



The Chatham United Methodist Church

October, 2023

Dear Friends,

THE MINISTRY TEAM

Ministers
All Baptized Members

Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Markay

Associate Pastor
Rev. Sharon Yarger

Music Director
Peter Hill

Organist
Mike Maguire

Director of Children &
Youth Ministries
Sami Main

Communications Coordinator
Renaë James

Church Office
Administrative Assistant
Catriona Smith

Finance Manager
Zrinka Cvetkovic

Church Maintenance Manager
and Custodian
Donald Underhill

The members and friends of Chatham UMC have been wonderfully generous in their faithful contributions, tithes, and offerings. We are grateful. Yet we, like most religious organizations, have seen fewer people in worship since the pandemic. For various reasons people have either fallen out of the habit of attending worship, are still concerned about being inside with large groups of people, left their churches because the church was either too strict or too lenient in responding to the pandemic, or have seen their church's response to the pandemic through political lenses, with which they have disagreed. Some have left our United Methodist denomination, and our congregation, due to our church's stance on certain issues. We as a people and culture are having a hard time holding things in tension, and living with people and ideas that are often different than ours.

Now more than ever, God is calling us to be a welcoming church for such a time as this. People are longing for community that welcomes, cares for one another, serves those in need, and has authenticity in our desire to worship and serve God. Chatham UMC is poised to be the place that people are looking for. Our church office is fielding calls from schools, scout troops, sports teams, businesses, and people of conscience, asking how they can help us with our ministries to those who are hungry. People from all over the world are joining our online community through our CUMC Facebook page and YouTube channel. The Holy Spirit is doing something in our midst that is unfamiliar, new and without precedent. All of this ministry, outreach, welcome and community-building costs money. Your ongoing contributions make it possible for Chatham UMC to be an expression of Christ's love for all people and all of creation. Thank you.

Enclosed is a pledge card and envelope we hope you can fill out and return to the church so that the Finance Team can do some financial planning for the ministries God is calling us to support in 2024. Thank you in advance for your generosity, your faithfulness, and your love for God and the Chatham UMC. Through our collective giving, and the Holy Spirit, we make the love of God tangible for people here in Morris County, and throughout the world.

Yours in Christ,

Linda Connors and Glen Walker, Leaders in the Church Council
Hal Burlingame and Chris Fillimon, Co-Lay Leaders
Nick Sfiris, Finance Chair
Rev. Jeff Markay, Senior Pastor