



The Heart *Of the* Matter



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

LASTS AND FIRSTS

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of each month, I have often felt that I seem to leave one task to the last minute -- writing a Pastor's Letter for the monthly Newsletter. I scurry around trying to come up with something meaningful, or informative, or at least a little witty, to say. I've even kind of done that here with the last letter that I'll write to you.

And I really didn't know what to write this time either, except that I have been experiencing, or thinking about, the many "lasts" in my life right now. A friend told me years ago as I was leaving one church and taking up a new position at another, that I would be going through many "lasts" and also many "firsts."

That is what's occurring now. My last time to preside over communion with you. My last sermon. My last staff meeting. My last recording for online worship. The last time (here's a big one) getting to church or going home by driving on I-465, some part of which was being worked on the entire 5 years I've been here!

And I am anticipating, some "firsts" too. First enrollment in Medicare. First receipt of a pension rather than a paycheck. First day waking up without a boss or someone with some expectation of what I should be doing—other than Brenda, of course! First time heading off on a trip without thinking of how things are going back at the office and church and what I'll have to be doing on my return. First day to be away from some of the best people in a church I've ever known. First day of the rest of my life.

For you too, there will be many wonderful firsts with your new pastor and his family as you work your way into the exciting new future that God has in store.

We have those lasts and firsts throughout our lives, those times when something is at an end, maybe a relationship, a job, or a direction our life had been taking, or that we thought it should be taking. These endings can be a time of great grief or sadness or disappointment.

But these endings, these lasts, can also lead to new beginnings, to fresh starts, to firsts that allow opportunities to thrive and grow anew. When we place God at the center of our lives and right in the middle of these transitions, whatever situation we find ourselves in can always turn out for good.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; behold, all things have become new." (II Corinthians 5:17)

This is my hope and desire for Brenda and me in retirement and for each one of you, and for Southport United Methodist Church.

My very best to you. Grace and Hope,

Pastor Duane

Join us to celebrate
Pastor Duane Thompson's
Retirement from Ministry
Southport UMC
1947 E. Southport Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
Sunday, June 30
Worship Service
10:30 a.m.
Followed by lunch

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



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!



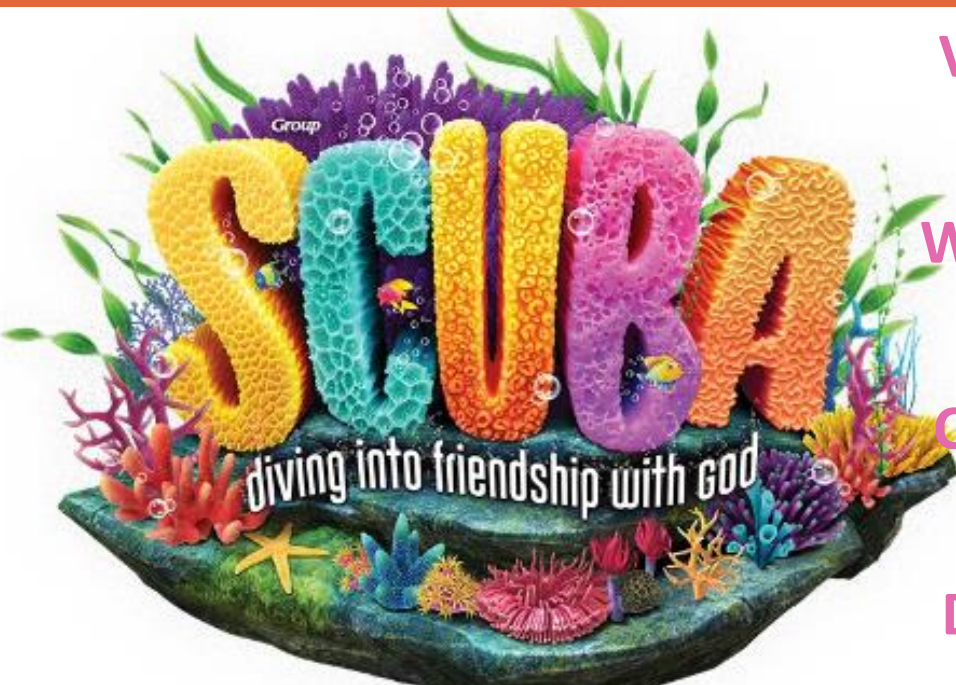
Subscribe to SUMC on
YouTube to keep up with
all of our online services
and special videos!



