



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**Pastoral Message**

Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck

Gratitude—Pastor Kyle's Top Seven Reasons to Be Thankful

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise.

Give thanks to God, bless God's Holy name.

For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,

And God's faithfulness to all generations. ~Psalm 100

Dear St. Matthew Friends,

This season of Lent has been one of gratitude for me. I have been so blessed to be a part of such a warm, welcoming church family. As the grass turns green, and the trees and flowers bud outside my door with the hope of new growth, with the hope of resurrection, I find myself counting my many blessings and the blessings of this wonderful church community. So here are my top 7 reasons to be thankful:

1. Sunday morning is by far the favorite time of my week. I'm grateful for all of you who show up week after week to BE the church. For those of you who have gotten out of the habit of church or who might be still Covid conscious—We miss you! Our worship together as a church family is an important part of my life, and I am always so grateful for it.
2. I'm so thankful for our music team—for our steadfast praise band, our awesome bell choir (thanks, KC), our amazing and creative organist and pianist Brian, and our wonderful music director Jamie. We're told to "make a joyful noise to the Lord," and I am grateful to all of you who take time to do just that.
3. I'm thankful for children and our youth. When we baptized you, we promised to stand by you and see you through with God's help. When you come to Sunday School or crazies, we celebrate you, and hope to be God's love for you in a confusing world. I'm thankful for Susan Wold and her wonderful guidance for the seeds she has planted in so many of our young people. I'm grateful for Mel Jerome and his wife Blessy, who provide a wonderful, safe, and welcoming space for our young people to question and grow in their own faith.

(continued)

4. I'm grateful to all the 'behind-the-scenes' ministers. Dawnelle, our financial manager, whose ministry is to make sure we are financially sound. Dani, our office manager, who—truthfully—is the glue that holds us together and keeps us running smoothly.
5. I'm grateful to the volunteers of the church—you know who you are! All of you who give your time and talent: to cook, serve, work the AV booth, meet with the contractors, tally the numbers, clean, and then clean some more, serve again, sit on boards, go to Zooms, lead the Women's Prayer Group or the Men's Tuesday morning group, organize the food pantry pick-up, help with Sunday School. Friends, we ARE the body of Christ, and I am thankful for each one of you.
6. I'm grateful that some of our Covid restrictions seem to be lifting, and I'm hopeful we may be getting back to what the 'new normal' might look like. I'm thankful for the leadership of our church council as we navigate this, and as we navigate the church into finding its new called Pastor.
7. Finally, as we embark on these last few weeks of Lent, as we follow Jesus through His passion and death—and then celebrate in His resurrection—I'm eternally grateful for Easter with you, St. Matthew. I realize this is a time of transition and loss and change, but our loving and resurrecting God has promised us, "*Behold I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*" ~Isaiah 43:19

During this season I hope you will take the time to come up with your own 'top 7 reasons to be grateful,' and give thanks to God for all your blessings.

Gratefully yours,

Pastor Kyle

kyle.roggenbuck@stmatthewucc.org

Pastoral Search Committee Update

I am delighted to share that Council has approved my nominations for the St. Matthew Pastoral Search Committee. The members of the committee are Hi Baird, Karen Fenney, Janella Holshouser, Carol Honeywell, Roseanne King, John Kouns, Eric Lindberg, Dorothy Peterson, and Bernie Tameling. This is a wonderful group of dedicated folks representing different backgrounds and groups within our congregation. Please extend your support to them as they begin the important work of defining what St. Matthew is looking for in our next Pastor and leading the selection process.

I also wish to share my personal and heartfelt THANK YOU to this group for volunteering their time and considerable talents. I am confident they will do an excellent job and we are all grateful for the important role they will play in shaping the future of St. Matthew.

Annette English, Council President



Notes from the Music Room....

Spring. We like to think the cold of winter is past, and all we have to look forward to is warm, sunny weather, beautiful weekends, and fun times. That is part of spring, but it isn't always that easy. There are days of cold weather, rain, and wind, to remind us that winter isn't ready to release its grip completely. For some, Lent can seem a bit like the start of spring. We know the joy of Easter is coming, but we

have the hard parts of spring (aka Lent) to get to it. Music is one way to help us transcend that journey.

