



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastoral Message

Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the Earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
Come into his presence with singing. ~Psalm 100:1-2*

I have always loved how singing gets under our skin and enhances our experience of worship. I have been with advanced dementia patients who could still remember every word to "Amazing Grace" and still be moved by it. Singing has a way of getting underneath our deep theologies and our ponderous words about God, and gets right to the heart of how we experience transcendence.

I recently read a blog post by Lindy Thompson who writes,

*I might be exhausted and the
children might be cranky,
but I will be going to church on Sunday.
Don't know who is preaching, doesn't
matter the sermon may be helpful or not,
holds my attention or doesn't –
it's the singing.
I go to sing.
I get up,
get clean,
get dressed,
possibly get mad (at not-ready kids, at
empty coffee pot, at traffic)
get going,
get there,
get seated,
get comfortable,
get focused
and when the music starts,
get saved.*

*It's the singing.
I go to sing.
It's the willingness to stand if you are
able,
the common agreement on page
number,
the voluntary sharing of songbooks
with people in your row,
even ones you rode there with –
but most of all,
it's the collective in-breath before the
first sound is made,
the collective drawing upon the grace
of God,
the collective, if inadvertent,
admission that we are all human,
all fragile,
all in need of the sustaining air, freely
dispensed,
all in need of each other to get the
key right and not sound discordant --
it's the hidden life-celebration
in the act of making a joyful noise,
all together.*

St. Matthew has always been a singing church. These days, some Sundays, it seems we have as many people involved in the music ministry as we have in the pews. Our music adds a richness and connection that would otherwise be lost in our experience of worship. *(continued)*

A pastor friend of mine, Molly Baskette, recently wrote that singer Bobby McFerrin, hero of the late '80s number 1 hit, "Don't Worry, Be Happy," walked into her church. Now 71 years old and suffering from Parkinson's disease, he still loves to sing. He told her, "I still get up every day and sing. I sing while I feed the dog. I sing while I get my wife breakfast, slowly. I sing because I have to. I still have so much music left inside of me."

Friends, let us always make a joyful noise, all the Earth. Let us worship the Lord with gladness and come into God's presence with singing.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kyle
kyle.roggenbuck@stmatthewucc.org

Some notes from Pastor Kyle (reprinted from a prior email blast)

Friends, as you know, I am not a stranger to this church, and I feel that God has called us together 'for such a time as this.' There will, no doubt, be challenges in our future, but together, with God's help, we will come out stronger than ever.

- Please reach out to me with any thoughts or questions, comments or opinions. Just like Allen, I won't be in the office all the time (but often), and you can always contact me on my cell phone, 630.854.0861, or make an appointment with Dani.
- Please introduce yourself and wear your name tag in worship. I will be taking time to be in any official church meeting either in person or on Zoom, so please be sure to send me an invitation to your committee meetings or church gatherings.
- I love pastoral care but don't always know who might need a special visit or phone call from a pastor, so please let me know if you or someone you know would like to be contacted. This includes folks who may not be worshiping with us regularly.
- Finally, please pray for the church. We know God hears our every prayer and that prayer unites us with God and with each other.

Happy 90th Birthday, Marilyn Giese!

Marilyn Giese, a charter member of St. Matthew, is celebrating her 90th birthday on February 10th!

Her daughter, Terry, has invited St. Matthew friends and family to send cards or emails to Marilyn to help her celebrate, including any stories or moments when Marilyn has uplifted you.

**Marilyn Giese
2572 Westminster Lane
Aurora, IL 60506
rainbow365@comcast.net**

Notes from the Music Room....



Music never sleeps. At best, there is a ritard, or a slowing down. One might think February will be slow, but there is always music being planned and rehearsed. I offer a brief reflection on one change the Sanctuary Choir has had to endure due to the pandemic. I have been

very pleased at the way those in the choir have learned to use individual microphones. It was not easy at first, as we didn't have enough equipment, and it is definitely not something vocal choirs are used to as they don't normally use mics. However, the need is there with the masks, and we are getting better with them each Sunday.

While these additional microphones allow the choir to sing with masks, it does come with additional technical challenges of balancing the sound, especially for our live-streamed service. Many may not realize that up to now, with a few Sundays excepted, I have been doing this while also directing the choir. With more vocalists, it becomes more difficult to do both. Therefore:



HELP WANTED

We are looking for people with an enjoyment of technical creation and an ear for music. The past 18 months or so have pushed music in a technical way that we never thought we would have to go with Virtual choirs, both vocal and handbells. We need someone on the sound board to monitor the sound for not only the sanctuary, but the online service. We need a few individuals to be part of a rotation to work the sound board.

