

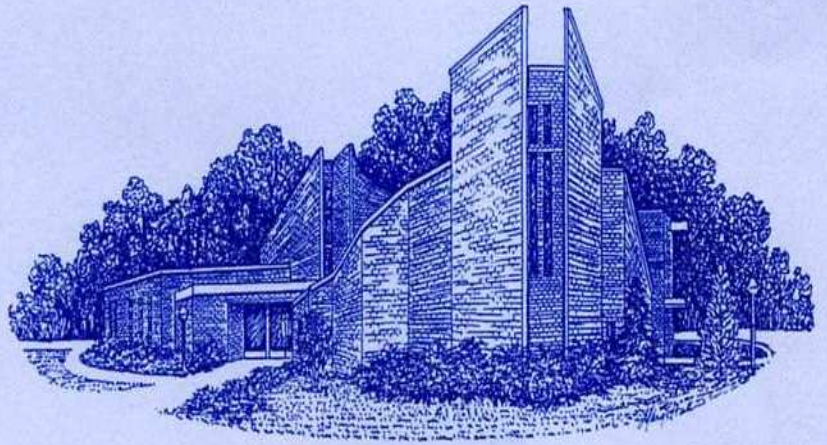
# THE VOICE

OF

St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.  
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189  
630-665-1236  
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February 2012

## Pastor's Reflections

We are on the threshold of Lent and on the brink of Holy Week and Easter as I write this for the February *Voice*. This is always a very busy and yet reflective time for me. Sometimes I spend some time reading from a book that I purchased many years ago. I often find words that are useful and helpful for my personal inspiration. Recently I found this excerpt from a longer work by Leo Tolstoy titled "My Religion." This excerpt is a short confession of faith that I find very meaningful. I share it with you as an inspiring Lenten reflection. I doubt of many of us have ever considered what an author of the stature of Tolstoy might believe. I know that I hadn't until I came across this piece. While he doesn't mention Jesus in this confession, I believe that Jesus is present in the images of God that he constructs with these very personal words of faith. As you read them, reflect on the time when he lived and how even in the midst of the tumultuous events around him just prior to the Russian Revolution, his faith was a strength for him as our faith is for us today.

From "My Religion"

I believe in God who is for me spirit, love, the principle of all things.

I believe that God is in me, as I am in Him.

I believe that the true welfare of man consists in fulfilling the will of God.

I believe that from the fulfillment of the will of God there can follow nothing but that which is good for me and all men.

I believe that the will of God is that every man should love his fellow men, and should act towards others as he desires that they should act toward him.

I believe that the reason of life is for each of us simply to grow in love.

I believe that this growth in love will contribute more than any other force to establish the Kingdom of God on earth —

To replace a social life in which division, falsehood and violence are all-powerful, with a new order in which humanity, truth and brotherhood will reign.

- Leo Tolstoy, 1828-1910

As we walk through the wildernesses that confront us today, let us all reflect on how loving each other in the way God loves us can overcome the power of evil and change lives. May this Lenten season be such a time for all of us.

This year the Worship Committee has decided to offer a slightly different plan for our regular Lenten Services. We will have our traditional Ash Wednesday Service following the ritual we used last year. We will offer a time of reflection and desert on the remaining Wednesday Evenings. We ask you to gather in Dobstaff Hall at 7 PM. We will watch a short video that will be appropriate for Lent and will generate some discussion. After some discussion we will close with a time of meditation and prayer. Depending upon the intensity of the discussion we should be finished by 7:45 or 8 PM. This will allow the members of our Chancel Choir to attend the gathering and still have a reasonable rehearsal. Please plan on attending and participating. More information will be shared in the *Happenings* and on Sunday mornings.

## *Bell Performances January 15, 2012*



### ***Singers Wanted!***

Boy, isn't this weather fickle? One day warm, one day cold, one day freezing cold. There is one place where it is always warm and that is in the choir loft on Wednesday evenings and Sunday Mornings. We need some voices to join us through the winter months as some of our regular singers travel to warmer climates. All parts, soprano through bass are welcome. Please join us!



