

WELCOME PASTORS David & Susan

SENIOR PASTOR *(pictured right)*



Rev. David Christy was born in Jefferson, NC, into a family with deep ties to The United Methodist Church where his father served as clergy.

After completing his undergraduate degree at Pfeiffer University, Rev. Christy graduated from Duke Divinity School in 1991 and subsequently served a two-point charge in Franklinville and Rehobeth in Randolph County. He was then appointed to Fair View United Methodist in Mooresville then went on to serve Epworth UMC in Concord. From there, he served at Central UMC in Canton and was then appointed to First UMC in Gastonia in 2012 before being appointed as District Superintendent in 2020.

Rev. Christy is married to Pamela Reeves Christy (Pam), First Grade Teacher and mother to their two grown children, Luke (32) who serves as the pastor at Mills River UMC along with his wife Kelly and their two young children and Maggie (29) who serves as the Youth Director at First UMC in Sylva.

EXECUTIVE PASTOR *(pictured right)*

Rev. Dr. Susan Heafner-Heun

is a Charlotte native who received an undergraduate degree at Greensboro

College and has been privileged to serve a wide variety of appointments including large church, small church, and even leading a new church start.



She attended Duke University then Union Theological Seminary in NYC where she received a Master of Divinity. Rev. Dr. Heafner-Heun holds a Doctor of Ministry in Social Justice from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury. Most recently, she served The Vine UMC and Christ UMC in Charlotte. Rev. Dr. Heafner-Heun is married to John Heun, and they have two children, Ava and Olivia.



REACH. TEACH. **PRAISE.** SERVE.
MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST

Gracious God, we give you thanks for our new pastors.

May David, Susan, and their families feel the love & support from our community. Equip them with an expansive view of ministry, one that engages the world with missional energy.

We pray their work will not be seen as a job but as an adventure, a journey to which they will be willing to offer a hearty “Yes” again and again. Empower them to be at the ready to offer hope, teach peace, and reveal love. Bless them with an outward focus, alive with John Wesley’s “the world is my parish” spirit, unlimited in vision, undimmed by failure, exuberant in spirit.

May Susan and David have a well-developed interior life, deeply-spirited, and attentive to being fully in love with God and desiring eagerness, humility, and passion.

We pray they have courage to sit with people who are on the margins; to listen to those others don’t have time for; to speak for those who have no voice; to be willing to go to the rough places that are difficult to enter – emergency rooms, gravesides with those who weep, places of loneliness, violence and abuse. We pray for our pastors to walk with the poor without giving up on the rich. We pray for courage.

We pray for David and Susan to love the ministry of Jesus as expressed in and through Matthews UMC. May they be alive with the contagious love of God. May they be winsome, full of delight in their calling, inspire those younger and older to say, “that’s what I want to be like; that’s who I want my children to know and my teenagers to hang out with; that’s who I want teaching and caring for my parents.”

We pray for Susan and David to always be honest, fair to a fault, consistently erring on the side of grace, big enough to let trivial things roll by, and wise enough to truly care about the things that matter the most.

Finally, O God, may we see Jesus in both of them – while having lunch, walking the church hallways, among the youth, with the elderly or homeless. May we always see the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in them. Amen.

Adapted from Bishop Robert Schnase