

# FAITH PROMISE

## 2024 ACTIVITY

**FAITH PROMISE** is “extra mile giving” in support of community and outreach ministries, touching lives of people throughou our city, country, and world. **Step out in faith and be a part of what God is doing!**



CONNECT | GROW | SERVE | GIVE | GO

[www.sumc.org](http://www.sumc.org)

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Each of the Faith Promise Ministries receive financial support, either in part or in total from contributions designated for **Faith Promise**. These ministries continue because of your generous support. The opportunity to give in this way can be done at any time during the year and marked as a **Faith Promise** gift.

In Matthew 25 Jesus tells us to feed the hungry, to give a drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to alleviate the pain of the suffering and sick and to visit those who are in prison.

Jesus said in John 13:34-35,

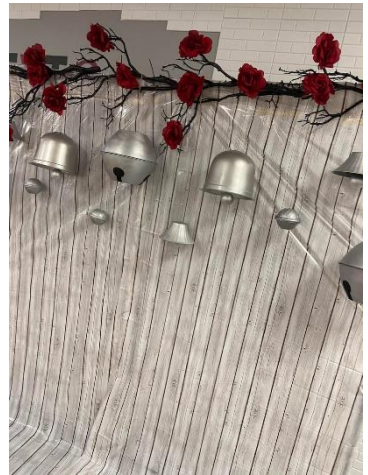
“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

We asked each ministry leader to give us an update on how, through giving and participating in hands-on mission, we demonstrate our love as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Bereavement Dinners** – We open the church and provide a meal for the family of church members who lose an immediate family member. This gives them a chance to just be together in those times with family and close friends. They don't have to worry about hosting, getting the food together and cleaning up. Let the office know if you would like to join the team.

**Beautification Team** – Are you passionate about making our church a warm and inviting space? The Beautification Team is dedicated to creating an atmosphere that welcomes both our congregation and potential new members. Our goal is to make everyone feel at home and at ease as they worship God.

We decorate the church according to the Liturgical calendar and for any special occasions that arise within our community. Whether you have a flair for creativity or simply want to be part of a welcoming group, we'd love to have you join us! No experience required—just bring your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute. Together, we can make our church a beautiful place for all to enjoy!



**Book Pillows of Hope** – “Book Pillows of Hope” is a group of more than 50 women from all over Indianapolis, including four members of our church where the group was founded, Kathy Buck, Jeanne Floyd, Sally Hulfachor, and Nancy Van Vorst. As the name of the group says, they



sew pillows that carry a book in them that share hope. The book pillows promote literacy and are distributed to children, usually infants through 5th graders, who are facing difficult situations.

**Card Ministry** – This team of five send handmade cards to both our congregation and our community, providing inspiration, encouragement, and love to the recipients. Since our start in July 2019, they have made 2,990 cards.

In 2024, 1,185 cards were sent as they began sending cards to staff at Homecroft Elementary School and provided our members an opportunity to pick cards from the welcome center and send cards themselves. The team is always seeking more opportunities to share the hope and love their cards offer. They hope to send cards to other schools, first responders or residents of area nursing homes in the new year.



If you are interested in being a part of the card ministry, please contact one of the team members: Cheryl Cutshall, Cindy Pulliam, Suzy Heilman, Kim Kidwell, or Sandy Tilton.

**Cross Training** – Creates an opportunity for interaction between the various cultures on the Second Sunday of the month. Specifically designed for our 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their guardians to participate in an event providing Food – Faith – Fun to all attending.



**Emmaus Community** – Our church provides financial support for members who attend the Emmaus 3-day spiritual retreat. We also receive from our Emmaus Community support through prayers and gifts of agape (symbols of God’s love) for both the Emmaus and Chrysalis (time for teens and college-aged adults) weekends. So far this year eight of our church members attended their first weekend. For more information reach out to Margaret Trammell, Agape coordinator at SUMC.