# Notes from the Music Room.....

Last month, those that were in church on bell Sunday enjoyed a different musical treat. Instead of our usual full bell choirs, we heard from three smaller ensembles of three or four ringers each. This type of ringing is a bit more stressful on the ringers as they are constantly changing bells. All three groups rose to the occasion and gave us a wonderful experience. Also, our bell choirs were invited to Western Springs to share music with K.C's other bell choir in their church on January 29, 2012. It is wonderful to see our ringers experience more of these joint endeavors. The contemporary service that was initially scheduled for January had to be moved to February, but it is coming. The new date is the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, so mark your calendars.

## **Your Music Ministry Staff & Rehearsal Schedule**

Children's Choir – Wendee Passini – Sunday's during Children's Church

HandBells – Kim Congdon – Tuesday Evening

IntergeneRingers @ 6PM, Chancel Ringers @ 7:30 PM

Praise Band – Brian Dobbelaere – Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM

Sanctuary Choir – Wednesday Evening @ 8:00 PM

Jamie Craig

Yours in Christ through Song,

Jamie Craig  
Director of Music  
630-202-6788  
[Lanni1@comcast.net](mailto:Lanni1@comcast.net)





# The crazies' Times



The St. Matthew UCC youth group, crazies, meets on Sundays, middle school students meet from 4pm - 6pm and high school students meet from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. Come join us for discussions, debates, crafts, music, videos, food, and more!

The youth group is looking for adult volunteers who enjoy talking and having fun with middle school or high school students! If interested please sign-up for a middle school or high school time slot on the crazies bulletin board or talk with anyone on the youth ministry team: Dawn Schubert, Julie Schubert, Hi Baird, or Mark Restaino. Thank you.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST Feb. 19, 8:15am - 9:15am.** The entire congregation is invited to a pancake breakfast hosted by crazies, the St. Matthew youth group. Proceeds will go towards the youth group. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family and children age 5 and under can eat for free. In preparation for this event there will be a meeting for crazies parents and students after church on Feb. 5.

And now, for something completely different...

The February poem from Linda Leinweber

The Snow Man

By Wallace Stevens

One must have a mind of winter  
To regard the frost and the boughs  
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time  
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,  
The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think  
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,  
In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land  
Full of the same wind  
That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow,  
And, nothing himself, beholds  
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.

No poem in the January Voice? The deadline came at a time in late December when I was knee deep in grading final essays, and by the time I remembered the deadline it was several days past. But just when you thought you would not have to puzzle over another poem, I bring you this month's offering, by one of my favorite 20<sup>th</sup> century poets, Wallace Stevens. Stevens' poems are often enigmatic, presenting strikingly beautiful images, while being hard to pin down. I chose this poem because it makes the cold of late winter almost palpable and because I still ponder the last few lines. Enjoy and keep warm.

*Children's Ministry*  
*February 2012*

When celebrating Valentine's day this month, remember the greatest Love of all was given to us by God:

*For God so loved the World that he gave his one and only son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16*

**Thank You and Welcome**

**Thank you** to the teachers and shepherds who led the **Sabbath Workshop Rotation and Sunday School lesson: Dawn Schubert, Elizabeth Trout, Alex and Abby Johnson, Beth Buhmann, Hi and Nancy Baird, Julie Barnshaw, Leslie Ortman, Jeannine Adams, Cindy Bute, Susan and Anna Neufelder. Also, a big Thank you to all those who volunteer in Noah's Nursery, caring for our little ones.** You are a blessing to the St. Matthew children.

