



THE SONLIGHT

November 2023 • Volume 32 • Issue 11

Thanksgiving Prayer

*Our Heavenly Father,
We are thankful for all Your blessings,
goodness, and mercy on us.*

*We are thankful for all the people in our
lives who make our life meaningful and
beautiful. Thank You for watching over us
and getting us all here safely.*

*Let Your blessings be upon everyone here
today.*

*May we be protected and all our prayers be
answered.*

In Jesus mighty name.

Amen

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



I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave selflessly to the recent campaign to raise the funds necessary to replace a large section of the church roof. I am pleased to report to you the roof has been replaced and we received the funds necessary to pay the contractor. I understand the financial stress virtually all of us are experiencing at this time. That is why I am especially grateful for your faithful giving to replace the roof. Thank you again for your faithfulness in meeting this need.

I also want to take this opportunity to address a concern expressed by several people to me concerning the roof replacement. The concern is that, and I quote, "We should have a fund for things like this." Believe me, I would love to have enough money available for a "rainy day" fund that could be used for things like an unexpected roof replacement. However, the reality is our giving over my tenure at Sulphur Grove has never permitted the establishment of such a "rainy day" fund. Please understand, this is NOT a criticism. It's just the reality of our church finances. It is my experience that a majority of churches do not have the luxury of having such a fund. Thus, when a large amount of capital is needed for something like a roof replacement, the church leadership must go to the congregation to raise the funds.

I am also pleased to report that the Bridge of Hope successfully opened on October 1st with 50 people in attendance at our Brandt campus. The following week Dinner at the Bridge (dinner church) also opened with 25 in attendance. I am very pleased with the attendance at both and pray the church will continue to grow as we reach out to people in Brandt and the surrounding community. I am also pleased to let you know that Lifewise Academy began on October 23rd. There were enough children registered to do K - 4th grade and Lifewise Academy will use the Bridge Monday through Friday from about 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.! What a wonderful opportunity for Sulphur Grove to be a part of this outreach to the children of the Bethel School District. I ask that you pray daily for the success of our outreach ministries to the Brandt community.

I will soon be making the books for our Advent study available. The Leadership Board and I ask that if you take a book that you would consider paying for the cost of the book. If you cannot pay the full price of the book, we ask that you consider a donation to help defray the cost of the book. Please understand that I/we want everyone to participate in the study. If you cannot purchase the book or make a donation toward the cost of the book please take one anyway. I/we want you to be a part of this churchwide study.

I want to address comments and questions about our new food pantry. Some are questioning why we need another food pantry in Huber Heights and why we do not just support the food pantries we have always partnered with. I say again, we started a food pantry at Sulphur Grove because we are using a different model to operate our food pantry. Most food pantries do not have the time to get to know people, talk with them, or pray with them. The difference between SG's food pantry and the others in our area is this: When a person comes to our food pantry one of our servants is with them the entire time they are with us. A person greets them in the Gathering Area and takes them to the pantry. That same person walks with them as they select their food items. That same person then helps carry their food out to their cars. All this time they are talking with the person - and yes - even sometimes praying with them.

The goal of this model is to get to know the people on a personal basis and develop a relationship with them so we, when the time is right, can share the Gospel of Jesus with them. Most food pantries do not operate this way. Some, for example, have people pull up in their cars and open the trunk or hatch. A volunteer puts the food in the trunk, closes it, and the person drives off. Do you see the difference between the two models? We choose to operate our food pantry in such a way that we make time for our servants to visit with the people who come to SG's food pantry. You cannot do what we are doing by just putting food in the trunk of a car and sending them on their way. Both kinds of food pantries are needed and essential. We have chosen to meet more than just the physical need for food. In operating our food pantry by this model we hope to meet both the physical and the spiritual needs of people.

If you have questions or concerns about anything, please ask me about it.

Blessings and Peace in Christ Jesus,



WATCH OR LISTEN LIVE!



Traveling this winter? 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 to watch, or if you have a slower internet connection, you can listen to our audio-only broadcast.



Meditation from my heart...



"It is Tuesday and Noah has a Cross Country meet this afternoon. I've already had two text messages from Terese asking when I will arrive. Because of my fall in September, I have not attended even one meet this season. I know I need to go, I just dread the drive. I have not been on the freeway for a while, and I am somewhat dizzy today ... I probably should not even be driving. How will Noah feel if I do not show up? How will I persecute myself if I don't go?"

