



# THE SONLIGHT

September 2023 • Volume 32 • Issue 9

*Coming Soon*

## Bridge of Hope

**Brandt Campus launches October 1**

**Dinner  
Church to  
start in  
September**



The SonLight  
Published Monthly

Sulphur Grove UMC  
7505 Taylorsville Road  
Huber Heights, OH  
45424



**Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church**

*“Growing Disciples, Living and Sharing God’s love”*



# Coffee Chat



A few weeks ago, I preached a sermon about taking risks for the Kingdom. As you may recall, it centered on the risk Peter took by getting out of the boat to go to Jesus on the water. I ask that you continue to think about that sermon and the implications it has for both us as individual Christians and as a church.

Human nature causes us to be averse to risk, and when we have taken a few risks, we build up a resistance to taking even more risks. As I mentioned in the sermon, this is a protective mechanism that God created in us for our safety. Yet building up a resistance to risk is real. So why do I mention this? Together we, as the church, have taken some significant risks in the last few years. We took the risk of participating in the Missional Church Consultation Initiative which helped us do a serious reflection and evaluation of where we were as a church, our priorities, and where we want to be as a church in the next decade or so. We took the risk of being given prescriptions (in which we had no say) to help position us for God's vision and future for us as a church. We took the risk of moving from the traditional United Methodist form of church governance to a Single Accountable Leadership Board model (which commences October 1 of this year). We took the risk of starting a dinner church which we call Body and Soul Feast. We have taken the risk of opening our own food pantry at SGUMC. We took the risk of building an outdoor play ground when we had few children. We took the risk of finishing the lower shell space for our new Youth space. On October 1<sup>st</sup> we are taking another significant risk in starting a new church called The Bridge of Hope at our Brandt campus. We took the risk of partnering with Lifewise Academy to provide Release Time Religious Education for the children of the Bethel Local School District. I'm sure I have forgotten something – but did you realize how many risks we have taken as a church for the Kingdom of God in the last few years? And look at the results! Our impact on our local community for Jesus has greatly increased. Yes, some are just beginning to bear fruit – but they are bearing fruit for the Kingdom!

Together we have taken many risks for the Kingdom of God. Let us not fall into the trap of our human nature that has the potential of causing us to become increasingly resistant to taking risks and making changes to how we do things. Bishop Schnase is correct in his assessment of the difference between growing churches and declining churches. I hope you haven't forgotten it as we recited it every Sunday for a couple of years, "Growing, thriving churches say yes to things that declining churches say no to." Another way of stating this observation is, "Growing, thriving churches are willing to take risks that declining churches are not."

May we continue to take the risk of following where Jesus leads us.

Blessings & Peace,



---

## WATCH OR LISTEN LIVE!



Traveling this fall? Visiting family? You can still worship with your friends and neighbors at Sulphur Grove! We broadcast the 10:45am service live online every week. Simply go to [www.sulphurgrove.org/online](http://www.sulphurgrove.org/online) to watch, or if you have a slower internet connection, you can listen to our audio-only broadcast.



---

## FROM THE TRUSTEES ...

---

Fellow Grovers,

I was asked to write an explanation on the sewage problem Sulphur Grove recently experienced. There are two theories at play on what caused the blockage. One is simply vandalism. The other, a clog somewhere in the underground pipe that built up due to sticks, rocks, and Styrofoam cups. Two clean out covers were missing, one in front of the playground, and the other behind the playground. The third cap was down the hill towards Walmart, it was on but easily removed if someone had a screwdriver, etc. It was intact but when the cap was removed, someone had dumped big rocks, sticks, and 2 large Styrofoam cups into the 10 foot deep clean out pipe, which called for major equipment to be brought in and dig it up. Due to this, our sewage system backed up in the church as well as coming up out of the ground on the missing clean out cap behind the playground.

Korrek Plumbing was called for emergency services and they were at Sulphur Grove from 11-5:30pm with a hydro jet power clean out apparatus. In talking with them they recommended possibly closing the church.

