

The Heart Of the Matter

Monthly Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church:
August 2021

Dear Friends,

In normal times, the United Methodist Church meets every 4 years for what is called our General Conference. About 1,000 delegates from all over the world convene for several days of worship and Bible study, but also to discuss the big issues facing our denomination.

These General Conferences are usually held during Presidential election years, so the latest one was scheduled to be in Minneapolis in April 2020. However, because of Covid, it was postponed until this year. But, alas, again it has been pushed back. While much of life in the United States has returned to near normal, since so many delegates come from around the world, and with international travel still restricted and difficult, it was thought best to postpone it for yet one more year.

I tell you all this because the United Methodist Church is facing some critical issues right now. Most visible, and probably most important, is the issue of homosexuality within the church. Expected to come up at the next General Conference is a proposal to split the United Methodist Church into 2 separate denominations, one that accepts and includes the LGBTQ community, and one that does not. Each individual local church will then have the opportunity to choose for itself which denomination it will join.

All of this has been postponed, as I say, until next year because of the pandemic. Minneapolis is now scheduled to host the next General Conference August 29-September 6, 2022.

You'll be hearing more about this as we go forward, especially after the first of the year. Pastor Doug and I are already working on ways to bring discussion to the congregation surrounding (1) what is at stake in all this, (2) the decision-making process for the local church and (3) an attempt to understand the Biblical perspective. So stay tuned . . .

Grace and Hope to you,
Pastor Duane

UPCOMING Sermons

August 5, 8

"Happiness: The Habit of Happiness"

Psalm 119:105-112;
Matthew 7:24-27

August 12, 15

"Happiness: What to Say When You Talk to Yourself"

Psalm 52; Philippians 4:4-9

August 19, 22

"Happiness: The Secret of Contentment" Psalm 85:8-13; Philippians 4:10-13

August 26, 29

"Both/And: Do I Really Have to Do Stuff?" Ephesians 2:8-9, James 2:14,26, Galatians 5: 1-6

BOTH/AND





Ministry Update

It is July so it's time for a six month check up on how our ministries are doing now that things are opening up more. First, I would like to thank all of you for continuing to support SUMC with your very generous gifts to **Faith Promise**.

The **blood mobile** will continue as scheduled on **November 13, 2021**. The February and April blood drives yields impacted a total of **60 Indiana lives** being impacted. We do not know how many units were collected in the July blood drive yet.

We hope to be bringing back **community meals** in the next few months. Stay tuned for updates on that coming back.

Feed A Need (F.A.N.) continues to provide 50 meals per month for **Tear Down the Walls Ministry (TDWM)**. So far this year **350 meals** have been distributed. September 23, 2021 this ministry will celebrate its one-year anniversary. So far this ministry alone has provided **406 meals** to the homeless population in Marion county.

God's Will Breakfast continues to serve the population at **Fletcher Place**. The **Harvest Table** continues to serve fresh vegetables to the local community as well as **Hunger, Inc.**

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) will be returning to SUMC on **October 10-17, 2021**. There will be opportunities for SUMC to show its love for God and those in need very soon.

The **Jubilee Christmas Team** will be gearing up in November to support families at **Homecroft Elementary School** at Christmas.

We are waiting to hear about when our **Kairos ministries** will resume. We hope it will be soon.

Ronald McDonald House (RMH) is now allowing volunteers to assist with meals on a limited basis. **July 2, 2021** a team of four individuals cooked a meal with the guidance of the chef and was able to provide approximately 40 meals to the families with loved ones at Riley Children's Hospital.

A team will be going to **Upper Sand Mountain Parish** August 8-14, 2021. These "boots on the ground" will be providing hands for whatever is needed in Alabama. We wish them safe travel on their mission.

Upcoming events to look forward to:

SUMC Yard Sale, August 14, 8:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in the church parking lot

All Church Picnic, September 25, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Rain date will be September 26 after the 10:30 a.m. service)

Thank you all again for being so generous to **Faith Promise**.

Southport United Methodist Church Yard Sale

**Southport United
Methodist Church**

**YARD
SALE**

.....ONE DAY ONLY

1947 E.
Southport
Road
Indianapolis,
IN 46227
(located in
back parking
lot on Van
Dyke Street)

**08
—
14
—
21**

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING!

