

The Heart Of the Matter

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Southport United Methodist Church

Upcoming Sermons

March 2, 5

“Do I Really Believe...in Prayer?”

Mark 9:14-29

March 9, 12

“Do I Really Believe...in Miracles?”

Mark 10:46-52

March 16, 19

“Do I Really Believe...in Heaven?”

Luke 16:19-31

March 23, 26

“Do I Really Believe...in the Bible?”

1 Peter 1:22-25; Hebrews 4:12-13

March 30, April 2

“Do I Really Believe...God Still Speaks to Us Today?”

Luke 19:29-48

Membership Has It's Privileges

Dear Friends,

A few years ago at another church I preached a sermon with the title, “Membership Has It's Privileges.” It was a take on the old American Express advertising campaign of the same name, which may have still been running at the time.

I forget what all the points were that I may have made in my sermon, (I'm sure they were all deep and important!), but the bottom line was that the basic privilege of membership in a church is the privilege of saying “We”, of belonging and being part of a family and community.

As March begins, we are really moving into Lent in a big way. Palm Sunday and Easter won't arrive until April, so we have the whole month of March as the hours of sunlight lengthen each day (Lent, from the Old English, literally means the “lengthening of days”), and Spring is upon us, to devote ourselves to the spiritual side of our lives.

Each Tuesday night in March (we actually begin on the last Tuesday of the previous month, February 28), we will be combining this Lenten devotion to our spiritual lives with a good, long, hard look at what it means to be a Christian and more particularly, what it means to be a member of the body of Christ, the church.

I hope you will join us for these. I think they will be enriching and exhilarating times together. We'll try to call upon the diverse and various resources of our church family, including but not limited to some of the great chefs who call Southport UMC home.

So remember, each Tuesday night, February 28 and March 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 6:00 for “Taco Tuesday”, and 7:00 for our interactive study, “Body Parts: Anatomy of a Church.”

Grace and Hope to you,

Pastor Duane

Do I Really

BELIEVE...

DATES	SERMON	SCRIPTURE	
February 23, 26	"Do I Really Believe . . . God Has a Plan for My Life?"	Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 4:1-11	Does God have a plan for my life? Do I really believe that? As I look back over my life, do I see God's hand at work? As I look toward the future, do I sense that God has given me a vision for what I might do and where I might go? Has God given me goals and prospects? When I look to the future, do I have hope? Does the example of Jesus, withstanding the wiles of the devil at the beginning of his earthly ministry, give strength and meaning and a plan of action?
March 2, 5	"Do I Really Believe . . . in Prayer?"	Mark 9:14-29	How important is prayer in my life? How easy or difficult is it for me? Do I struggle in prayer or is it usually joyful and exhilarating? Does anything happen when I pray? Are people healed in any way when I pray, transformed? Is my life transformed?
March 9, 12	"Do I Really Believe . . . in Miracles?"	Isaiah 40:21-31; John 1:29-42	Miracles were such a big part of the Bible times we read about, and such a big part of the ministry of Jesus. There were healings of various kinds, exorcisms, people receiving their sight, and even people being raised from the dead. Do miracles still happen today? In what ways are people healed and given their sight and even given a brand new life?
March 16, 19	"Do I Really Believe . . . in Heaven?"	Luke 16:19-31	Heaven is mentioned quite a bit in the Bible, and we have some images of what it might be like. How do we know for sure that there is a heaven, and why is it important for me to believe in heaven right now? Of all the images of heaven, what is most important for me to hold onto?
March 23, 26	"Do I Really Believe . . . in the Bible?"	1 Peter 1:22-25; Hebrews 4:12-13	In what way is the Bible the Word of God? What does it mean in Hebrews when it says that the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword? In what ways can the words and stories and meanings contained in the Bible become alive and active in my life?
March 30, April 2 (PALM SUNDAY)	"Do I Really Believe . . . God Still Speaks to Us Today?"	Luke 19:29-48	Jesus had such a powerful message to share during his earthly ministry. He even prophesied what would happen to Jerusalem after his death. He shared a message of peace and justice. In what ways does God still try to get through to people today?
April 6- Maundy Thursday			We will have a service to observe the Last Supper of Jesus. Since Brandon will have spoken on Ash Wednesday, RDT can provide the message on this evening. We should have traditional hymns for the music and end with communion.
April 7- Good Friday			We will have a service of Tenebrae (or Darkness), scripture readings, hymns and possibly special music interspersed.
April 9 (EASTER)	Do I Really Believe . . . in the Resurrection?"	John 20:1-18	The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the most defining event in world history for the Christian. But did it actually happen? Is there evidence that it is true? And what does it mean for me today? How does the resurrection of Jesus 2,000 years ago affect my life today?

