



The Heart Of the Matter

November Newsletter 2022

UPCOMING Sermons



November 3, 6

"Why I Want to be a Saint"
Hebrews 12:1-2

November 10, 13

"Gratitude: The Widow's Might"
Luke 21: 1-4

November 17, 20

"Gratitude: Living the Life"
Psalm 118: 1-9; I Timothy 6:11-19

November 24, 27

"The Ghost of Christmas Past"
Isaiah 40: 1-11

GOD SHOWS UP

Dear Friends,

Quite a few years ago, I had cataract surgery. I was young to have this kind of problem and procedure, and I had never been a patient in a hospital before. (At the time, my ophthalmologist in Pittsburgh performed this kind of procedure in the hospital.) So even though it's a pretty routine and highly successful operation, I was nervous as I went in.

While I was being prepared for the procedure, the daughter of a member of my church showed up to wish me well. She was an administrator at the hospital and had heard from her mother that I would be there. I didn't know her all that well, she attended another United Methodist church in the Pittsburgh area. But it was such a wonderful surprise to have this friendly face show up and let me know that she was praying for me and pulling for me as I went in for surgery. I have never forgotten.

It's November, and our focus is on Thanksgiving and all we have to be grateful for. And then, before the month is over, we will have our First Sunday of Advent and begin our Advent study. For me, this is a time when we remember that God has shown up for us. The message for both November and December is that God is here, he is present and working; God shows up and is active in our lives. God sent his son Jesus into the world. We will be reminded once again during Advent by the angel and others that God is with us and for us.

We celebrate this as an event in history that happened over 2,000 years ago: God showed up. But even more importantly, I believe, God is showing up for us right here and right now. In our hour of need, at a time when we are uncertain and afraid, we can have a sense of Jesus being born into our lives and making all things new.

We preachers are always looking for new ways to express the old story. For me this year it is simply this, that God shows up. God has shown up in history, and God continues to show up in our lives with the help and hope we need.

Grace and Hope to you during this meaningful time that is just ahead.

Pastor Duane

Homecoming Sunday



ADVENT SOUP & STUDY

Soup @ 6 pm

Study @ 7pm

Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th, and Dec. 21st

STUDY

Advent is often thought of as a time of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Christians have also tied Advent to an anticipation and longing for Christ's return. This advent season we will use the model of Charles Dickinson's "A Christmas Carol" for our Advent Study and worship. What can we learn from seasons past and present to prepare for a future that is inviting to our King?

If you would like to attend and have not yet let us know on your registration card, please do so soon by marking your card in worship or emailing office@sumc.org.

SOUP

Since our study this Advent season is all about learning from our past and present we thought we'd learn from our past. Many of you have fond memories of past Soup & Study events that have happened here at SUMC, so to give ode to our past we decided to provide a time of feast & fellowship in the form of soup. If you have a soup that is meaningful to your past, present, or is just plain tasty we'd love for you to share it with your church family in fellowship. If you are willing to bring a crockpot of soup on any of these days, please email office@sumc.org to let us know.





SAVE THE DATES

November 6—Clocks fall back, 2:00 a.m.

November 4—Hayride/Bonfire; 5-9:30pm (Youth Event: Please contact Kelley at kelley@sumc.org to sign up)

November 30—Advent Bible Study Begins

December 10—Jubilee Christmas

December 18—Live Nativity

December 24—Christmas Eve Services:

Family Service Jesus's Birthday Party: 5pm

Contemporary Service: 8pm

Traditional Service: 11pm

HARVEST TABLE

We'll See Next Year!

The Harvest Table's season finally was wrapped up this year with a table at the Chili Cook Off. We were able to reach a lot of people in our community this year and provide over 5,000 pounds of produce to the community! Some folks also felt led to give back to the Harvest Table by giving a free will offering for the produce they received totaling over \$2,000 which goes to the churches Faith Promise fund to support mission and outreach.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Harvest Table or supported it in anyway. This ministry reaches out to our community in a meaningful and unique way.

Connecting

others to Christ
through relationships

Growing

faith in Christ by
connecting God's story
to your story

Serving

Christ by
blessing others

Giving

in celebration of
God's generosity in
Jesus Christ

Going

Into the world with
Christ's message of
love and grace

YOUTH

Southport United Methodist



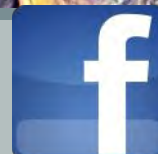
Contact Kelley
with any
questions about
upcoming youth
events!

Kelley@sumc.org

November 4—Hayride/
Bonfire; 5-9:30pm; Please
contact Kelley to sign up.

November 18—SUMY
Thanksgiving

December 18—Live Nativity



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!



