



September 4, 2019

Hello Members and Friends of Chatham United Methodist Church,

I want to provide you with an important update regarding the Chatham Middle School parking lot behind our facilities which we use but do not own. Over the decades, our church and the school have been very gracious in sharing parking spaces and building usage for various occasions and functions. We are grateful for this relationship with the school system and trust it will continue to be a mutual blessing to both the church and the school. As of this September, the School District of the Chathams is following the recommendations of Homeland Security to number and assign all parking spaces to school teachers and staff. This will impact our ability to use the parking lot on school days until 3:00 PM.

I have been in fruitful and gracious conversations the Chatham Middle School administration and the School District Superintendent regarding our use of this parking lot. *They have allotted about 50 parking spaces for our use; these spaces will not be numbered.* These unmarked spaces are located along the grass strip between our church parking lot and the middle school parking lot. They are also located in the area closest to the Van Doren entrance/exit. Please park in one of the unmarked/unnumbered parking spaces.

This change should only affect parking for our members and friends during school hours on school days. It will not impact evening meetings or events during the week or at all on weekends.

Last year over 11,000 people from our congregation and other groups came through our doors for various reasons. One of the hallmarks of Christian faithfulness has always been hospitality and welcome. Our church can continue to express our ministry of hospitality and welcome to the worshipers, groups and people who use our church building every day. Let us continue to welcome all, as we would welcome Christ himself.

Peace,

Jeff