The Trustees got 3 quotes (as is required for larger repair or replacements) from different plumbing companies. We didn't choose the highest nor the lowest. We chose Korrek Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. Sulphur Grove has a bi-annual property maintenance inspection with them, and they have saved the church money on furnace and AC repairs by catching problems early.

Pastor Bonnie called the new Leadership Board together to discuss closing the church, and all of us decided it was in the very best interest for the church, members, and those who worship with us to close.

Unfortunately, it was the weekend before the 4th of July and Korrek was booked until July 10th. Trustees were told it would be a possible 2-5 day job, depending on if they discovered other problems during the repair process. OUPS (Ohio Utilities Protection Service ~ state required ground inspection for water, electric, phone, and gas lines near the vicinity of the repair) was called to locate any possible underground wires. OUPS was backed up due to the 4th also. They could not come until Wednesday, July 12th. Fortunately, there were no surprises, and the job could be finished in one very long day.

What I want you to realize and remember the most, is how God took care of Sulphur Grove. One of our members who hasn't returned to church because of COVID brought all of her tithe money to church the Monday of our problem (2 years worth). It was more than enough to cover our cost of the project. If that isn't God's gift, I don't know what is.

God has shown he sees every bump in the road that Sulphur Grove experiences. He has been on duty watching over Sulphur Grove for 152 years with only a few incidents. With prayer, loyalty, grateful, and generous giving from us, we will continue to reach out and make disciples for Jesus.

God's blessings,  
Amy (Brooks)

---

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

*"We are a 'mission church.'*

*We believe in reaching out to those in need locally, nationally, and globally."*

---

### BODY & SOUL FEAST

Have you ever wondered what happens at Body and Soul Feast? When we got together after three weeks of having the building closed for repair, numerous volunteers and regular guests had the same comment: "It's like family getting back together again." We asked each other about the concerns we had mentioned during prayer times around the table and happily ate, sang, and listened to a Biblical message together. We have been averaging 20-30 people, including several who do not feel comfortable in regular worship services. The love of the Holy Spirit is there, without a doubt. We still miss our guests who have gone on to Heaven.

---

### ST. PAUL'S HOMEFULL LUNCH

On August 1<sup>st</sup> our mission group served 168 meals at St Paul's United Methodist Church. Thanks to Joyce Pahren, Shari Coover, Jim and Rita Carman, and Dave for helping to set up everything in the kitchen. We served chicken and noodles, green beans, French bread, homemade cupcakes, water, and fruit drinks. Many thanks to Sharon Pack, Darlene Rabe, Sandy Ploutz, Joyce Pahren, Rita Carman, and myself (Clela Farlee) for baking all the cupcakes. They truly look forward to a home cooked meal with all the trimmings. We also handed out Daily Bread devotionals and Bibles along with packs of gum with every meal bag. Another successful day of helping in any way we can.

---

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

*"We are a 'mission church.'*

*We believe in reaching out to those in need locally, nationally, and globally."*

### McCURDY MISSION TEAM AGAPE NOTES

On Saturday, September 16th, three members of your church family will be traveling to Espanola, New Mexico where they will do a variety of tasks to support the McCurdy Ministries Community Center. You are invited to write notes of support and encouragement to each team member. The members of the team are: Kathleen Roberts, Terry Wilson, and Carla Oatman. Please place your notes in the small mail tote marked 'McCurdy Mission Agape Notes' in the mailroom by Sunday, September 10th. Thank you for sharing your love and support.

### SULPHUR GROVE STEWARDSHIP

The overall theme for Sulphur Grove's Stewardship efforts this fall will be ... "What Is Your Legacy?" And from my career in fund development and from our church's perspective, that means TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE. I'm thinking where and how can I serve Him and reach out to others for Him...and how can I provide for all the facets and programs of His Kingdom for others. What about your Time, Talents, and Treasures?

