

The Heart Of the Matter

Monthly Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church: September 2021

Dear friends,

The official season of fall begins Wednesday, September 22nd. But things we typically associate with fall have already begun. Family vacations are likely over by now. Students are back in school (and have been for a month now). Labor Day is coming soon which means that you can't wear white anymore. (Is that still a rule?) And soon, Daylight Savings Time will end (BUT NOT UNTIL NOVEMBER 7th). As the saying goes, "spring forward and fall behind," we move our clocks back an hour in the fall.

"Fall behind." Let's think of this from a different perspective. Instead of "fall behind," if we are truly moving, a better idea might be to "fall forward." In other words, if we are moving forward, if we fall, we at least continue our forward momentum if we fall forward, instead of falling backward.

I hope here at Southport UMC this fall, we will fall forward. Well, really, I hope we don't fall at all. Our intent is to not fall, but to keep moving forward as we continue moving past the last year and half of COVID, social distancing, masks, vaccinations, and most importantly, no coffee and doughnuts here at church on Sunday morning. ☹️

Let's not fool ourselves and say that we are back to normal. Let's not even say that we are at the "new normal." In fact, as I am writing this, we are dealing with the Delta variant of COVID. So, let's simply say that we want to let our momentum continue to move us forward.

We have a few exciting things coming this fall to help us continue moving forward (assuming COVID does not set us back). Here are our current plans:

We have planned an all-church picnic for Saturday, September 25th. Save the date now!

Third graders (and all of those children that we have missed the last couple of years) will be receiving their very own Bible on Sunday, September 26th.

October 3rd will mark the return of our Community Meal that has been absent since early in 2020.

October 17th will mark the return of coffee and doughnuts. Our plan is to offer this as often as we can get volunteers to serve. (We do need people to serve in this ministry!)

On Sunday, October 24th, we will have a homecoming and recognize those folks that have been at Southport UMC for a long time.

Sunday, November 7th is All Saints Day as we recognize those from our midst that have left this world and have entered God's eternal kingdom.

This fall is a great time to recommit yourself to being in community here with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's all recommit to "falling forward," continuing to move forward even if we stumble and fall. Let's not "fall behind" and miss out.

Blessings, Pastor Doug

UPCOMING Sermons

September 2, 5

Communion

"Both/And: The Scarecrow vs. the Tin Man?"

Philippians 4:1-9, Mark 12:30

September 9, 12

"Both/And: In the World, Not Of It (Christ and Culture)"

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

September 16, 19

"What If...There is More?"

Luke 12:13-21

September 23, 26

"What If...God Does Have a Plan?"

Jeremiah 29:11-14;
Romans 8:28-39

Galatians – THE MAGNA CARTA OF SPIRITUAL LIBERTY!

According to some scholars, the book of Galatians in the New Testament was one of the first books written. It was written by the Apostle Paul to the churches in Galatia – the churches that were started by Paul on his first missionary journey.

Christianity was in danger of becoming just another sect of Judaism had Paul not written that letter. (Let that statement sink in a minute.)

According to theologian John MacArthur, the book of Galatians has been given such titles as “the Magna Carta of spiritual liberty, the battle cry for the Reformation, and the Christian’s declaration of independence.” In fact, it is said that the foundation of the Reformation was laid with the writing of Martin Luther’s commentary on Galatians. John MacArthur also called this letter to the Galatians a “flashing sword wielded by a burning heart.”

Get the picture? Galatians is a very important letter and is foundational for our faith.

In late October/early November, I am going to preach on the letter to the Galatians. For three weeks, we will look at the letter and uncover what it has to say to us. (We won’t have time to talk about each verse in these three sermons, so I would encourage each of you to read the entire letter on your own during that time.)

Don’t miss a single sermon as we unpack Paul’s letter, “written from the grieving heart of a godly man for his spiritual children, whose faith and living were being undermined by false teachers.”

Blessings,

Pastor Doug

Welcome

Make sure to give a warm welcome
to our three new staff members!



RHONDA COLLINS
Director Of Worship



TRENT WINTERS
Building and Grounds
Technician



KELLEY LEGO
Director of Student Ministry

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

September 25, 2021

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Menu: Burgers & Hotdogs, Chips, Fresh Veg, Dessert (TBD), Water/Soda

Food served 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Games 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Games will be self-directed and will include Yard Jenga, 9 Square, Crochet, Tattoos, 3-Legged Race and more.

