

The Heart Of the Matter

Monthly Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church:
November 2021

Dear Friends,

November is always a pretty exciting month around the church. And this year, even with some Covid restrictions in place, some meaningful times at the church, especially in worship, on Thursday evening and Sunday morning, will be taking place. Here is a sample of what's in store:

November 4, 7 – All Saints (Remembrance of church members who have entered God's heavenly kingdom in the past year)

**** Special Note – Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night**

November 6 for the end of Daylight-Saving Time ******

November 11, 14 – Recognition of Veterans

November 18, 21 – Celebration of Thanksgiving

November 28 – First Sunday of Advent, as we move toward Christmas

**** Special Note – There will be no Thursday evening service on November 25**

Thanksgiving Day, but our online service for the weekend will be available on Wednesday, November 24.

So, every worship service is packed with a unique and meaningful theme. I hope you will be present. I don't want you to miss a thing.

Grace and Hope,
Pastor Duane

UPCOMING Sermons

November 4, 7

*Communion &
All Saints Day*

*"Superiority of the
Gospel"*

Galatians 3:23-4:7

November 11, 14

*"Freedom of the
Gospel"*

Galatians 5:16-25

November 18, 21

*"Two Words That Will
Change Your Life."*

*I Thessalonians 1:2-5;
5:12-18*

November 25, 28

*"What to Expect When
You're Expecting: Hope"*
Isaiah 40: 1-11, 25-31

*What to
Expect
When You're Expecting*

Because of Bethlehem...

When you think of what happened in the small town of Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago, how does that impact your life now? How did the birth of the Christ child impact those in His time? And how will the birth of a baby, born as God incarnate, impact all of eternity?

Our Advent study this year will be from Max Lucado's study called, "Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here." From the description:

Christmas begins what Easter celebrates. The child in the cradle becomes the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a Savior in heaven. These are the heart shaping promises of Christmas. Long after the guests have left, the carolers have gone home, and the lights have come down, these promises endure. No one expected God to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger *is* the message.

The study will be held in person, Wednesday evenings during Advent (December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd) at 7:00 p.m.

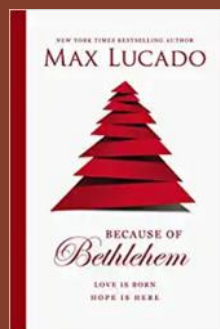
We will also broadcast using Zoom for those that want to participate from home.

No resource is required. However, should you want to read the book as we progress through the study, you can purchase the book on Amazon. (I would recommend the book itself, not the study guide. "Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here – October 13, 2020." Available in hardcover or Kindle.)

You will be able to start signing up the first week in November using the weekly worship registration card.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Doug in the church office.

Hope to see you in the study as we anticipate and prepare for the coming of the Christ.



REMEMBERING THE "SAINTS" OF THE CHURCH

"Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. . . . Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith . . ."
(Hebrews 11:1-2, 12-1, NLT)

Because we have been surrounded by a great number of people who have been a witness to their faith, therefore, what?

The above verses are from the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. Chapters 11 and 12 remind us of the faith of the early leaders of our faith, like Abraham and Sarah, and Moses, and all of God's people as they went through the Red Sea on dry ground and marched around the city of Jericho. We remember their faith as we are on our own journey of faith. We are to remember and be encouraged by their faith.

November 1st of each year is marked on the Christian calendar as All Saints Day. It is on this day that we intentionally remember all people of the faith who have gone to God's heavenly kingdom before us. We not only remember the people of faith from all times and all places, but we especially remember those from our local congregation who have entered God's heavenly kingdom in the past year. We remember their lives of faith as an encouragement to us and to bring alive the hope we all have of God's ultimate and perfect kingdom.

Those from Southport United Methodist Church who have entered God's eternal kingdom this past year are:

Billie (Sue) Arvin
Barbara Dickey
Carol Jarrett
Ernie Lewis
Joyce Lindemann
Randy McWethy
Phyllis Warman-Barnard
Roger Harris

In our worship services on Thursday November 4th and Sunday November 7th, we will remember those from our congregation that have died during the past year by naming their name and lighting a candle for them. And as we also celebrate Communion in those worship services, we are communing not only with those present in worship, but with all believers, everywhere, and at all points in time from eternity past to eternity future.

We invite all in our congregation to pray for God's loving arms to surround the family and friends of those we have lost this past year with a comfort and peace that only God can provide.

Pastor Doug

Serve News

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle will be meeting on November 9 at 1:00 p.m. at the church. All women are welcome to attend. At this meeting we are planning on having a representative from the Chin Center on Stop 11 Road come to speak to the group. Come learn more about our neighbors.

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS

November is a busy month for our Jubilee Christmas preparations and all are invited to participate in several ways. The Jubilee team will soon share the needs and wishes from Jubilee families at Homecroft elementary with everyone. Shopping can be done on line or in person and the team will assist with making on line purchases as needed. More details will be coming through email, announcements and other media. With the help of Homecroft staff we are connecting with twenty families who will enjoy a Christmas they did not expect and experience God's love and care because of your generous hearts and willingness to serve others.

