

INCLUSIVE GRACE

*"...for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
-Galatians 3:28*



Inclusive Grace

- Is a Reconciling Ministry of Matthews United Methodist Church.
- Supports and celebrates LGBTQIA+ persons, their families, and friends, both within and beyond the church community.
- Welcomes, affirms, and celebrates the sacred worth of all persons.

We are all beloved children of God.

Welcome Statement

Inclusive Grace, a Reconciling Ministry of Matthews UMC, embraces God's gift of diversity and rejoices in a loving, diverse community united in Christ! The ministry strives to live the love of Christ in all we do and affirms the sacred worth of all persons, deserving of every sacrament and rite.

We affirm and celebrate individuals of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, physical and intellectual abilities, economic status, political perspective, age, family composition, country of origin, and citizenship status. We all are made in Christ's image, worthy of God's love and grace! We recognize our differences and do not seek to erase them but to use them as a source of strength, as we journey together toward greater understanding, mutual respect, and love for each other, while humbly serving our God.

Lifelines

Are you seeking support from someone who has walked a similar journey? Would you like to share your thoughts and feelings, yet hesitate with whom to open-up? **Lifelines** are individuals available to meet one-on-one, as needed, in a confidential manner to listen & provide support. Those seeking a Lifeline may include, but aren't limited to, LGBTQIA+ individuals, questioning congregants, parents with LGBTQIA+ children, and families and friends of LGBTQIA+ persons.

To request a Lifeline please:

- Email InclusiveGrace@MatthewsUMC.org
- Message on Instagram (Inclusive_Grace) or Facebook (@InclusiveGrace)

The Lifeline Coordinator will follow-up with you.



Inclusive Grace commits to:

- Extend God's fully inclusive love and unconditional welcome - inviting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, ally, and many other (LGBTQIA+) neighbors into Inclusive Grace's safe fold wherein each can worship, serve, and find community.
- Be a visible, welcoming, & safe resource to LGBTQIA+ persons considering attending or joining Matthews UMC.
- Serve as a resource to LGBTQIA+ church members, attendees, families, friends, and loved ones.
- Assist congregants, ministries, Sunday School classes, and small groups who want to learn and understand more about what it means to be inclusive, affirming, and welcoming.
- Provide Lifelines to individuals seeking support from someone who has walked a similar journey.
- Support and serve the LGBTQIA+ community within and beyond Matthews UMC.
- Live the Wesleyan heritage: being grateful and generous agents of God's inclusive love and transforming grace.
- Bear witness to the most identifiable characteristic of Jesus' disciples - love.
- Live as disciples of Christ, who calls us to be the light in the darkness and neighbor to all, most especially to those unjustly pushed to the margins.

Advisors

Are you a member of the LGBTQIA+ community? Are you willing to serve as an advisor to the ministry? Inclusive Grace is committed to ensuring that its activities are supportive and affirming of the LGBTQIA+ community. The ministry seeks varied perspectives from a diverse group (e.g. age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities, faith story, family composition, culture). Advisors do not need to actively engage in the ministry, but are more than welcome to do so. Inclusive Grace will honor your request for privacy.

Meetings

Hosts periodic conversations with the congregation—building community and discussing topics of interest.

Lifeline Coordinator—David Wheeler

Contact—InclusiveGrace@MatthewsUMC.org