



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### **Pastoral Message**

*Pastor Allen Mothershed*

## **"We, Not Me"**

When I am driving, I enjoy looking for creative and funny vanity license plates. There is one that reads "ALWZLKY." Got it? The only problem is that the car was now driving around after being rear-ended. Watch what you ask for. Vanity plates are like tattoos for me. I like the idea of them, but I have never come up with one I am willing to live with forever. But last week, I had a brainstorm, and one came to mind: "WENOTME." Okay, it's not funny or all that clever, but it is one I could live with. The Christian way is to live not only mindful of what is good for ourselves but also what is good for all. This is true also for our values as a country. After all, it is not "Me the people," it is "We the people." In our extreme focus on "my rights," we forget that our country was also founded on the value of responsibility for the whole.

There are a variety of reasons people do not wear a mask or receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We do well to hesitate in our quick judgments that lead to divisions into opposing camps. That said, I am increasingly impatient with people whose justification is that "You cannot force me" or "It's my right not to" or "No one can tell me what to do." All such statements sound like a toddler about to have a meltdown. My heart sinks when I hear Christians making such declarations. Where in the teachings and life of Jesus do we witness such behavior? Jesus certainly had a well-developed sense of Himself and His own value, and He knew how to take care of Himself in a conflict with those who saw Him as a threat. But His life was focused on the value of the other and the whole community.

We are committed to taking care of each other and looking out for the well-being of the whole, even when it costs us something or is uncomfortable or inconvenient. Paul says this best for us when he says: "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."

Blessings to each of you.

Pastor Allen

# Come Together



**Sunday, September 12th**

Join us to kick-off the Fall season at a special service, with fellowship and ice cream sundaes following in Dobstaff Hall.



Join us on Sunday, September 12th, for "Come Together" Sunday (formerly Rally Day). This will mark the official Fall kick-off to our exciting year at St. Matthew UCC. It has been a challenging year being physically apart for so long. If you haven't been back in-person yet, please consider joining us for the worship service followed by fellowship.

**I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!**

We will gather in Dobstaff Hall following the service to enjoy coffee and an ice cream sundae bar. Ice cream at St. Matthew is always a kid favorite -- and a favorite for the kid-at-heart, too!

**Check out our Facebook event!**

<https://fb.me/e/1l98ajGEm>

## Show your St. Matthew pride

Consider wearing your new St. Matthew rainbow t-shirt that you purchased for the Wheaton Pride parade in June. Didn't get a shirt? No worries.

Contact the office by August 15th if you'd like to purchase one for \$10. Please indicate size and quantity.



It will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends and church family you may not have seen in a while. Let's "Come Together" as a church community and get energized and recharged for a fulfilling spiritual year ahead!

Contact the office with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

### Facebook event page

Visit the [event page on Facebook](#) to respond, and help spread the word by sharing on your own social media account!

## *A Note of Thanks...*

My heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards, calls, visits, soup, and flowers sent after my June 17th surgery. They truly brought me joy, encouragement, and helped to speed up recovery.

~ Diane Mook



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

Music is starting up again! At long last, our musical groups are going to start rehearsing together. It has been a very long time since we met, and we are anxious to bring this aspect of our lives back into normalcy. Before we get on with our fall schedule, I want to acknowledge that we are grateful to those musicians who have provided music, be it live or virtual, for our Sunday services since the pandemic started.

But now it's time to warm up your voices and remember how to sing. As we haven't sung together since early 2020, we will start Sanctuary Choir rehearsals on August 11th at 7:30pm. This is earlier than we usually start in August, but to protect voices that haven't sung in a long time, we need to start slowly and not push our voices, lest we damage them. Also, we are going to postpone the annual potluck that usually kicks off the fall season.

The Praise Band will also start rehearsals in August; however, as the band has been playing every Sunday (though with limited members), their formal rehearsals will start on August 25th. Singers and musicians are welcome.

Our bell choirs have continued in small group fashion through this entire season. Full rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, August 24th, at 6pm for the IntergeneRingers and 7:30pm for the Chancel Ringers.