The music in Lent covers many feelings: the somberness, the hopefulness, the journey, the love of Christ expressed through His teachings and doings, the pain of the Cross, and culminating in the joy and revelation of the Resurrection. Music is so amazing that it can convey all these feelings in many ways.

We pray that our selections help you on this journey, be they from the bells, praise band, choir, or soloists. And, if you are so inclined, please come and join us to sing these wonderful words.

At this writing, the people of Ukraine are still under siege. Our journey through the harder days of spring is nothing compared to what they are enduring. Please keep them in your prayers so that peace and their freedom prevail.

Stay safe!

Jamie Craig

music.director@stmatthewucc.org

Music Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday Evening

Bell Rehearsals 6—9pm
Please contact KC for details due to COVID restrictions.

Wednesday Evening

Praise Band 6:45pm
Sanctuary Choir 7:30pm

Maundy Thursday—April 14th

Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 14th, for dinner and worship. Dinner begins at 6pm and the worship service at 7pm. Please sign up in the narthex and let us know that you are coming and if you will be bringing a soup, stew, or dessert, using your own recipe. We will not be providing specific recipes or ingredients as we have done in the past.

Easter Flowers

Traditionally, we have arranged for the deliver of flowers for Easter that you could order in recognition of loved one. The nursery that we have used for many years has closed. We were not able to find a nursery that could guarantee delivery of Easter flowers. Because of this, we are not offering pre-orders of flowers this year. We have ordered a variety of flowers that will be on the altar on Easter.

You will have an opportunity to take home a plant. After Easter service, a basket will be on the altar to collect offerings for you to take home a potted plant of your choice. We hope to find a nursery for next year.

SCRIP Program has Changed!

It was announced in the Annual Meeting that the Scrip program is not bringing in enough money to keep running it the way we have been. Plastic card orders cost us \$8.75 per shipment, regardless of the number of cards. When we only have 1 or 2 participants per week, it doesn't even cover the shipping charge.

We will now only take physical card orders on the first Sunday of every month. The first Sunday will give you an opportunity to order reloadable cards along with other physical cards you may need. You will be able to place your own personal orders online anytime (instructions are attached) for virtual eCards and Reloads on existing cards, and pay from your own checking account for only \$.15 per order.

Click on these links to download online ordering instructions and lists of retailers that offer virtual eCards and reloads.

[SCRIP ONLINE – How To Order and Pay](#) [eGIFT CARDS](#) [RELOAD GIFT CARDS](#)



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



Please contact Pastor Kyle with any thoughts or questions, comments or opinions.

Pastor Kyle is often in the office. She can be contacted at church, 630.665.1236, on her cell phone 630.854.0861, or make an appointment with Dani.

office@st.matthewucc.org

MISSION NEWS

Food on the First

**Thank you to all who have generously donated.
It is very appreciated! Here are the April needs:**

- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned green beans and corn
- Rice
- Beans
- Soup
- Cereal (hot or cold)
- Hamburger, Chicken, or Tuna Helper
- Baby wipes
- Diapers, sizes 5-6
- Bar soap
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo

[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: April 23rd and 30th and May 21st and 28th.

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



CROP Walk

Click to donate: [2022 CROP Hunger Walk - Erin Walsh](#)

Connect with others in your area and raise funds to fight hunger in the United States and around the world.

events.crophungerwalk.org

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2022
CROP Hunger Walks

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Please consider participating in the annual Crop Walk to help end world hunger. This year it will be held in person on Sunday, May 1st at 1pm.

Please see the St. Matthew page I have created and consider signing up to walk and /or donating. This is a great activity for families to do together as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Erin Walsh

edbreit@hotmail.com or 630.660.4651

Prairie Path Clean-up



Prairie Path Clean-Up #1 will be held on **Sunday, April 10th at 2 pm**. We will meet at the corner of Liberty and West.

