

# The Heart Of the Matter



# Newsletter May

## UPCOMING Sermons

*May 1*

"Naked & Afraid: When  
Jesus Keeps You Up at  
Night"

John 21:1-19

*May 5, 8*

(Mother's Day, May 8)

"Naked and Afraid: Two  
Things My Mother  
Taught Me"

Matthew 15:21-28

*May 12, 15*

"Naked and Afraid:  
Wearing Our Hurt or Our  
Hope"

Psalms 1; Luke 6:17-26

*May 19, 22*

"Naked & Afraid: God  
Isn't Finished with Us  
Yet"

Psalms 23

*May 26, 29*

"Naked and Afraid:  
Memory and Gratitude"

Luke 24:36-52

Dear Friends,

I think I tell you every year at this time that this is my favorite time of year. I'm not sure just exactly what it is. Some of it is personal – both Brenda and I have our birthdays, and our anniversary too, in the spring (mine in May and hers and our anniversary in June). And I love to walk, and morning or night, during these warmer and longer days, there is always the possibility of an invigorating and renewing hike around the neighborhood or on the Monon Trail.

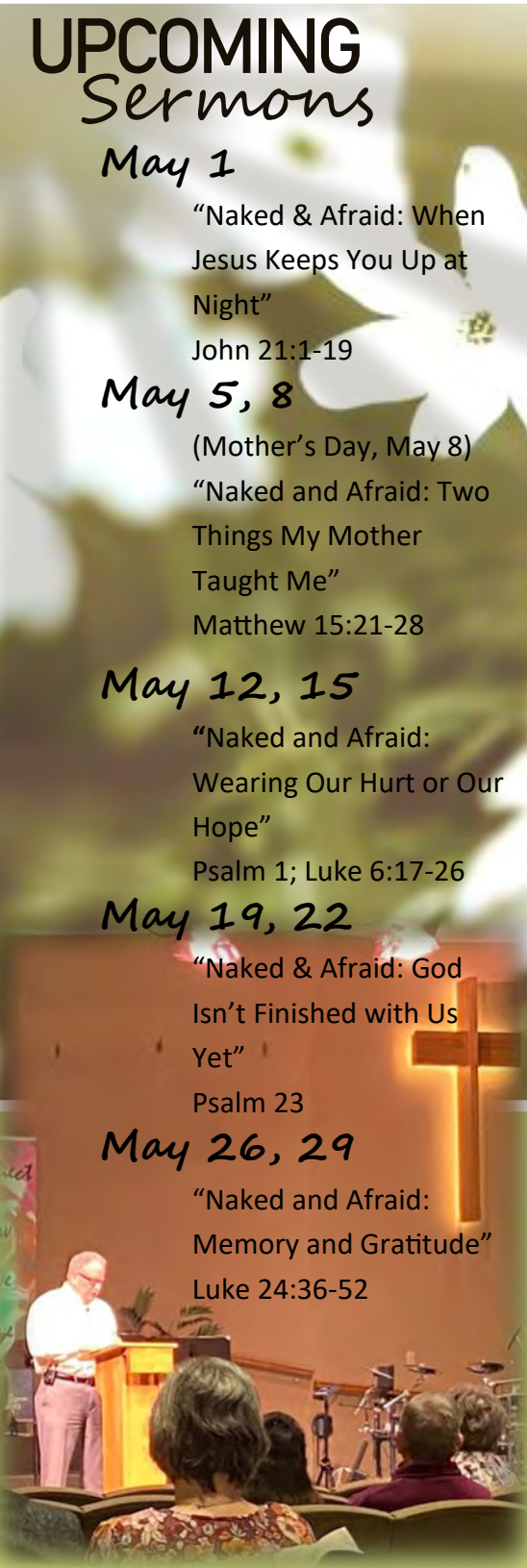
And I love this time of year in the church too. Mother's Day is always a special time in the church – it was a Methodist church in West Virginia that years ago started this annual celebration. And this year here at Southport UMC, on May 15, we will welcome a group of teenagers into the membership of our church on Confirmation Sunday.

And, of course, no time of year is more extraordinary in the city of Indianapolis than the month of May. I hope I'm not making any enemies when I say that I am not particularly a fan of sports car racing, but there is just something singularly exciting, something uniquely in the air, that affects us all in a positive way, that comes from the buildup to and running of "the greatest spectacle in racing!"