Feb 28 - March 7 - March 14
March 21 - March 28

"Taco" Tuesdays
Food & Fellowship
6:00 PM

Followed By
BODY PARTS
The Anatomy of a Church
Lenten Study
7:00 PM

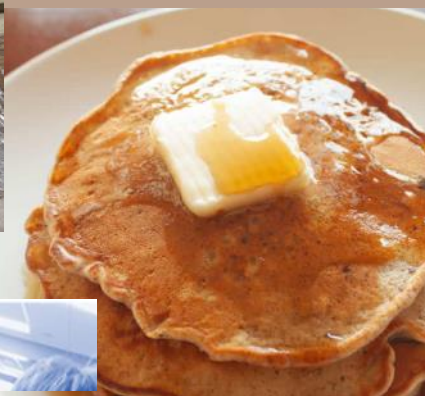
There is still time
to join our
Lenten Study!

An *Invite* from the Discipleship Path Coordinators!

Recently you have responded with open hearts to the ministries of Hunger Inc and Kairos in February. Your gifts of prayer and financial aid and service hours are changing lives.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped with the pancake dinner event. Every cook, busser, dishwasher, greeter, and set up muscles represented Christ well. In addition you are the reason we have another \$850 for the "What If" debt elimination Campaign.

Our pancake dinner was a success!! Thank you to everyone that volunteered and joined us!



What If...

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SUMC will have a volunteer day at Second Helpings on April 22 from 8:30 a.m.- Noon! Please save this date for an opportunity to serve.

Contact Jerrie Snell or Maggie Lucas and we will share more information on how to sign up!



How Can I Help You?

Easter Transformation

- ☐ I would like to make a donation of _____ to Easter Transformation.
- ☐ I would like to recognize the following person (people) with a spring flower picture.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

From: _____ Phone: _____

(Please print clearly)



One of the ways we can share God's love is by helping those in need. Every year we help with utility bills, make rent payments, provide gas cards, and much, much more. So far this year we have helped over 50 people with various needs. We can do this because of your support through Operation Transformation. Please purchase a Easter Flower picture to honor a loved one or maybe in honor of someone you would love to see join our church family. And know that in doing so, you will be showing God's love to someone else with your financial gift too. You may do this by giving online to Operation Transformation and in the memo write info for your picture. We also have Operation Transformation Envelopes if you would rather pick one up from the church. Above is the info that we will need!

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



CHILDREN'S Church

Every Sunday at
10:30 a.m.



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!

Chocolate Peanut Butter Easter Eggs

We are taking orders for the chocolate peanut butter Easter eggs again this year for the What If Campaign. Because of the inflation of grocery prices, we are asking for a donation of \$7.50 per egg this year. Eggs will be available for purchase online and we will have sign-up sheets available in the Gathering Area, after each worship service, according to the schedule below.

Thursday, March 2, 9, 16, 23

Sunday, March 5, 12, 19, 26 - 9:00

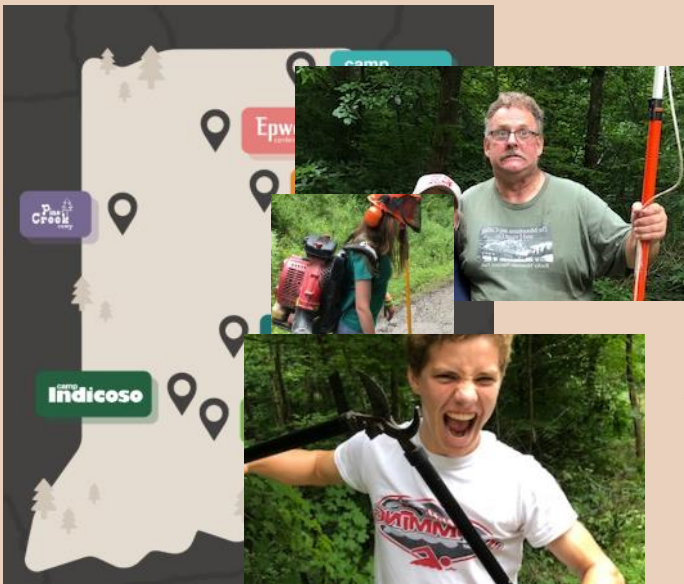
Sunday, March 5, 12, 19, 26 - 10:30

We are also looking for volunteers to help with making the eggs Wednesday, March 29 through April 1.

Eggs will be available for pick up on Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Jerrie Snell, Sandy Lewis, Kelley Lego, Rita Manley, Sherry Davis, Sue Ellen Potter, Pam Clough, and Connie Klipsch



IMPACT 2818: Outdoor Ministries
of the United Methodist Churches of Indiana



SUMMER CAMP

It may seem a bit early, but you can already register for summer camp. Several great camps are offered all over the state. You can learn more here <https://impact2818.org/> or contact the church office.

