



# Heart *Of the* Matter

Dear Friends,

I've never been a particular fan of *The Rolling Stones*. I like that era of music (the 60s and 70s) and the whole British Invasion thing, just never thought very much of this group. However, there is one song that, for whatever reason, runs through my mind every once in awhile. It's the song, "Time is On My Side". I can picture the craggy face of Mick Jagger belting it out, and hear the words: "Ti-i-i-me is On My Side. Yes it is."

These are the only words of the song I know, so am not sure of the full message, but it always seems to me as this tune hums through my head, that he has it all wrong, time isn't on my side, time is against us. Over time, things get rusty; they break down and wear out. Just look at Mick Jagger's face, if you don't believe me, or think of the face that stared back at you in the mirror this morning.

But how can we arrange things in our lives, so that perhaps he might be right, time might be on our side? What habits can we form, what patterns of life can we develop, that will pay dividends as we move forward through time? We each may have different responses, but to me, the spiritual nurture of regular worship and Bible study and prayer are foundational to creating a good life that builds over time. Habits of investing our resources in others, giving of ourselves, help us and help our community and world grow deeper and fuller and better in time.

The Apostle Paul has a wonderful phrase: "*In the fullness of time*, God sent his Son..." (Galatians 4:4) What positive, reinforcing things might we do that, in the fullness of time, would allow God to be present in our lives?

It's not too late, the year is just beginning, to plant those seeds, to create those ways and places in our lives, so that time is indeed on our side. Yes it is.

Grace and Hope to you,  
Pastor Duane



## JUBILEE CHRISTMAS 2023 "JOYS"

Saturday, December 9 was a JOY-filled day! We welcomed eighteen families (parents and guardians) who have students at Homecroft Elementary to share in wrapping gifts for the children. Of course the children weren't included this day so that there would be surprises whenever their family celebrates Christmas. We receive the names of our Jubilee families in September and pair them with a host from church. Our hosts gather the information from their family so that we know sizes, needs and wishes. When a family is referred, every member of that family is included. We have been blessed to provide for children from infant through high school. This year we were able to include a child, yet to be born, with clothing and other essentials. **JOY!**

It is our delight to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all who helped in any way.

**Cookie Bakers**, thank you for donating many delicious cookies so every family took home nearly 3 dozen cookies with additional cookies to be enjoyed Sunday morning. **JOY!**

**Helping Hands**, thank you for volunteering your time to assist with shopping, making blankets, setting up the day before Jubilee and being available Jubilee Day to box cookies, wrap presents, and anything the Jubilee Team needed. **JOY!**

**Hosts**, Jubilee comes together so well because you are making yourself available to work with your Jubilee family so that their experience is complete. You personally share God's love and care for them and represent our church family. **JOY!**

**Book Pillows of Hope Ministry**, your addition of these incredible items (a book inside a specially sewn pillow for each child with journals for the teens) was an unexpected gift and many tears of JOY were shared Jubilee Day. **JOY!**

**Church Family**, we can never say enough about your generosity and heartfelt giving to support Jubilee. Every family we served can see that Jubilee is not one person or team, and is an entire Church Family who cares about their struggles and chooses to make God's love known to them. **JOY!**

Kim Distel	Sandy Lewis	Karen Kegerreis
Pam Clough	Jerrie Snell	Jennifer LaMar
Kristy Harris	Sherry Davis	Bethany Brock

## THANK YOU!

We would like to give a big shout-out to Doug Lewis and Joe Howell. They have been beyond busy working on the remodel of the East Wing Bathrooms for Imagination Station as well as remodel of the Youth area in the underground. Thank you for all your countless hours and hard work. -SUMC





## WOMEN'S NEWS

Happy New Year!! It is the start of our new year of gathering and sharing with other SUMC women. **Come join us at 1:00pm on Tuesday, January 9th.** We meet in the Gathering Area on the second Tuesday of each month. To start the year, we learn about how to support the United Women of Faith (UWF) who always focus on issues for women and children.

We also start a new year of our reading program. There are so many wonderful books on various issues related to women and children. Join in the fun, fellowship and food each month. All are welcome.

## FOOD PANTRY

Thank you so much for your donations to the Hunger, Inc. food pantry located at the corner of Madison and Epler Avenue behind Kim's Bakery on the West side. It is a small pantry, but handed out a lot of food for the holidays. YOU helped with that by supporting the Meijer Campaign that ended in December. We were able to donate \$500 for our church on the double match day, December 16th. Your caring support helped feed many families in Perry Township, parts of Beech Grove, and Franklin Township. The pantry was lucky enough to get donations of hams and turkeys for the holiday season. So many clients said, "Thank you for the help and God bless you." (That is being passed on to you as you made it possible to relieve stress for many families.) No food donations are needed for January. The pantry has been blessed by the many donations from schools in Perry Township, local businesses and many wonderful individuals. Happy New Year!

## CREATION CARE

Thanks for adjusting to the use of our ceramic cups and not as many paper cups. God is smiling on you for helping save his creation. Keep up the good work for the 2024 year.

## FEED A NEED

Southport has been so faithful in supporting the Feeding of 50 meals each month to the unhoused in Indy. We are associated with "Tear Down the Walls" ministry that passes out the meals we bag at Southport. We bag meals each Thursday before the second Saturday of each month. Our next bagging activity will be held on **January 11th at 1:00 pm. in the Gathering Area.** If you are interested in helping with this ministry, let the church office know and you will be contacted on how you can help keep this ministry going. We are starting our 4th year providing meals.

Hugs and Prayers,  
Sandy Tilton

## ARE THERE ANY "RINGERS" OUT THERE

Our Music Director, Rhonda Collins, would like to put together a small handbell choir for the Easter services this year (March 31). If you have been in a handbell choir in the past, or are interested in ringing, contact her at [rhonda@sumc.org](mailto:rhonda@sumc.org) or 317.258.6743 by January 28. There would be one weekly rehearsal on Wednesday evenings during the month of March. Musicians from high-school age and up are welcome!



# TRANS CRONING

11:45 am—1:45 pm

January 14

1st—6th graders & guardians

Food—Faith—Fun





**SOUTHPORT**  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

1947 E Southport Rd  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
[www.sumc.org](http://www.sumc.org)

# THE STAR

January 12th  
6:30pm



In the  
Worship Center

## 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.*