On Sunday, Oct. 15, Pastor Barry's sermon title will be: **What Really Matters in Life?** The Scripture is Philippians 1: 3-11.

The following Sunday, Oct. 22, he will explore **Your Temporal Legacy**. The Scripture for that day will be James 2: 14-17.

The final sermon focusing on our Stewardship will be on Sunday, Oct. 29, with his focusing on Matthew 25: 14-30. The sermon title will be **Your Eternal Legacy**.

This will be the Sunday when the 2024 pledge and "where can I serve Him" survey forms will be available. They will also be made available on our website: [www.sulphurgrove.org](http://www.sulphurgrove.org).

Kate Roberts

### MEN OF ACTION "MEN IN THE PARK" EVENT

The 5th annual Men of Action, "Men In The Park" fellowship event will be on Sunday, September 17th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The event will be at Carriage Hill Metropark at the Cedar Lake shelter house, 7891 Shull Rd, Huber Heights. The grills will be hot by 1:00pm; all you have to do is bring your

own food to grill and you are welcome to share with the group. We will eat, have fun, and plan to host a small cornhole tournament. You can also fish at the Carriage Hill Farms pond, and you do not need a fishing license. If you have questions about the event, please contact Ryan Gibson at 937-266-7977 or [rgibson6109@gmail.com](mailto:rgibson6109@gmail.com).

### GRIEF SHARE ... coming soon

This morning a woman came over to me, touched my arm, and ask if I was going to offer Grief Share again. I told her a resounding YES! She burst into tears and told me she was so glad because she really needs support. So here are the details.

**GRIEF SHARE** is a thirteen-week support group for those of you who have someone you love who has died. I have several people who are trained to help with our group. The curriculum is updated and brand new this year.

- **Sunday, September 10th** is our first class.
- We meet Sunday afternoons, **3:00pm - 5:00pm in Room 304**,
- When you arrive at the church enter **Door 2** (Greeters will meet you there!)
- Come a little early on September 10th to fill out paperwork and we can start class on time.
- There is no cost. You will receive a workbook with daily devotions based on the class you have just completed.
- Encourage other family members to come with you. Please invite friends or neighbors who have also lost a loved one to death!
- If you have any questions, please call **Pastor Bonnie at 937-371-6966**.
- Do not hesitate coming ~ take a **RISK** to meet new people and come to terms with your grieving!





## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

*"We are a 'mission church.'*

*We believe in reaching out to those in need locally, nationally, and globally."*

### BEGINNING ANEW

For many households late August and early September is a time that the household calendar begins anew. For some it is the time of new school schedules with new start and finish times, new activity schedules whether it be sport schedules or caregiver schedules driven by children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, driving schedules driven by Grandparent "Uber", or meeting schedules driven by the start-up of organizations awakening from their summer hiatus, or your whole life driven by The Ohio State University football "at home" and "away" schedule.

Fall is also the time to begin anew with Grub-on-the-Run, a new time to volunteer as a servant working in support of Grub-on-the-Run, a new time to become one of the wheels for Grub-on-the-Go delivering meals to a shut-in who is having health issues or to a neighbor who is lonely, or a new time to be a guest of Grub-on-the-Run driving through the Sulphur Grove parking lot on the fourth Tuesday of the month between 5:00pm and 6:00pm to pick up meals for yourself, your family, and for that lonely or shut-in neighbor. It is also time for your Grub Leadership Team to plan new menus, to plan new dates for Grub, and to consider ways we can serve more and more hungry people in Huber Heights.

In September your Grub servants have planned to serve a warm, nourishing, to-go dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce, undressed salad, fruit, French bread, and dessert. So as you plan your new schedule for September and on into the Fall, mark your calendar to drive through Grub on **September 26** to pick up your meals.