But I think I love this time of year, and this month especially, the most, simply because God's beauty is all around us, as it gradually and then explosively comes into full bloom. There is nothing quite like the way God creates and exhibits the glory of all he has made. Spring reminds us that this is not only true in the natural world, it is also true in the beauty that God is creating and exhibiting through you and me as well.

Grace and Hope to you,

Pastor Duane





# EASTER

In Photos



## Harvest Table

**Sunday: 10:00am-12:00pm**

**Wednesday: 6:00pm-7:00pm**

*\*Wednesday Harvest Table hours may be delayed a week or two depending on availability of produce.*

The Harvest Table will be back starting Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be inside the first Sunday with plants and seeds, and if we are lucky a little bit of produce. After that we will be outside on the corner of Southport Rd. and Washington St. next to the playground, so that we can share our Harvest with the community.

Remember, the Harvest Table is a communal thing, so if you have any extra plants, seeds, or produce feel free to drop them off. Or, pick up a plant or two with the intent of starting a small garden yourself, and if you have any extra produce bring it back to us later in the year. Not sure what your doing? No problem, the Harvest Table has several seasoned gardeners that would be happy to share their gardening knowledge with you.

The Harvest Table also supplies produce to Hunger Inc. Food Pantry. Everything at the Harvest Table is free of charge, however, a free will offering is accepted and support the Faith Promise Fund.





Anna Jarvis organized the first ever Mother's Day in 1908 in honor of her mother, Ann Jarvis, who had died in 1905 after

years of servicing and educating Mothers on the importance of their role during times of war and how they can contribute to peace. The Mother and Daughter were Methodists and the first official observance was held at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia.

Anna imagined Mother's day as a time to celebrate a Mother's contribution and work through a letter of appreciation, time in church, and through a white carnation flower that symbolizes strength as their petals are very resilient.

Very quickly, commercialism of Mother's Day took hold in the greeting cards, candy, and floral industries, and Anna spent the rest of her life trying to refocus the day away from profits, and more focus on the very core meaning of why Mother's Day was created.

There is now an International Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton at the site of Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church. The building is among the heritage landmarks of The United Methodist Church. Listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places since 1970, and a National Historical Landmark since 1992, the shrine seeks to "preserve, promote and develop through education, the Spirit of Motherhood, as exemplified by the lives of Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis and Anna Jarvis, and the institution of Mother's Day that they established."

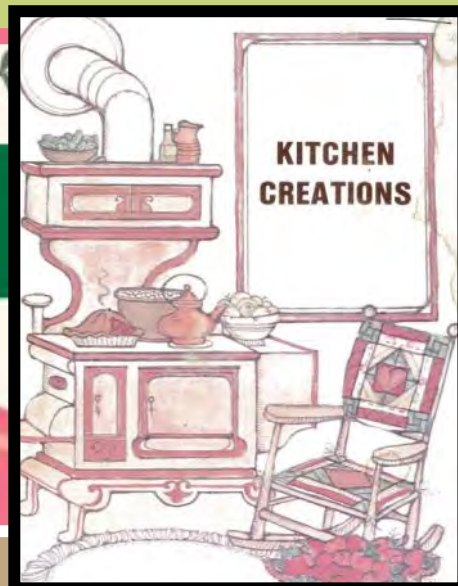
Mother's Day 2022: May 8

Source: [umc.org](http://umc.org)

## ALL CHURCH Work Day

June 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00am-1:00pm

We often think about stewardship in relationship to money, and that's part of stewardship but not all of it. Stewardship is how we take care of and manage the resources God has given us. Part of those resources are this building we call a church and the property surrounding it. These facilities do a fabulous job of bringing glory to God by sharing grace and hope in many ways. So, let's show it a little TLC. Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> we will be having an **ALL CHURCH** Work Day. Task to be accomplished will include tidying up, cleaning, landscaping, and even some minor repairs. So, if you are handy or just have hands come and see how you can help take care of these facilities. Any help is appreciated. If you can help all day, great, that's amazing, or if you can help for an hour that's amazing too. Email [office@sumc.org](mailto:office@sumc.org) to let us know you are coming.



Enjoy this recipe from our Cookbook that was created in 1983!