FEED A NEED MINISTRY (FAN)

The meals for the 50 homeless in downtown will be done on Thursday, November 11 at 12:00 noon in the church kitchen. Let the church know if you can help.

We are also feeding the Longacre Camp of 5 each week. If you are interested in helping with delivering or bagging food for this local camp also let the church know. It says in Matthew that we should feed the hungry, so thanks for your help.

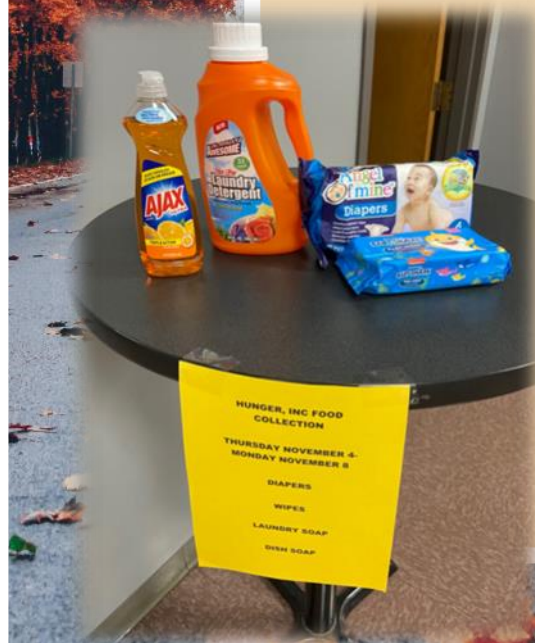
FOOD PANTRY

The Hunger, INC food pantry is located at the corner of Madison Avenue and Epler, behind Kim's Kakey and Bakery. The pantry is always in need of food for the coming months.

We will be collecting at church:

- *Dish Soap--average size is fine
- *Laundry Soap--small size if fine
- *Wipes
- *Diapers-- any size is needed---small packages rather than large package.

Please bring your donations to the church between November 4- 8, and place them on the display by the coatroom. Thanks for your desire to help others in need.





Harvest Table

Thanks for a great year!

We saw a lot of new faces at the Harvest Table this year. We moved out close to Southport Road to help increase our visibility. We also increased and diversified our hours to include Wednesday evenings. These changes resulted in quite a few new friends to share our harvest with, but it also invited some, well, some skepticism. We had several conversations that went something like this:

Person pulls up in car.

PERSON IN CAR: "Free produce? Really, what's the catch?"

HARVEST TABLE PERSON: "No catch. It's really free."

PERSON IN CAR: "Really? Why?"

Was the why the countless (literally, we didn't count) people who we were able to serve in our church and community by giving away free produce too? Was the why the several people we were able to help teach how to start their own gardens by providing free plants, seeds, and some knowledgeable yet friendly folks to answer their questions? Was the why the over \$1,300 we were able to raise through free will offerings for the Faith Promise Fund? Was the why the 611 pounds of produce that was left over from the Harvest Table that we were able to donate to Hunger Inc?

No, not really.

I was having this conversation with my wife, and she said something like, "Tell them you can't fish and you can't bake bread, but you know how to grow tomatoes."

I think this is getting closer to the why. Now, I don't want to imply any of us are capable of performing miracles. But maybe, for some, a simple act of kindness that really doesn't have a catch can be miraculous.

See you next year,

Harvest Table Team



ADVENT *Videos*



HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE

We are looking for people to help share their thoughts on advent through online videos. So, if you have any stories, favorite scripture, or testimonies to share online, contact the office. Thank you!

