



MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST

October 17, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we head into the fourth quarter of 2022, we can look back on this year with a feeling of rebirth. During our time of Covid, we were separated from one another, physically or from behind a mask or a computer. Since mid-2021, we have been able to reconnect with our Matthews UMC Church Family in both familiar and in hybrid ways. Whether online or in person, together, we are coming back as **one church family**.

Our combined average weekly worship attendance in-person, on livestream, and on demand through the week is in line with our pre-covid in-person attendance. Our Family Worship is going strong with 180 participating in September! In addition to Sunday worship, our folks are welcoming opportunities to fellowship together through mission projects, volunteer opportunities, small groups, special concerts and events, and even pickleball! In fact, we have more adults in Short-Term Groups this year (235 after just 10 months) than we had in all of last year (228)! We have had a number of new members join and three new Sunday morning adult groups have recently launched! **We miss those of you who have not yet returned in person...please join us!**

As we reconnect with each other within our church walls, we continue to find ways to reach out and spread God's love in our surrounding community. This is being done through powerful concerts for the community, tutoring at Greenway Park Elementary, Beats 'n Bites in Stumptown Park and even a lemonade ministry during Matthews Alive. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you as we reach out to those in our church, our community, and our world, while continuing our MUMC Vision: "through Jesus Christ, to transform the world, one life at a time."

As Pastor Chuck recently reminded us, there is always the **Ripple Effect**, and **we should not underestimate the power of one to change the life of many**. Mother Teresa told us that *"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples."*

As we approach this year's **Commitment Sunday (November 13)**, let us do so with excitement and anticipation of what God has in store for us, individually and as a community of faith. **We encourage you to become part of the Ripple Effect of Matthews United Methodist Church!**

You will soon be receiving your **Estimate of Giving Pledge Card**. You may return your pledge card by mail or in person on November 13th, when our 8:15, 9:30, 11:00, and 12:30 services will all be combined into **one wonderful MUMC community worship experience at 10:30**. **Be sure to join us for a hot lunch in The Commons immediately following the worship service!** Your support of the Mission of our church to **Reach, Teach, Praise & Serve** is needed now more than ever, as we continue to impact the lives of others by sharing the love of Christ through this place we call Matthews United Methodist.

In service to Christ,

Carol Hatcher, Lay Leader

Jon Pollack, Administrative Council Servant Leader