

The Heart Of the Matter

Monthly Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church:
October 2021

Homecoming

Dear Friends,

It's been a number of years apparently since Southport United Methodist Church has celebrated a Homecoming weekend. Homecoming in a church is one of those times when we remember a little bit about the history of our church and invite everyone who is a part of our family of faith to come home and celebrate the life and impact of our church over the years.

It's going to be another time in the church this year that's going to be a little different because of Covid. For one thing, during normal times, you're hoping for kind of a capacity crowd in attendance. But with the number of infections still relatively high, we certainly don't want to encourage anyone to come who is being extra cautious, and we will be maintaining some social distancing in our sanctuary.

Still, our Homecoming this year will be inspiring and will draw us all even closer to our church and to each other. Southport UMC has such an impressive and impactful history, and certain moments in time will be highlighted.

Also, we will be recognizing the long-time members of our church – those who have been members for 20 years or more. Did you know that we have many members who have been here for more than 40, 50, even 60 years? We have one who has been a member for over 87 years! For Homecoming, we will be celebrating the long-term faithfulness of these members.

And we will be preparing ourselves too for that Homecoming weekend to come in 2024, three short years from now, when we will celebrate the elimination of our mortgage debt through our "What If" campaign.

So I hope, if you are in town, and you feel you can, that you will join us for Homecoming. It will be during our worship services on Thursday, October 21, and Sunday, October 24.

Grace and Hope to you,

Duane

UPCOMING Sermons

October 3

Communion

"What If...Jesus Can Give Us a New Direction and a New Life?"

John 10:1-10

October 7, 10

"What If...We Put Others First?"

Matthew 20:20-28

October 14, 17

"What If...One Person Can Make a Difference?"

Luke 10:25-37

October 21, 24

"When What If Becomes What Is"

John 6:1-14

October 28, 31

"Galatians: Authenticity of the Gospel"

Galatians 1:1-10, 2:1-21





Jubilee Christmas Team

If it is fall we know that Jubilee Christmas plans cannot be far away! With the combined efforts of our Southport Church Family and the Homecroft Elementary School Staff we will connect with twenty plus families from the community who will experience a more joyful Christmas. Toys, gifts, food, personal family needs will be some ways to minister to the children and their parents.

During October and November there is much to be done and we invite you to participate in one or more ways.

Host a Family by guiding them through the Jubilee process, giving them information and direction as needed. Each family has their own host and all hosts have a Jubilee Team member supporting them in every way possible.

Choose to provide some of the items that will fulfill a family's needs. This may involve personal shopping or online shopping, always with support from the Jubilee Team and Family Hosts. Tag boards at church and shopping lists will be available in November.

We are hopeful to have a Jubilee Day in December when Jubilee Parents will gather with their host to wrap and prepare items to take home, ready for their Christmas celebration. As with many in-person events, a decision will be made closer to December. A set up crew, extra helping hands to wrap and a clean up crew will be welcome.

Please share your interest soon if you would like more information about hosting a family. We will have families assigned and matched with their host in the next few weeks. Hosting is one of the most joy-filled opportunities of the Jubilee Ministry. Contact the church office, 317 784-9508 or email office@sumc.org and a Jubilee Team member will call you with additional information.

What If...through our connections, through our giving, through our serving...we show and share the Love of Jesus so that lives can be transformed!

Blessings
the Jubilee Ministry Team



Serve News

Greetings All:

I wanted to give you an update on one of our newer ministries, **Feed A Need (F.A.N.)**. September 23, 2021 this ministry celebrated its one-year anniversary. I wanted to share that in a time where the world, as we know it, was “shutting down” or isolating from each other, **Southport United Methodist Church (SUMC)** was reaching out and supplying food to people who needed it.

Since the creation of this ministry, **546 meals and 80 cans of dog food** have been given to those who didn't know where their next meal was coming from. Although, the camp is no longer located where it originated, SUMC is going to where the need is and the second Saturday of every month meals are being distributed to the homeless population in downtown Indianapolis. These meals were prepared with love and joy by the hands of volunteers at SUMC.

It is because of all your generous gifts to **FAITH PROMISE** that ministries like this can continue to go where the need is. F.A.N. is just one ministry that is supported by **FAITH PROMISE**. Others include but are not limited to:

Community Meal (when it returns)

God's Will Breakfast (continued throughout the pandemic)

Interfaith Hospitality Network (continued throughout pandemic, helping with hotel rooms and apartment rental for housing instead of church hosting)

Jubilee Christmas (assisting Homecroft families with Christmas gifts and clothing, continued throughout pandemic)

Kairos Prison Ministry (when it returns)

Ronald McDonald House (feeding families of children at Riley Hospital, continued throughout pandemic)

In spite of a pandemic, SUMC is still impacting the world and making a difference. **Thank you all for your generosity!**

F.A.N. Upcoming Meal Packing

The FEED A NEED (FAN) ministry is still packing up 50 meals for the homeless in downtown Indy. Since the meals are needed for the second Saturday of each month, we pack the meals on the Thursday before that Saturday.