Also, stay tuned in future articles in the Sulphur Grove media postings, the Tuesday email messages, the Sunday announcements, and editions of the SonLight, for the future plans for the Fall and on into the new year. Remember, as you learn new information from the Sulphur Grove communications, share that information with others; so, we can reach more and more hungry people in Huber Heights.

### MY VERY OWN BLANKET

**Dedicated to comforting children in foster care!**

**Sunday, October 8 at 12pm**

**Everyone (men, women, youth) is invited to attend!**

Join Sulphur Grove Women in Faith as we help My Very Own Blanket make individual blankets for children in need. Can you cut? Can you knot? Can you work as a team? Then you can share God's love by making a blanket for a child!!!! It's fun and it's easy. This blanket may be one of the few things a child has that is their very own. The result of your efforts will create warmth, comfort, security and most of all a SMILE to a child. We will start with a light lunch at 12pm and begin creating blankets at 1pm. There are no fees but a donation will be gladly accepted to help cover the cost of lunch and materials.

Registration will be held in the Gathering Area Sundays during September. You may also register online on the Sulphur Grove website: Scroll down to events and click on My Very Own Blanket for the registration form.

Questions: Contact Jacqueline Bunke, (937) 760-7652, [jacquelinegae@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinegae@gmail.com) or Sheri Coover, (937) 219-3312, [Skcoover@gmail.com](mailto:Skcoover@gmail.com).



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

*"We are a 'mission church.'*

*We believe in reaching out to those in need locally, nationally, and globally."*

### HELPING HANDS

It's more than a meal, it's a tangible way to share God's love

On **Saturday, October 16 at 9am**, Sulphur Grove will host a meal packing event. We will pack 10,000 meals for those affected in Turkey and Syria where February 2023 earthquakes have left approximately 1.5 million people homeless. The rice-based meals are a shelf-stable, specially formulated combination of vitamins, plant-based proteins, dehydrated vegetables and nutrients that provide in one serving about 75% of a child's daily requirement for a healthy diet. This is an event where families and groups can work together and have fun serving God regardless of their age or ability.

We are inviting the community as well as other churches and businesses to join us in this ministry, so spread the word and invite your extended family, friends, and neighbors! A similar event was held several years ago and enjoyed by all. Please register to attend so we know how many to expect. We are also asking each volunteer to donate \$15 toward the cost of the meals we will be packing. If you cannot financially help, we understand. If you can give more, we would greatly appreciate it!

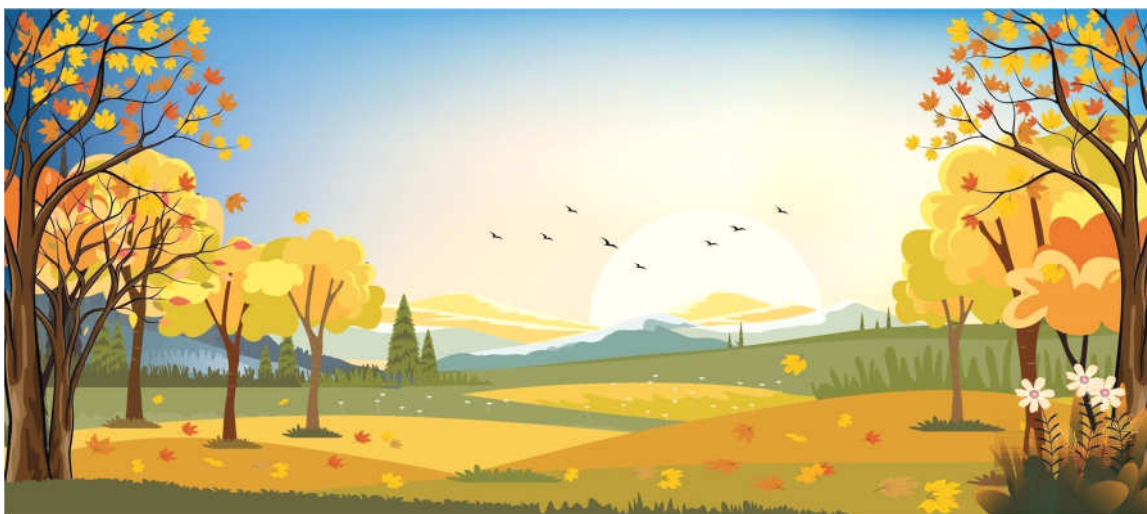
Register online on the Sulphur Grove website: Scroll down to events and click on Helping Hands for the registration form. Payments can also be made on this site or can be put in the offering plate and reference "Helping Hands" or given to Dave Hunt. Additional registration forms will be available in the Gathering Area on the Information desk. For questions, contact Dave Hunt at [habibihunt69@gmail.com](mailto:habibihunt69@gmail.com).



