



# *The* Heart *Of the* Matter

## NEWSLETTER

May 2023

 SOUTHPORT  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

### May

Dear Friends,

Ah, the month of May in Indiana. There are so many things I could talk about in my column – the up and down nature of the weather, “the greatest spectacle in racing,” Mother’s Day, what plans you might be making for the summer.

However, this little article isn’t about any of those things. In fact, I have a question for you that may seem a little out of left field (hey, wait a minute, I could have started off with a baseball story), but here goes.

The question is: Did you know that if you shop at Kroger, you could support the church with every purchase? That’s right, Kroger has a system whereby a certain percentage of your shopping goes to support the church. It’s a small percentage, but it adds up, especially if others are doing it, too. (I hear the same sort of system is available for Meijer as well.)

The only catch is that you have to sign up ahead of time and designate Southport United Methodist Church as the non-profit you would like to support.

It’s always nice to have that little extra coming in to support our work here, so if you aren’t signed up but would like to, we can help!

Among other things, Kelly Lego, our Student Ministry Director, will be available after both services on 2 Sundays, May 7 and May 14, if you would like to know more about this or would like some help signing up using your smart phone. Or you can come in the office during the week and we can help you.

The best part of this, of course, is that you are helping the church with purchases you are already making – if you shop at Kroger. The next best part is this doesn’t affect your Fuel Perks at all – if you go to Kroger for your gas, too.

So Happy May to you! I’m sure the 500-mile race and Mother’s Day and the weather and all the rest will turn out just fine. But the real excitement is using your Kroger shopping to support the church (I’m trying to think of a Bible verse to support this thesis, but I’m not coming up with anything off the top of my head)!

Grace and Hope to you,  
Pastor Duane



DATES	SERMON	SCRIPTURE	
April 27, 30	"Amazingly Graced"	Ephesians 2:1-10	John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, believed that God's grace was the greatest power to impact the world and transform lives. Grace is a love that we have done nothing to earn or deserve, but it is showered on us anyway, saving us from sin and giving us direction and purpose.
May 4, 7	"How Do I Spend My Time?"	Luke 12:13-21	In the small groups that John Wesley started, participants would ask each other questions and respond, starting spiritual conversations. Some of the questions were things like: "Is Jesus real to me?" "Am I enjoying prayer?" and "Did the Bible live in me today?" One question asked was, "How do I spend my time?" So, how do you spend your time? How do you try to maximize your time to have the most fulfilling life and be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ?
May 11, 14	"Where Am I Living Victoriously?"	Psalms 66:8-20	One of the questions that John Wesley would ask in his Methodist small groups was, "Am I defeated in any part of my life?" To identify those defeated places and turn them around, with God's help, is how to overcome and live victoriously. It is also important to identify those places in your life where God is already helping you to live victoriously, and celebrate and strengthen that part of your life. Our mothers are often indispensably instrumental in helping us be resilient and victorious in life.
May 18, 21	"A Heart Strangely Warmed"	Acts 1:6-14	John Wesley spent his early years searching for an intimacy and closeness to God, like the disciples waiting on the Holy Spirit to come once Jesus had ascended into heaven. One day Wesley did come to the point where he felt his "Heart strangely warmed," that he did trust in God, God alone. What does Wesley's search for God and finally being found by God mean today for you and me?



## Hunger, INC Food Pantry

Thanks for your donations to the pantry in April. From now on, until our school donations in the fall, **Southport UMC will be focused on donating canned beans.** The pantry goes through about 132 cans of beans in a week. So the need is really great!

Beans are the cheapest protein we can provide: **pinto, garbanzo, black, great northern, and kidney beans are in great need.**

The clients love baked beans and chile beans, but they are more expensive.

**Collection dates are always around communion Thursday and Sunday each month.**

**The next dates are May 4th- May 14th**



**OPENING DAY:**  
Mothers Day, May  
14

**Harvest Table  
Hours:**

**Sunday:**  
10:00am-12:00pm  
**Wednesday:**  
6:00pm-7:00pm  
**Thursday:**  
6:00pm-7:00pm



# An *Invite* from the Discipleship Path Coordinators!

We have available prayerfully made shawls and gift cards. Each is individually made as a reminder of the unconditional love of our God. If you would like a shawl for a loved one stop by or call the church office. Maggie and Jerrie would like to help you get the perfect shawl.



*"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing,  
symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God.*

*They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace,  
mother, hug, shelter and beautify.*

*Those who have received these shawls have been  
uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to  
fly above their troubles..."*

**Written in 1998 by: Janet Severi Bristow** Copyright ©2023

## Mothers Day:

## May 14, 2023

Please join us on Mother's Day and enjoy our special Photo Backdrop! It will be available in the Gathering Area to take photos with your loved ones. We cannot wait to see them!



