

The Heart Of the Matter

Monthly Newsletter of
Southport United Methodist Church:
May 2021

What If Update

Dear Friends,

We've talked a lot about this idea of "What If." You've heard sermons. We've had Town Halls. We've sent out weekly emails and monthly newsletters. We've said our prayers and read the prayers of others. We've even emblazoned the words "What If" on beautifully designed T-shirts (which you can still purchase!).

Then it became time to see whether God would transform all of these words and prayers and T-shirts into the action that was needed to reduce and even eliminate our mortgage debt by the 175th anniversary of our church in October, 2024.

I am delighted to say that that action on the part of God's people is coming through. We are not completely there yet, but we are making significant progress.

As of April 26, we have received 72 pledges for a total of \$424,920 in commitments. We are so grateful for everyone who has responded to our campaign so far. This means that officially, it looks like we are about halfway toward our goal of \$865,000.

But I think it's safe to say that we are actually further along than that. Additional pledges will come in, I'm sure. In fact, it would be nice to see the number of pledges reach 100 at some point. Plus, we had some money in our mortgage account before the campaign got underway. And there are those who have not pledged (so not been counted in the above, official pledge totals) who have given to the campaign, either in a lump sum or monthly payments. And some fundraising over the next three years is in the works that will be singularly focused toward paying off the debt.

So we are on the way – and we will get there! And we are so grateful for everything you are doing to make it all possible. We are still trying to figure out the best way to visualize the progress we're making. Look for that graphic in the June newsletter. And enough cash has been given, in addition to our regular monthly mortgage payment (and maintaining a 6-month reserve), to be able to make a principal only payment of about \$85,000 early in May.

Praise the Lord! God is working in our midst and beckoning us toward the future. Grace and Hope to you,

Pastor Duane

UPCOMING Sermons

May 9, 13

"Impact: Fruit of the Womb"

Ruth 1:1-18;
4: 13-17

May 16, 20

"Impact: Starting Small but Starting Today"

Acts 1:1-14

May 23, 27

"Impact: Destined and Determined"

Acts: 2:1-21

May 30

"Impact: Where We Get Our Strength"

Acts 2:43-47



UPCOMING Dates

May 9

Mothers Day &
Opening Day of
Harvest Table

June 3

"The Book of
Revelation"
series begins.

Feed A Need

SUMC is still actively involved with **Tear Down the Walls Ministry**. The second Saturday, 50 sack lunches are provided to the Ministry for handing out to the Homeless in Downtown Indy.

A sack includes: canned meat, veggies, packaged fruit, dessert bar, water, chips, and utensils.

In February we delivered hot sausage gravy and biscuits, and a sack of goodies.

This ministry works closely with Hunger, INC. They help provide some of the canned food items that come in pop-top cans. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, let the church know and you will be called to help.



Women's News


United Methodist Women are involved in many social actions to help women and children. If you are interested in seeing the issues, go to the website below for more information.

<https://www.inumc.org/engage/adults/united-methodist-women/>

Coming up in June the UMW units will be collecting baby items for the IWP (Indiana Women's Prison) baby unit. A list of items to be collected and more information about this will be coming soon. This is in coordination with the virtual Mission U event being held in July. One of the speakers will be our former Pastor Derek.

Food Pantry Donations

The Hunger, INC Food Pantry is located at Madison Avenue and Epler Avenue behind the Kim's Kakey, Bakery & Café. They are always in need of diapers size 4-6, pull ups, and wipes. Other items needed are dish and laundry soaps. These items can be bought at the Dollar Tree Stores for \$1. They are the right size to hand out. Donated items may be dropped off at the pantry any time. A Drop Box is located outside on the front porch and is emptied each day.



Every believer has received grace gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God's grace. (1 Peter 4:10)

WOW! What a year! So many changes, so much to be grateful for and so much to look forward too. With all the exciting things happening at SUMC, the **hospitality team** needs updating. As we begin to bring back more "normal" activities, we will need more willing hands to help things run smoothly.

If you have been on the **hospitality team** in the past and wish to continue, please let me know. If you have not been on the **hospitality team** but think you might like to join, let me know. If you have no idea if the **hospitality team** is for you, let me know as well.

Some of the activities the **hospitality team** helps with are:

Door greeters

Ushers

Communion

Coffee & donut, set up, maintenance, and clean up (when it returns)

Welcome center (when it returns)

What I would like to know from you?

Which activity would you like to help with?

What days & times would you be available to help? Remember we have two services on Sunday (9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.) and one teaching service on Thursday (6:30 p.m.)

If you are not sure about helping with Hospitality, contact me and we can chat about it. If you have not done a **ministry discovery** assessment and/or are not certain how your gifts, talents and passions can be used to glorify God and serve SUMC, contact me at glenda@sumc.org or call the church office at (317)784-9508.



