

GUIDELINES FOR YEAR-END GIVING MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Please keep the following in mind when making contributions.

These requirements must be met for the contributions to be tax deductible for 2022:

1. Weekly and year-end contributions can be left in the offering plates or in the lock box on the office door across from the Welcome Center if you attend worship on 12/25/22.
2. Your contributions can also be made from a smart phone or device by texting “Matthews” to 73256 and following the link to give. From a desktop, visit give.matthewsumc.org.
3. The week of December 26, the Church Office will be open **Wednesday and Thursday, December 28-29 from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. All other days through December 31, you may place your gifts in the designated lockbox on the Admin. Hall door at the Church Office** (please enter through front doors by the exterior mailboxes between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm).
4. Your cash or check must be received in the Church Office **by 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 31, 2022.**
5. Your mailed check must be **postmarked** by **Saturday, December 31, 2022.**
6. Online contributions **must be in transit** by **Saturday, December 31, 2022.**
7. Contributions that do not meet these guidelines cannot be recorded on a church member’s 2022 giving record. Checks that are received after December 31 cannot be included on a member’s 2022 record even if the check is dated December 31, 2022 (unless it is **postmarked** December 31, 2022). These are IRS requirements and exceptions cannot be made.
8. Please do not file your 2022 income tax returns until you have received your 2022 church contribution record. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving your statement. The statements will be mailed out no later than January 29, 2022.

WHAT CAN YOU GIVE?

• **Give Check or Cash** - Both are popular and convenient ways to give by mail or by placing your gifts in the designated lockbox on the Admin. Hall door at the Church Office by 5:00 pm on December 31.

• **Give Electronically** - Go to give.matthewsumc.org for our OnRealm platform. You can give by credit/debit card or bank draft. You can text “Matthews” to 73256 and follow the link to give.

• **Give Appreciated Stocks or Property** - Giving appreciated property - such as shares of stock, bonds, or mutual funds - gives the donor a charitable income tax deduction and can avoid capital gains taxes. If, however, you own securities that are worth less than you paid, it would be better to sell them, report the capital loss on your tax return and contribute the proceeds. Gifts of securities take a few days to process so please plan ahead. Please contact the Church Office for assistance with gifting securities or other property.

• **Gifts from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** – The IRA charitable rollover allows persons 70 1/2 years or older to contribute up to \$100,000 of their required minimum distribution each year directly from their IRA to the church without paying income tax on the distribution. This can result in a “wash” for tax purposes, with no tax owed on the amount distributed and no contribution deduction received for the donation. Check with your tax advisor to see if this would be a beneficial way for you to make a year-end gift.

Please Note: These guidelines do not attempt to give any legal or tax advice. For advice in specific situations, the services of a competent legal, tax or financial planner should be obtained to help you decide what would be your best option.

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MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST

December 5, 2022

Dear Matthews UMC Family:

I was talking to a friend the other day as he proudly spoke of his son's new job. Fresh out of college last May, he landed a great position in equipment sales and service. He asked his dad what financial advice would prepare him for life as an adult. Before he incurs financial responsibilities, his parents counseled him to "live on 70%, save 30% of his income, and use credit cards for emergencies. And remember, not everything you want is an emergency."

Then my friend asked, "Paul, what would you add?" I thought about it and then said, "That's good, solid advice. I would suggest he and his girlfriend find a church they like and then make it a part of their life. Worship together, join a small group, and support the church financially. I would suggest **living** on 70%, **saving** 20%, and **giving** 10% to God." My friend agreed, saying, "Well, of course. God's 10% goes without saying."

My concern is that with our finances, "what goes without *saying* often goes without *doing*." Some people might agree with my income percentages, but agreement is not necessarily practice. We want to support the work of God, but "emergencies" arise and we fail to follow through. Are they all emergencies or just a lack of good planning?

Here at Matthews UMC, we have shared a wonderful season of Thanksgiving and we are approaching Christmas with gratitude for God's blessings. As we have acknowledged, in-person worship attendance is down, but when you consider those worshipping live online each Sunday and our through-the-week online views, our metrics show that attendance is still strong, it just looks a little different! I miss seeing everyone in person, but I am so thankful for our new members and all of our online worshippers. I hope you agree.

So much for which to be thankful as we approach the end of another year. Let us make sure our priorities are aligned with God's plan for supporting this thriving community of faith. In the joy of this season, let us not forget to take a moment to experience joy wherever we encounter it; rest and relaxation when we can find it; and making sure our gift-giving reflects biblically sound financial principles so we can finish the year financially strong!

Please view **Guidelines for Year-End Giving to MUMC** above.

Giving thanks for the privilege of being one of your pastors,

Pastor Paul