



The Heart Of the Matter

NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2023



CHANGE

Dear Friends,

September is always such a great month in the church, and I feel that this year it has the potential to be one of the best. I have a friend who every January says to his friends, "Make this the best year in the history of years!" I always chuckle a little, because there is so much hyperbole and cheerleading in the way he says it that I don't necessarily feel. But now here I am cheerleading us on with a "Make this the best school year and church year ever!"

And I do feel justified in telling you that this could be one of the best 12-month periods in the history of our church just ahead of us! For one thing, I want to emphasize the importance of our worship time together on September 7, that's the Thursday, and September 10, that's Sunday at both the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services. That will be our fall kick-off. It's Promotion Sunday, the boys and girls in our Sunday school will move into their new grades. We'll give out 3rd grade Bibles, and this year we're also going to give out new Bibles to our 6th graders who are entering into our Youth Group, and Cross Training will be from 11:45 until 1:45 p.m. That weekend, September 10 at 4 PM, also starts some new fall programming for our Youth Group.

September 7 and 10 are also going to be the kick-off for the final year of our "What If?" campaign. There'll be a presentation of how far we have come over the first 2 years of the campaign and where we have yet to go in the final year. The "What If?" campaign, you will hopefully remember, is designed to pay off our mortgage debt entirely by our 175th anniversary, in October of 2024, so that we can be even more able to listen for and respond to what God is calling us to do as a church.

We just feel that there's a lot of positive change happening in the church right now, a lot of forward momentum. And we feel that "you are the change," the people of this church are the change, that will help to change and transform the lives of people in our church and community in a powerful way. So that weekend, September 7 and 10, the children of the church are going to be collecting change from us in their little buckets, and we're going to then collect all the change in a big water jug.

We know that people don't really carry change around anymore, so we're giving you a little heads up that if you'd like to be part of this to bring your change that's maybe lying around the house, or your dollar bills, or 5s or 10s or 20s (that'll be lighter for the children to carry!). No, we really do want to focus on the change, and we'll keep collecting until we fill this jug up to the top.

By the way, I've already decided how I'm going to sacrifice for this effort. I don't usually have a lot of change on me, but I have decided that I will go to Long's Bakery, where they only accept cash and then give you change for your purchase. I'm going to Long's Bakery as often as I need to to get change to fill up this jug! I'll do anything – and I hope you will too – for the church!

Grace and Hope to you,

Pastor Duane

Youth



**TRAINING
CROSS**

**Sunday
11:45 am—1:45 pm**

September 10

1st—6th graders & guardians

Food—Faith—Fun

SUMY HANGOUT DATE AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE REST OF 2023

ALL SUNDAY HANGOUTS WILL BE FROM 4-5:30. SPECIAL EVENTS TIMES ARE LISTED
SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL STILL BE HELD DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE IN THE UNDERGROUND



KICKING OFF TO A NEW SUMY SEASON WELCOME INCOMING 6TH GRADERS!

**SEPTEMBER
10TH & 17TH**

10th - Hangout - Snow Cone Bar
15th- Lock In- 6pm- 9:30am
17th- Leaving church after 10:30 service
Lunch and Mini Golf at Otte Golf

**OCTOBER
15TH & 29TH**

15th- Hangout - Fall Fun
29th- Hangout - Halloween Party
(Costume optional, please make sure it is appropriate)

**NOVEMBER
4TH & 12TH**

4th- Bonfire/ Hayride 5 pm Southeastway Park
12th - "Friends" giving Hangout
(Requesting each family to provide
a side dish or dessert)

**DECEMBER
3RD & 17TH**

3rd - Hangout - Service Project
17th - 9:30 am- Live Nativity
4:00pm Christmas Party



CHANGE SUNDAY!

START COLLECTING YOUR
CHANGE FOR
CHANGE SUNDAY HAPPENING
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH WILL BE
AT THE 10:30 SERVICE
COLLECTING FOR THE "WHAT
IF" CAMPAIGN.

An *Invite* from the Discipleship Path Coordinators!

Have you ever asked, 'Does my giving make a difference?'

IT DOES TO SO MANY PEOPLE AND IN SO MANY WAYS

A recent story we want to share with you comes from the giving of talents and prayers to create a precious prayer shawl and beautiful blessing card.

We had the opportunity to send a shawl and card to the family of a premature new-born infant girl, Amelia in March. Amelia loves her prayer shawl, she was taken home from the hospital in the shawl and today she fusses whenever it is taken away for cleaning. Although still on a feeding tube, Amelia is doing very well.

Her family asked that we let everyone at Southport UMC know their gratitude for your thoughtfulness and prayers. Share your story of the power to make a difference.

Maggie and Jerri

Discipleship Path Coordinators



Check out the updated SUMC tri-fold brochures. The CONNECT, GROW, SERVE (now SERVE GO), and FAITH PROMISE have been updated and we are looking forward to finishing GIVE.