**Thank you to our outgoing Christian Education committee members: Dawn Schubert,** who served as Counsel liaison, Children's Ministry representative and CE Chairman; **Marilyn Giese** who did a wonderful job planning and teaching Adult Education and **Julie Schubert** who used her Spirit gifts serving both Youth and Children's Ministry. We will miss your devotion and Love for Christian Education. **A Warm Welcome to our new committee members: Deb Felsenthal, Andrea DiOrio and Alex Johnson and our new Director of Youth Ministry Mark Restaino.** We are blessed to have all of you as part of our ministry team.

**Playing & Living Joyfully**  
**Workshop Rotation Feb. 5 – Feb. 26**

In today's world people of all ages need to give themselves permission to play. We believe God seeks to awaken a playful spirit among us. We invite God into this process as we seek recreation and re-creation. While it can lead us into other things, play is inherently its own reward; the experience of playing and living joyfully is – in its essence – pure hope, delight, celebration and song. Playing and living joyfully moves beyond pre-scripted forms and places. It includes ways of doing justice and moves us outside ourselves into sharing one with another. Joy is contagious; so we invite the children to play in Drama, Music, Games and Art workshop.

**February Birthdays**

**Tessa Stahulak 2/5,**  
**Grace Buhmann 2/7,**  
**MaryBeth Buhmann 2/19**

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

**Fundraising Help is Needed!**

St. Matthew needs to do a fundraiser or two this year and we need your help. We have some good ideas, a few volunteers and we are ready to get started, but we need your help. We need people to help organize and run a fundraiser. Please call Brian English at (630) 690-6853 or Mary Lee in the church office at (630) 665-1236 if you would like to help out.

## Congregational Life

Thanks for everyone who came to the Annual Chili Cook-off. The winners were 1<sup>st</sup> place – Bing Bang Chili - Tom & Beth Buhmann and family; 2nd place - 4 Star Chili - Gus & Jennifer (Boyd) Alagna. Both winners received a gift certificate from Chili's Restaurant.

**Bags Tournament – Sunday March 11 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Please join us for an afternoon of fun, food, fellowship and competition. We are hosting a Bags Tournament in Dobstaff Hall. Congregational Life will be providing Sloppy Joes and beverages. We are asking participants to bring a snack or desserts to share. For the tournament there will be three categories: Beginners (never have played), Intermediate (have played a few times) and Competitive (Play to Win!!!). There will be prizes in each category. Even if you don't want to play, feel free to join us for food, fellowship and to cheer on your favorite team. The sign-up for this event will be coming soon.

Interior of Unity Temple



## Concert at Unity Temple

Some of the members of the Novel Approaches Group are planning a trip to the Oak Park Unity Temple for a concert on Saturday, April 28, 2012, starting at 7:30 PM. All are welcome to join the group for this fun night out. The concert will feature Grazyna Auguscik & Paulinho Garcia. Combine Polish American jazz singer from Chicago with Brazilian-born guitarist and composer, and discover a perfect example of contemporary Brazilian jazz at its finest. Grazyna Auguscik has the vocal ability to handle any song well, and she does so with much verve and sensitivity when she sings alongside Paulinho Garcia whose "vocals are never less than seductive, his guitar playing ever atmospheric and evocative," according to Howard Reich in the Chicago Tribune. For more information on the concert go to [http://www.utconcerts.com/season.html#artist\\_6](http://www.utconcerts.com/season.html#artist_6). This is a unique opportunity to hear some great music in a Frank Lloyd Wright Church. Al Skwara is coordinating tickets. The ticket prices are \$18.59, \$23.76, \$29.97, and \$35.15. Please let Al know you want to attend by Feb. 29.

## NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached this month is "Mudbound" by Hilary Jordan. Barbara Kingsolver writes that "Jordan's characters walked straight out of 1940's Mississippi and into the part of my brain where sympathy and anger and love reside, leaving my heart racing - and they are with me still".

**The date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

**The place:** the Boyds, 510 S. Aurora Way, Wheaton  
All are welcome. Join us for discussion, food and fellowship.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** "Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter" by Tom Franklin.

-How southern children are taught to spell in Mississippi.