What will you need to bring? Lawn Chairs

How can you help? We will need help setting up tables and chairs and games, cleaning tables, putting everything away after the event and monetary donations.

(Rain Date: September 26, 2021 after 10:30 a.m. service)

Donations: Any check donation intended for the picnic needs to have "Picnic" in the memo, and online giving does have a Picnic option available in the drop down menu!

We have so many wonderful ministries and groups here at SUMC. This month we have inserted an extra page with detailed info on all of our groups, ministries, happenings, and ways to keep informed weekly and monthly.



Feed A Need



Roof Crashers



Harvest Table

HARVEST TABLE HOURS

Sundays: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Blood Drive



SUMC you continue to step up when help is needed. The following are the results from the July 31 blood drive:

Our goal was to have **11** people donate blood.

11 donors scheduled on line.

3 donors were deferred.

8 units were collected.

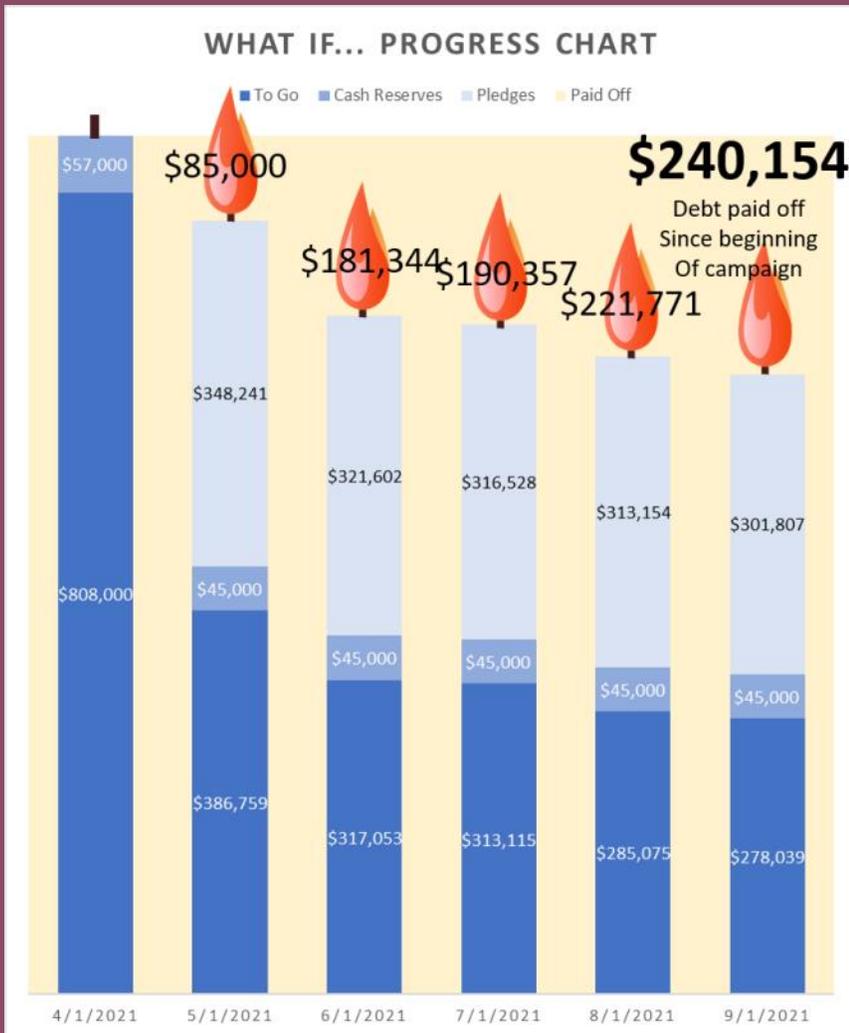
In total **24** Indiana lives were potentially saved through this blood drive.

This had been a challenging summer for the blood mobile. They continue to encourage new and existing donors to participate in the blood drives due to Covid-19. We appreciate your participation in this drive.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NEXT BLOOD DRIVE: NOVEMBER 13, 2021.

IMAGINATION Station Preschool Begins!





Thank you to all the ministry teams and families who donated their proceeds from the 2021 SUMC Yard Sale supporting the What If Campaign! Also, thank you to individuals who came and bought items, volunteered, donated unwanted household items, donated tents, and loaded up their vehicles to take items to a thrift store. The donations totaled \$3700. It was a major success!!