The schedule this fall may look a bit different than in the past. We may continue to see some virtual music selections during the month. The set-ups for the groups may change a bit. The health and safety of our members is foremost, and we will be watching how things change with the latest variant to COVID. This will be a work in progress as we maneuver back into the fall schedule.

I hope to see all of you who want to sing, or have sung, even for Open Choirs, at some of the August rehearsals in preparation for our first Sunday singing, September 12th. If you have any questions, please let me know at [music.director@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:music.director@stmatthewucc.org) or call me at 630.202.6788.

Peace, and stay safe,  
Jamie Craig

### **WORSHIP**

Thank you to all the Worship Committee members for their dedication through the uncertainty of these past few months. The consensus for going back to a full normal service will not be done until after the summer months, therefore please continue to do what you are doing and we will make adjustments in September. We are always looking for volunteers to do Scripture readings and Welcome announcements, and if you are not computer savvy, here's your chance to come to church on Sunday and read them live. Bruce Anderson will look forward to hearing from you and will give you a date if you are unfamiliar with the Google Sheet sign-up. Those of you who want to help by ushering can contact Brian English.

I also want to thank all of you who have sent cards and emails of encouragement and concern to Joe and me. It has been much appreciated.

~ Marge Hall

## Pennies From Heaven (SCRIP)



SCRIP orders will resume in September if we have enough orders placed. We need several orders to make the shipping costs worthwhile.

This is a great time to consider purchasing Walmart cards to donate to the Back Bay Mission!



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Laura Schlenker
- 2 Susan Wold  
Quinn Rosenthal
- 3 Miegan Bresingham
- 4 Amy Achammer
- 6 Nancy Baird  
Mark Christensen  
Marge Hall
- 7 Emily Cortez  
Sandy Uhrig
- 10 Sue Lellbach
- 11 Sue Erickson
- 15 Tammy Cetina
- 16 Tina Ciner  
Rob Neufelder
- 19 Kyle Roggenbuck
- 20 John Barnett
- 22 Terry Young
- 23 Haley Skirmont
- 25 Brad Stoller
- 27 Barbara Evans
- 28 Joe Fanning



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)

Contact Dani if you need access to the church or office.

# MEMBERSHIP and MISSION NEWS



Membership Life invites everyone to enjoy an evening of Bingo fun at 6:30pm on Wednesday, August 4th, in Dobstaff Hall. Bingo cards, markers, water, ice cream treats, and prizes (some white elephant 😊) will be provided.

If you plan on coming, please RSVP to the church office at [office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org) so that we will have enough supplies. However, walk-ins and latecomers will be permitted!



## Back Bay Mission Trip CANCELED/Need Donations

Unfortunately, due to unvaccinated volunteers scheduled the same time as our group and high COVID cases in Mississippi, we have decided to cancel the trip this year.

**We would still like to send gift cards down as a donation, so we would appreciate Walmart gift cards in any amount.** Donations can be dropped off at the church office. We will send them to Back Bay Mission. You can also mail them to the church or leave them in the black mailbox hanging outside of the office doors. We hope to send a group down to Biloxi next year! ~Jeannine Adams (Mission Committee)

## Food on the First

**Thank you to all who have generously donated. It is very appreciated!**

Here is what is needed in August:

- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Canned soup
- Cereal
- Salad dressing
- Mayo, mustard, ketchup
- Cake mix and frosting
- Birthday candles
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Baby wipes
- Adult diapers
- Diapers—size 6
- Bar soap
- Toilet paper
- Band-aids



[Click here to make a financial donation to PRC.](#)

**Betty will be at church on the following Saturdays from 1-2:30pm to collect donations: August 14th and 21st.**

**Please make sure items have not expired and are unopened.** If you have any questions, please call Betty Greer at 847.207.9696.

## Children's Ministry August 2021

### **Down on the Farm VBS, August 11th, 9am-1pm**



Each year, St. Matthew UCC highlights the summer with music, activities and fun, while learning about God's love. Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) has become a community favorite that draws children from around the area each year. In 2021, our VBS will look a little different, but we hope to return to our regular program in 2022.

Mark your calendar for a one-day, fun-filled VBS event on Wednesday, August 11th. Geared toward children pre-school through grade 5, it will be a great way to end the summer!

Registration forms have been emailed to our Sunday School families. Contact Susan Wold with questions at [susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org).



