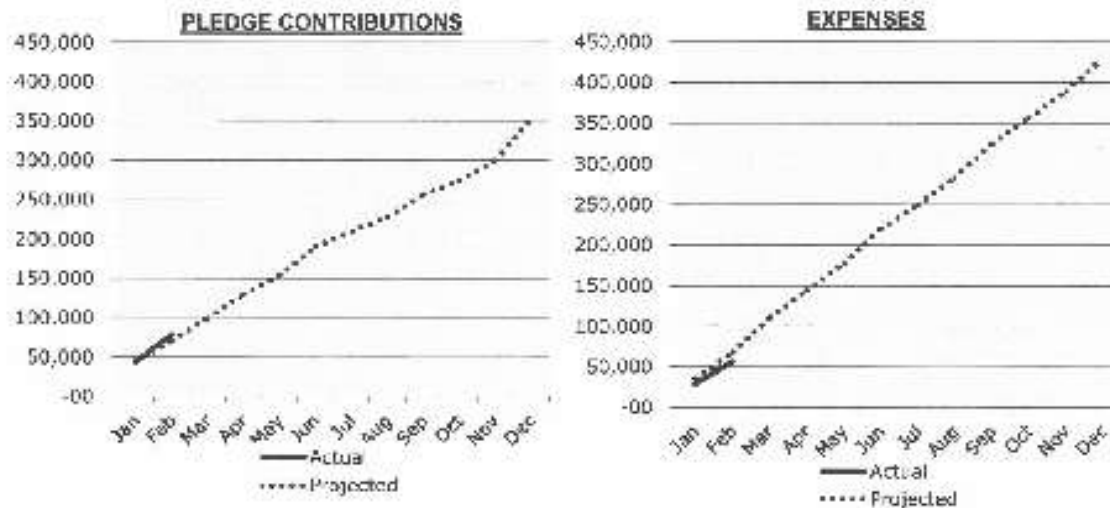


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending February 28, 2017

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	31,832	78,375	350,000
Loose Offerings	108	498	10,000
Rental Income	400	600	3,300
Fund Raising	184	455	4,000
Investment Income	400	853	300
More Property	-00	-00	21,000
Miscellaneous Income	163	301	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	32,986	79,083	393,600
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	18,883	38,044	234,971
Building	6,537	16,786	102,216
Loans & Notes	-00	-00	28,750
Mission / OCWM	-00	-00	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	1,478	1,718	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	109	374	3,000
Music	711	562	4,200
Worship	335	425	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	27,530	56,308	408,787
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$5,456	\$22,774	\$(15,187)

2017 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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

APRIL 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir			1
2 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Praise Band 6pm crazies	3 7pm Building Committee 7pm Christian Education	4 1pm Digital Committee 7pm Membership 7:30pm Mission	5 10am Women's Prayer Group 6:15pm Faith & Life	6 7pm Finance Committee	7 7pm Euchre Night	8 10am EASTER EGG HUNT
9 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 6pm crazies	10	11	12 10am Women's Prayer Group PADS	13 6pm All-Church Dinner 7pm Maundy Thursday Service w/ Communion	14 GOOD FRIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 EASTER SUNDAY 6am Sunrise Service 9:30am Worship Service	17 VOICE ARTICLES DUE	18 6pm SRC 7pm Council	19 10am Women's Prayer Group	20	21 7:30pm Novel Approaches	22 EARTH DAY
23 GREEN FLAG SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies	24	25	26 10am Women's Prayer Group 6:30 Bible Study	27	28 6:30pm SHRIMP BOIL	29
30 8:15am Open-Choir 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies						



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.***

STAFF

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