The United Methodist Women will be collecting shoes for another fundraising in February 2022. If you have any unwanted shoes, please keep them until you hear more in January.

If your ministry group is interested in doing fundraising, please contact Sandy Lewis.

Thanks again from the Fundraising Team: Pam Clough, Jerrie Snell, Rita Manley, Kim Distel, Stacey Fishel, Zach Lego, Kelley Lego, Brandon Collins, and Sandy Lewis.





Our upcoming Sermon Series, "What If", will begin the week of September 19th!



A letter from our new Director of Student Ministries, Kelley!

I am beyond blessed to serve as Director of Student Ministries for SUMC. When Zach and I moved to Indianapolis in 2012, we were drawn to SUMC because of all it's amazing ministries. We spent four years working and growing in our faith here at SUMC, with multiple of those years having the opportunity to work with both the children and youth. Since that time, we had two children, Cooper (6.5 yrs old) and Hadley (4 yrs old) and have moved twice for Zach's job. While I am grateful for those experiences and adventures we are excited to be back and to watch our children grow up at SUMC and in this community. I am also very active in other ministries here at SUMC, I am part of the Roof Crasher's Women's Bible Study, and I am the Treasurer from the Acton Elementary PTO.

My main goal in working with the Youth is to help them understand that Jesus loves all of us even when we don't love ourselves and He is there for us even when we feel like no one else cares, especially in the awkward and unsure times of teenage life. I experienced this first hand growing up in West Virginia. While I asked Jesus to come into my heart at a very young age, it wasn't until my teenage years that I truly learned just how much I needed His love and grace. As our group grows and matures over the next few months I will be working on our weekly curriculum where we will also incorporate teaching life skills and a have few outings in the Fall.

Our first weekly meeting for the school year will be Wednesday, September 8th at 5:30 and dinner will be served. If you have youth or know any youth (6th grade-12th grade), we would love to have them fellowship with us. We also have plenty of ways to volunteer (teaching and mentoring youth, chaperoning, preparing meals, etc.) and always appreciate any help.

I ask that you to keep the youth in your prayers. Pray that they will know God's love and will be a blessing to others they come in contact with!

-Kelley Lego

Finance

One of our church members recently pointed out a Bart Millard (the lead singer of MercyMe) quote that relates to our debt elimination campaign. Here it is:

“What if” kills “what is” Enjoy the moment.’

Well, I think I agree with Mr. Millard. “What if” can kill the current “what is” and bring about a new one. I believe “what if” can change “what is”. But you have to pursue it. You have to believe “what if” can become “what is”. And you have to work toward it. You have to be a driving force bringing “what if” into existence.

I think we are showing that with our debt elimination campaign. We have eliminated a third of our debt and have another third already pledged. That is a major change. That has us well on the road of changing “what if” into “what is”. Thank you!

And always remember why we are pursuing this “what if”. It is about more than just eliminating our debt, it is to better position us to continue to bring grace and hope into this world through Jesus Christ. Keeping that goal in mind just imagine what our next “what if” might be.

Amen,
Brandon

Church	Jul-21	2021 Year to Date
Income		
Offerings	\$45,145	\$368,710
Other	\$217	\$894
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$2,870	\$19,347
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$7,423)	(\$43,502)
Administration	(\$15,124)	(\$105,138)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$17,613)	(\$78,404)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$21,892)	(\$152,571)
Youth & Child Ministry	\$0	(\$6,448)
Net	(\$13,820)	\$2,888
Imagination Station		
Income	\$37,453	\$206,467.50
Expense	(\$21,916.24)	(\$157,674.21)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$2,870)	(\$19,347.32)
Net	\$12,667	\$29,446
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$82,815	\$576,072
Total Expenses	(\$83,968)	(\$543,737)
Net	(\$1,153)	\$32,334



Facebook is a great way to follow everything happening at SUMC! Make sure to Like and Follow!



Subscribe to SUMC on YouTube to keep up with all of our online services and special videos!

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Duane Thompson
 Connie Whisner
 Jim Cooney
 Sherry Davis
 Karen Decatur
 Joy Eder
 Suzy Heilman
 John Klipsch
 Phil Sell
 Brad Wiseman



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SERVICE TIMES

Online
 Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday
 9:00 a.m.-Traditional
 10:30 a.m.- Contemporary

Thursday
 6:30 p.m.- Casual Service

*Everyone is sharing God's love and grace through Jesus Christ in their everyday, 24 x 7 lives.
 So that... we are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and the world.*