If you are interested, please let me know and I will give you more details. Training can also be done virtually as our board is digital.

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



Altar Flowers

Altar arrangements are available for you to order for \$20 each. We recommend ordering 2 arrangements.

They are a great way to celebrate a special occasion or brighten up the altar for Sunday services. Contact the office (office@stmatthewucc.org) to place your order, and let Dani know if they are for a special occasion.

Altar flower donations will be mentioned in the bulletin. Orders need to be placed no later than Tuesday morning for the following Sunday.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kevin Cole
- 2 Taylor Holland
- Tim Schubert
- 4 Lee 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



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 February needs:

- Beans
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Tuna
- Soup
- Rice
- Cereal (hot or cold)
- Baby wipes
- Diapers, sizes 5-6
- Bar soap
- Toothpaste
- Shaving cream
- Disposable razors



[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: February 19th and 26th and March 19th and 26th.

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

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

I want to thank each and every person who donated in 2021. Whether you donated 1 can or a case, you are all generous to me and the food pantries. Because of your generosity, I was able to collect 345 bags and boxes of food and other items that were so needed. I wish you could see the smiles on the faces when I make the deliveries. They truly are grateful.

As 2022 starts, I want you to know that I will still be collecting and delivering as I did last year. If you can't make the drop-off dates, please put your donation in the bins by the office. I will make sure they get to People's Resource Center and Interfaith Food Pantry. Thank you to Barbara and Anthony Giordano, who make the deliveries to IFP.

Blessings to all,

Betty Greer

MISSION NEWS

A Moment for Missions

Feed My Starving Children is a nonprofit Christian organization whose mission is "to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit." They estimate that nearly 6,200 children die each day from "undernutrition." Funded through donations, FMSC is able to purchase the ingredients for hand-packed meals. The meals are hand-packed by volunteers and then shipped across the globe to supplement the nutritional needs of children. Through the leadership of Alex Johnson, St. Matthew has participated in this program for at least 12 years. Alex initiated our involvement while he was in Confirmation class. Historically, our church has always had a group of people volunteer on MLK Day, but we have also participated at additional times as well.

~Patti Woods

Thank you to all who took the time out of their day to help pack at Feed My Starving Children this MLK Day! Together with other groups we packed 73 boxes of 15,768 meals. That's enough to feed 43 children for a year! It means a lot to see everyone participate in these packing sessions and enjoy themselves. Whether you were able to attend or not, please also consider donating to the organization through www.fmsc.org. It is a fantastic way to give back to the world. Thank you! ~Alex Johnson



YOUTH

crazies

Last month, we had the pleasure of introducing Pastor Kyle as our interim pastor. She will be helping our church search for our next permanent pastor. In crazies, we are continuing to have fun and build a great foundation with God.

This month, we'll be discussing "How to Live Forever" and "Who are God's Children." In confirmation class, we are going to be visiting the Illinois Sikh Community Center and the Synagogue Temple. Lastly this month, crazies is holding a Chili Bowl Cook-off. If you're interested in participating, click the link below to sign up or you can let me know directly.

February schedule:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| February 6th | 9am Visit the Illinois Sikh Temple
crazies 5-6:15 pm |
| February 11th | Visit the Congregation Etz Chaim |
| February 13th | 11am Confirmation class (no crazies) |
| February 20th | No crazies (President's Day weekend) |
| February 27th | Chili Bowl Cook-off after church in Dobstaff |



[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR THE COOK-OFF](#)

crazies 5-6:15 pm



We want to say thank you for all the support you have given us, and we are hoping 2022 will bring us great joy and peace.

God bless,

Mel Jerome

Director of Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry February 2022

Thank you to the teachers and shepherds who helped in leading the Advent through Epiphany Sunday School lesson.

Welcome to St. Matthew, Pastor Kyle. We are grateful and blessed that you have accepted the call to be our Interim Pastor as we search for Pastor Allen's replacement. We look forward to getting to know you better as you guide us on our faith journey.

The Sunday School families, teachers, and shepherds were able to remain in the service on **Pastor Allen's last Sunday**, as we celebrated his retirement. The children signed their names on a beautiful Pastor ornament inscribed with the scripture verse:

Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

We will miss Pastor Allen and wish him the very best in retirement.

The **Healing Miracles of Jesus workshop will begin February 16th.** Workshops in Video, Improv, Cooking, Puppets, and Bible Knowledge will teach the children about the miracles of Jesus.