## ~~ UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS ~~

All ladies are invited to attend all meetings and events

- ♦ **CARITAS** will meet **Wednesday, September 6 at 9:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. The Fish item is toilet paper. For more information, contact Brenda Stevenson at (937) 506-8959 or by email at [brenda.stevenson@ameritech.net](mailto:brenda.stevenson@ameritech.net).
- ♦ **NEW DIMENSIONS** will meet **Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm** at the home of Bonnie Loudner, 6417 Alter Rd. They will continue discussing the book, [Aging Faithfully](#). The Fish item is toilet paper. For more information, contact Darlene Rabe (937) 307-5489 or [rabedc@aol.com](mailto:rabedc@aol.com).



---

## IN OTHER NEWS ...

---

### PHOTO NOTE CARD SALE

Photo note cards will again be for sale before, between, and after the September 3rd church services. These photos have all been taken by Leonard and Rachel Werst. There is a wide variety of subjects.

All proceeds are donated to missions of the church. We thank you for your support of this project.

### OUR 25th YEAR!

This September 2023, the Huber Heights English Language Program will celebrate the beginning of its 25<sup>th</sup> year at Sulphur Grove. Last year we were able to serve those fleeing from war as the Ukrainian students joined our classes to learn English so that they can survive in the US at least until they are able to return to their home country. Our year started with a large influx of students including Ahiska Turk Russians and Ukrainians as well as students from all the corners of the world – e.g. Chad, Colombia, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan. During 2022-23, we had students from 33 different countries. By the end of the year, we had 200+ immigrant students registered. SG has once again been a host and blessing to the world!

### JOIN OUR TEAM!



Our childcare team celebrating another successful year of bringing joy to the children and enabling their parents to learn English!

With new and returning students, we continue to be blessed by our childcare volunteers. Some of our students come from other parts of Montgomery County to take their English classes at Sulphur Grove. That is because we are the only location which offers childcare. Will you join our team one morning a week (M or F, 8:45am – 12:15pm) to help immigrants to become contributing members of the US society as they learn English? Do you want to help? Do you love children?

For more info, contact Jacqueline Bunke at 937-760-7652 or at [jacquelinegae@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinegae@gmail.com) or any one of our current volunteers including Jean Mahan, (937-838-6440, [jamdayton@zoomtown.com](mailto:jamdayton@zoomtown.com)).

We continue to have volunteer and staff teachers at the Huber Heights English Language Program. New volunteer teachers get training to help them learn how to teach combined with opportunities to sit in on classes so that they can see what it is like to teach English. Have you ever wondered whether this is the opportunity for you to give back? Contact Jacqueline Bunke, 937-760-7652/[jacquelinegae@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinegae@gmail.com) and find out about it.

Praise God for all the prayers and support that Sulphur Grove continues to give to the Huber Heights English Language Program.

---

---

## IN OTHER NEWS ...

---

### NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS TO BEGIN

September 24, 2023

Our new adult class will meet in the upper level 302/303 classroom on Sunday, September 24, to begin our new 10-week study of "The Book of Joy, Lasting Happiness in a Changing World" by Douglas Abrams. The book gathers together the thoughts and conversations of His Holiness, The Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso and the Archbishop Emeritus of South Africa, Desmond Tutu regarding joy and happiness during a week-long visit in celebration of The Dalai Lama's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2015.