### BANANA SPLIT CAKE

2 c. crushed graham crackers	1 can crushed pineapple, drained
1 stick margarine, melted	Sliced bananas
8 oz. cream cheese	1 container Cool Whip
2 c. powdered sugar	Coconut
2 egg whites	Nuts
1 tsp. vanilla	Cherries

Mix graham cracker crumbs and margarine and put over bottom of 9x13 inch pan. Mix cream cheese, powdered sugar and egg whites, then add vanilla. Spread over bottom. Spread pineapple over second layer. Add sliced bananas next. Mix Cool Whip with some coconut and spread over all. Top with nuts, cherries and coconut. Refrigerate 12 hours.  
Terri McClung

## Women's News

The UMW (United Methodist Women) has a new name. They are now called the United Women in Faith (UWF). The new name helps be more inclusive to all women.

We also have a **new mission statement**: United Women in Faith seek to connect and nurture women through Christian Spiritual Formation, Leadership Development, Creative Fellowship and Education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

We just received our **Gold Certificate for 2021** which shows Southport's UWF unit meets all the requirements to be recognized. We also had about 10 women receive certificates for the Reading Program.

Southport's unit is busy and productive. Our **next meeting will be on May 10th at 1 p.m. at the church where we will host a pitch-in lunch**. All are welcome so come join us for the fun.

Also: **On May 21st at 10:00 a.m. The Indiana United Methodist Children's Home will host a Program and Luncheon. All are invited to attend. The guest speaker will again be Scott Swan. So if you missed hearing him speak at church you can catch another inspiring talk. After lunch the Home offers tours of the Teaching-Family Homes for the students housed at the Home.**

**If you are interested please call Elizabeth Harmon at 317-888-5442 to get a reservation by May 5th.**

Thanks again for all the shoes you gathered from under beds, out of closets, and from neighbors. We were able to get 70+ bags of shoes together to show Jesus' love to others. LOVE IN ACTION

## Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of the **packets of instant mashed potatoes**. (not the big boxes since they are hard to pack in the food bags). and also **16 oz jars of peanut butter**.

**Collection days are Thursday, May 5th-Sunday, May 8th.**

Thank you so much for the hygiene items donated last month. We gathered 40 lbs of items.

Remember Matthew 25:35: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat".



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!

# Keep It Burning

This is a candle. We chose a candle as a visual representation of the debt that is being melted away as we progress through the *What If* Campaign. We began this campaign just over a year ago so that we could reduce or eliminate our debt to create greater financial flexibility to position ourselves to grow in new and innovative ways and to spread grace and hope for generations to come.

The unlit candle represents the debt we had as of April 2021. At that time we had around \$865,000 in debt. You'll notice that the top of the candle is a lighter blue, that is to represent the \$57,000 we had in a fund (that was shrinking) to pay the monthly payments of our debt at that time.

The lit candle is our current debt. As you can see, it is much shorter. That is because we have already "burned" away just over half of our debt. We have done that through your pledges and gifts given for the purpose of eliminating our debt. We have done that through raising funds from t-shirts, yard sales, shoe drives, and even chocolate eggs. We have even done that by being frugal with the finances of the church and Imagination Station, so that we could divert some of our resources to debt elimination.

So, thank you for all that you have contributed so far. Thank you for your pledges and gifts, your time and commitment, and thank you for keeping this candle burning so that we can more fully bring grace and hope to our community and beyond.



<b>Remaining Mortgage Balance:</b>	\$418,829
<b>Debt Paid Off During Campaign:</b>	\$446,171
<b>Cash Reserve:</b>	\$45,000
<b>Pledges Received to Date:</b>	\$301,190
<b>Remaining Pledged Amount:</b>	195,993
<b>Non-Pledged Giving to What If:</b>	\$100,615
<b>Interest Saved:</b>	\$238,865
<b>Change in Expected Payoff Date:</b>	71 months

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Lord,** I present this commitment to you, acknowledging that everything I have and everything I am is a gift from you. I pray that you will grant me wisdom and strength and that you will bless and use the gifts that I humbly present to you. **Amen**

**You could make What if become What Is?**

## What If...

First time Pledge  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Commitment  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Welcome New Members

In April we welcomed two new members to Southport United Methodist Church. We would like to introduce you to them so that when you see them you can welcome them to our church family.



James Varner joined on 4.3.22. He usually attends the 10:30 am service on Sunday and he comes with his friend Dustin. James likes to Praise God in all he does. He loves to dance and his favorite kind of music is Gospel music.



Theresa Baker joined on 4.3.22. Theresa has been attending for a while. She is an Attractions Team Member at the Indianapolis Zoo and typically attends the 9:00 am service on Sunday.

