

# The Heart Of the Matter

## January Newsletter 2023



### RESILIENCE

Dear Friends,

I don't usually get my information or ideas from advertising in the newspaper, but I saw an ad the other day that caught my eye. It was for an organization that helps veterans, and highlighted a man who lost his eyesight due to a grenade that exploded while he was serving years ago in Viet Nam. He had to learn to see through his fingers and hands, and today he is a successful sculptor. He started with a formless lump of clay that he could not see and learned to create objects of great beauty.

I love to hear stories of resilience, of people coming back from adversity, or overcoming obstacles, or finding a new way to do something when the old way is no longer possible. Whether it is a country, a business, an organization, or an individual, we can learn a lot from others about what it means to be resilient and bounce back.

And we can learn a lot from the Bible and our faith about what it means to be resilient. The Oxford University Dictionary defines resilience as "the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties." All of us have difficulties that we encounter, but not everyone is able to withstand them or recover. However, I believe, and I think the Bible tells us, that we can develop that capacity for resilience. We each one of us can learn and train ourselves, with God's help, to be more resilient when something happens, as it surely will.

Our message series as we start the new year is all about resilience: "Being Resilient in a Changing World." This is an area that I have a deep personal interest in learning more about and sharing with others. A friend of mine from my former church who is a sports psychologist and motivational speaker, Kevin Elko, and I wrote a book together a couple of years ago on developing a healthy and positive mindset. Our current interest is in this area of resilience, building a sturdy and adaptable mindset to encounter the challenges and struggles that come our way -- like that veteran who had to develop a whole new way of seeing.

So, I hope you'll join us in worship, online or in person, as we ring in the New Year with what will hopefully be some powerful tips on being more resilient in 2023.

Grace and Hope to you,

Pastor Duane

# OPERATION *Transformation*

Thank you for donating to Operation Transformation again this year. We greatly enjoy creating your Poinsettia Pictures to Honor your loved ones. We look forward to another year of Sharing God's love by helping those in need in our community.



## *An Invite* from the Discipleship Path Coordinators!

We are inviting you to participate in the Renewed Hospitality Opportunities!

Join us at the **Next Step Table on Thursday, January 19 or Sunday, January 22** for more information OR you may contact us for more information.

Jerrie Snell: 317.869.7676 or [jerrie@sumc.org](mailto:jerrie@sumc.org)

Maggie Lucas: 317.513.5492 or [Maggie@sumc.org](mailto:Maggie@sumc.org)





# SAVE THE DATES

December 26, 27—  
CLOSED

January 2 —CLOSED

January 13—Movie  
Night

*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

## SAVE THE DATE: MOVIE NIGHT JANUARY, 13, 2023 7—9 P.M.

We Can Be Heroes (PG). Popcorn & water provided. In the worship center. Slumber party style. Bring pillows, blankets and whatever you like to be comfortable. Parents must accompany your children. We will be on the floor watching the movie on the big screen. It lasts about 1 hr 37 minutes.



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happening at SUMC!  
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Follow!



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



**CHILDREN'S**  
*Church*

Every Sunday at  
10:30 a.m.



## FOOD PANTRY INFO

Thanks to all Southport members donating to the Meijer Campaign this year. We were able to reach our goal of getting enough donations to get the full \$10,000 match from the store. This will allow the Hunger, INC pantry to purchase much needed food for the 2023 year. The Pantry has had an increase in clients due to the Holidays of both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Pantry has also been blessed to receive many Perry Township school food drive donations. God is so good at opening hearts and serving those that are hungry. **THANK YOU SO MUCH.**

The Hunger, INC pantry is located at the corner of Madison Ave. and Epler St behind Kim's Kakery. There is a drop box and secure mailbox for any donations that you would like to give to the pantry at any time you want to help. We also collect food items each month on the days that we have services and communion.

**"We come to be fed and we feed others" is our motto.**

**January dates to donate are Sunday, January 1- Monday, January 9.**

**Items needed:**    **canned baked beans**  
                         **dry beans**  
                         **small mashed potatoes packets**  
                         **oatmeal**  
                         **pop tarts**

## WOMEN'S NEWS

The Southport United Women of Faith will be starting the new year of 2023 with a pledge service on **Tuesday, January 10th. at 1 p.m. in the gathering area at church.** This is a great way to find out what the UWF group is all about.

Come join the group and enjoy the devotions, programs, fellowship, and fun.

The women participate in a great **Book Reading Program**, and wonderful **Service Opportunities** through out the entire 2023 year.

## FEED A NEED (FAN)

Feed a Need is a ministry that takes 20 minutes on one Thursday in each month. The group bags 50 meals on that day with about 7 food items to feed the homeless in the downtown area. We just acquired a driver to deliver the bags to the downtown ministry "Tear Down the Walls". ( Thanks to Phil Whisner). We set up an assembly line to fill the bags which give time to talk and laugh together as we bag. So it is fun as well as providing a service.

