

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 2024:

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 December 29, 2024.
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 25, the Church Office will be open **Monday and Tuesday, December 23-24 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 Tuesday, December 31, 2024.**
5. Your mailed check must be **postmarked** by **Tuesday, December 31, 2024.**
6. Online contributions **must be in transit** by **Tuesday, December 31, 2024.**
7. Contributions that do not meet these guidelines cannot be recorded on a church member's 2024 giving record. Checks that are received after December 31 cannot be included on a member's 2024 record even if the check is dated December 31, 2024 (unless it is **postmarked** December 31, 2024). These are IRS requirements and exceptions cannot be made.
8. Please do not file your 2024 income tax returns until you have received your 2024 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 31, 2025.

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.