New waivers will need to be filled out for 2022, and they will be in the narthex. Please call Dawn Schubert (630.542.0160) with any questions, and please watch the Happenings for any changes.



ESSE Giving DuPage Days

ESSE is again participating in the 3rd annual Giving DuPage Days, a community-wide fundraiser that enables 100+ charities to raise much-needed funds for their organizations. This fundraiser is sponsored by Giving DuPage and is a 5-day event being held May 2nd through 6th.

Since the COVID pandemic has prevented ESSE from hosting our annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for two years in a row, we are once again using the Giving DuPage Days event as our main fundraiser in 2022. We need your help and are asking you to consider supporting ESSE in this event. We would be so grateful if you could support us by going to <https://www.givingdupageday.org/organizations/esse-adult-day-services> to make an online donation to ESSE. Online donations for this event will be accepted anytime between **May 2-6**.

The cost of a ½ day of care is \$50 and a full day is \$70. While these categories of giving are on the website, any amount you are comfortable sharing will be most appreciated. If you would like to donate using a check or a third party source, please contact the ESSE Executive Director, Cathy Davit, directly, at 630.260.3773. If you have any questions about this fundraiser or ESSE in general, please feel free to contact Dawn Schubert at 630.542.0160.

Moment for Mission: ESSE

On Sunday, March 13th, Dawn Schubert spoke to the congregation about ESSE, which is one of the organizations St. Matthew supports through an annual monetary donation. Its mission is "to provide adult care options that promote the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of older adults and their families."

ESSE provides varied and interesting activities to the participants, the majority who have dementia, and respite for the caregivers. ESSE operates out of three locations.

There are a variety of opportunities to become involved as a volunteer; for example, assisting with arts and craft projects, reading to seniors, assisting with bingo and other games, bringing a pet to visit, and helping with lunch.



To learn more about ESSE, go to www.esseadultdaycare.org

YOUTH



Everyone experiences pain in their lifetime. Our pain is the direct result of sin in the world. It is because of that sin that we experience pain and are separated from God. However, there is hope for us, and that hope is through Jesus Christ. God sent His son to live a perfect life, and then die an innocent death on the cross so that you and I can live free.

April schedule:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| April 3rd | crazies 5-6:15pm |
| April 10th | crazies 5-6:15pm |
| April 17th | No crazies. Happy Easter |
| April 24th | crazies 5-6:15 pm |

This month, we will be talking about Resurrection Sunday. We will also discuss physical and digital bullying.

As you know, we have been making changes to the youth room. A big thank you to Rick Jungk and Hi Baird, who took time out of their schedules to move the old furniture out and helped clean up the church. We thank everyone for their donations so far to renewing the youth room. We are still looking for games, a white board, and end tables. If you have any items to donate, please reach out to me.

God bless,

Mel Jerome

melj88@hotmail.com
Director of Youth Ministry



Thank You

*A note from
Daryl Johnson
(Susan Wold's mom)*

Thank you so much for your prayers during my illness this winter. I felt your prayers and the healing powers of God as a result of those prayers. You have been such a blessing to my daughter Susan, and now you have been a blessing to me as well.

With great appreciation,
Daryl Johnson

Did you know?

The Keith Evans Sharing Fund

We recognize that from time to time people in our church might find themselves in difficult financial circumstances--that is why for many years we have relied upon the Keith Evans Fund. This fund is specifically for folks in our congregation who may have special financial needs. The fund is distributed confidentially and is there for our church family. Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest."

If you find yourself in need of such funds, please contact Pastor Kyle.

Children's Ministry April 2022

Care Package Mission Project

Thank you to the St. Matthew congregation for donating items and postage for our Sunday School Care Package mission project. We mailed 16 boxes to 14 college students and two military men. The children made cards that were put in the boxes along with Girl Scout cookies, snack items, and school supplies. After packing the boxes, we prayed over them, asking that they be a blessing to the men and women who receive them.

Easter Egg Hunt April 9th, 10am sharp

We are excited to announce the return of the St Matthew Easter Egg Hunt. Invite your family and friends for an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Be sure to bring your own baskets. If you would like to fill eggs for this event, please bring them to church and place them in the narthex below the Easter Egg Donation sign.