Therefore we will be packing meals on Thursday, OCT 7th at 1:00 at the church in the kitchen.

We are in need of help with delivery of these meals. If interested please let the church know you can help.

We are also back to helping the homeless camp at Longacre. At this time, there are only 3 persons at the camp. We pack a meal sack for each of the 3 each week. If you can help also let the church know that you are interested.

Food Pantry

The Hunger, INC food pantry is becoming quite busy again with clients in need. Some 25-30 show up each of the 3 days the pantry is open. (Tues. 10-1, Thurs 4-7, and Sat. 10-1) So the need for food items is still something we can help with.

So for the month of October, SUMC will be collecting **canned pork and beans**. **Please bring your canned goods in on Sunday, October 3rd or Thursday October 7th.**

We come to church to be fed by the communion service and we help feed those in need as well. Thanks for your continued support of this neighborhood ministry.

Office Volunteers

We will need front desk volunteers to help answer the phones the middle of October through November. If you are interested please contact the office at 317-784-9508!



Women's News

The United Methodist Women (UMW) are meeting for their **World Thank Offering on October 12th at 6:30 p.m.** We meet in the Gathering Area at the church. Come join us at the church with Rebekah Circle and Leah Circle to enjoy the program and fellowship.

At this program, we learn about how UMW can help support women and youth around the world.

Treats will be served, please bring your own drink.



Our generous members really came through on donations to send to Camp Atterbury last month. Thank you to all that donated and helped take the items to the camp!

Upcomming Homecoming Event!

Homecoming services will celebrate our longtime members and the History of our church. They will be during our worship services on Thursday, **October 21, and Sunday, October 24.**



CHILDREN'S *Church*



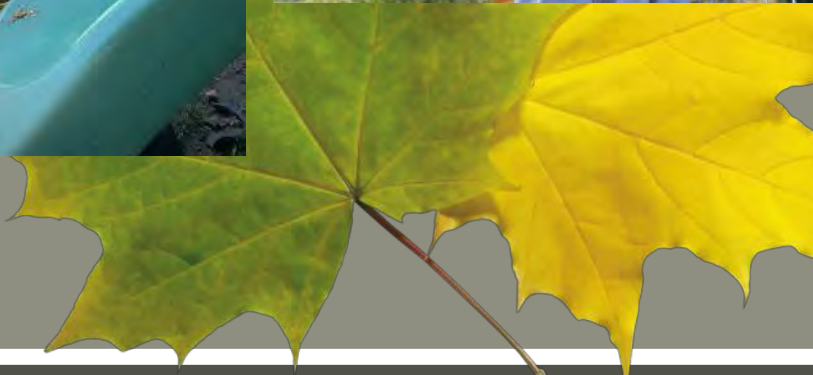
Third Grade Bible Ceremony

We had a wonderful turnout for our Bible Ceremony!



IMAGINATION *Station*

Fall is here and the weather has been great for some playground time. The Preschool's fall break is October 11-22 this year!



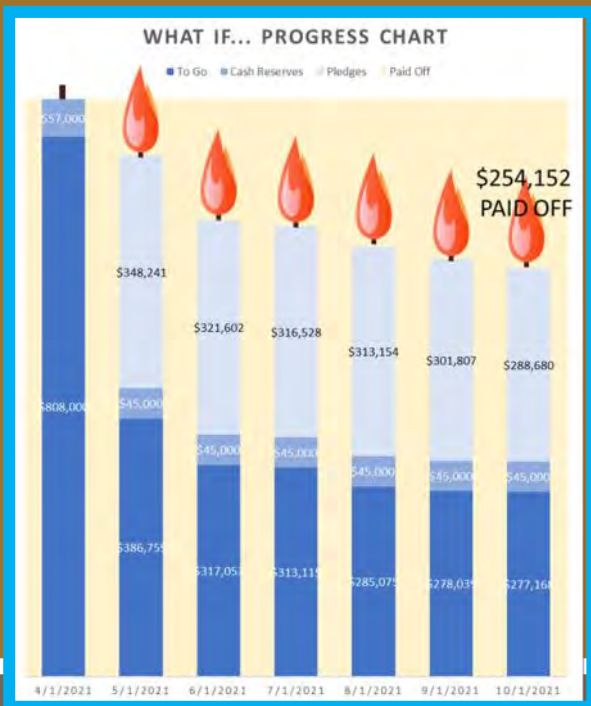


I've been thinking about pennies. One cent. The smallest unit of measure in our currency system. The penny has so little value that there has been talk of getting rid of it. In fact, I've heard that the metal it is made with is actually worth more than the penny itself.