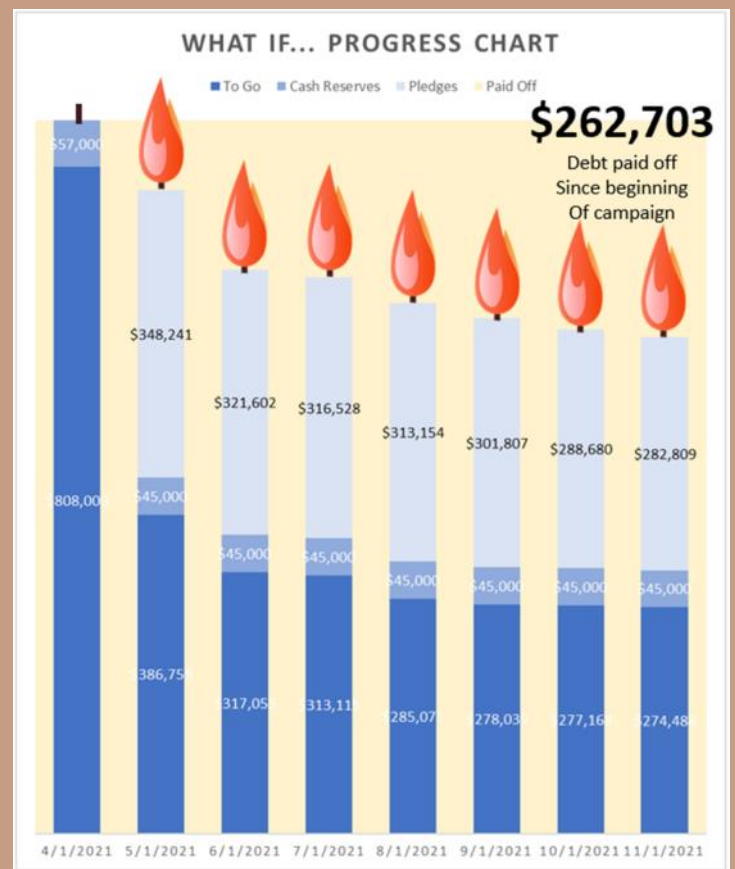
IMAGINATION *Station*





You may have noticed that the candle isn't burning down quite as quickly these last few months as it did at first. Please do not let that discourage you. We've always known this debt elimination campaign is going to be more of a marathon than a sprint. Furthermore, even though it doesn't look like that candle went down all that much from last month, we still eliminated \$8,550 in debt in the month of October. For comparisons sake, before the What If campaign, our debt went down about \$3,500 per month.

So, even though we still have a long way to go, rest assured, progress is being made.



Blood Drive

Turn a new leaf Fall into giving

**Saturday
November
13**
10:00am - 1:00pm

**Southport United Methodist Church
BLOOD DRIVE**

*Bloodmobile

PEOPLE NEED PEOPLE. As a community, the gift of blood donation is an easy and generous way that we can care for one another.

There is no substitute for the lifesaving gift of blood. It is precious. It is perishable. And the need for it is vital. Together with you, we make our communities stronger.

Schedule your donation by scanning the QR Code with your phone's camera OR visit [versiti.org/IN](https://www.versiti.org/IN) and search sponsor code 352

Platelets

Cancer patients could require one unit of platelets each day during chemotherapy. Platelets can be donated every 2 weeks.

Red Blood Cells and Whole Blood

A trauma patient could use up to 100 units of red blood cells. Whole blood cells can be donated every 8 weeks. In comparison to double red cells every 16 weeks.

Plasma

A patient with hemophilia could use 1500 units of plasma in their lifetime. Plasma can be donated every 4 weeks.

versiti
Blood Center of Indiana



BONFIRE & HAYRIDE

NOVEMBER 6TH 5-9PM

SOUTHEASTWAY PARK SHELTER # 5

HAYRIDE STARTS AT 6PM

3rd, 4th-5th Grade Students WELCOME WITH A PARENT/GUARDIAN.

6TH- 12TH may stay without a parent but must be picked up by 9pm. Also, permission slips need to be signed.

Hot Dogs, Chips and Water and S'mores will be provided.

Event will be cancelled if severe weather is occurring

(Rain, wind, extreme temperatures, etc.) Dress warm the forecast is looking chilly

LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

Hello,

For about two years now I have served on our district's Lay Servant Ministries Team. The main focus of this team is helping develop Laity within our district and provide them with resources so they can better serve their churches in ways that they are called. Not sure who Laity is, well unless Pastor Duane or Pastor Doug are reading this, that's you. One of the ways we develop Laity is through organizing Lay Servant Academies. We just happen to have one coming up:

Date: November 20, 2021

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: University UMC

5959 Grandview Drive, Indianapolis

Classes being offered include a basic course (start here if you haven't attended one of these before), Preaching, Leading Public Prayer, and United Methodist Heritage.

If you are interested email me at brandon@sumc.org or just catch me between services.

Hope to see you there,

Brandon



Finance

We recently had our first (maybe) Homecoming Sunday. I'll be honest, I was a bit skeptical about this at first. It kind of seemed like we were planning to just give ourselves a big pat on the back. I was worried it was going to be all about us. But my concerns were for nothing, because it wasn't that at all. It was an acknowledgement of both good times and not so good times. It was a look at our past, present, and to what our future may hold. It was giving thanks to how the Holy Spirit has moved and worked through this church and its people (really these are the same thing).

Your generosity is a critical part of this. Your willingness to give of your time, talent, and financial resources plays a vital role in the stability of our present and future. Thank you for giving freely of all that God has blessed unto you.

Church	Sep-21	2021 Year to Date
Income		
Offerings	\$50,892	\$478,042
Other	\$94	\$1,646
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$3,803	\$26,895
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,879)	(\$54,200)
Administration	(\$15,138)	(\$136,129)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$11,514)	(\$101,011)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$23,117)	(\$197,848)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,000)	(\$8,103)
Net	(\$1,859)	\$9,292
Imagination Station		
Income	\$32,393	\$276,892.45
Expense	(\$25,769.31)	(\$205,975.78)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$3,803)	(\$26,895.00)
Net	\$2,821	\$44,022
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$83,379	\$756,580
Total Expenses	(\$82,417)	(\$703,267)
Net	\$962	\$53,314



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.*