November 12, 2023

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*

*Worship the LORD with gladness;*

*Come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the LORD is God.*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving*

*And his courts with praise;*

*Give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;*

*His faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Psalm 100

Dear Members of the Manchaca United Methodist Church community,

We are entering the season of the calendar year when the earth glows in the warm colors of the harvest, as colorful reminders of God’s bounty – orange pumpkins, golden stalks of corn, deep red cranberries, and multihued turkeys. The air is filled with crispness as the changing temperatures trigger the falling leaves and signal a time for contemplation as the year draws to a close.

In our church life, we celebrate fall by opening our doors to offer fellowship to the community through our Fall Festival and pumpkin patch. We gather to remember the saints who have blessed our lives by sharing the light of God with us and the world. We offer thanksgiving and praise to God for the bounty of God’s creation in our lives, in our world, and in our church.

It is also a season of preparation in the world and in the church. Manchaca United Methodist Church is preparing for the new Christian year that begins with Advent. We prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ by first giving thanks for all that God has given us. We express our thanksgiving by fulfilling our vows to uphold God’s church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. In the new Christian year, MUMC will continue to offer our church as a place of sanctuary in the world, providing opportunities for community in learning about and sharing God’s love with each other and with the world. We will worship together and live out our praise and thanksgiving for God’s blessings in service with and to one another and to the community around us.

MUMC needs your commitment to support the ministries that we will offer here in 2024. Commitment Sunday is November 26, 2023. Please prayerfully consider what you will pledge to financially support the operating budget of the church for the coming year. Complete the

enclosed stewardship pledge card and bring it on Commitment Sunday or fill out an online pledge card on the church website no later than November 26, 2023. The enclosed Scope of Ministries pamphlet provides a summary of what your financial contributions – combined with those of the rest of congregation – enable us to do to bring God’s kingdom to this place here in Manchaca, Texas, and beyond. It takes more than $750,000 each year to operate the church. Your financial contributions enable us to provide the facilities, staff, volunteers, materials, and programs that bring our church to life in our community as we welcome others to share with us in God’s kingdom here at MUMC.

The Finance Team will use the pledges collected on Commitment Sunday to prepare the final 2024 operating budget to present to the Church Council in December. Please be generous in your pledge so that we may continue to be a blessing to others in this place and bring glory to God.

In gratitude for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness,

Tonia Norman Paul Harris

Finance Team Lead Senior Pastor

Enclosures