## Creation Care

One of the devotions given to us to read for Easter was very wonderful for why we should celebrate God's creation. Take time to read and enjoy Psalms 104....God is so good!!!



# IMAGINATION Station

The weather is bringing  
a lot of smiles to the  
kids at Imagination  
station!



## PERRY TOWNSHIP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

As President of Perry Township Religious Education Association (PTREA for short), I want to thank Southport United Methodist Church again for your continued financial support for PTREA. Each year, through Faith Promise funds, SUMC has made a financial contribution to PTREA which allows us to continue to provide Christian religious education to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Perry township. Again, THANKS so much! (By the way, Perry township is the ONLY school system in Marion county that currently offers this.)

However, I want to also ask for your help in other areas. In the 2021-2022 school year, we were not able to have PTREA for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in two schools, and in another school, we were only able to provide PTREA classes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Why? Lack of teachers.

Several dozen children from those two schools, who need to hear about Jesus, were not able to hear the good news because we could not find teachers for those two schools.

Here is how you can help. First, PRAY for PTREA for the coming school year, that we are able to have PTREA classes at all 11 elementary schools as the school year begins. Pray for more teachers to come forward. Pray for the school staff, the students and their families that they all might hear of Jesus.

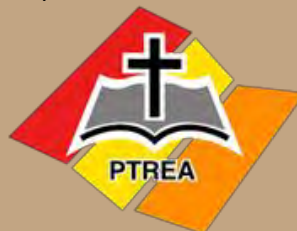
Second, if you love children and have a heart for Jesus, maybe becoming a PTREA teacher is for you.

Third, as time has passed in the 40+ years of PTREA's existence, the number of PTREA Board members has dwindled. We can ALWAYS have more PTREA Board members that will help chart the course for the future.

The next school year (2022-2023) I feel is going to be a pivotal year for PTREA. Please pray and consider if there are ways that you can help.

If you have questions, please contact me directly.

Thanks,  
Pastor Doug



## CHILDREN'S Church

Children's Church  
begins every  
Sunday at 10:30  
a.m. for ages 3 up  
to 5th grade!

# Finance

Church	Mar-22	2022 Year To Date
<b>Income</b>		
Offerings	\$58,804	\$151,907
Other	\$321	\$512
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$3,720	\$10,787
<b>Church Expenses</b>		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,577)	(\$17,146)
Administration	(\$16,773)	(\$48,028)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$15,684)	(\$44,505)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$23,090)	(\$67,991)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,155)	(\$3,293)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$566</b>	<b>(\$17,757)</b>
<b>Imagination Station</b>		
Income	\$44,033	\$119,781
Expense	(\$28,896)	(\$83,193)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$3,720)	(\$10,787)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$11,417</b>	<b>\$25,801</b>
<b>All Together</b>		
<b>Total Incomes</b>	<b>\$103,158</b>	<b>\$272,200</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$91,175)</b>	<b>(\$264,156)</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$11,983</b>	<b>\$8,044</b>

Did you know that Bumble Bees are not supposed to fly?

According to physics, science, and the laws of aerodynamics, it is impossible for them to become airborne. Their fat bodies and little wings mean that they should never be able to leave the ground. I guess the scientists forgot to tell the Bumble Bee. Or else the bumble bee didn't pay attention in Physics class.

I love that fact because it illustrates something that we see in our world all the time: things that are supposed to be impossible happen right around us.

Little creatures that aren't supposed to fly buzz through the air.

People with dark pasts are called by God to do great things.

Relationships that seem beyond repair are restored and redeemed.

Without faith, it is impossible to please God. One of the ways that we respond in faith to God's grace and God's goodness is in the area of generosity. When we sacrificially give, even in ways that don't make sense in the eyes of the world, we're honoring God with faith. When we listen to God's Word and God's voice more than we listen to our desires and advice from people all around us, we're acting in faith.

Now here is the really cool part. As the science defying Bumble Bee flies around this world, it pollinates a multitude of flowers causing countless fruits of all shapes, colors, and sizes to form, grow, and, eventually provide nourishment. Could giving in faith have the same impact?

I guess the Bumble Bee defies the laws of physics. And generosity defies the laws of finance. The way to have more is to give more. The way to be more blessed is to live generously.

Thank you for your generosity,

Brandon

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Duane Thompson  
Karen Decatur  
Jim Cooney  
Sherry Davis  
Suzy Heilman  
Pat Hulfachor  
John Klipsch  
Margaret Trammell  
Connie Whisner



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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.*