## To Members and Friends of St. Matthew –

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for all of the love shared with us during these difficult weeks. Our dear mother and grandmother, Mary Jane Schnack, put up an amazing fight against a terrible disease, ALS. We thank you for the multitude of prayers, hugs, cards, flowers, and acts of kindness during her illness and after her passing. We were overjoyed that so many of you attended her memorial service. She loved this church and its people with all of her heart. May we continue to feel surrounded by her loving spirit.

Blessings to all . . .

The Schnack and Bresingham Families

Exterior of Oak Park Unity Temple



## Sunday Coffees

The Membership Committee, in an effort to continue offering coffees after all Sunday services, will begin an effort to supply donut holes and coffee for those Sundays when no one has signed up to sponsor a coffee. There will be a free will collection set out for these coffees. We continue to request committees and individuals to sponsor individual Sunday coffees. There will be a sign-up sheet on the opportunity table.



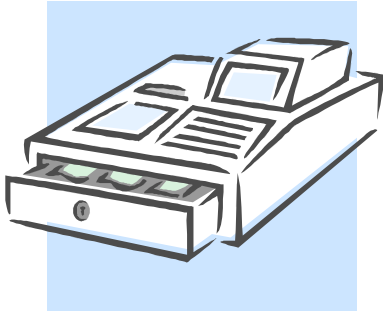
David Boyd delivers sermon at the Sunday Service January 22, 2012.



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kevin Cole
- 2 Taylor Holland  
Tim Schubert
- 4 Charles Hambrick-Stowe  
Leona Staton
- 5 Pam Vargo
- 6 Bruce Anderson  
Linnea Karpenske
- 7 Kim Naydenoff
- 10 Elizabeth Baird  
Tom Barker  
Marilyn Geise  
Kirk Stubbee
- 11 Charlene Cooper
- 12 Stuart Blake
- 13 Andrew Sorgatz
- 14 Daniel McGrath  
Amber Quinn Spicer
- 15 Josh Oakley
- 16 Courtney Christensen  
Lee Craig
- 19 Abby Johnson
- 21 Mike Starr
- 22 Carl Anderson  
Tom Macauley  
Karl Miller
- 24 Liliana King
- 25 Joyce Boyd  
Anthony Kresl  
Amanda Starr
- 26 Tracey Blake  
Cathy Miller  
Carol Mittman
- 27 Dan Cetina

## Tax Exempt Letter



If you plan to purchase items on behalf of St. Matthew Church, we invite you to stop by the office and pick up a copy of the tax exempt letter. When presented to a store/vendor, this letter exempts you from paying sales tax on your purchases for St. Matthew. Church council has adopted a strict policy that **sales tax will not be reimbursed** as we are a tax exempt entity. If you choose to not use this letter, the sales tax you pay will not be reimbursed and will be considered your donation to the church. The forms are available in the office in the hanging file on the wall. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

### M & Ms

The Next M&Ms event will be on Sunday, February 12th from 11am - 1pm. Lunch will be served. See you there!



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### Prayers For The Pastoral Call Committee

*Therefore confess your sins and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

The God directed decisions of our Pastoral Call Committee are central in His plan for the continued healing, back to robust health, of St. Matthew Church. God's promise above is that He will honor our prayerful support of their efforts and that our entreaties will be both effective and powerful.

Include The Pastoral Search Committee in your individual and family prayers with the request that The Holy Spirit will be there to guide them in all their deliberations and decisions.

Your prayer requests are always welcome and lifted up immediately. Let Pastor Tom, Mary Lee or any prayer chain member know of your requests for prayer support.

Bob Barnshaw for The Prayer Chain

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### Stewardship Help is Needed

Supporting your church financially and asking others to do so is often viewed as a difficult chore. At St. Matthew we need to view supporting our church and giving others the opportunity to do the same as a joyful way to serve our Lord. John Adams and Glenn Sapa have joyfully and tirelessly served on the Stewardship team for several years now and done their work with excellence. They still want to help in 2012, but we need to get more people involved. We need you!