Annual College and Military Care Package Mission: We will begin collecting items for the college and military care packages. There will be a basket to place your donation in the narthex. If you would like to donate towards postage, each care package costs \$15 to send. Postage donations can be left in an envelope marked "Postage donation" with your name on it in the black mailbox outside the office. In March, we will gather to fill boxes, pray for the recipients, and mail the boxes. Some suggestions for donations:

Candy	Slim Jims	Snack food	Gum
Cookies	Beef Jerky	School supplies	Mints
Crackers	Power Bars	Game books	Girl Scout cookies
Spray cheese	Granola bars	Handwritten notes	Anything you choose!



February birthdays:

Abby Chapple, February 6th

Zelda Chapple, February 8th

Jack Legatzke, February 8th



Susan Wold,
Director of Children's Ministry

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 February. 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.

February 20th, March 20th, 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.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Men's Group 8am	2 Prayer Group 1pm	3 Yoga 10am	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 5pm crazies	7	8 Men's Group 8am	9 Prayer Group 1pm	10 Yoga 10am	11 crazies visit Cong. Etz Chaim	12
13 9:30am Worship Worship meeting 11am confirma- tion class	14 Valentine's Day  Dani out	15 Men's Group 8am Council meeting of office	16 Prayer Group 1pm	17 Yoga 10am	18	19 Donation Drop-off 1pm
20 9:30am Worship NO crazies Voice articles due	21 President's Day 	22 Men's Group 8am	23 Prayer Group 1pm	24 Yoga 10am	25	26 Donation Drop-off 1pm
27 9:30am Worship crazies Chili Cook- off after church 5pm crazies	28	Tuesday nights Bells 6-9pm	Wednesday nights Praise Band 6:45pm Sanctuary Choir 7:30pm			

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

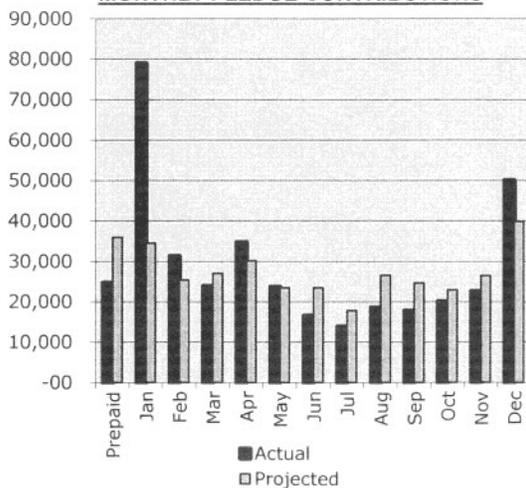
For the Period Ending December 31, 2021

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions (incl.Prepaid)	50,060	376,713	358,320
Loose Offerings	765	3,485	400
Rental Income	750	8,050	3,200
Fund Raising	168	856	400
Interest Income	17	91	120
Investment Income	2,521	7,612	-00
More Property	-00	39,000	39,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	10,698	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	54,281	446,505	406,440
EXPENDITURES:			
Salaries & Staff Expenses	21,414	273,164	283,863
Building & Admin	8,755	90,980	86,545
Loans & Notes	6,688	26,750	26,750
Mission / OCWM	1,466	24,961	27,250
Committees:			
Christian Education	255	3,221	8,000
Membership Life	13	493	3,000
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	-00
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
Music	497	2,102	5,568
Stewardship	-00	-00	-00
Worship	217	908	1,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	39,305	422,578	443,176
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$14,976	\$23,926	\$(36,736)

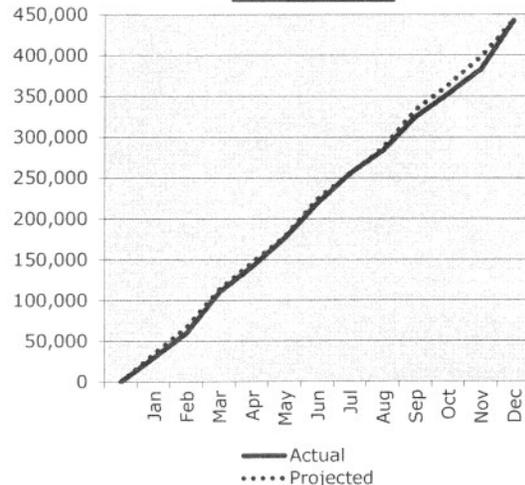
2021 Activity - Actual vs. Projected

Pledge YTD incl. Prepaid:	Actual	\$376,713	Projected	\$358,320
	(Actual Prepaid)	(\$24,673)	(Projected Prepaid)	(\$35,935)

MONTHLY PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS



YTD EXPENSES



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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