8:00 AM - 1:00PM

For more information on the Yard Sale
and to sign up, please visit this link to
our website:

<https://sumc.org/what-if-sale/>

ALL CHURCH PICNIC September 25, 2021

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Menu: Burgers & Hotdogs, Chips, Fresh Veg,
Dessert (TBD), Water/Soda

Food served 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Games 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

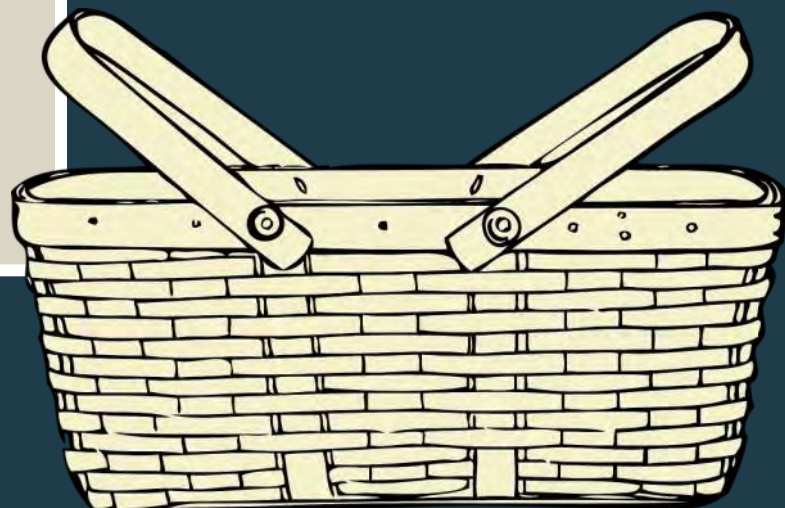
Games will be self-directed and will include
Yard Jenga, 9 Square, Crochet, Tattoos, 3-
Legged Race and more.

What will you need to bring? Lawn Chairs

How can you help? We will need help
setting up tables and chairs and games,
cleaning tables, putting everything away
after the event and monetary donations.

**(Rain Date: September 26, 2021 after 10:30
a.m. service)**

Donations: Any check donation intended for the
picnic needs to have "Picnic" in the memo, and
online giving does have a Picnic option available
in the drop down menu!



Myanmar Service

Did you know we have a worship service at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays? It is led by Pastor Kok Mar and is a lively, passionate worship experience. The service is conducted in the Myanmar language, however, the worship music is often performed in English as well. I had the pleasure of attending this service recently and I couldn't understand a word that was being spoken, but I could still feel the Holy Spirit filling the room.

I wanted to take a moment to encourage each of you to pray for our Myanmar brothers & sisters and their families. As you may know, Myanmar is going through a time of political turmoil that has not been peaceful. Pray for peace of mind and heart for those who worship with us here. Pray for safety and security for their friends and families in Myanmar. And pray for peace in our world and times. Amen.



Harvest Table

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.

United Methodist Women

What do the United Methodist Women do? Are you wondering about that, too?

Last month we helped with the collection of Indiana Women's Prison donations. Thanks to all who helped with these donations here are the results:

1,167 diapers sizes NB-6
1 lotion
5 body washes
9 blankets
39 packs of wipes

Quite a supply for the IWP prison. Thanks to all.

In August we are hosting a booth at the Yard Sale to help pay down the church mortgage debt. So, come check out our booth.

In September, the Leah Circle will be finishing out a project to decorate T-shirts for African Boys that will be accompanying the Pillowcase dresses for the African girls.

And the Rebekah Circle collects cereal at each meeting for the Fletcher Community Center.

We are doing the **shoe collection** starting in December through February. We need to collect many pairs of shoes, so tell everyone, we are collecting new or usable shoes, slippers, flip-flops, cowboy boot, snow boots, etc. Whatever you can collect. All shoes brought to the church must be in a trash bag or grocery sack when placed in the bins. These shoes go to other countries to help shoe the world. (Picture some African boy in cowboy boots!!) We hope to collect enough to hit the \$1000 mark for helping with the "What If Campaign" that focuses on paying down the church mortgage.