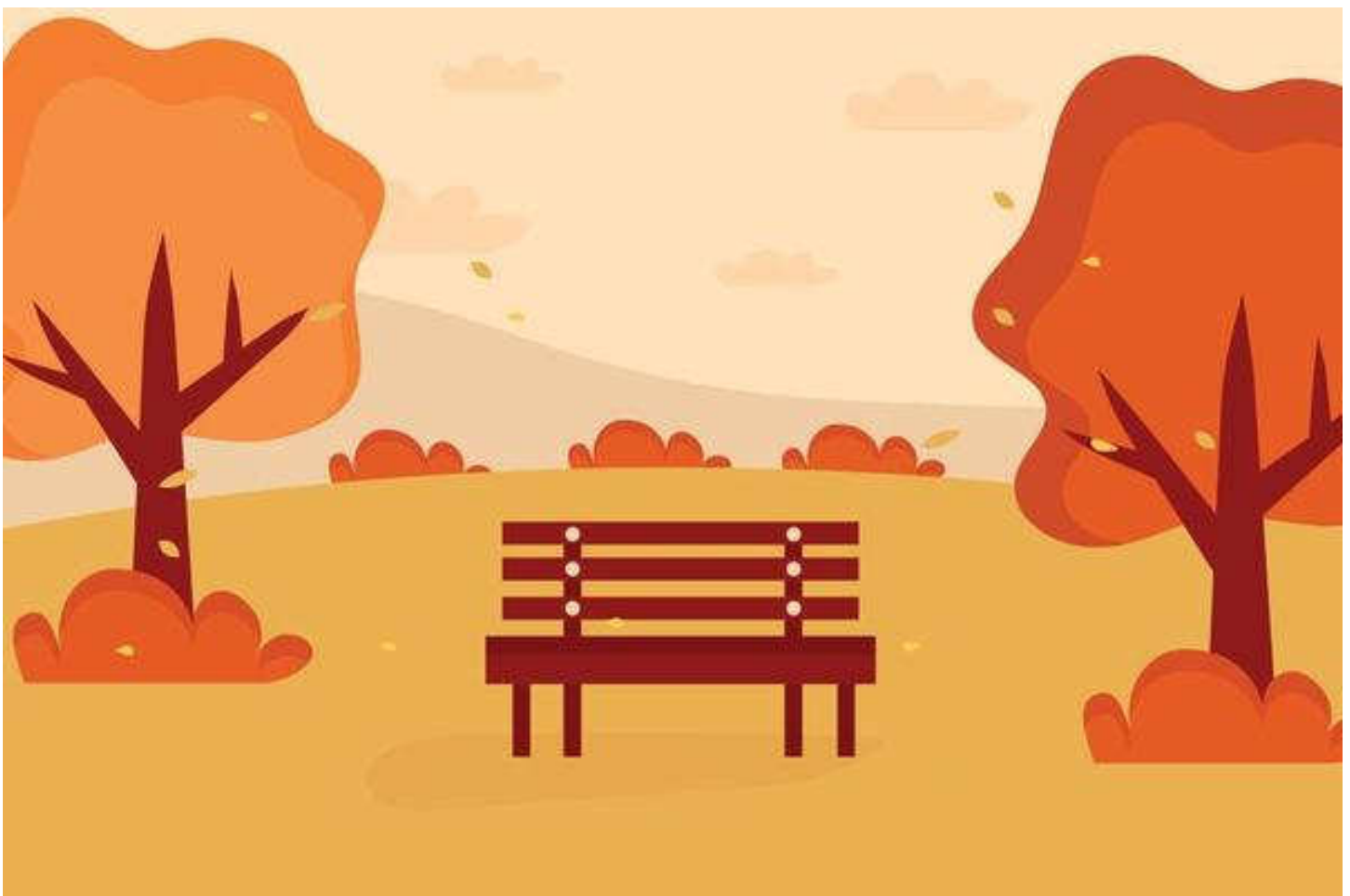
"To celebrate one of our special birthdays, we met for a week in Dharamsala to enjoy our friendship and to create something that we hope will be a birthday gift for others. There is perhaps nothing more joyous than birth, and yet so much of life is spent in sadness, stress, and suffering. We hope this small book will be an invitation to more joy and more happiness."

