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MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST

Sanctuary Renovation Project Update

July 15, 2025

The Building Committee, Trustees, and Facilities Staff have been working together to implement our Beyond Hospitality commitments over the past several months. We have completed several projects in the Sanctuary, including replacing all lighting, installing new video walls, and replacing the Sanctuary cooling and heating system. The selected general contractor to perform the Sanctuary Renovation project will be announced soon.

Our construction window for the Sanctuary Renovation project is planned to be **Monday, August 11 - Tuesday, November 25**. The chancel scope of work consists of reconfiguration of the chancel levels, removal and replacement of the choir platform steps, removal and replacement of chancel screen walls (potentially), a new ramp, and new floor finishes. Other work in the Sanctuary includes painting of the Sanctuary interior, a new Audio System installation, new automatic door operating systems for interior sanctuary doors, new choir chairs, and addition of various armchair seating options and wheelchair spaces.

Due to the work of the construction project, the Sanctuary will be unavailable for any church function during the construction period. This is to ensure the safety of the construction crew and the safety of our church and community members. In addition, the Small Parking Lot beside the Sanctuary building will be unavailable to the public and our church community during the construction period as this parking lot will be used by the construction crew for parking and laydown of materials.

Worship services, including CCH at 12:30 pm, will be moved to the Gym, with overflow space in The Commons. Facility Staff is working on a layout and setup that maximizes occupancy for our worship services while maintaining safe ingress and egress. Family Worship Sundays (Aug 24, Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9) will include our regular 9:30 congregants who are also welcome to attend the 11:00 worship service.

It is important that ministry life continues to the best of our ability during the construction period, therefore, our ministries are working together to make sure that if the space needs to be rearranged for a special event/activity, that it will be reset for Sunday worship with staff and volunteer support. If you would like to be part of the volunteer set-up team list, please [click here to register](#).

The use of the Gym for worship services necessitates changes in other use of that space with the extensive planning and required physical setup of the space for worship service use. Due to the worship service setup in the Gym, Men's Open Basketball and Pickleball will be temporarily suspended during the construction period (Aug 16 - Nov 25). The initial worship service physical setup will occur on Aug 16 for the construction period. Our Facilities Staff is not scheduling new events in the Gym during this time period as well. The already scheduled large events (COS Kids Camp, Consignment Sale, Rainbow Benefit Dinner, Arts & Crafts Extravaganza, Weekly Sunday night Youth Group gatherings and any other special events) will occur as scheduled in the Gym space due to timing of the events within the construction period.

The Pastoral Staff, Debbie Fitts, our Facilities Staff, Trustees, and Building Committee members have all been working to ensure meaningful worship and program participation during construction enhancements in our Sanctuary space.

Please contact the Church Office with any questions.