**Family Promise** – Family Promise is a program that helps homeless families find shelter and stability. They also offer case management and workshops to help families find permanent housing. Southport UMC has partnered with this much-needed ministry for over 20 years.

We volunteered most recently in the following areas:



- **Meal delivery:** Deliver meals to families staying in congregational shelters
- **Housewares drives:** Collect housewares, linens, cleaning products, and paper products for the apartments
- **Help with fundraising:** Participate in fundraisers like

**Contact Paul Lucas if you would like to get involved.**

**At Family Promise, we spend every day talking with families who have experienced or are at risk of homelessness. We believe that sharing their stories is essential to spreading awareness about family homelessness in the United States. Want to learn more? Check out our recent media coverage below.**

**Feed-A-Need** – This ministry has been providing food to the unhoused each month and are starting their 5<sup>th</sup> year. The team meets on Thursday at 1:00 in the gathering area before the second Saturday of each month. The team buys the food with their donations that need to be placed in white bags. Then the bags are filled to be delivered to a ministry called "Tear Down the Walls" where they take the food out to the unhoused on the second Saturday of each month.



The team bagging is an all-volunteer group that dedicates their time of 30 minutes each month to bag the meals. The meals consist of 8-9 items focused on items that could last for more than one day of meals. The bags

contain: protein, water, fruit, vegetable, cookie, granola bag, chip bag, crackers, and candy. A silent donor helps defray the costs.

"They come running when they see the white bags come out of the cars" as is quoted by the directors of the Tear Down the Walls ministry. So, God is at work in this ministry due to your support.

Remember Matthew 25:35-36



**God's Will Breakfast** – Southport volunteers serve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. The number of people we serve increases every month. Frequently serving more than 140 people each month.

We serve a hot meal as well as cereal and fruit, plus extras like muffins and granola bars depending on what is available. For many of our folks it is the only food they will have all day, so I try to fill their bellies and send them with something for later. We have many regulars, and the word has gotten out, so we have more new friends each month!



We share fellowship as well as food with those who desperately need us. It has been my blessing to serve this ministry for over 10 years now. We have been told, "We are glad you are here serving today." It starts with prayer—a moment of grace.

## Habitat for Humanity -



The local Habitat for Humanity affiliate completed 34 new houses in 2024 for deserving families and has a goal of building 125 homes in the next three years. Habitat also has four Restores in the area. Six SUMC volunteers worked on building wall panels for the Interfaith Build that constructed panels for two homes in 2024. For more information, contact [www.indyhabitat.org](http://www.indyhabitat.org).

## Harvest Tea



Our third annual Harvest Tea will be Saturday, October 4, 2025. It grew from having the program in the Gathering Area in 2023 to the Worship Center in 2024. We can serve up

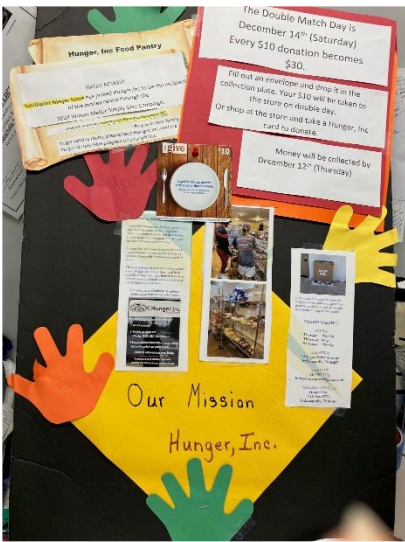
to 100 hosts and their guests. The team will meet and implement more improvements to the program. Watch in early August for the invitations.

**Harvest Table** – Our volunteers met many lovely people through this ministry. People who need help in our community. It was a kaleidoscope of stories, needs, and gratitude. At the end of the season, we could see that they would miss our weekly harvest. Several asked where else they could go to get food. One of our volunteers gathered information and printed it so they could hand it out. We provided a safe, comfortable place where they would come, choose their food, talk about their week, etc. People were thankful; if their garden was bountiful, they would bring vegetables to share or the lady who brought flowers to thank us for being there every week.