But did you know that there are pennies out their worth more than a penny? Some are worth a few cents, some a few dollars, and some hundreds of thousands of dollars, in fact, the most valuable penny is worth \$1.7 million. Do you know why these pennies are valuable? Usually, it is because there is something wrong with them. An imperfection, flaw, oddity, or other mistake that was made when they were manufactured. Something else I find interesting is that if you clean these pennies they actually lose value.

How about that. Imperfections add value. Being different has worth. And if you try to clean them up, remove the tarnish the world has put on them, that value is diminished. I love that. I think we can learn from that.

So, what does this have to do with the What If Debt Elimination Campaign? Well, I'm probably stretching a little here, but we all have value to the campaign. We all contribute in various amounts and in various ways. Everyone is helping to reach our goal of making Southport United Methodist Church be debt free. And this helps free up resources to reach out into the world, even more than we already are, and be a place for those dirty, imperfect pennies and help them know their true value.



Creation Care

We are still not collecting items at the church. So, we hope you are recycling, reducing, and reusing items that are able to help with the environmental issues caused by these plastic items.

Recycling can be done at the church bin in the back parking lot and also at the city bins in the parking lot on the Southeast corner of Madison Ave. and Edgewood Ave.

With all the fires, floods, hurricanes, and tornados we are being made aware of Climate Change issues. So, let's all do our part to help protect this wonderful, beautiful Earth that God gave us to care for.



SUMY Bonfire & Hayride

Saturday, November 6

Southeastway Park
 Shelter #5
 5-9 pm
 (Hayride will be at 6pm)

Please RSVP to Kelley (email or text)
 Kelley@sumc.org or 304-634-5480

If planning to be on the hayride, Please RSVP by 10/22
 If planning to the there just for food and fellowship, please RSVP by 11/3

OPEN TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades welcome with a Parent or Guardian.
 6th-12th can stay without a parent but must be picked up by 9pm

Hot dogs, chips, water, and Smores will be served.
 Dress for the weather because it will be outside.

Event will be cancelled if severe weather is occurring (rain, wind, extreme temperatures, etc...)

5624 S. Carroll Road, New Palestine, IN 46163 Park Office: 317-327-4834 Park Rangers: 327-3811
 Emergency Call 911

Map Key
 Main Road
 One Way Loop
 Paved Biking/Walking Trail
 approx. 2.5 miles total
 Forest Trails
 No Bikes Allowed on Forest Trails
 Shelter
 Picnic Site
 Playground
 Parking
 Restrooms

Things to Know:
 - Do not feed wildlife.
 - Respect your surroundings; all plants, animals, and structures are protected by city ordinance.
 - Park grounds are open dawn to dusk.
 - Keep pets on a leash at all times.
 - Alcohol is prohibited.
 - No amplified music - it disturbs other park users.
 - Drive on paved roads only.
 - Park in lots or parallel to the road.
 - No open fires.
 - Bikes only on paved trails.

To Get to Southeastway Park from Indianapolis: Take I-65 south to I-465. Take I-465 east towards I-74. Take the I-74 exit towards Cincinnati. Once on I-74, take the Acton Road exit. Turn left onto Acton Road, then right on Southeastern (the first T), left on Carroll (second T) and the park is down the road on the left.

Finance

As always, I am beyond grateful for the generosity of this congregation. That generosity can be seen in the financial statements of this church, the progress of the What If debt

elimination campaign, and in the giving of diapers, toys, clothes, and so much more to the needs of the refugees at Camp Atterbury.

I know that I should not get sucked down the social media rabbit hole, but I couldn't help noticing the abundance of derogatory comments on news articles and post that I ran across regarding this subject. It was disheartening to say the least. Now, none of these comments were from anyone here at SUMC, but it made me concerned, for a moment, it made me question, what kind of support we might provide. Well, it was foolish of me to even let this cross my mind because it took five overflowing SUV loads and one packed car to get all the donations down there.

So, thank you. Thank you for supporting the needs of your church and thank you for supporting the needs of those you do not even know. Thank you for responding to the needs of our world now and helping to build a body that can respond to needs for years to come. Thank you for sharing Christ's love with your generosity.

Amen,
Brandon



Church	Aug-21	2021 Year to Date
Income		
Offerings	\$58,440	\$427,150
Other	\$657	\$1,551
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$3,745	\$23,092
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$4,818)	(\$48,320)
Administration	(\$15,853)	(\$120,991)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$11,091)	(\$89,495)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$22,165)	(\$174,734)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$655)	(\$7,103)
Net	\$8,260	\$11,150
Imagination Station		
Income	\$38,032	\$244,499.34
Expense	(\$22,532.26)	(\$180,206.47)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$3,745)	(\$23,092.00)
Net	\$11,755	\$41,201
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$97,129	\$673,200
Total Expenses	(\$77,114)	(\$620,849)
Net	\$20,015	\$52,351



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



1947 E Southport Road
 Indianapolis, IN
 Phone: 317-784-9508
 Email: office@sumc.org
 Website: www.sumc.org

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.*