



First Methodist Church

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Dear Friends in Christ,

After almost two years of challenges connected to our disaffiliation from the UMC and our subsequent affiliation with the Global Methodist Church, our congregation is now in a healthy position to move forward in service to God in the world and our surrounding community. Your response to this change has been overwhelmingly positive, and this is an exciting time for our congregation to effect change.

If you have been in worship over the past six months, you know that our worship attendance continues to increase, and we are confident this will continue. Participation in worship, while important, is not enough. It is extremely exciting that so many people connected to the church are now desiring to put their faith into action.

We are once again offering multiple Christian education opportunities for dozens of persons interested in growing in their faith, and fellowship opportunities supported by our new Hospitality committee are an added blessing to an already caring and welcoming church.

We are seeing many more members volunteer to participate in the ministries of the church. The Friday Senior Lunch program has many volunteers who feed and minister to over fifty persons on a weekly basis. Our new Monday Evening Meals has well over sixty volunteers, and our numerous ministries connected to the incarcerated offer opportunities for scores of people to share with and care for others.

With the addition of our newest staff member, Rev. Bud Fickley, we are positioned to reintroduce ministries to our youth through youth meetings and Confirmation classes. Our Discipleship committee has reintroduced a Sunday morning Christian education time for our kids following the children's message, and we have just begun a mom's group for mothers of preschool-age children.

As we look to 2024, we have every reason to be excited. There is much work to do, but we have many willing hands and hearts to do it. Serving these new ministries and the many others we continue to serve provides us with many opportunities to share our talents and gifts. We are fortunate to have the resources to support so many ministries, and through the generosity of this congregation, we will continue to share God's word.

As you prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year, please be mindful that as disciples in Christ, we must provide for the underserved. Together, we will positively impact the lives of those we serve. Please return the enclosed pledge card by November 26, 2023.

God Bless,

The Finance and Stewardship Committee, in Consultation with Dr. Rev. Mark E. Hecht