You may find limited copies at the Guest Services Desk. We look forward to your positive suggestions for improvement and will keep small supplies available allowing us to make changes as needed.





INTERFAITH BUILD

The Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build embodies the power of unity through diversity. Our goal is to put faith and love into action to make them real, to make them come alive for people. Faith must be incarnated; that is to say, it must become more than a verbal proclamation or an intellectual assent. True faith must be acted out. This theology is one of the driving ideologies of Habitat for Humanity. It is a call to action. An idea of faith in action. Please join fellow churches, mosques, and synagogues, investing in affordable homeownership in our community.

How can you get involved?

Contact **Stephen Craig** today to get your congregation involved or serve on the planning committee!

scraig@indyhabitat.org
317.797.1063

Goals & Timeline

- April - May**
 - Develop an Interfaith Community collaboration
 - Organize planning committee
- June - August**
 - Plan and organize Interfaith dinner
 - Recruit volunteers for panel build and fall build site opportunities
 - Raise funds and awareness for Habitat mission
- September**
 - Panel Build Day at Second Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Sept. 23
 - Interfaith dinner - Date TBD
- By Year End**
 - Raise \$150,000 for Habitat mission
 - Provide resources for understanding the barriers to affordable housing

Overall Goal: Faith in Action!



Greater Indy
Habitat for Humanity
serving Hancock, Hamilton,
Hendricks & Marion Counties

Ronald McDonald House Chicken

by Southport United Methodist Church

Southport United Methodist Church has been volunteering in the House serving and making meals for many years. "Over the 20 plus years we've made it here at Southport it has had multiple names, but my favorite is *Ronald McDonald House Chicken*." -Maggie Lucas

INGREDIENTS

3 pounds fresh or frozen chicken breast, not thick.
12 ounces Swiss cheese, sliced
14 ounces cream of chicken soup
14 ounces chicken broth, low sodium
7 ounces Pepperidge Farms Herbs Seasoning Classic Stuffing
2 1/2 tablespoons melted butter

INSTRUCTIONS

Spray 9x13 pan with cooking spray, place chicken on bottom of pan and cover with cheese slices.
Combine soup and broth, mixing well before pouring over cheese.
Top with bag of stuffing and drizzle with melted butter.
Bake at 375 between 60 and 90 minutes. Serves 8



**SOUTHSIDE CLASSIC
ANNUAL
GOLF
OUTING**
TO BENEFIT: PERRYSENIORS.ORG



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2023

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10 AM
SHOTGUN START AT 12PM

BLUFF CREEK GOLF COURSE

2710 OLD STATE ROAD 37 N. GREENWOOD IN 46143

A 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE WITH A SHOTGUN START.

SENIORS 60 AND OLDER ARE \$65 A GOLFER- \$260 A 4 SOME
ANYONE 59 AND YOUNGER ARE \$75 A GOLFER- \$300 A 4 SOME

WHAT YOUR TICKET INCLUDES:

18 HOLES OF GOLF, A CART, FREE RANGE TIME DURING THE DURATION OF THE OUTING, LUNCH, AND DINNER, AND 5 FREE DRINK TICKETS.

REGISTRATION WILL BE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2023

For more information, please visit www.kairosprisonministry.org

FREE GIFT

A Kairos Outside Weekend is a no-cost retreat, hosted by a Christian community, for women who now have (or have had) relatives and/or friends in State and Federal prisons, jails, youth facilities, or who have been incarcerated themselves.

- Attendees are shown Christ's love and treated as Guests of Kairos Outside.
- Weekends are usually held twice per year and last from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.
- If you are interested in attending a Kairos Outside Weekend, please visit KairosOutside.org or scan the QR Code below.
- Kairos Outside is available in nearly 70 communities in the United States.

For more information, please visit www.kairosprisonministry.org



Kairos Prison Ministry International

Visit www.KairosOutside.org to register.



SCAN ME

CHILI FESTIVAL

FUNDRAISER & COOKOFF

October 21st
11:00am to 3:00pm

CONTESTANTS NEEDED!

Last years Chili Festival was a great way to reach out into the community and raise a little bit of money for our What If Debt elimination effort as well.

Just like last year, sampling chili will be free with everyone having a chance to vote with their dollars to support their favorite chili or teams.

All proceeds will be split between SUMC's debt elimination effort and the winning teams charity of choice.

So, if you have an award winning chili or are just willing to put your chef's hat on and see what happens email brandon@sumc.org to find out more.

Note: Individuals and teams can compete. This would be a great opportunity for a small group to serve together.

& Trunk or Treat!

That's right! This year we will be Having a Trunk or Treat in conjunction with the Chili Cook Off. So, if your not quite the cook you can still be a part of this great event!



Back to School!



Southport Harvest Tea

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 11:00
a.m.

Get involved by: Sponsoring and
hosting a table of your invited guests,
volunteering to help prepare and serve
lunch, and/or cleaning up after the tea.