The next **bagging dates are January 12th and February 9th.** We meet in the Gathering Area at 1pm. You are welcome to join us and experience the fun and service time. If you are interested in being a buyer for the items placed in the bags, let the church know and you will be

# JUBILEE CHRISTMAS IS A WRAP!

"It's a wrap", a term indicating something has been successfully finished and concluded. Jubilee Christmas 2022 and all who had a hand in it know God worked through many people to serve and minister to sixteen community families so that they may have a joy-filled holiday celebration. We look forward to planning for 2023 with hopes of touching more people's lives, meeting their needs and sharing God's love.

It is our delight to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all who helped in any way, from baking cookies to buying gifts. We are especially grateful to the Jubilee Hosts who made the connections with their Jubilee family, gathered in fellowship to enjoy donuts and coffee and to wrap gifts on Jubilee Day.

It was a great day! Parents and guardians shared their appreciation, some with tears and many with a hug. Being part of all that leads up to Jubilee day, no matter how much preparation or stress, resulted in a blessing that affected each of us.

An incredible blessing is the group of ladies (and some men) who give hours and hours to provide whatever is needed or required to support the Jubilee Ministry. Their desire is to love each and every child and their family. Even when they are overtired and still find one more need to care for, their heartfelt love supplies new energy. The Jubilee Team,

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kim Distel      | Sandy Lewis     |
| Karen Kegerreis | Pam Clough      |
| Jennifer LaMar  | Bethany Brock   |
| Jerrie Snell    | Kristy Harris   |
| Sherry Davis    | Evelyn Harcourt |



We have been busy practicing songs for Christmas Eve Service,  
doing crafts, and making gingerbread men!

Imagination Station will be closed December 26  
January 2. We will Re-open Tuesday, January 3.





# Photos



The choir and All Saints Day on the bottom row.

## New Sermon Series Being Resilient in a Changing World

### *Week 1:*

December 29, 2022, January 1, 2023

"Being Resilient in a Changing World: Choose a Word"

Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

### *Week 2:*

January 5, 8

"Being Resilient in a Changing World: Clean out the Closet"

Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

### *Week 3:*

January 12, 15

"Being Resilient in a Changing World: Go Back to School"

Isaiah 40:21-31; John 1:29-42

### *Week 4:*

January 19, 22

"Being Resilient in a Changing World: Adapt"

Psalms 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-23



# Welcome

We are happy to Welcome Maggie Lucas and Jerrie Snell as our new Discipleship Path Coordinators.

Jerrie and her husband Dave have been part of our church family for about 5 years. She leads the Monday night WOMEN IN CHRIST Bible study and is a part of the What If Fundraiser Team and the Jubilee Team.

Maggie and her husband Paul have been a part of SUMC for about 15 years. They are heavily involved in the Interfaith Hospitality Network and is a Leader for KAIROS prison ministry. Maggie also serves at the Ronald McDonald House and Hunger Inc Food Pantry.

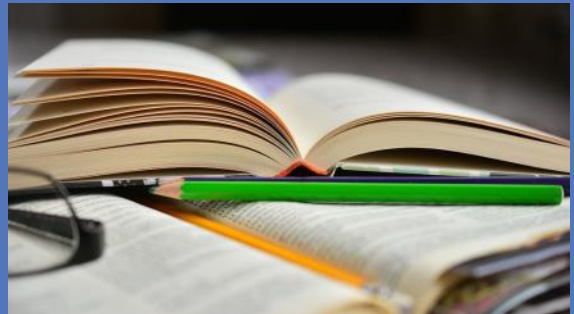
We are very happy to have them join our SUMC staff!!

## YOUTH

*Southport United Methodist*



The Youth did an amazing job with the live Nativity!



### Women In Christ Bible Study

Join us!

We are beginning back on January 2nd and will meet every Monday night at 6:45! Contact Jerrie Snell or the Church office for more information.

# Finance

First a confession. With all the commotion of this season I was not able to get the balance sheet prepared for this newsletter like you usually see in this space. I thought, I'd go ahead and write a little article though. So here it is: I really like Little Debbie Christmas tree cakes. So, I made a joke about it being a "sin" that stores run out of them every year. Within a week's time several boxes of Little Debbie Christmas tree cakes showed up in my office, in my mailbox, and in my hands.

First, let me say thank you. These seasonal treats do bring me joy and for some reason they are hard to find this year. Sometimes it's the little thing that can make a person feel loved or comforted.

Second, let me say thank you. This also seems to be very much how this group of people we call Southport United Methodist Church operates when it comes to stewardship. Regardless of if it is taking care of our facilities, providing fellowship in the form of soup for the Advent Bible study, the giving of your tithes and offerings, or helping eliminate our debt. What is needed just seems to show up. I believe that is because God is working through us. God is using your gifts, this facility, your generosity, and who knows what else to move in this world in wonderful ways. Ways that bring hope and grace. Ways that show the world Jesus. Thank you for being the church.

Brandon

Assistant Pastor

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Duane Thompson  
Karen Decatur  
Sherry Davis  
Suzy Heilman  
Pat Hulfachor  
John Klipsch  
Margaret Trammell  
Connie Whisner



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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.— 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.*