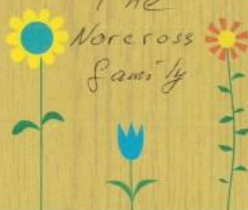
Dear Ladies from Southport Church.

On behalf of Alaina and Baby Amelia, I would like to say Thank you so much for all the prayers and gifts you have had coming their way, it was greatly appreciated. Baby Amelia loves her prayer shawl, with all the prayers put in it she is striving and doing better with each passing day.

We are so grateful for everything you have done, much love and prayers

Warmly, sincerely,  
and gratefully, too,  
this message is coming today.  
And along with a thank-you,  
it's bringing a wish  
that life's happiest things  
come your way.

The Norcross Family



## Peace Web Group

Back many years there were 12 WEB Groups, but now there is only one left. This group has been meeting for several years and then stopped for the pandemic. They are now regrouping. They meet once a month for an activity from April-December. Originally, it was set up for groups to gather and get to know one another better. So if you are interested in gathering with a group come join the Peace Web Group in May. Let the church office know you are interested and we will let you know what our activity is for May. Our group consists of all generations and lots for faith, fun and food.

# Southport United Methodist Church

## Yard Sale

SUMC yard sale will take place on Saturday, June 10, from 8 AM to 1 PM, in the main parking lot and gathering place. Entrances to the sale will be on Van Dyke Street. Families, small groups and ministry groups are welcome to participate. Proceeds from the sale can be given to the "What If" campaign to help eliminate the mortgage debt.

Each family, small group or ministry group will be responsible for their booth and selling their items, as well as tear down and removal of all items not sold. The fundraising team will be responsible for all advertising.

### Set-up and Booth Information:

Set-up is 6 – 8 AM day of yard sale.

Bring your own tent, table, chairs, etc. – tents will need weights/tie downs

All items need to be priced.

Tear down and removal of all unsold items is the responsibility of the group/family.

A limited number of church tables will be available and must be reserved or saw horses and plywood can be used in place of tables.

### Cash/Donations:

Each booth will be responsible for its money

Options include Cash, PayPal, Venmo, Zelle, Apple Pay, etc.

Post a payment method sign within booth

A minimum of \$50 petty cash is suggested to start the day.

SUMC is a nonprofit organization and can only accept donations

Donations can be made to the church after the sale is over

Donations will go to the "What If" campaign with the first 10% to Faith Promise, our ministry outreach fund

If multiple people are selling from one booth, they are responsible to let Brandon Collins know which individual has made the donation

Envelopes/Banker bags can be made available

### How to Get Involved:

Start cleaning out your closets/house of unused items

Add price tags to all items

DO NOT bring items to the church until the day of the sale

Baked goods/craft items/plants are also good to sell

### Please DO NOT include:

Weapons/Knives

Animals

Violent Videos/Video Games

Any toys that are "gun/weapon like"

### Sign-up to Participate:

Sign up at SUMC Next Step Table starting Thursdays, May 18 to June 1

Sundays May 21 to June 4

Or contact Pam Clough @ 317-903-7729 or clough.pam@gmail.com

*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







## WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle meeting is on **May 9th at 1 p.m.** in the gathering area. We will be hosting a **pitch-in** luncheon. The meat will be provided. A dish to accompany the meat will be appreciated. This will be our last meeting until we resume in September.

### **The Lebanon Children's Home is hosting a Spring Program**

Date: April 29, 2023

Time: 9:30 am Coffee and Donuts

Program: 10:00 am Speaker is First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble.

Lunch: Chick-fil-A box lunch. It does not mention a cost for the luncheon, so I'm assuming that there will be a free will offering. They do offer gluten free box lunches.

Campus tours will be available that day. This is a very enlightening experience.

**It is a SURPRISE: For Susan Bennett's** "devotion to her Christian faith as a Methodist has been integral to her service to the children and the Auxiliary. We want to recognize her with an honorary gift that will enhance a place at the Home that is very dear to her and to the rest of the Auxiliary, Gress Memorial Chapel. We want to have the narthex in our chapel building in honor of Susan and the Auxiliary and buy a new audio-visual system for the sanctuary."

Our gift of \$50.00 from Southport UWF will go towards this project and will be matched by the Auxiliary. If you would like to give an individual gift to this fund, contact the church.

**Gifts or pledges made by May 15, 2023 will receive the Auxiliary match.**

**Friday, May 5, 2023**

**Church Women United will celebrate May Friendship Day** at St. Albans Episcopal Church with a Salad Luncheon at

11:00 am followed by a program with the Theme - "Labor with Love- A Heart to Care" Our speakers will be Young Church Women honorees. The Fellowship of Least Coin will be collected at this meeting.