If you would like to work with the stewardship team in this year of opportunity, please call or email Brian English at (630) 690-6853 (bpetec@juno.com) or Mary Lee in the church office at (630) 665-1236 (office@stmatthew-ucc.org).

## Sunday School Winter Mission Project College Student & Military Care Packages

We are gathering items for care packages to send to our St. Matthew college students and Service men and woman. **If you have a college student and/or a family member serving in the military, please send me their mailing address: [swold45@hotmail.com](mailto:swold45@hotmail.com)** with "mission project" on the "subject" line, or put the name and address on Mary Lee's desk in the church office. For the next few weeks we will be collecting items to include in the boxes and would appreciate any donations. Below are some ideas for our boxes, but feel free to add any other items that you believe could be useful:

Post-it-Notes	Pens and pencils (sharpeners)	Uncrushable snack food
Beef Jerky, Slim Jim	Sunflower seeds	Magazines, (can be used)
Puzzle books, (like Word Search)	Gum	Baby wipe package (not tubs)
Granola bars	Playing cards	Small games
Stamps and envelopes	Zip lock baggies	Energy bars
Nail file	Mints	Pre-paid phone cards
Air freshener	Powdered energy drinks	I-tunes cards
Eye drops	AA batteries	Antibacterial wipes or lotion
Girl Scout Cookies	Hi lighters	Donations for postage of boxes

Once our items are gathered we will have a **Family of Faith Sunday** where parents and their children join together to pack boxes, make cards and pray for each recipient. I hope this Sunday school Mission project will become an all-church mission project for us all to be a part of.

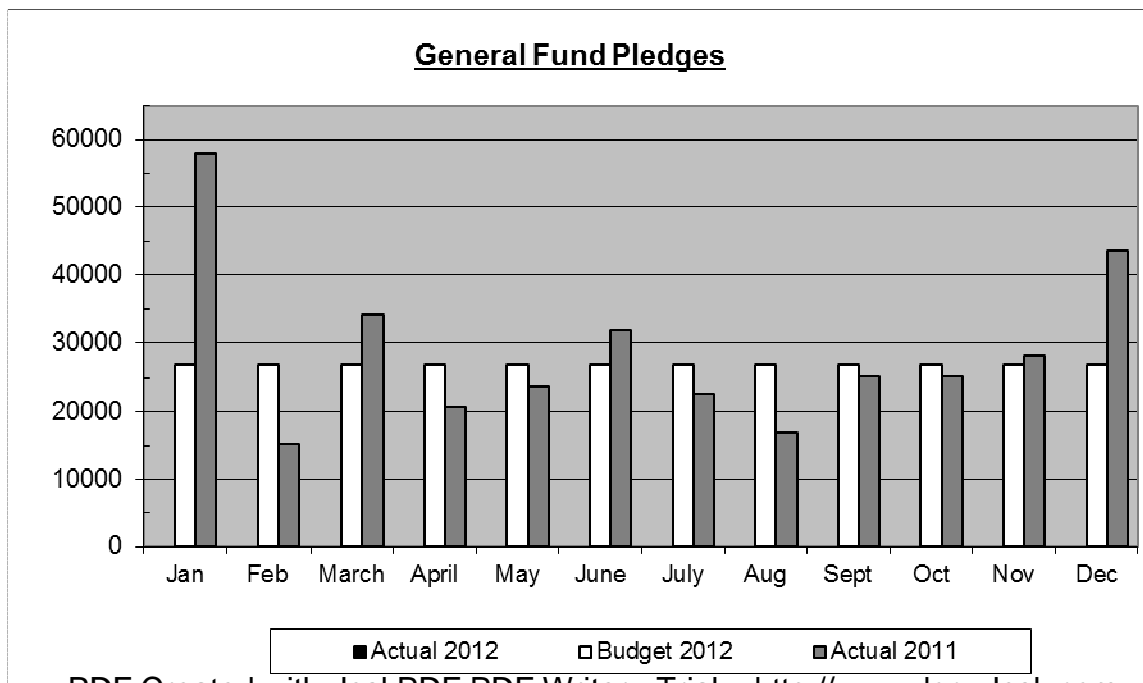
### **St. Matthew contingent poses for picture prior to trip to Feed My Starving Children**



