

2023 Laity Service Award Recipients

Each year our Metro District of The United Methodist Church invites us to determine several folks in Matthews United Methodist that exemplifies a "commitment to the Christian way of life ... contribution to the life of the church and the community ... a devotion of self to the service of others and follows Jesus to make disciples for the transformation of the world.



Lena Martin has been at the heart and soul of Matthews United Methodist Church (MIUMC) for decades. For years, there was hardly a meal served in the church where she wasn't right in the middle. She has spent a lifestyle displaying hospitality through food and service. She, and her late husband, Doug, welcomed hundreds of people into the life and ministry of our church with smiling faces and hearts of compassion and good will. There is no one more devoted to church life. MUMC is thrilled to recognize her for all of her faithful and fruitful years of church life. – *Pastor Chuck Wilson*

Susan Chambers is our primary volunteer Worship Coordinator for 3 worship services on Sunday mornings. She oversees other worship assistants, manages three sets of ushers, acolytes, communion servers and stewards, as well as helps to manage baptisms as a representative of the church to the family and serves as a funeral steward and point person for grieving families. She attends weekly Tuesday afternoon Worship Planning meetings with the staff and is key in making the services run as smoothly as possible.

In all that she does, Susan exudes Christ's love and is committed to make everyone feel welcome and as a family member of the church. She is always reaching out to folks to serve and to incorporate them into a variety of ministries that are needed for worship. She is committed to making disciples of Christ.

Susan is sensitive to the needs of each ministry and is a huge support and liaison for the ushers, acolytes and communion stewards and servers. She is the epitome of having a servant's heart and is humble in all she does; her attitude is only to serve God in a mighty way. - *Craig Estep*

Fred and Carol Goolsby came to Matthews United Methodist in the late 1980s and have never stopped serving since. You just cannot imagine all this family has done - mission trips; electrical skills in the church building, within the church membership, and in the community; all major committees, delegates to Annual Conference; Sunday School class leadership; and so much more. MUMC has been profoundly impacted by this servant-hearted couple. MUMC is honored to have had this couple in our midst for nearly 40 years. They have been a huge blessing to us. – *Pastor Chuck Wilson*

María de Jesús Meneses is a sister committed to the work of the Lord. She and her family have been an active part of our leadership for more than eight years. She is always willing to support the ministry in any way. She is part of our praise group and is a member of our welcome committee.

Sister María and her husband have a weekly small group at their business, where they share the word of God and invite others to come closer to Christ and follow up with new believers, accompanying them to our weekly services. They have been a blessing to me and our Latino ministry all these years. She has always been willing to do whatever is needed of her to spread the good news of the gospel. – *Pastor Roldan Flores*