



MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST

April 14, 2022

From the Executive Pastor

As I write this article/letter I have just filled up our cars with regular, unleaded gas. Like you, I paid over \$4.10 per gallon and reminded myself that compared to other problems facing our world (the unspeakable atrocities in Ukraine, hunger, homelessness, and poverty, rising inflation, etc.) gas prices barely deserve an “Honorable Mention.” Instead, I tried focusing on being thankful, celebrating that we can afford the gas!

There is much to celebrate at Matthews UMC during these April days: flowering bulbs, trees, and plants; returning to full participation in worship, celebrating Palm Sunday, and Holy week as the sun rose on Easter morning. We’re anticipating VBS, retreats and mission trips; Rainbow Express and Music and Arts Camps; rising attendance in worship, new ministries forming, and so much more. These wonderful programs and ministries are possible because God is faithful, and you have stood with us offering love and encouragement. Your continuing stewardship and generosity humble us as we continue holding one another in prayer and fellowship.

Our latest financial report as of March 31 was very encouraging. At the end of the first quarter, year-to-date revenue was \$622,000 compared to \$577,000 for the same period last year. This produced a positive year-to-date revenue variance of \$16K. In addition, our expenses are under budget YTD. Most of the savings occurred in salaries, facility operating expenses, and program ministry areas.

Your faithful stewardship makes all these wonderful opportunities possible. Typically, during the coming months we get so busy with vacations and activities we can overlook our regular giving. Around the church these are high energy programs and activities in addition to our already full schedule. Join me and my family in supporting the financial foundation of this great church where we gather every week to **Reach, Teach, Praise** and **Serve** Together!

Blessings,

Pastor Paul