**Blessing of the Backpacks** All students and educators are invited to bring their backpacks to church on August 22nd for the annual back-to-school blessing!



Kira Mothershed  
Emily Sancken  
Kinley O'Connell

August 13th  
August 15th  
August 17th

Gunner Erickson  
Ellie Hammond

August 24th  
August 26th

- Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

# crazies

John 16:33 "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Although summer is coming to an end, crazies will continue to meet in August, but please note the modified schedule and times.

**August 1st-8th** Mel and Blessy will be on vacation that week, so Dawn will be filling in on those two Sundays. **She needs a second adult to chaperone**, so please call or email her if you can help. We will meet at church from 5-6:15 pm.

**August 15th** Crazies from 5-6:15 pm at church.

**August 22nd** We will be holding our **Parent Meeting** right after the service and right before our Confirmation class (from 10:45am-12:45pm), so we will NOT have crazies that night.

**August 29th** We are planning to go to Six Flags for the day and plan to leave from church at 11am. Details will follow.

Crazies are so excited that a sense of normality is coming back, but we are moving forward slowly and safely. Please continue to pray for each of our students as they are entering a new school year during this unprecedented time.

God Bless, Mel Jerome, Director of Youth Ministry

# Announcements



## PRAIRIE PATH CLEAN-UP

The date for Clean-up #3 is **Sunday, August 15th** at 2 pm. Please watch the Happenings for any updates.

If you want to participate, you will need to complete a waiver (once a year). Please call Dawn Schubert, 630.542.0160, if you have any questions. We are usually done in an hour.

## 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 on Tuesday mornings at 8am on Zoom.

All men are welcome!

Contact Byron Miller at [byronmiller@ameritech.net](mailto:byronmiller@ameritech.net) for a Zoom invitation.

## 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.**

**August 22nd, September 19th, October 24th, November 14th, and December 12th.**

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## Online Sunday Worship



For those who are unable to attend Sunday worship in person, 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

*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).

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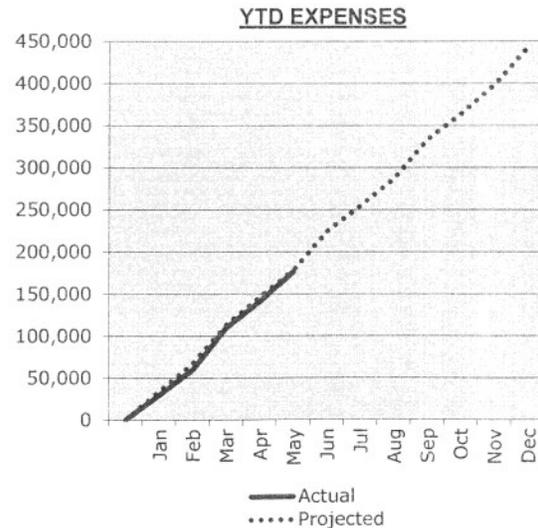
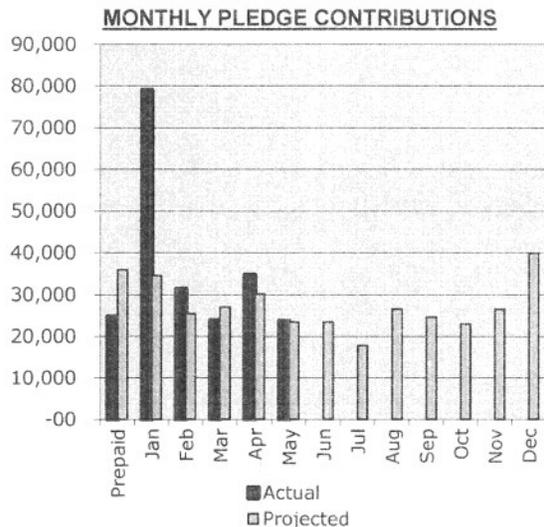
**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending May 31, 2021