Well, I did drive to Columbus to watch Noah run and I am so glad I did! Just seeing his smile made it worth the stress I had been fighting to get there. I know God was with me on this trip because there were no traffic jams driving into Columbus ... not even one construction site on I-70 East! After the CC meet, Terese left to take her dad home up in Amish country. I stuck around for a while and even enjoyed some dinner with Noah and Jason. I waited just late enough to head home to avoid the direct sunshine in my eyes driving west and made it home before dark! And I feel so good that I overcame my fears and even had some special time alone with Noah after the meet.

As I was driving down Rt 315 and moving up onto I- 670 west, I noticed a new high rise building on my left that I had not seen in the past. It was wrapped in words on the two sides I could view. The words that really caught my eyes said, ***"One second ... can be life shattering."*** How profound! This phrase followed me all the way home and into my prayers before turning out my light for the night.

My most recent ***"One Second"*** happened on a day in September as I was trying explaining to painters, they had missed a spot that should be painted beige around the garage windows. They just couldn't seem to understand what I was talking about so I stepped up into my flower garden to show them ... the next second I was crashing to the ground. One second I was perfectly healthy (well mostly) ... the next I was afraid I had broken my hip and ... oh my goodness, "I have a huge cut on my right shin." Well, you know the rest. I had twelve stitches in my leg, many x-rays proving that nothing was broken, but it has been a slow healing process, accompanied by vertigo, a concussion, and many sore muscle groups to still contend with even as I write this message. But I thank God every day that I did not break a hip or a shoulder or experience a brain bleed.

I learned so much about myself following this fall ... some good things to consider and some things I need to work on. I thank God every day for those of you who brought food to our home. I thank God for those of you who drove me to doctor appointments and even brought me to the office for staff meetings and Worship on Sunday mornings. It was a humbling experience for me to have to depend on others to help me.

I pray after you read this meditation, you will take some time to recall a ***"Second"*** that shattered your life. Think about those who were there with you all the seconds, minutes, hours, and days it took for you to find your peace or experience healing. Maybe you are still dealing with the repercussions of your unplanned, unwelcome ***"Second."*** What do you need to help you move through your difficult time?

I have heard many of your stories, and many have ended well. I am also aware that many of you are still waiting for healing or peace of mind. I know some of your personal stories are not turning out the way you ever expected, and turmoil and uncertainty continues to swirl around you. I hope you know you are in my prayers and the prayers of your friends and family at Sulphur Grove and Bridge of Hope who genuinely care about you.

Thanksgiving Day looms before us this month. My prayer for all of us is that we find many joys in our lives for which we can genuinely say, ***"Thank you God for these blessings in my life!"*** But when you find yourself struggling with that ***"Second"*** that changed your life forever... my prayer is that you can still give thanks to God for walking with you through that turmoil. May you feel God's presence and know God's love each day of your journey.

Let me close with this...I asked you a question just above. ***What do you need to help you move through your difficult time?*** I was speaking to you! How can I support you? Remember I am just a phone call away 24/7. If you just need to talk, I am here for you ... give me a call and we can coordinate our calendars to get together. If there are specific needs you have that I can find others to help with, just give me a call. Do you need meals? Do you need a ride to a doctor's appointment ... call, please! We are all here for you, but we need YOU to reach out before WE can reach back. This is my # 937-371-6966 ... I am waiting!

I wish you many BLESSINGS, abundant HOPE, and profound PEACE.

Pastor Connie

A NEW WAY OF COMMUNICATING

Beginning January 2024, Sulphur Grove is going to send communications to you a little differently than in the past.

The monthly newsletter will be sent via email to everyone who would usually get it through the postal mail. This means that if you get the newsletter mailed to you, you will now need to check your email rather than the mailbox. If you already receive the newsletter electronically, there is nothing you need to do.

If we do not have your email on file, it will be crucial that you provide it, otherwise you will miss out on all that is happening within the church. It will also be important to keep us up to date if your email changes.

The same will go for the yearly Easter and Christmas time letters, and any special letter that may have to go out during the year. These will also be emailed out to everyone. Those letters with special offering envelopes included, the envelopes will be made available in the church or offerings can be made online. Stay tuned for further information regarding how to give online.