JUBILEE CHRISTMAS

JUBILEE DAY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022

It's November and the excitement of having the church family participating in Jubilee Christmas has arrived. Because of your generosity and involvement our Jubilee Families will be blessed in so many special ways.

SUMC hosts have made contact with their Jubilee Family. Reaching out in this way helps us know each families everyday needs, what gift ideas would be good for their children, and even what surprises might be nice. Our desire is to share Jesus' love while providing a Christmas holiday to celebrate.

STOP AT THE NEXT STEPS AREA TO SEE HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN JUBILEE!

Go Shopping

Starting Thursday, November 3 and continuing at each Thursday and Sunday worship service through November, visit the **NEXT STEPS AREA** in the Gathering Place. Jubilee Team members will be available to answer questions and share the items we will provide to each family. You will find lots of possibilities including toys and gifts, clothing items, coats, and gift cards to supplement a family's needs during the holidays and after. Some gifts will be designated for online shopping and if this is a new shopping experience for you, we will help you get started.

(A few hints for online shopping at Amazon: payment will be on your personal credit card; shipping must go to the Jubilee team member's address that Amazon has on file and not to your home address. If the Amazon list seems small when you shop, stop by again another day. We often receive additional information from the families which may be added to the Amazon list throughout November. Amazon online shopping will conclude on November 27 so that all items are shipped in time for Jubilee Day.)

Make a Blanket

If you enjoy working with your hands, pick up a kit to make a **BLANKET**. We provide blankets for all the children and youth and we make them by using purchased kits. This requires a little cutting and tying.

Helping Hands

Sign up to be one of our **HELPING HANDS**. Opportunities are: assist on set up day, Friday, December 9; be part of the wrapping and additional help teams on Jubilee Day, December 10; bake cookies to be boxed and sent home with each family.

Please continue to include Jubilee Families, Jubilee Hosts and the Jubilee Ministry in your **PRAYERS**. We are so appreciative of your support and encouragement through prayer.

Call the church office, 317 784-9508, or email office@sumc.org with any questions you may have and a Jubilee Team member will respond.

Thank you for being part of the Jubilee Ministry!

CHILI COOK-OFF

Festival & WHAT IF Fundraiser

A warm thank you to anyone who participated in the Chili Cookoff Festival. Many of you helped with set up & tear down, cooked hot dogs, painted faces, dished out chili, and ate chili. All of this was important. This event not only brought in some money to help with the What If Campaign but also provided a time and space for fellowship and outreach. Many great ministries, study groups, and charities were represented at this event.

All of the teams put out some great chilis and that was reflected in that every team was within a handful of tickets from winning. In fact, there was a three-way tie for second between the Harvest Table team, the Band of Brothers team, and Mindy & Kevin Bennett. The SUMC Staff team came in third only one vote between the second-place gaggle.

But there can only be one winner, and that winner this year is "Women of Prayer" which is a prayer group that meets Monday evening in the Gathering Place. Their lead cook was Maggie Lucas came up with a now award-winning creamy chicken chili that managed to grab first place. \$750 will be sent to their charity KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY.

RESULTS

\$1000 to reduce our debt

\$750 to KAIROS Prison Ministries

\$250 to the Southside Animal Shelter

Container Competition

We asked the teams to come up with a creative way to collect their tickets. This container was to creatively represent the chili cookoff, their group, or charity. This was a way to help generate some awareness and conversations about the amazing groups and charities being represented. Just as with the Chili competition the container competition was also close. This one ended in a tie between Amy Allen-Foddrill and the "Women of Christ" team. \$250 will be given to who each of these teams was playing for. Amy was playing for the Southside Animal Shelter and The Women of Christ were playing for What If.



Food Pantry

The Hunger, INC food pantry located on the corner at Madison Ave. and Epler Ave. is hosting our new Client Choice. That means the clients get to come inside and shop like at a grocery store for their food. The clients are enjoying the experience and the opportunity to pick their own food options.

For the months of November and December, the pantry will benefit from any donation given at the Southport Road Meijer store in their Simply Give Campaign. It runs from November 1 - December 31st. Cards are at the store or some are on the Food collection table at Church for you to use. One card may be used several times. The \$10 donation will be matched by Meijer to make it worth \$20.. On Saturday, December 17th, Meijer will double match your \$10 donation which means your donation will be worth \$30.

If you do not shop at the Southport Road Meijer but still want to donate to the campaign for the Hunger, Inc pantry, you may place money in the envelopes provided on the Food table by the Coatroom. Place the envelope in the collection plate and the money will be taken to the store on the double match day.