The weeks when we had "tunes" were extra fun! "Free food - hot dogs, chips, drink. and music!" The rewards were incredible. We make a difference in our community. We accept donations. We did not spend any money. We praise all the gardeners for their efforts and contributions.

**Hunger Inc** – The food pantry has serviced the Perry Township, (parts of) Beech Grove, and Franklin Township areas for those who demonstrate a need for supplemental nutrition and hygiene supplies. The Pantry is located at 1416 Epler Ave. in a small building serving as as many as 50 plus clients in a day that the pantry is open.



The pantry is open 3 days a week: Tuesday 10-1, Thursday 4-7, and Saturday 10-1 which can total as many as 100-150 clients a week. That could be as many as 400-600 clients a month. Through November in 2023, the pantry has served about 132,962 pounds of food by providing sustenance for over 15,161 people. The pantry is an all-volunteer program.

There are many volunteers from Southport UMC that serve each

month and provide food each week/month to keep the pantry able to service those in need. The pantry is very thankful for the donations given to this ministry. Southport is a blessing with their support. The Website is [www.hunger.org](http://www.hunger.org) or email [hungerinconnect@gmail.com](mailto:hungerinconnect@gmail.com).

The pantry relies on monetary donations to help purchase food from Meijer Store on Southport Road with their Simply Give Campaign.

**Jubilee Christmas** – For nearly forty years we have had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families from our community during the holidays. We partner with Homecroft Elementary School where their social workers assist in identifying families who will benefit from Jubilee Christmas. Each family is matched with a SUMC Host who is their direct contact. Together information is gathered, needs are determined, and children’s Christmas wishes are shared. On Jubilee Day, the family and host meet at church for a time of fellowship and to wrap gifts.



With the information, lists are prepared for the congregation to choose from the following: shopping online through Amazon; choosing tags from the board in the Gathering Place; making blankets; baking cookies for the families to take home; being a Helping Hand for shopping, organizing, set up and to participate on Jubilee Day.

Jubilee Day becomes a celebration of caring, kindness, respect and joy. Because of the generosity of the church family, the Jubilee Families have an opportunity to know that we understand there are many challenges and struggles in their daily lives. Our hope is they will experience God’s love in many different forms.

Sandy Lewis, Kim Distel, Pam Clough, Karen Kegerreis, Jennifer LaMar, Bethany Brock, Laura Littlepage, Jerrie Snell, Sherry Davis

**Kairos Prison Ministry** – Our church supports through prayers and financial support the team members who minister to the inmates at Plainfield, Indiana Women’s Prison and Rockville. Kairos Inside addresses the spiritual needs of the prisoners at the facility.



The volunteers pray, share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, share meals and fellowship with the incarcerated on a one-to-one basis. Imagination Station provided placemats for the meals served at the facilities and these are treasured by the incarcerated.

**One Mission Society (OMS)** – Two members of our church work at One Mission Society (OMS). OMS is an evangelical, interdenominational faith mission that partners with more than 300 organizations and church denominations around the world to help fulfill the Great Commission. Founded in Japan in 1901, today they make a global impact for Christ in 52+ languages in 80+ nations throughout the Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe/Middle East, and Latin America/Caribbean regions.

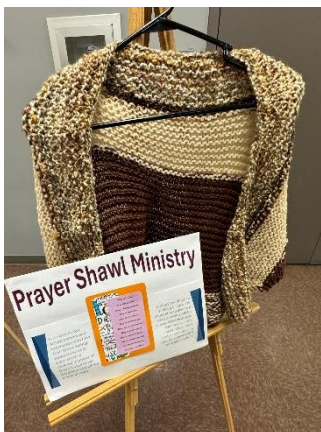
OMS also provides scholarships to students at 37 seminaries across 21 countries. Last year, there were 6,626 students enrolled in these OMS-related schools, with 1,598 graduates.

