



Dear Members and Friends of Woodlake United Methodist Church,

There is a banner that hangs just around the corner from my office; it proclaims that it takes 247 people every week for our church to carry out our ministries. It lists opportunities to serve, from the folks who arrive first on Sundays to set up the coffee and run the worship tech, to the office volunteers who greet visitors and assist with tasks during the week, to the teams who serve at Belmont and UMFS. It's a powerful reminder of what is required for us to be church together week in and week out.

Yet, the banner is not quite accurate. In 1 Corinthians 12:12, the apostle Paul wrote, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and *all* the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." Yes, it takes 247 people for Woodlake's ministries to run each week, but for our church to answer God's call for our community, we need more than 247 people; we need everyone! If we are to be the body of Christ, worshiping God with every part of us, sharing Jesus' love with our neighbors through our stories and our service, we will need every person in our church to participate.

God has big plans for this body of Christ called Woodlake UMC. We have the opportunity to help people of all ages to worship in vibrant ways, grow in faith, radically serve our neighbors, and creatively share the love of Christ with the people around us. In order to accomplish that mission, we need you: your prayers, your time, your talents, and your generosity are vital for this body of Christ to grow.

In this packet, you will see the ways that Woodlake UMC is already moving as Christ's body in our community. You will also be invited to prayerfully consider how you are called to be part of our ministries. As in past years, we are asking for commitments for financial gifts to help support a proposed budget of \$2.2 million. In addition, this year we are also asking for specific commitments to participate in worship, grow in faith, and serve inside and outside the church. Each week from October 6 through October 27, we'll invite you to consider how you can build up the body of Christ through the ministries of Woodlake UMC. Please respond prayerfully and generously to make our church an even more vibrant body of Christ, inspired and moving in the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Lauren