Thanks for helping those in need. We average 30-40 clients each of the three days the pantry is open. Donations of food items may also be dropped off to the Donation box on the front porch or stopping by on one of the days the pantry is open. Open days and time are: Tues 10-1, Thurs. 4-7, and Sat. 10-1.

Women's News

The United Women of Faith (UWF) are collecting hygiene items for Fletcher Place Christmas Event. Fletcher Place is a United Methodist Community Center located at the corner of State St. and Prospect St. in Fountain Square. Our church is in charge of getting 25 bags together for this event.

Items needed in each bag for both men and women are:

Shampoo/Conditioner	Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Body Wash	Bar Soap
Shaving cream	Razors
Dental Floss	Brush
Comb	Washcloth
Hand Cream	A pair of socks
Deodorant	Christmas Sack to hold all the items

If you are wanting to help with this we recommend shopping at the Dollar Tree stores for these items. Bigger is not always better since we need to get all this in one bag for each 25 bags. Also, a tub will be in the Coatroom area labeled...FLETCHER PLACE DONATIONS. Place your items in the tub by November 7th and the UWF women will meet on November 8th and organize the bags.

UWF meet every second Tuesday at the church in the gathering area at 1p.m.

All women in the church are welcome to be apart of our gathering and get involved in our outreach projects like this one. Come join in the fun!!!

Thanks so much for helping with this project and last month's donations for the Lucille Raines Residence. Eyes lit up when all the laundry soap bottles and food items were delivered last month!!!!

Feed A Need

The Feed a Need group will meet on November 10th at 1p.m. in the church gathering area to bag the 50 bags of food for the Tear Down the Walls Ministry. Then the bags are delivered to Tear Down the Walls half-way house downtown to be handed out to the (homeless) those without permanent addresses. We get this done in about 30 minutes because it is organized like an assembly line. Come join in the fun!!!!

Matthew 25: 35..."I was hungry and YOU gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and YOU gave me something to drink."

IMAGINATION Station



The children had a lot of fun dressing up for Halloween and making fun crafts!

Every year we give a Bible to each third grader. We pick a version of the Bible that is easy for them to read now, but also is something that they can grow with and learn from for years to come.

This year Bibles were received by:

Hudson Miller

Roselynn Pilk

Abriella Shaw

Jackson Akers



CHILDREN'S
Church
Every Sunday at
10:30 a.m.

Finance

Church	Sep-22	2022 Year To Date
Income		
Offerings	\$43,648	\$441,921
Other	\$126	\$1,896
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$3,943	\$32,464
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,780)	(\$52,237)
Administration	(\$13,572)	(\$133,351)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$13,784)	(\$119,076)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$22,729)	(\$210,532)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,030)	(\$10,099)
Net	(\$9,178)	(\$49,014)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$35,258	\$333,692
Expense	(\$32,214)	(\$261,704)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$3,943)	(\$32,464)
Net	(\$899)	\$39,524
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$79,032	\$777,509
Total Expenses	(\$89,109)	(\$786,999)
Net	(\$10,077)	(\$9,490)

THE RICH CHURCH

Kelley Lego, our Director of Student Ministries, passed out candy at the Southport Trunk or Treat. In a staff meeting a few weeks ago we contemplated what treats would be the most appropriate for this event. We talked about everything from dum-dums and tootsie rolls to bite sized and fun sized to full sized and even king-sized candy bars. After a fair amount of discussion, we decided to go with full sized candy bars. We figured if we were going to participate in an event like this, we should hand out something considerable (king-sized just felt like too much though).

So, several boxes of regular sized candy bars were bought, and we stapled papers with our worship times on them. Kelly headed to the trunk or treat with well over 400 full size candy bars and she handed out every single one. When one child was handed a full-sized candy bar they exclaimed, "WOW, I didn't know you guys were the rich church!"

What do you think? Does this make us the rich church?

One might wonder what we are thinking buying all this candy when our financials are currently showing that we are losing money this year. One might think we are wasting our Director of Student Ministries time by going to such a secular event. One might think we are promoting gluttony and full-size candy bars are just a trick to try to get people to come to our church and give us all their money.

Or

One might think this is an opportunity to get our Director of Student Ministries in front of 400+ students. One might think we are showing generosity by giving out the larger treats. One might hope that this is an investment that might eventually make a difference to just one person.

There is a chance that Kelly's time and the church's money may have been spent in a better way. But I am thankful Kelly was willing to hand out full size candy bars to over 400 kids. I am hopeful that they will somehow understand that we are a rich church, but our richness isn't in monetary value. Our richness is in our generosity, our willingness to love, and our desire to follow Christ even though we are not sure what size of candy bar to give out.

Thank you for being a rich church,

Brandon

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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



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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

*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.*