

The Heart Of the Matter



NOVEMBER 2023—*Newsletter for Southport United Methodist Church*

Dear Friends:

Thanksgiving has always been a big deal for my family. Especially on my father's side. For over 75 years, as best I can figure, as many extended relatives as could get there, would come to Marion, Indiana, where most of them were from, on Thanksgiving Day, for a huge family celebration.

There is one picture from the early days, the late 1940s/ early 50s, long before my time, with everyone gathered. One of the most prominent people in the photo, to me anyway, is my father. He would have been 18 or 19 or so, just a freshman or sophomore in college, with this huge smile on his face as he looked into the camera—he had the whole world and future ahead of him!

I remember going to these gatherings as a child and there would regularly be over 70 people there at my great aunt's home. I loved being there although every year my father would have to remind me how we were related to certain of them that we didn't see very often.

Because of a few deaths, and the lack of a big enough place to meet, and for other reasons, we didn't have our Thanksgiving celebration in the same way for a few years. But last year, we once again met in Marion, 50-60 of us, some I hadn't seen in quite a while. And the plan is for us to get together again this Thanksgiving—right at noon is when lunch is served, as has always been the tradition. I look forward to it every year!

The month of November contains and signifies so many things: we start with a recognition of the Saints of our church; it's the kickoff to the Advent and Christmas season; it's the end of Daylight Saving Time (November 5).

But my favorite thing about November is Thanksgiving, the special hymns we only sing once a year, the warm glow of our services of worship, an emphasis on gratitude which is such a central part of our faith—and, of course, family.

Whatever your plans for November and Thanksgiving, I pray that this month and this season will be for you meaningful and precious.

Grace and Hope to you,
Pastor Duane



Join us for

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday November 3rd

6:30 pm



Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, November 5
Clocks will Fall back an
hour at 2a.m.

Southport Harvest Tea

What a wonderful event we had for our first Harvest tea.
We cant wait to host another one next fall!





JUBILEE CHRISTMAS

JUBILEE DAY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9. 2023

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.

Each SUMC host is making contact with their Jubilee Family to learn of their everyday needs, their gift ideas for the children and even some surprises. Our desire is to share Jesus' love while providing a Christmas holiday to celebrate.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE? STOP AT THE NEXT STEPS AREA

Starting Thursday, November 2 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 for 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 at Amazon 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; do not change the designated shipping address; shipments must go to the Jubilee team member's address that is on file with Amazon and not to your home address; If the Amazon list seems small when you shop, stop by again another day since we often receive additional information from the families which may be added to the Amazon list throughout November; When purchasing an item, please be sure that the delivery date is no later than December 3.)

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. Due to an increase of allergy and asthma concerns, blankets that will be made at home need an environment to be non-smoking and pet hair free.

Sign up to be **HELPING HANDS**. Opportunities are: assist on set up day, Friday, December 8; be part of the wrapping and additional help teams on Jubilee Day, December 9; 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 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!



From the Discipleship Path Coordinators!

Thank you!

Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis is very grateful for your donation to the annual Home Sweet Home Dinner and Silent Auction. Your donation of the "Family Game Night" basket and the \$50 Amazon gift card helped to make the silent auction very successful, raising over \$18,000! Family Promise will be able to continue helping families who are homeless remain together and secure stable housing. Please share my appreciation with your auction team at Southport UMC.

Sincerely,
Donna Englehart

New Member Class

We will be holding a
new member class
on December 3 at
11:45 in the music
room!



Perry Senior Citizens Services, Inc. provides services to senior citizens of the greater Perry Township community that maintain or enhance their quality of life. Medical Transportation Program

- Participants must be at least 60 years old and reside in Perry Township.
- Transportation is available to medical/dental appointments in the Perry Township area, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Ride requests can be made by calling 317-783-9231 or via email to transport@perryseniors.org and providing the appointment date, time and location. Please give at least 10 days advance notice whenever possible to allow time to schedule our drivers. If your appointment is cancelled, please notify us as soon as possible so that we can make our driver available to others waiting for a ride.
- The client is the only person we can transport to appointments due to liability concerns.
- If you have a physical condition or limitation, use a walker, cane or other mobility aid, please let us know so that we can share that information with your driver. Please be aware **we are unable to transport wheelchair clients at this time**. If you are in need of transportation services that can provide for wheelchair needs, please call CICOA at (317) 803-6153.
- Our drivers are volunteers, using their personal vehicle to drive you to your appointment. you will be given your driver's name in advance of your appointment and your driver will call you the day before your appointment to confirm the pick-up time. for your safety and peace of mind, our drivers do carry photo ID identifying them as a Perry Senior Services transport driver.
- We do not charge a fee for this service, but as a non-profit organization, we appreciated any and all donations to help us keep providing services to our clients. If you're able to donate, or have family, friends or neighbors who would like to support Perry Senior Services, donation can be given to your driver, mailed to our office, or made on our website.



CHILI FESTIVAL TRUNK OR TREAT

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event an amazing day for our church and community. It felt like all of Southport plus some showed up.

CHILI WINNER

Paul Lucas

Paul's chili took the top prize this year! Paul was cooking for **Family Promise**, a great organization that helps families in need of a home. Family Promise will be receiving a check for \$2,250 from your generous gifts to the "Chili pot".

Decoration Winner

Mindy & Kevin Bennett

Mindy & Kevin's Alice in Wonderland theme was just crazy enough to win the decoration contest. **Childcare Answers**, a non-profit that helps organizations and families with all things childcare will be receiving \$1000.



