



The Heart *Of the* Matter

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Southport United Methodist Church

Upcomming Sermons

February 1, 4

“One or Two Things: It’s What You Learn
After You Know It All That Counts”
Psalm 25:1-10

February 8, 11

“One or Two Things: The Score at
Halftime is the Least Important Fact of Life”
Psalm 27

February 14

Ash Wednesday Service
“This Little Light of Mine”
John 3:16-21
7:00 p.m.

February 15, 18

“Living the Dream: Being Aware of Something
More”
John 10:1-10

February 22, 25

“Living the Dream: Our Greatest Need”
Luke 15:11-32

LENT

Dear Friends,

I don’t know if it’s obvious or not, but I am not a big fan of winter. It may just be getting older, but I don’t tolerate the cold and snow as well as I used to. (Brenda and I were fortunate to get away for a couple of weeks in January to visit with Brenda’s mother who lives in Florida. It wasn’t overly hot where we were, but it wasn’t zero and colder, like it was here at times!)

And one thing I really dislike are the shorter hours of daylight during the winter. It just seems cruel to not have the sun rise until after 8:00 some mornings and set before 5:30. I am one who looks at the Weather Channel app on my phone pretty regularly to watch the daylight hours increase by a minute or two each day.

And when I see the daylight hours getting longer, I think of this new church season that we will soon be entering – Lent. In fact, the word “Lent” comes from an Old English word that means lengthen, and it signifies the lengthening of the days at this time of year. As we march steadily on through winter and head encouragingly on to spring, we also proceed through the season of Lent and set our sights on Easter!

Lent is that 40-day season of prayer and reflection and denial as we remember the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation. It is a time when many decide to be more intentional about following Christ’s will more faithfully. Sometimes people study the Bible more, especially the life of Jesus in the Gospels, and give up something they really like.

We have some things planned here at the church to help make Lent more meaningful: our Pancake Dinner the evening before Lent begins; our Ash Wednesday worship service; a Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday nights; and all the events of Holy Week and Easter Weekend. We hope you will participate in anything and everything.

I heard someone say once and I believe it to be true: the more you put into Lent, the more you will get out of Easter.

Grace and Hope to you,
Pastor Duane



Ash Wednesday Service will
be Wednesday, February 14
at 7:00 p.m.

CROSS TRAINING

February 11, 2024

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.

World Day of Prayer
Christ United Methodist Church
Friday, March 1st, 4:30 p.m.

You're
Invited



Annual Pancake Dinner

Join us on
Tuesday, February 13
5:30-7:30 p.m. in our Gathering Area
for an all you can eat pancake
dinner!

Kid crafts available
Interactive table activity
Photo Opportunity

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



This years Lenten study will be loosely based on the book, "Lent In Plain Sight." We will be using ordinary objects that are in our lives and that Jesus would have encountered on His way to Jerusalem to discover how we can hear God's voice and see God's work in the seemingly mundane and ordinary.

Soup @ 6:00 pm

Study & 7:00 pm

Feb 21 - Feb 28 - March 6 - March 13 - March 20

VBS!



We are currently planning an evening Vacation Bible School beginning the week of June 9! Be on the look out for more information coming soon!



Camp registration is now
open:
Impact2818.org



An *Invite* from the Discipleship Path Coordinators!

Calling All Ministry Leaders

We have an opportunity at the first of each year to report to the conference the impact we have in our mission work through community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy. If you will keep this in mind as you lead your ministry and prepare at the end of the year to let us know if your ministry:

Focuses on global/regional health.

Focuses on engaging with the poor/marginalized.

If your ministry impacts either of these groups, we would love to know the number of persons in our congregation engaged in your ministry and an estimate of persons served by the ministry.

We know Southport UMC has the best ministry leaders and we would like to hear from you!

Maggie and Jerrie
Discipleship Path Coordinators

Sharing The Love

It is a pleasure to share with you the note we received from Family Promise recently. We were able to respond to their request to aid a family that had a devastating fire that not only resulted in a total loss to their possessions but required hospitalization of two of their children. They are all reunited now and in a furnished apartment. Your gifts to the Pastor's Benevolent and Faith Promise funds allowed us to respond quickly and with your love.

On behalf of Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, I wanted to express our deepest gratitude for your incredible generosity and support. Your recent donations have made a significant impact on this family, and we cannot thank you enough for your kindness.

Your ongoing support means the world to us, and we look forward to continuing our journey together in helping others.

WOMEN'S NEWS

The next meeting of the Rebekah Circle is Tuesday, February 13th at 1:00 in the church Gathering Area. All are welcome to join in the faith moments, fun, and food sharing that goes on. Come check us out.

FOOD PANTRY

Here is how YOU helped provide for the food pantry in 2023:

1. All Donations received were 163,212 lbs.
2. 5,115 house hold items were served with 18,805 clients served
3. And, you helped provide the \$ 13,300. donated to Meijer Campaign

The Hunger, Inc food pantry located at Madison Ave. and Epler St. is so thankful for your generosity in helping the communities serviced. Since we are still receiving school donations, we will collect food this month focused on the following items: rice or potato packets or boxes.