**For more information, please contact
someone from the *Tea team*:**

Bobbi Howell—

bobbihowell@hotmail.com

Kathy Smith—

kms949801@comcast.net

Jerrie Snell—jerrie@sumc.org



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!

Our Peace Web group met up for
Duck Pin Bowling recently!



FOOD PANTRY

Food Collection for September will be from
Sunday, September 3rd thru Sunday, September 10th. Items needed are:
cups of mashed potatoes, rice meals, and breakfast foods (i.e. pop tarts, oatmeal, etc.)
Come celebrate with the pantry:

HUNGER, Inc. FOOD PANTRY Awareness Event
40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

DATE: Friday, October 6, 2023

TIME: 4 p.m.—6 p.m.

WHERE: 1416 E. Epler Ave. 46227

(Parking is available at the Union Hall Parking lot to the west of the pantry)

ACTIVITIES include:

Food Truck

Pantry Tours

Face Painting

Bounce House

Murat Shrine Clowns/Balloon Animals

Local Celebrities

Monetary and Non-Perishable Food donations will be accepted

FEED A NEED (FAN) Ministry

The next bagging session is on
September 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the
Gathering Area of the
church. Come join in with the
group to feed the homeless in
Downtown Indy. This is only a 20
minute activity to help many in
need of food.



COME JOIN US!

The SUMC choir will be singing for both the 9:00 and 10:30 services on October 22, Homecoming Sunday! Previous choral experience and the ability to read sheet music are assets, but not requirements. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please contact Music Director Rhonda Collins at rhonda@sumc.org or 317.258.6743.

WOMEN'S NEWS

The United Women of Faith September meeting is coming up on **Sept. 12th at 1 p.m. in the church Gathering Area**. We will have a **guest speaker** informing us on many topics that UWF is involved in. The speaker for the September meeting is Martha Milhouse. She is the State Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation. She lives at the Otterbein Community in Franklin. I know she was involved in mission U and also goes to the McCurdy School in New Mexico frequently.

All are welcome to come hear our speaker and all the information she has to share.

We also collect a box of cereal each meeting to be donated to the Fletcher Place Food Pantry.

Come join in on the fun, food, and facts.

**TUNES
AT THE
TABLE**

Live Music

Free Food

2nd Wednesday
of each month
(while Harvest Table is open)

6pm to 7pm



Harvest Table Hours:

Sunday:

10:00am-12:00pm

Wednesday:

6:00pm-7:00pm

Thursday:

6:00pm-7:00pm



Finance

Church	Jul-23	Year To Date
Income		
Offerings	\$51,485	\$322,352
Other	\$180	\$2,732
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$6,465	\$38,223
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$4,166)	(\$36,653)
Administration	(\$12,486)	(\$88,196)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$10,075)	(\$96,860)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$22,189)	(\$161,522)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,511)	(\$12,515)
Net	\$7,703	(\$32,439)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$46,175	\$270,122
Expense	(\$24,877)	(\$185,485)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$6,465)	(\$38,223)
Net	\$14,834	\$46,413
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$97,840	\$595,206
Total Expenses	(\$75,304)	(\$581,231)
Net	\$22,537	\$13,974

I have been having trouble lately thinking of new things to write in these financial articles. I also think it is an important space to communicate not only our church's finances, but to give some bits of insight on good stewardship. So, I've decided this month to share with you a source of that insight for me, "Firm Foundations." "Firm Foundations" is a blog by Glenn Howell the Director of Development for the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana.

Here's a recent article:

Not long ago a man walked into the public library in St. Helena, California and returned a book. That is not unusual. The unusual part is that the book, A History of the United States, was checked out 96 years ago. The unidentified man who returned it said something about his father and gave them the book. Apparently, it was checked out in 1927, and the son is now returning it.

You ask about overdue fees? The amount was over \$1700.00. The library, pleased to have the book back in its possession, would have been more than glad to forgive the amount. Perhaps if the man returning the book had known that he would have been more open about his identity. At any rate, all is well and the book, while needing some upkeep, will be back home again.

Many of us wonder if it is too late—too late to make up for previous mistakes, too late to change direction, too late to make something right, too late to ask for forgiveness, too late to receive it, too late to mend something, too late to volunteer, too late to be generous, too late to let our lives be fully reflective of Christ within us? The story of this library book is a good lesson. It is never too late.

The time to become a good steward is now. What has been, has been. Right now, you have abilities, money, and time—and a choice in how to use them. Accept forgiveness for not doing it right in the past and do it right today. As long as you have breath, life has the possibility of becoming more full of Christ and more full of joy. Whether you are 6 or 96, it is never too late.

Glenn publishes one or two of these articles every month, and they are always nice little nuggets on how to be faithful with our finances. If you would like to get them too, just let me know, and I will forward one to you, so you can start receiving them too.

Thank you for giving. Let's keep growing,

Pastor Brandon

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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



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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

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.*