**GENERAL OPERATING FUND  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ended January 31, 2012

	ACTUAL CUR- RENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
General Fund Income	-	-	322,625
Loose Offerings	-	-	11,000
Rental Income	-	-	53,000
Fund Raising	-	-	-
Investment Income	-	-	-
Investment Proceeds - More	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>386,625</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	-	-	201,992
Building	-	-	106,433
Mortgage/Interest on Notes	-	-	26,750
Benevolence/Mission	-	-	18,000
OCWM	-	-	10,000
Christian Education	-	-	10,250
Membership	-	-	4,000
Stewardship	-	-	250
Music	-	-	3,600
Worship	-	-	3,250
Congregational Life	-	-	500
Fundraising	-	-	100
Search	-	-	1,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDI- TURES</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>386,625</u>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>



# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Every Sunday:</i></p> <p><i>Middle School crazies 4p-6p</i></p> <p><i>High School crazies 5:30p-7:30p</i></p>		<p><i>Every Tuesday:</i></p> <p><i>6p-7p Inter-geneRingers</i></p> <p><i>7p-7:30p Bells Dinner</i></p> <p><i>7:30p-9p Chancel Ringers</i></p>	<p><i>1</i></p> <p><i>Every Wednesday:</i></p> <p><i>7p Praise Band</i></p> <p><i>8p Sanctuary Choir</i></p>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<p><i>5</i></p> <p><i>9:30a</i></p> <p><i>Worship, Communion</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p><i>9a This Old Church</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p><i>7p Membership Committee</i></p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p><i>P.A.D.S.</i></p>	<i>9</i>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p><i>7p Novel Approaches</i></p>	<i>11</i>
<p><i>12</i></p> <p><i>9:30a</i></p> <p><i>Worship, Bells Performing</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p><i>7p Finance Committee</i></p> <p><i>7p Worship Committee</i></p>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p><i>7p Church Council</i></p>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<p><i>19</i></p> <p><i>8:15-9:15a</i></p> <p><i>Youth Pancake Breakfast</i></p> <p><i>9:30a</i></p> <p><i>Contemporary Worship</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p><i>&lt;--Sunday the 19th:</i></p> <p><i>March VOICE Deadline</i></p>	<i>21</i>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p><i>7p Ash Wednesday Service</i></p>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<p><i>26</i></p> <p><i>9:30a</i></p> <p><i>Worship, First Sunday in Lent</i></p>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p><i>7p Lenten Discussion and Worship</i></p>			



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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### **St. Matthew United Church of Christ**

(630) 665-1236 (Office)

(630) 665-1436 (Fax)

Office Email: [office@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthew-ucc.org)

Web Site: [www.stmatthew-ucc.org](http://www.stmatthew-ucc.org)

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School: 10:00 a.m.

#### **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.

### **Our Staff**

#### **Rev. Thomas O'Connor, Interim Pastor**

[pastor@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@stmatthew-ucc.org)

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

[susan@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:susan@stmatthew-ucc.org)

#### **Jamie Craig, Director of Music/ Choir Director**

[jamie@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:jamie@stmatthew-ucc.org)

#### **Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist**

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#### **Kim Congdon, Handbell Director**

[KC@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:KC@stmatthew-ucc.org)

#### **Karen Lindquist, Business Manager**

[events@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:events@stmatthew-ucc.org)

#### **Mary Lee Banie, Administrative Assistant**

[office@stmatthew-ucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthew-ucc.org)