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions (incl.Prepaid)	23,685	217,310	358,320
Loose Offerings	205	1,717	400
Rental Income	800	2,300	3,200
Fund Raising	104	238	400
Interest Income	1	29	120
Investment Income	-00	5,117	-00
More Property	-00	-00	39,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	5,698	5,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>24,796</b>	<b>232,409</b>	<b>406,440</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Salaries & Staff Expenses	25,948	115,907	283,863
Building & Admin	6,459	42,948	86,545
Loans & Notes	-00	6,688	26,750
Mission / OCWM	1,775	7,475	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	490	1,416	8,000
Membership Life	-00	-00	3,000
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	-00
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
Music	-00	925	5,568
Stewardship	-00	-00	-00
Worship	125	651	1,200
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>34,798</b>	<b>176,009</b>	<b>443,176</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$(10,002)</b>	<b>\$56,399</b>	<b>\$(36,736)</b>

**2021 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**

<b>Pledge YTD incl. Prepaid:</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$217,310</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>\$176,514</b>
	<b>(Actual Prepaid)</b>	<b>(\$24,673)</b>	<b>(Projected Prepaid)</b>	<b>(\$35,935)</b>



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

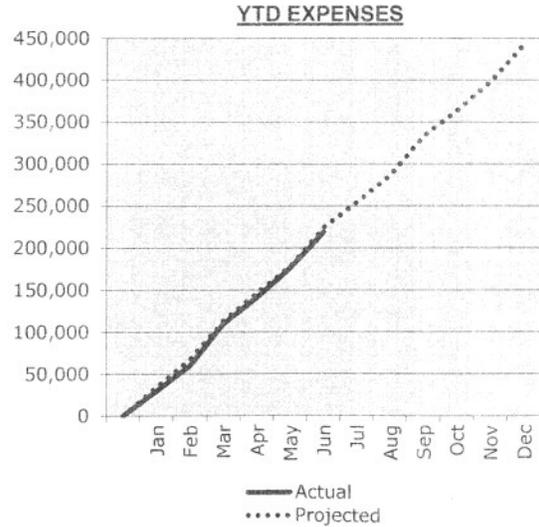
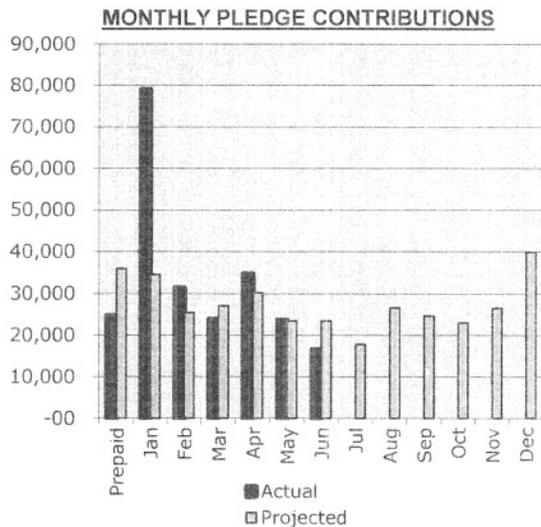
**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2021

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions (incl.Prepaid)	16,563	233,873	358,320
Loose Offerings	119	1,836	400
Rental Income	750	3,050	3,200
Fund Raising	-00	238	400
Interest Income	22	50	120
Investment Income	0	5,117	-00
More Property	-00	-00	39,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	5,698	5,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>17,454</b>	<b>249,863</b>	<b>406,440</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Salaries & Staff Expenses	22,443	138,350	283,863
Building & Admin	7,856	50,805	86,545
Loans & Notes	6,688	13,375	26,750
Mission / OCWM	5,745	13,220	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	103	1,519	8,000
Membership Life	36	36	3,000
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	-00
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
Music	-00	925	5,568
Stewardship	-00	-00	-00
Worship	-00	651	1,200
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>42,871</b>	<b>218,880</b>	<b>443,176</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$(25,417)</b>	<b>\$30,982</b>	<b>\$(36,736)</b>

**2021 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**

<b>Pledge YTD incl. Prepaid:</b>	Actual	\$233,873	Projected	\$199,958
	(Actual Prepaid)	(\$24,673)	(Projected Prepaid)	(\$35,935)



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



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 S Gables Blvd – Wheaton, IL 60189 | 630-665-1236 | office@stmatthewucc.org

**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

**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

**Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry**

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