Our VBS Team is working hard getting ready for VBS beginning June 9! We cannot *WAIT* to see you there!



Sign up here!



Vacation Bible School!

When: June 9—13

Where: Southport UMC

Ages: K-6th Grade

Contact: 317-784-9508

www.sumc.org

Dinner will be served!

ONE MONTH CLOSER TO JUBILEE IN JULY

A Jubilee in July event is our way to begin planning and preparing for Jubilee Christmas 2024. Please join us to worship July 18th/21st and 25th/28th and for an opportunity of “Information, Input, and Invitation.”



INFORMATION – Whether Jubilee Christmas is a new experience for you or you are familiar with the ministry, Jubilee Team members will explain the scope of our outreach and answer your questions including how Jubilee Families are selected, what opportunities are available to participate, as well as how you personally can serve .

INPUT – We want to hear your thoughts on how participating in Jubilee Christmas works best for you e.g., shopping online or in a store and ways to contribute financially to the ministry.

INVITATION – In July there are lots of sales for “Back to School” and it is a great time to stock up on all those needs. At the Next Steps area in the Gathering Place, we will have a few tags for shopping. Consider taking a tag and help us get a head start for this year. Any items bought will be made available to the children as needed and for Jubilee Christmas.

The SUMC congregation has always been extremely generous and in 2023 we were able to serve 15 families and over 60 children and youth. We continue to have a great need in our community so we are hopeful to make a difference in even more lives through the Jubilee Christmas Ministry. Please mark your calendar for Jubilee in July, we invite you to bring your questions and offer your input.

The Jubilee Ministry Team

CROSS TRAINING

There will not be a June Cross Training.

Next Date: JULY 14, 2024

We will be eating, playing games,
doing projects & devotion.

This will be open to 1st – 6th graders. 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.

The HARVEST TABLE

Harvest Table Hours:

Sunday:

10:00am-12:00pm

Wednesday:

6:00pm-7:00pm

Thursday:

6:00pm-7:00pm



HARVEST TABLE

Live Music



Free Food

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

6pm to 7pm



We had a successful Work
Day thanks to some awesome
volunteers!

YOUTH

Southport United Methodist

UPCOMING HANGOUT DATES FOR SUMY

JUNE 2ND, 2024* - SNOW CONES AND YARD GAMES

JULY - MONTH OFF OR POSSIBLE SCHEDULE A LOCK IN

AUGUST 18TH 2024*- FREEDOM SPRINGS - BRING A FRIEND & YOU BOTH GET IN
FOR FREE

REST OF THE MONTHS WILL BE DECIDED IN NEAR FUTURE.

*DATES COULD CHANGE IF NEEDED - NOTHING IS SET IN STONE YET.

AS ALWAYS I'M ALWAYS OPEN TO SUGGESTION FOR ACTIVITIES.



Congrats to all graduates!



WOMEN'S NEWS

The Southport Women's circle, Rebekah, will be on a short vacation for the summer. We will gather again on Sept 10th at 1 pm in the Gathering Area at church. Enjoy your summer and join us in the fall.

There is a U MISSION activity being held on Saturday, August 3 at University UMC 5959 Grandview Dr. Indianapolis. This session will be held from 10 am -4 pm. Lunch and study materials will be available for \$20. unless you are a first-time attendee to this activity and then there are scholarships to cover the cost. If you are interested in attending this, please get in touch with the church information on who to contact.