Pictures are from a clean up day we helped with at one of the camps a few years ago.

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's group, United Women in Faith (UWF), will host their **March meeting on Tuesday, March 14th at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Area.** All women are welcome to attend and enjoy fun, fellowship and food.

Last month, February, we enjoyed a wonderful speaker from Senior Medicare Patrol. Beth Miller presented lots of info on how to avoid fraud and scams from those hoping to get hold of our Medicare information. Ask any UWF lady about this program and she will be able to share her insights.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Thanks to all who stopped by the Next Steps table in February. YOU gave donations to Meijer for the Hunger, Inc Food Pantry. It will help feed many clients as we go through future months. You can still pick up an envelope to donate on the Food Collection table. We are trying to get donations for the double days on March 4th and 25th. So if you missed the table, look for the envelopes to donate. The envelopes will be due the Monday before each double day. (2/27 and 3/20) If you wish to shop at Meijer on your own, cards are available on the Food Collection Table as well.

Also thanks for the 90+ lbs of food donated in February. If interested in donating for March food we could still use the following foods we do not buy:

- PopTart---- Individual boxes not big boxes, please

- Granola Bars--also individual boxes

- Baked Beans

- Chili Beans

- Instant Mashed Potatoes--small envelopes

(Everything in small packages are great because they serve more families. We can not hand out items not in original boxes.)

CREATION CARE NEWS

Items that can be reused and recycled have a new home at church. They are located on the East wall of the Gathering Area near the kitchen. There are crates hanging on the wall and there are bins below for paper cups and paper scraps for each Sunday's trash..

The things collected are:

- At church--** Glasses for the Lion's Club'

- **Can tabs for Ronald McDonald House**

- **Used flags**

- **Paper bin outside in the parking lot for the Imagination Station**

- **Recycle bin in the back parking lot**

- Other sites-----** the city bins are located in the parking lot in front of Bandy's North of the church on Madison Ave. and Edgewood.

- **Medicines in plastic bags at most CVS stores.(NO medicine bottles)**

- ** TOX DROP (INDY. gov Info on what you can drop off)**

- Second Saturday** of each month, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Perry Township Government Center 4925 S. Shelby St.**

A quote from a book (*They Will Inherit the Earth*) by John Deer...quoting Pope Francis..." God does not only give us the earth, he gives us all of creation. He also gives human beings a task, he gives them a mission....Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential..."

FEED A NEED (FAN)

Our mission to help feed the hungry by bagging 50 meals each month is moving from Thursday to Wednesday in the month of March. **We will be bagging the meals on Wednesday, March 8th at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Area.**

In April, we will return to bagging on the **Thursday date 4/6 at 1 p.m.** in the Gathering Area.

Anyone wanting to join the ministry is welcome, just let the church know you are interested.

Our meals are delivered to the Tear Down the Walls Ministry in downtown Indy. They are then handed out on the Second Saturday of each month. We have been doing this ministry for 2 years.



CROSS TRAINING

Next :

March 12, 2023

We will be eating, playing games,
doing projects & devotion

This will be open to 1st – 6th grade. Parent or Guardian
must attend with them.

Time: 11:45 AM – 1:45 PM

Location: Gathering Area

Food: Yes, provided for all participants and volunteers.

Childcare: YES, for siblings of participants and
children of volunteers.



Preschool Registration for
the 2023-2024 school year
is underway! Please come
in to office to fill our
registration forms to sign
up! Children must be 3 by
August 1. Call the office if
you would like more
information!

Attention Organ Enthusiasts!



There will be organ/
piano music by
Rhonda & Mary
Collins at the 9:00
am service on
Sunday, March 19!

Finance

Church	Jan-23	2023 Annual Budget/Need
Income		
Offerings	\$58,174	\$601,500
Other	\$331	\$1,500
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$5,639	\$60,361
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,903)	(\$69,000)
Administration	(\$12,390)	(\$159,499)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$14,255)	(\$146,900)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$23,573)	(\$277,140)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,608)	(\$17,431)
Net	\$6,415	(\$6,609)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$40,282	\$431,150
Expense	(\$21,367)	(\$364,375)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$5,639)	(\$60,361)
Net	\$13,276	\$6,414
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$98,787	\$1,034,150
Total Expenses	(\$79,096)	(\$1,034,345)
Net	\$19,691	(\$195)



Divorce care The group begins March 1, 2023 and last until May 24, 2023. The group will meet every Wednesday 7:00 pm-8:30 pm.

You can attend the sessions as often as you like after at no additional cost. All are welcome to join.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Duane Thompson
Karen Decatur
Sherry Davis
Doug Lewis
Pat Hulfachor
Travis Miller
Margaret Trammell
Kathy Smith
Jeff Horne
Kathy Campbell



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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.