God's Garden VBS June 6th-10th, 9am to Noon



Registration has begun for our 2022 Vacation Bible School. This year we are offering online registration that can be accessed via our St Matthew website, the Happenings, or by following the link in the parent email. You can also scan the QR code to be linked to the registration form.

During VBS the children will be entering the most wonderful garden, God's Garden. They will learn that God created everything, and that everything has a purpose. They will learn that with God's help everything stays in balance and is a continuous circle, like our God that never ends. Invite family and friends to this community outreach event.

See page 10 for more information. [Click here to register!](#)

Lent in Sunday School

During the Lenten season, we are following the same scripture and theme that is being followed in the worship service, **A Place at the Table**. The children are learning ways they can welcome Christ to their daily table of life by showing love and kindness to others and growing in faith and relationship with God through Jesus. We will also talk about the progression of Holy Week, leading to the miracle on Easter Sunday.

Nursery News

If you would like to use our nursery for your children on Sunday morning, please email Kenna Anderson (kenna1@comcast.net) so we can have staff available.

We are also looking for a Nursery Caregiver!

- Permanent, part-time position
- Sunday's, year-round, 9-11am
 - \$20 an hour
- Must be vaccinated and agree to a background check

Please send resume to: office@stmatthewucc.org.



April Birthdays

Kennedy Scalora April 1st

Molly Hutchison April 3rd

Evie Henderson April 5th



Care package recipient and two visitors who helped pack boxes

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 9th
10am Sharp

Free and all are welcome!
Bring your own baskets, meet the Easter Bunny, and enjoy food and drinks outside!

 **ST MATTHEW**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 S. Gables in Wheaton



god's garden VBS

June 6-10th 9am-noon

June 10th—7pm Family Ice Cream Social

[Click here to Register now!](#)

**\$30 per child by
May 30th
\$60 family
maximum**

**AFTER May 30th,
cost is \$35 per child
\$70 family
maximum**

**Open to all kids
who have com-
pleted K-5th and
preschool children
(ages 3-4) who
have completed at
least one year of
preschool**

**Scan for the
registration form!**



Questions? Contact Susan Wold, CE Director, susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org, office@stmatthewucc.org, or call 630.665.1236

Announcements

Interested in learning more about St. Matthew?

Would you like to know more about St. Matthew or the UCC faith?

Are you interested in becoming a member?

Pastor Kyle would love to talk with you!

Contact [Pastor Kyle](#) or the [office](#) to set up a time to get together.



Yoga in the Sanctuary

Marla welcomes all members and friends to join her yoga class on Thursdays at 10am in April. Cost is \$10/class.

Masks will be worn, and we have plenty of space to social distance.

Questions? Contact Marla Mothershed at 630.441.5963.

Prayer Requests



Please send prayer requests via the following links. 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 meets on Tuesday mornings at 8am on Zoom.

All men are welcome!

Contact Byron Miller at byronmiller@ameritech.net for a Zoom invitation.

2022 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.

2022 VOICE deadlines: The Voice is not published in July.

April 17th, May 22nd, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th, October 16th, November 13th, and December 11th.

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 the pastor'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.

These options are also listed on the St. Matthew website: www.stmatthewucc.org

Questions can be directed to Edie DeBoard at financial.secretary@stmatthewucc.org.