This annual observance is "to strengthen a growing sense of unity, the joy of Christian fellowship, and the power of Christianity in the day of need."

**St Albans address is 4601 N Emerson Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46226**

## CREATION CARE INFO

**New Quote: "Loving God means loving what God has created" Upper Room June 1, 2018**

### **Why should you recycle???**

**Recycling produces environmental and economic benefits. It reduces energy consumption and the need for new material to be used while slowing the rate of resource depletion. It decreases pollution from industrial waste and limits the amount of waste sent to the landfill.**

SUMC is bringing back our Creation Care awareness by providing new Labels for the bins in the back of the Gathering Area at church. We also collect glasses and plastic grocery bags for the pantry. We encourage you to use the china cups instead of using the paper cups.

If you are interested in joining in with our efforts let Jerrie at church know.

## FEED A NEED (FAN)


Our next bagging of the 50 meals will be on **Thursday, May 11th at 1p.m.** at the church in the gathering area. It is a 20 minute activity that spreads a lot of love to those very hungry in downtown INDY.

A recent quote that sums up what we are trying to do:

**"Christ has no body now on earth but YOURS, no hands but YOURS, no feet but YOURS. YOURS are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the world. YOURS are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good. YOURS are the hands with which Christ is to bless people now."** St. Theresa Of Avila

Thank you to the group from SUMC who served at Second Helpings on Earth Day on Apr 22nd. Please stay tuned for another upcoming opportunity to serve!!



 <b>Second Helpings®</b>		
	March 1, 2023 Last Month	Since 1998
Meals Prepared and Delivered	108,186	18,302,351
Pounds of Food Rescued	333,869	46,115,078
Pounds of Redistributed	214,189	25,717,627
Volunteer Hours Served	2,748	775,336
Culinary Job Training Graduates	6	989

*Romans 12: We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. 8 If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging.*







A summer kids' event called Stellar **VBS** will be hosted at **Southport UMC** **Sunday June 4 to Thursday, June 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.** VBS will be for children going into 1st-grade up to children going into 6th grade. Light Dinner will be served every day.

At Stellar, kids discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' light, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in on the last day for worship and celebration on Thursday, June 8 at 6:30p.m.

**Spots are limited so please contact Allyson Ball or the Church office for more info and to sign up.**

## VBS TAGBOARD

We will have a tag board up the first week of May for VBS supplies! Your support would be very appreciated to help our Vacation Bible School become a success. You can find the tags on May 8 in the Gathering Area on the First Steps Board.

In 1 Corinthians 15:58 Paul says this:

**"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you.**

**Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."**

Paul is writing this to a group of Christians that lived a long time ago in the city of Corinth. They were a part of a church, much like this. And Paul is reminding them that the work they do and the contributions they make have a purpose.

We don't gather for worship each week because we have nothing else to do. The people that work with our youth & children aren't doing so because they are bored and really love kids. Trust me...some of those kids can be really annoying!

☐ The band doesn't rehearse all week and get here before anyone else because they don't have other things to do. We don't serve in the plethora of ministries here at SUMC because we're bored. I'm not a pastor because I couldn't get a real job. No...everybody is serving and working though the church because we believe that Jesus is alive and that the Gospel matters. And we can share and show the hope and grace we have found in Jesus Christ with our words and actions. And we want to share that hope and grace with everyone!

And when we give – when we financially support this church – we don't do that to buy God's favor or to mask some kind of guilt for past sins – we do so because what we do here on earth can literally have an eternal impact. And I don't mean buying our way into heaven, that's not possible. Our giving – in the name of the Lord – is not in vain. What Paul said to that church in Corinth is true for us today. When you give money to this church – you're serving our community, you're helping children and families, you are feeding the hungry, you are spreading the Gospel around our community and even the world. You're a part of something that's bigger than yourself. You are making an eternal difference.

Thank you for serving and doing and giving... Thank you for being the church.

Brandon

Assistant Pastor

Church	Mar-23	Year To Date
<b>Income</b>		
Offerings	\$46,036	\$147,127
Other	\$211	\$1,003
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$5,484	\$15,335
<b>Church Expenses</b>		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$4,920)	(\$17,456)
Administration	(\$12,005)	(\$37,117)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$9,736)	(\$45,638)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$23,593)	(\$69,312)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,061)	(\$4,795)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$416</b>	<b>(\$10,853)</b>
<b>Imagination Station</b>		
Income	\$39,174	\$116,254
Expense	(\$28,907)	(\$76,459)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$5,484)	(\$15,335)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$4,783</b>	<b>\$24,460</b>
<b>All Together</b>		
Total Incomes	\$85,421	\$264,384
Total Expenses	(\$80,222)	(\$250,777)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$5,199</b>	<b>\$13,607</b>



## 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!

## 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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Website: [www.sumc.org](http://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.*