Food may be placed on the table by the coat room entrance from February 1st-February 5th.

We come to be fed by God and so we feed others.

FEED A NEED

Our February activity of bagging 50 meals will be postponed this month due to an abundant amount of meals already delivered. What a blessing! Our next bagging session will be on Thursday, March 14th at 1:00 in the church Gathering Area.

CREATION CARE MOMENT

This is the month to share the love of God to others so SMILE to everyone you meet. God needs our help in this world.

S--Start
M--My
I--Internal
L--Love
E--Energy



CHILDREN'S *Church*

Every Sunday at
10:30 a.m.

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



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!

DATE	TITLE	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
February 15 and 18	"Being Aware of Something More"	John 10:1-10	Max Lucado wrote, "There is more to this life than this life." Are you aware of the something more that he was talking about? Are you living the abundant life Jesus came to offer us? What are the things stealing your abundant life and the something more?
February 22 and 25	"Our Greatest Need"	Luke 15:11-32	Have you ever thought about what your greatest need is in life? What is your greatest need to survive? What does this familiar Parable of the Prodigal Son (some Bible scholars have regarded it as the "Prodigal Father") have to say about our greatest need?
February 29 and March 3	"Your Most Important Daily Decision"	Matthew 6:1-15	What would you say is your most important daily decision? Whether we realize it or not, we make hundreds of decisions each day, but what is the one that is most pivotal to helping us create the life we want and that has the most value? How do we bring God more into our life each day?
March 7 and 10	"Putting First Things First"	Matthew 6:25-34	We often hear "Keep the main thing the main thing," and "Put first things first." But how do we always know what to put first as the most important thing, and how can we put what's most important first on a daily basis when we have so many demands on our life? Help, God! I need you to show me the way!
March 14 and 17	"What If There Were a Place?"	John 4:1-30, 39-42	Like the Samaritan woman at the well, we are all looking for that place in life, no matter what we have done, no matter what our past, where we can have a sense of belonging a place where we can feel safe and saved. Where is that place for you? Your home? Your relationships? Your church? Your community? Your spiritual sense of belonging with God?
March 21 and 24 (Palm Sunday)	"The Darkness and the Dawn"	Matthew 21:1-11	The week we are entering is full of exhilarating highs and perilous lows, "the darkness and the dawn," as one Bible scholar has referred to it. People welcome Jesus to Jerusalem and want to crown him as king, but then it is the same people maybe who are ready to crucify him a few days later. How can we, as Christians today, navigate through this week and experience and be nurtured by the highs and lows.



HOLY WEEK	Maundy Thursday:	Good Friday:	Easter Sunday:
	March 28th 6:30 pm	March 29th 7:00 pm	"A Word for Easter" March 31 9:00 am & 10:30 am

What If Fundraiser 2024 Calendar

We need everyone's help as we eliminate the last of the mortgage debt! Please mark your calendars with the 2024 fundraisers. Additional information will be available in the monthly newsletters as well as the Pastor's weekly announcements.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - February 13, 2024

Easter Eggs - Pick Up Date - March 24, 2024

Easter Egg Hunt - March 30, 2024

Spring Sponsor a Night at a Restaurant - location and date TBD

August Sponsor a Night at a Restaurant - location and date TBD

Penny Sunday - New Bible Sunday for the Children

Chili Festival/Trunk or Treat - October 19 or 26, 2024 TBD

November Sponsor a Night at a Restaurant - location and date TBD

Thank you,
What If Fundraiser Team



No matter your heritage, culture, or racial background, Black history is EVERYONE's story. Here are 10 ways you, your family, and your congregation can celebrate and participate in Black History Month.

1. Patronize a local or online Black-owned business.
2. Attend church, Bible study, or worship at a historically Black church and experience the Gospel from another vantage point.
3. Sing hymns or songs during worship by a composer from the African diaspora. Include the history of the song or hymn in the church bulletin or on your website.
4. Attend or co-host a Black history or Black culture event in your community, in partnership with a Black congregation.
5. Take a church family field trip to a Black history site or museum in your area.
6. Learn more about "Black Harry" Hosier (c. 1750-1806), an African-American Methodist preacher and evangelist.
7. Research other Black United Methodist leaders from our church's heritage.
8. Fearlessly learn more about how racism has and still affects Black people around the world and start confronting racism.
9. Donate to a Black nonprofit or empowerment organization in your community.
10. Watch a film by and about the heritage and lives of Black people. Titles to consider: "Antwone Fisher," "Malcolm X," "If Beale Street Could Talk," "Hidden Figures," "The Hate U Give," and "One Night in Miami."

Resource from R2hub.org. To see the complete list of 29 ways, please follow this link!
<https://www.r2hub.org/library/29-ways-you-can-participate-in-black-history-month>



Join Us for a

PANCAKE DINNER

February 13th
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

A freewill offering will be accepted to help our What If... Debt Elimination Campaign

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
February 14th @ 7:00pm

*This Valentine's Day
remember what Jesus did..*



for you...

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14th @ 7:00 pm



LEADERSHIP TEAM

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



1947 E Southport Road

Indianapolis, IN

Phone: 317-784-9508

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.*