WOMEN'S NEWS

Rebekah Circle is having their **November Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12th at 1 pm** in the Gathering Area. Come join the group of ladies as we celebrate WORLD THANK OFFERING PROGRAM. To celebrate this program, we are to collect a quarter for each time we leave home to drive or ride in a car each day. This donation will be given to the United Women of Faith to provide services around the world..

After the program, we will be filling Hygiene Bags for the Fletcher Place Christmas Program. We will be filling 26 bags with items needed by community families in the downtown area. It will be an assembly line activity filling each bag. Then, bring on the food, fun, and fellowship.

All are welcome to attend and join in the fun.

FEED A NEED (FAN)

The fan group will be filling the 50 bags for the downtown organization "Tear Down the Walls". This organization helps by passing out our food bags to the non-addressed people in town.

This activity is being held on Thursday, Nov. 9th at 1 pm in the Gathering Area. It is about a 30 minute activity. Contact the church if you are interested in joining this once a month group.

"...I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matt. 25: 35

FOOD PANTRY

The Hunger, Inc food pantry is located at the corner of Madison Ave and Epler Ave. behind Kim's Bakery, Bakery, and Deli. The pantry is encouraging you to donate \$10 this month and next month (November- December 16th) to the Meijer Campaign. This campaign helps the pantry purchase food products from Southport Rd. Meijer at a discount price.

Your donation may be placed in the envelopes on the Food collection table by the Coatroom opening and then placed in the offering plate in the sanctuary. Your \$10 donation will be held until the Double Match Day on Dec 16th where your donation will be turned into \$30.

The Pantry is feeding about 40 clients each of the three days it is open each week in Oct. That would be about 520 lbs of food passing out the doors of the pantry. The pantry buys almost 5000-8000 dollars of food every other month. The need is great and the church can help with this need.

Thank you for being a great servant to those in need.

CREATION CARE

Just a reminder that we have bins in the far east wall by the kitchen to recycle items. Also, Rosie Bishop is in need of the pill containers you get meds in for her Jacks sets that she has been giving out for years. She has handed out almost 3000 sets to kids and adults over the years. A container will be placed in this area for those containers that you can donate. The containers will need to be stripped on any personal information.

Also remember to use the china cups instead of the paper cups for you coffee and tea each Sunday.

Larger recycle items can be placed in the city bins north of the church at Madison Ave. and Edgewood Ave. Glasses and flags are being collected in the bins at church.

Meds can be disposed of at CVS stores when placed in a plastic bag. No containers are collected there.

Office Depot offers shredding at a reasonable price and free shredding days are usually in the spring so save your discarded mail for then. In the back parking lot are two bins for collecting paper items that help provide funds for the church. Thanks for helping our planet by being an Earth Saver.

TRAINING
Join Us!
NOVEMBER 12
 11:45 am—1:45 pm
 1st—6th graders & guardians
Food—Faith—Fun

YOUTH
Southport United Methodist
UPCOMING!



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

MAKE ROOM

ADVENT STUDY

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20

Food & Fellowship @ 6 pm

Study @ 7 pm

Often our Advent preparations have an inward focus as we prepare for the significance of God breaking into our world through the birth of Jesus. But in a closer examination of the Advent story, we quickly learn that the focus of the coming of the newborn king is outward.

Just as Jesus made room in God's kingdom for a host of people that society wanted to leave on the margins, beginning with the appearance of the shepherds, we too should be asking ourselves who we can make room for this Christmas.

The story of Christ's birth encourages us to open our arms and increase our sense of community—and make room for others. Making room opens our hearts for God to use us to write His story.

Since the theme of the study is making room, we are asking you to share what foods you are saving room for this Christmas. What dishes or desserts do you have around the holiday season that someone else might not see at their holiday table? Think about what unique things you get excited about eating or preparing and consider bringing them for this study. If you would like to bring a dish or dessert contact the church office or mark your attendance card next week in worship. Thanks!

SAVING ROOM

FELLOWSHIP TIME



Finance

Church	Sep-23	Year To Date
Income		
Offerings	\$40,965	\$403,101
Other	\$108	\$3,010
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$6,413	\$52,025
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$4,575)	(\$47,047)
Administration	(\$12,437)	(\$112,791)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$11,731)	(\$121,644)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$23,031)	(\$207,043)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,449)	(\$14,466)
Net	(\$5,737)	(\$44,855)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$42,657	\$352,861
Expense	(\$30,020)	(\$244,873)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$6,413)	(\$52,025)
Net	\$6,224	\$55,964
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$83,730	\$758,972
Total Expenses	(\$83,243)	(\$747,864)
Net	\$487	\$11,108

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Matthew 6:21

Most of us interpreted this passage to mean that the things we care most about are the things we give the most to. However, several years ago, the Rev. Dr. Karl Travis spoke at the Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference on this passage. He agreed most people interpret it this way, but pointed out that if that's what Jesus had meant he would have said, "for where your heart is, there your treasure will be also."

I think this means our hearts can follow our treasure. Giving can be a tool to strengthen and grow our hearts in a positive way. When we share what we have through giving, we grow closer to God because we learn to rely more on him and less on our own resources. This means we are partnering with Him in bringing about his kingdom. In this way our heart grows closer to God. And if our giving is helping our neighbor then our heart grows closer to them too.

Faith is like a muscle – the more we exercise it, the stronger it grows. And giving is an exercise that transforms lives – not only our own lives but also the lives of others. Thank you for giving.

Let's grow together,

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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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.*