2021 Graduates

If you have info on a 2021 graduate within the congregation, please let us know! We'd be happy to do a small feature on where they are graduating from and their future plans! You can email the info at office@sumc.org !



Harvest Table: Opening Soon!

It is time for the Harvest Table to open. If you are not familiar with the Harvest Table it is a “booth” that is set up just east of the church in front of the playground off Washington Street. At this “booth” you will find produce that is grown by the church community and given away through this table. And the produce is always free. Any remaining produce at the end of the day is then given to Hunger, Inc. Food Pantry.

The opening day for the table this year is Mother’s Day, May 9. It will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. that day. Now we probably won’t have much produce the first few weeks of the table, but we will also have seeds and plants available (also free) for those who may want to try gardening for themselves. Don’t be shy if you are not sure what to do. The Harvest Table will always be “staffed” by an experienced gardener or two that would be happy to help guide you and answer any questions you may have.

I wanted to find a verse or two in the Bible that gives a sense of the reason behind the harvest table, and what I found was second Corinthians chapter 9. Now, it was too long to put it all here, but here is one verse from it and if you have time I would encourage you to read all of 2 Corinthians 9.

2 Corinthians 9:10

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

The hope is the things freely given through the Harvest Table, the seeds, plants, and produce, will have an impact to someone somewhere. We hope that this generosity will result in a thanksgiving to God. We hope to see you at the Harvest Table this year. And we hope you’ll bring a friend.

HARVEST TABLE HOURS

Sundays: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



What If...

Debt Elimination Campaign Report

As of 4/26/2021

Below you will find a bunch of numbers. Numbers that reflect how we are doing at eliminating our debt. If you have any questions about these numbers feel free to email Brandon, the church financial officer, at brandon@sumc.org. Thank you, for these numbers.

Original Mortgage Balance (12/2013): \$1,366,536

Mortgage Balance (before principal only payment): \$850,826.58

Principal only payment for April: \$85,000

Balance after Principal only payment: \$765,826.58

Total Pledged: \$424,920

Number of Pledges Submitted: 72

Gifts given from pledges: \$63,442

Non-pledged gifts given: \$18,749

Current What If.../Mortgage fund balance (after principal only payment): \$54,296.77



Creation Care News

We hope all celebrated Earth Day and Arbor Day last month. The church handed out White Pine saplings to Imagination Station students last month to celebrate the days. If anyone is interested in receiving a sapling as well, notify the church and arrangements will be made to get one to you.

All the information coming out about Solar Energy is another way the nation is making efforts to improve the quality of life here on God's gift to us.

We are the stewards for caring for our Earth. We should make God Proud.



Reminders

Youth Sunday School meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Underground. We will not meet on Mother's Day.

Youth group will meet every 4th Sunday of the month starting May 23, 2021 from 3-5 p.m. at the church.

CHILDREN'S Church



We have loved having the children back for Children's Church the past few weeks!





Imagination Station

As preschool comes to an end in the next few weeks, we are beginning our plans for a fun-filled summer! The children will be enjoying many activities including bike days, water days, science experiments, and cooking!



Finance

Church	Mar-21	2021 Year to Date
Income		
Offerings	\$72,081	\$155,798
Other	\$310	\$486
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$2,949	\$7,743
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,519)	(\$15,052)
Administration	(\$15,744)	(\$43,029)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$16,511)	(\$45,806)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$18,008)	(\$53,786)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,046)	(\$3,326)
Net	\$18,512	\$3,028
Imagination Station		
Income	\$31,938	\$84,905
Expense	(\$23,618)	(\$65,403)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$2,949)	(\$7,743)
Net		\$11,759
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$104,329	\$241,189
Total Expenses	(\$80,446)	(\$226,402)
Net	\$23,884	\$14,787

This is our operating budget. What you see on this page is the incomes and expenses that let us run our day to day. The numbers that mean our lights are on and our pulpit is filled. What is not on this page is any additional gifts you give to things like Pastor's benevolence fund, faith promises fund, and most recently the What If campaign to eliminate our debt. Both, of course, are important and we are thankful for both.

So, I wanted to thank you for your tithes to the church, the money that is given, just given, not for a specific purpose, but just in faith that it will be guided to do God's work. Because that is what keeps the lights on and the pulpit filled.

And thank you for your above and beyond gifts your gifts to things like faith promise fund and pastor's benevolent fund that help us reach out into the world and have an impact.

And thank you for giving to the What If... debt elimination campaign which will help make sure we can keep sharing God's grace and hope for generations to come.

Thank you,

Brandon

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Duane Thompson

Connie Whisner

Jim Cooney

Sherry Davis

Karen Decatur

Joy Eder

Suzy Heilman

John Klipsch

Phil Sell

Brad Wiseman



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.- Teaching 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.*