**Perry Township Religious Education** – Southport UMC has been a long-time supporter of the important ministry that shares the gospel of Jesus Christ as a labor of love for Perry Township families. We currently provide financial support for the ministry and if you are interested in hands-on experience, we would like to help you connect on a more personal level.



### Elementary Schools We Serve

- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School
- Clinton Young Elementary School
- Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- Glenns Valley Elementary School
- Henry Burkhart Elementary School
- Homecroft Elementary School
- Jeremiah Gray Elementary School
- Mary Bryan Elementary School
- Rosa Parks Elementary School
- Southport Elementary School
- Winchester Village Elementary School



**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Prayer shawls are made with prayer for the unknow recipient by the diverse team of creative stitchers. During the past year we have distributed the shawls to many who needed the warmth of the shawl and the warmth of the love of Christ. Shawls are prayed over again when given with a card of hope and love.



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Please tell those who made the shawls how much we appreciate them and their prayers. I have seen first hand how much joy it has brought to those who receive them. Sometimes just knowing they are loved and prayed for will help them to keep going and have faith. Bless you all!





**Ronald McDonald House** - As coordinator of the Ronald McDonald House meals for SUMC, I'm happy to say that we as a church have been serving there for at least 25 years. Covid did affect us for a while in how we served. We are back in and serve families that have children at Riley Hospital. We serve once a month with rotating teams of 12 volunteers, with 4 going in on each visit. We serve anywhere from 20 to 50 people a nice meal at a cost of \$200 - \$225 per visit.

With travel time our commitment each week is only about 4 hours. We have been told by those that volunteer and work at the house that they and the families that are there for multiple months look forward to our meal. If you've ever had the Ronald McDonald Chicken meal, you understand why. I'd like to thank everyone who has served in the past and is currently serving. It is a much-needed service that we at SUMC provide and it is much appreciated by those at RMH. Thank you. Paul Lucas



**Second Helpings** - This community kitchen has been serving hungry people since 1998 and continues to set record after record in feeding people in need. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. A number of SUMC members volunteer on a weekly basis. Check out <http://www.secondhelpings.org> for more details.

**Summer Camp** – We proudly support our children’s participation in IMPACT 2818: Outdoor Ministries. The camps are down-to-earth, family feel and a big track record of impact. This is an opportunity for the children to Share God’s Transformational Love.



**United States Chin Coalition** – Most of our ministries are hands on with financial support through Faith Promise. We are pleased to provide financial support to the coalition. Pastor Kok Mar is on the board for the USCC.

Faith Promise 2024 ..... \$43,348.62

Faith Promise 2025 Budget.....	\$44,000.00
Bereavement Dinners.....	\$500
Beautification Team .....	\$500
Book Pillows of Hope .....	\$0
Card Ministry .....	\$650
Cross Training .....	\$1,500
Emmaus Community .....	\$300
Family Promise.....	\$5,000
Feed-A-Need.....	\$0
God's Will Breakfast .....	\$5,000
Harvest Table .....	\$900
Harvest Tea .....	\$300
Habitat for Humanity.....	\$5,000
Hunger, Inc.....	\$850
Jubilee Christmas.....	\$4,500
Kairos Prison Ministry.....	\$2,000
One Mission Society.....	\$1,000
Outreach .....	\$1,000
Perry Township Religious Education.....	\$4,000
Prayer Shawls .....	\$0
Ronald McDonald House.....	\$4,000
Second Helpings .....	\$1,500
Special Celebrations & Outreach.....	\$500
Summer Camp .....	\$1,000
United States Chin Coalition.....	\$4,000

## SERVICE TIMES

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. : Casual Service

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. : Traditional Service

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. : Contemporary Service

Sunday, 2:00 p.m. : Myanmar Service

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. : Children's Church, Nursery, & Youth.

Online Service: Sunday, 9:00 a.m. @ [www.sumc.org](http://www.sumc.org)



## SOUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1947 E. Southport Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46227

p. 317-784-9508

e. [office@sumc.org](mailto:office@sumc.org)