The book is available through Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, or Amazon.com in hardback, paperback, digital (either iPad or Kindle) and Audio. We will also be using the Joy Practices starting at page 309 of the hardcopy. This study is 10 weeks long that will end on the last Sunday in November.

The Pastors will be leading the church in a different study during Advent to Prepare for Christmas which will immediately follow our 10-week study.

Please join us.

---





# September

## Worship SCHEDULE

TAYLORSVILLE

Worship 8:30am & 10:45am

<p>September 3 COMMUNION <i>"The Journey Begins: Who Am I?"</i> Matthew 16: 21-28</p>
<p>September 10 Grandparent's Day <i>"The Journey Begins: What is the Sign?"</i> Matthew 18: 15-20</p>
<p>September 17 <i>"The Journey Begins: How Many Times?"</i> Matthew 18: 21-35</p>
<p>September 24 <i>"For the Long Haul: The Burden of the Day"</i> Matthew 20: 1-16</p>

Please keep in mind, if you do not feel comfortable returning to church just yet, online streaming is available.

## SULPHUR GROVE GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS—YEAR TO DATE AS OF JULY 31, 2023

Total General Fund Giving	\$322,877.92
Transfers to Budget	-\$2,450.00

Total General Fund Income	\$320,427.92
Total General Fund Expenses	\$370,703.77

Loan Balance	\$471,266.66
Payment to Loan Principal	\$1,192,331.41

**On-line giving available on our website at [www.sulphurgrove.org](http://www.sulphurgrove.org).**

Monthly detailed finance reports are available through the church office. Please contact Ray Fosnot at [treasurer@sulphurgrove.org](mailto:treasurer@sulphurgrove.org) or 236-5970 if you would like to receive a report or have questions.

October 2023

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
Friday, September 8, 2023

Please submit articles to Traci at [traci@sulphurgrove.org](mailto:traci@sulphurgrove.org) or drop off at the church office.

Articles may be subject to editing.

Questions? Please call the church office at 236-5970.

## Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church Ministers

The People of Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church including:

Barry Baughman ..... Lead Pastor  
Bonnie Loudner ..... Congregational Care Pastor  
Jerrie Bell-Brion ..... Interim Pastor, Bridge of Hope

Eric Munson..... Director of Youth Ministries  
Candy Buffenbarger.. Director of Children's Ministries  
Samantha Seeberg..... Choir Director  
James Edwards-Kenion... Handbell Choir Director

Ray Fosnot..... Treasurer  
Dave Hunt ..... Financial Secretary  
Nikki Smith ..... Administrative Assistant  
Traci Schaaf ..... Administrative Assistant

SULPHUR GROVE CHURCH  
7505 Taylorsville Road  
Huber Heights OH 45424  
(937) 236-5970  
Worship ~ 8:30am & 10:45am  
Contemporary Service ~ 10:45am in Holden Chapel  
Kiawanda Language Worship  
4:00pm-6:00pm in Holden Chapel

Office Hours:  
Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 1:30pm  
[www.sulphurgrove.org](http://www.sulphurgrove.org) [office@sulphurgrove.org](mailto:office@sulphurgrove.org)



Check out our Info Hub for quick and easy access to our Digital Bulletin, Announcements & Events, Digital Connect Card, Online Giving, or submit Prayer Requests. Go to [www.sulphurgrove.org/info](http://www.sulphurgrove.org/info) or scan the code with your phone's camera!