

Introducing our new Senior Pastor

Erin Wyma

I am Pastor Erin Wyma (she/her), and I was born in Southern California. I had the amazing fortune to be adopted by Carolyn Wyma (deceased) & Harvey Wyma, and I now have a stepmom, Katty. I spent my entire childhood in Southern California. I have two cats named Sonny & Cher and am a 70's child & 80's teenager, and grew up skating at the local roller rink, showing off my skills at Ms. Pac-Man, taking weekly ballet lessons and climbing the Rocketship jungle gym at the park. I would spend summers chasing fireflies in North Carolina with my grandparents, reading everything I could get my hands on and attended the little Episcopal Church near our house every Sunday.

My parents valued church engagement and instilled that value in me. I have always loved being a part of a church community. Large or small, it was always the magical and inspiring space where I was free to ask questions, learn about mystical and spiritual things, and get grounding in the beautiful and challenging stories of the Christian faith, particularly the ones that involved Jesus. It has always been the place that gave me sacred traditions, an extended family and a deepening sense of service to the wider community.

In 2001 at a worship conference, I sensed that God was calling me to full time pastoral ministry. In 2009 I received my first call into full time ministry in the United Church of Christ and in 2011 I was ordained. It has been a blessed journey that I cannot even begin to put in words. Mostly because it has brought me to you all at St. Matthew.

My greatest passion is to share the transformative love of God. I am also deeply passionate about advocacy, activism, and community building. The vision and values of St. Matthew resonate so profoundly with my sense of pastoral calling. Your dedication to service and community has inspired me so deeply. And, despite all the challenges in recent years, I still firmly believe that the local church is the best place to celebrate and share the extravagant love of God. After all, Jesus called it "Good News" for a reason. I am thrilled to partner in ministry with this amazing, progressive Christian community, create space together for joyful & inclusive worship, and become a beacon of light and love in the Wheaton area. I truly think some of the best years for this community are ahead of us!

- Erin



About Pastor Erin

Current position:

Associate Minister, Cathedral of Hope UCC,
2016-Current

Formal Education:

Bachelors of Arts, University of California at
Santa Cruz, 1993
Master of Divinity, Fuller Theological Seminary,
2006

She enjoys:

- ❖ Good coffee
- ❖ Adventurous travel
- ❖ Reading mysteries & romance
- ❖ Foodie content & TV shows
- ❖ All things Disney
- ❖ Orangetheory Fitness
- ❖ Being an auntie
- ❖ Trader Joe's
- ❖ Pride parades

What our search committee members said about Pastor Erin

- “ She is confident, articulate and full of experience with the intricacies of church management.
- “ Erin has perspectives that are different from ours so that we can partner to become more relevant to our current congregants and to a future set of congregants.
- “ Erin is extremely dynamic...it is obvious that she has so much energy and so much to give.
- “ I like how she feels it is an honor to be at someone's bedside during difficult times.
- “ She's very active in her community which aligns with our desire for St. Matthew to become more known within our community.



Pastor Erin during a recent youth mission trip



Rev. John Dorhauer, general minister and President
of the United Church of Christ and Pastor Erin