United Methodist Women Circles are for all ages and focus on women's and children's issues. Come join in on the fun, fellowship, and feet for Jesus activities.

Rebekah Circle meets each month on the second Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. at the church.
Leah Circle meets each month on the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the church.

Hope to see you soon, Southport UMW Circles

Food Pantry

The Hunger, INC food pantry located at Epler and Madison Avenue is relying on donations right now since the Food Banks have slowed down with their donations. And the school drives do not happen until November-December.

Some of the things needed that are not purchased are:

Cake mixes, Pancake mix, beans of all kinds, snacks, meat like smoked sausage, spam, rice-a-roni boxes, Knorr rice or noodle mixes, instant potato packs.

Any donations can be dropped off to the Drop Box on the porch any time or deliver to the Pantry when open for help to unload.

Times: Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We have been servicing this Pantry for many years and this is the time that they need help again.

Meijer on Southport Road is having their food drive campaign again right now. The double days are August 14 and August 28. That means if you donate \$10 it will equal \$20. There are cards to pick up at church and you can pick up cards at the store.

Southport has always been the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Thanks to all for the blessings. (happiness on the faces of the clients)



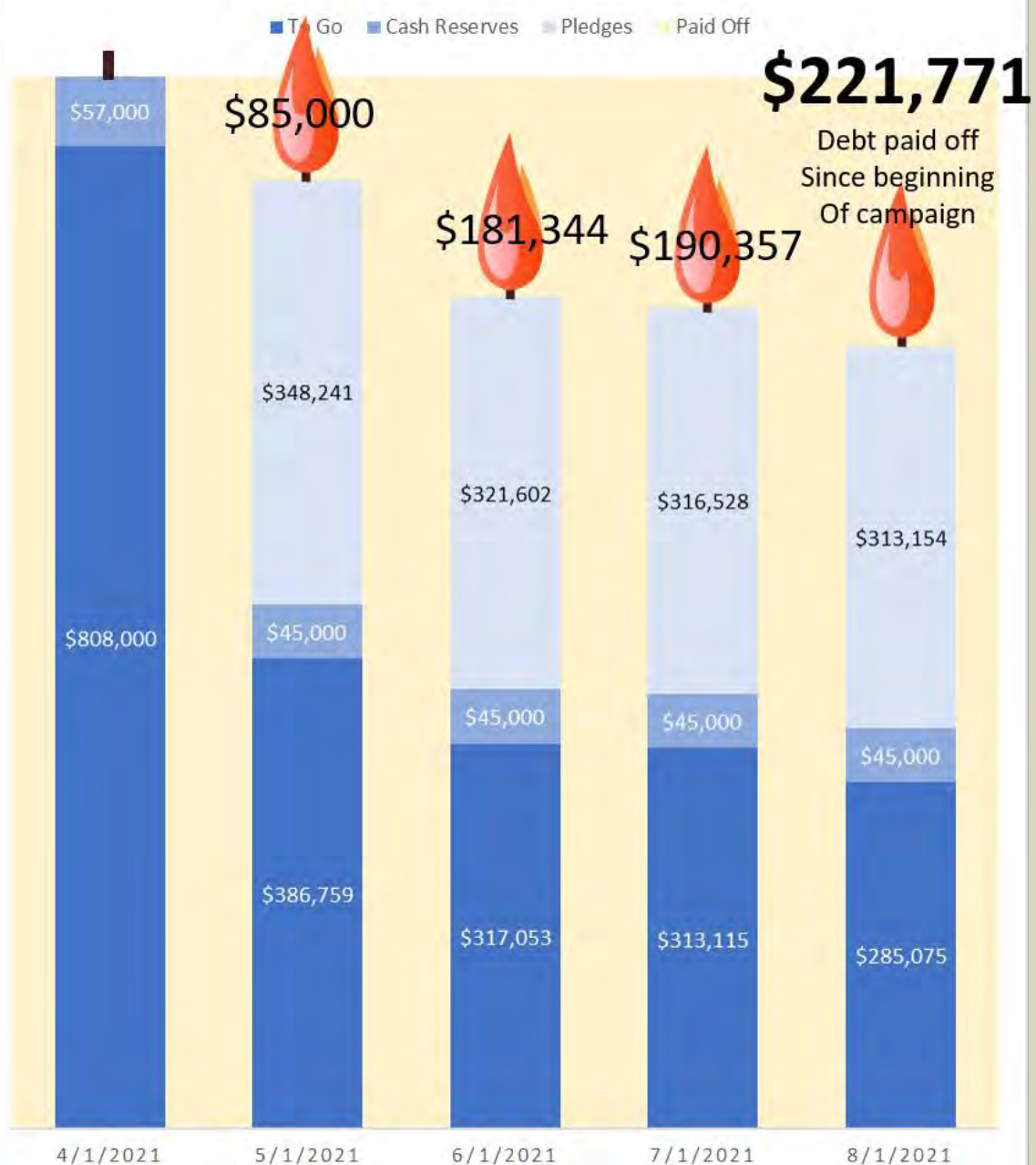
Creation Care News

Support the Yard Sale at Southport. This is one way to recycle/reuse and cut down waste. We can all find things that we haven't used in months or years and donate them to the church yard sale to help our church be able to do more ministry to the neighborhood around us. So, Pitch-in and don't just pitch-out your treasures.

God commissioned us to care for this Earth we live on. One way we can help is by recycling items that have the recycle sign stamped on the bottom of the things you buy. Look for the sign and get them to the recycle bins. The closest one to the church is the small one out by the paper collection bins and the big ones provided by the city are North of the church at Madison and Edgewood.



WHAT IF... PROGRESS CHART



IMAGINATION Station



Pizza Party!

We had a special pizza party to celebrate the children graduating from Imagination Station and beginning Kindergarten and first grade!



Preschool Begins!

Preschool begins on August 9th at Imagination Station! We still have a couple openings available and it is not too late to register! Please call the office for more information.



CHILDREN'S
Church

&

Southport United Methodist
YOUTH