April



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		<p>Tuesday nights</p> <p>Bells 6-9pm</p>	<p>Wednesday nights</p> <p>Praise Band 6:45pm</p> <p>Sanctuary Choir 7:30pm</p>		<p>1 Euchre 6:30pm</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 9:30am Worship 5pm crazies</p>	<p>4 CE mtg 7pm</p>	<p>5 Men's Group 8am Mission mtg 7pm</p>	<p>6 Prayer Group 1pm</p>	<p>7 Yoga 10am</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Easter Egg Hunt 10am</p> 
<p>10 9:30am Worship Palm Sunday Worship mtg Prairie Path clean-up 2pm 5pm crazies</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Men's Group 8am</p>	<p>13 Prayer Group 1pm</p>	<p>14 Yoga 10am Maundy Thursday service 7pm</p>	<p>15 Good Friday</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Easter Sunday 9:30am Worship</p>  <p>Voice articles due</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Men's Group 8am</p>	<p>20 Prayer Group 1pm</p>	<p>21 Yoga 10am</p>	<p>22 Earth Day</p> 	<p>23 Donation Drop-off 1pm</p>
<p>24 9:30am Worship 5pm crazies</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Men's Group 8am</p>	<p>27 Prayer Group 1pm</p>	<p>28 Yoga 10am</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Donation Drop-off 1pm</p>

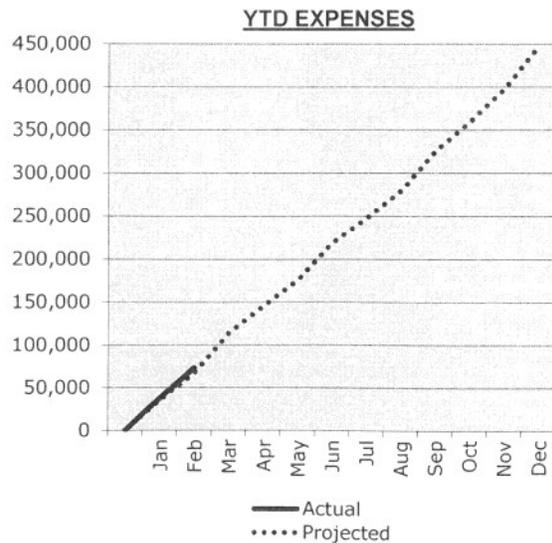
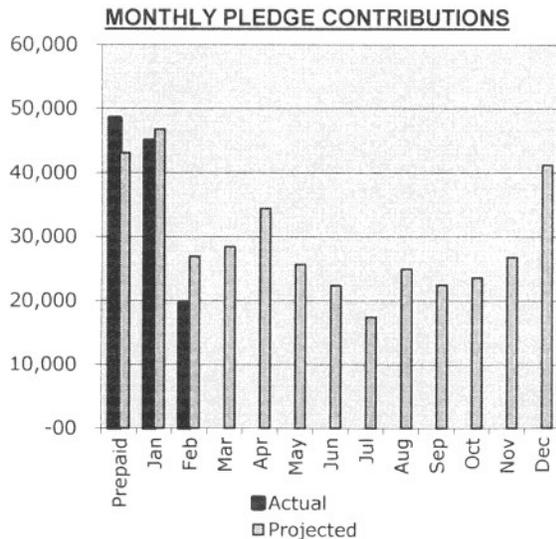
**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending February 28, 2022

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions (incl.Prepaid)	19,542	112,997	384,063
Loose Offerings	105	184	2,000
Rental Income	825	1,575	9,000
Fund Raising	-	81	1,000
Interest Income	3	7	80
Sale of Stock - Gain(Loss)	-	-	-
More Property	-	-	40,000
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 20,475	\$ 114,844	\$ 441,143
EXPENDITURES:			
Salaries & Staff Expenses	19,211	43,239	258,580
Building & Admin	14,875	26,338	109,851
Loans & Notes	-	-	26,750
Mission / OCWM	-	200	27,200
Committees:			
Christian Education	470	733	8,000
Membership Life	-	260	3,000
Memorial/Endowment	-	-	-
Music	596	2,161	5,568
Search Committee	-	-	8,000
Stewardship	-	-	260
Worship	243	243	1,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 35,396	\$ 73,174	\$ 448,409
Net Income / (Loss)	\$ (14,921)	\$ 41,669	\$ (7,266)

2022 Activity - Actual vs. Projected

Pledge YTD incl. Prepaid:	Actual	\$112,997	Projected	116,863
	(Actual Prepaid)	(\$48,511)	(Projected Prepaid)	\$43,130



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

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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kyle.roggenbuck@stmatthewucc.org

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