



Dear Friends:

We are having an amazing season of ministry through Shalimar United Methodist Church this year, and we are excited to carry this momentum forward as we eagerly anticipate what God has in store for us in 2023!

As we begin making our preparations for the New Year, let me share with you what is ahead of Shalimar United Methodist Church. God has laid on our hearts the theme for 2023 to be "**FORWARD 23.**" We want to move **FORWARD** with the Lord in our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness into the New Year. What an awesome prospect to step out with the Lord into 2023 to advance the Kingdom of God **FORWARD** into our community.

The word **FORWARD** comes from the inspiring words of the Apostle Paul, "I focus on one thing; forgetting the past and looking **FORWARD** to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT). In the coming weeks, our congregation will be challenged to imagine with God what it means to go **FORWARD** to fulfill God's calling for us.

Here is how you get involved. First, save the date to worship with us on Sunday, November 20. Our hope is to have everyone celebrate this special day as we hear an inspiring message from our guest preacher, Dr. Karl Stegall. We also invite everyone to join us for a free lunch following the 11:00 and 11:07 worship services in the Family Life Center that day.

Also on November 20, we will have an opportunity to offer to the Lord our financial estimates of giving for 2023. As we did last year, we will encourage all of us to write thank you notes to God as well. After the last couple of challenging years, would it not be great to all spend time at the altar in thankful worship for all the Lord has done and be inspired for what is ahead?

In the coming days, please prayerfully consider your response for a new commitment for 2023. Let us give thanks to God for all He has done for us this year and boldly pray for Shalimar United Methodist Church as we confidently step **FORWARD** into 2023 with the Lord!

Thank you for all you do and for your continued generosity for the Lord.

Shalom,

**Dr. Philip McVay**  
*Lead Pastor*