For the OUR HANDS ON PROJECT, we will be collecting the following toys for children and youth ages 5-12 for the Family Preservation Center inside the Indiana Women's Prison for the Mission U project. These can be new or gently used items. All are welcome to help Southport's UWF group gather the following: books, wooden or hard plastic toys, and puzzles (less than 10 pieces...these can be bought at Dollar Tree)

All items are due by July 28th so they can be delivered at the Aug. 3rd program.

Items may be placed in the bins in the coatroom hallway labeled U MISSION.

HUNGER, Inc FOOD PANTRY

Workers are needed to work the parking lot at the food pantry. It usually takes 2 volunteers to help the clients park in the parking lot and overflow move to the next-door neighbors lot. If you are interested in helping, please contact:

Phil Christy President Hunger Inc.
1416 E. Epler Ave.
Indianapolis, In. 46227
317-441-4721
email hungerinconnect@gmail.co



The pantry is open:

Tuesday 10-1 Thursday 4-7pm Saturday 10-1

For the month of June we will collect the following:

Potato and rice packets (i.e...Knorr store brand packets) & diapers and wipes (sizes ---4, 5, and 6)

Collection will be from Sunday, June 2- Sunday, June 9

Thank you so much for the 55 lbs of food collected in May.



CREATION CARE



Beech Grove's **free drive up recycling opportunities are coming up on June 1, September 7 and November 2.**

It will be held at the Beech Grove City Hall 806 Main St. from 9 AM-12 PM. They take paper shredding, appliance drop off, eyeglasses , hearing aids unused medicine, and syringe disposal.

We also have some recycling areas at church to help keep our city clean. The bins are located on the wall by the kitchen.

The city has big bins at the corner of Madison Ave and Edgewood Ave. just north of the church.

FEED A NEED (FAN)

We will be bagging the 50 meals for our team, **Tear Down the Walls Ministry**, to pass out. Anyone wanting to help with this ministry is welcome to come and help out.

Bagging is on **June 6th at 1 pm in the Gathering Area of the church.** A few of us are planning on going out in June to help distribute our bags to the homeless that we have been doing for the last 4 years (depending on the weather). If you are interested in helping, let the church know and you will be called for more details.

Upcoming Sermons

Date	Title	Scripture	Description
May 30 and June 2	"Grace and Hope: You Must Be Dreaming"	Genesis 37:1-11	What are your hopes and dreams for your life and for the future? What are you doing to pursue those dreams? How are you allowing God to work in your life in pursuit of those dreams? Today, we are introduced to Joseph, the dreamer, and his lifelong quest to know God and be used by God for some grand purpose.
June 6 and 9	"Grace and Hope: When You've Fallen and Can't Get Up"	Genesis 39:1-23	There are those times in our lives when we fall. Sometimes we do it to ourselves, and sometimes things happen through no fault of our own; that is just life. What matters is how we respond when we fall – whether we become angry or bitter, or whether we allow God to work in our life to help raise us to a new level of living.
June 13 and 16	"Grace and Hope: Overcoming Your Fear of the	Genesis 40:1-23	Just as Joseph was imprisoned in a dark cell, so sometimes a darkness can come in and overshadow our lives. Is there any sense of darkness or foreboding in your life? Loss, difficulty, failure? How can you allow the presence of God to be a light that casts out this darkness?
June 20 and 23	"Grace and Hope: Forgive and Remember"	Genesis 45:1-15	Joseph had to construct a whole new way of re-membering some of the bad things that had happened to him, seeing God's hand creatively and positively at work in all of it. Do you see how God has been at work in your life, in the past, and in the present, and how God might be working even now to create your future?
June 27 and 30	"Grace and Hope: Praying Our goodbyes"	Genesis 50:15-21	Just as Joseph said goodbye to his brothers, and wept and prayed over them, so Brenda and Duane are saying their goodbyes to Southport United Methodist Church. We have loved being present with you, and hope that we might see you again, and pray Godspeed to each of you for the future.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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



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 Indianapolis, IN
 Phone: 317-784-9508
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 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.*