On August 22, 2021 the Youth will have a "Games Day" at the Church from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be outdoor games with the possibility of water involved. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Finance

Church	Jun-21	2021 Year to Date
Income		
Offerings	\$54,688	\$323,565
Other	\$74	\$678
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$2,558	\$16,477
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,448)	(\$36,079)
Administration	(\$15,312)	(\$90,014)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$6,970)	(\$60,790)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$22,467)	(\$130,679)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,056)	(\$6,448)
Net	\$6,067	\$16,710
Imagination Station		
Income	\$28,699	\$169,015
Expense	(\$20,468)	(\$135,758)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$2,558)	(\$16,477)
Net	\$5,673	\$16,779
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$83,461	\$493,258
Total Expenses	(\$71,721)	(\$459,768)
Net	\$11,740	\$33,490



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!

Pastor Doug recently asked each of us during a Thursday night teaching service if we were a glass half empty or a glass half full kind of person. Someone pointed out that the glass is always full, its half liquid and half air. I kind of like this perspective, however, when I think about what I am, I am not any of these. I'm a "I'm thankful for what is in the glass, but want to plan for how we finish filling it" kind of person. As I look at where SUMC is financially mid-year, I certainly am very thankful for how full our cup is.

Your giving makes a difference. It means projects like replacing two outdated/malfunctioning heating & cooling systems in the west wing can be done timely and without having to worry about how full our cup is. It means we can focus on ministry rather than worrying about how we are going to fill our cup. It means we can fill the cup of others through worship, outreach, and service.

Another thing I am thankful for is the progress that is being made on the What if... Debt elimination campaign. Since this campaign began in April I have had the privilege of signing, on your behalf, four checks totaling \$207,300 that all went directly to reduce the principal of our debt. That is a lot of debt eliminated in just four months! Thank you!

Thank you for not making us have to worry about how full our cup is!

Brandon

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Duane Thompson

Connie Whisner

Jim Cooney

Sherry Davis

Karen Decatur

Joy Eder

Suzy Heilman

John Klipsch

Phil Sell

Brad Wiseman



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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.- 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.*