One of the main reasons for doing this is to keep costs down. With everything becoming more expensive, it is important to be mindful of our spending, including the cost of paper, envelopes, ink for the printers, and wear and tear on the machines.

Again, it will be vital for you to make sure that we have your email address on file.

If you get the newsletter mailed to you, but we have your email address on file, you will be switched over to receive it electronically, beginning with the January 2024 newsletter. Anyone in the household with an email address that would like to receive the newsletter and other forms of communication, will need to provide their email address. Couples sharing an email address will, of course, only get one copy.

For those that prefer a hard copy, you can always print a copy from your computer, phone, or tablet. You can also always pick one up on Sundays when you come in for Sunday Service. We will have them available in the Gathering Area on the curved counter and on the Information Table in the Narthex.

If you would no longer like to receive the newsletter at all, please let us know and we'll take care of the rest.

This will not affect the weekly bulletins, announcements, and prayer and flower lists. This will only affect pieces that are mailed directly to your homes. This also will not affect the yearly directory.

Thank you for your understanding while we move forward into new ways to communicate with everyone as well as being good stewards and being mindful of rising costs.

DON'T FORGET:

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5th at 2am. Don't forget to set your clocks **BACK** an hour before going to sleep on Saturday, November 4th.

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday. The office will reopen on Monday, November 27th at 9am.

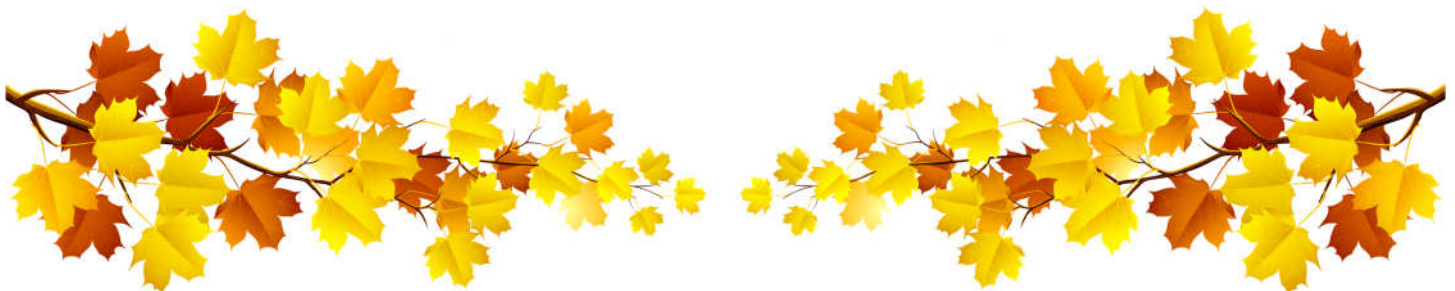
**~~ UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS ~~**

All ladies are invited to attend all meetings and events

- **CARITAS** will meet Wednesday, November at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Fish item is a bar of soap. For more information contact Brenda Stevenson (937) 506-8959 or brenda.stevenson@ameritech.net.
- **NEW DIMENSIONS** will meet Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Area. The program will be The Thank Offering. The Fish item is a bar of soap. For more information contact Darlene Rabe (937) 307-5489 or rabedc@aol.com.



The United Women in Faith talented bakers are having a Thanksgiving Bake Sale on **Sunday, November 19** in the Gathering Area. There will be cupcakes, cookies, pies and, many more delicious homemade goodies for you and your family to enjoy during the holiday. All proceeds from the bake sale will be given to support the many missions and ministries of United Women in Faith.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

"We are a 'mission church.'"

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

ST. PAUL'S LUNCHEON

On October 3rd, 2023, we served 144 people lunch at St Paul's United Methodist Church on Huffman. We served Johnny Marzetti, green beans, French bread, and homemade cupcakes. We also brought water, Gatorade, gum, and fruit drinks. We distributed devotionals and Bibles to everyone that we could. I want to thank Joyce Pahren, Rita Carmen, Sandy Voight, and Dave Farlee for helping to serve and clean up. Also, I want to thank the ladies who helped me fix all the cupcakes - Rachel Werst, Sharon Hill, Ann Rudnicki, Sue Wilson, Sandy Ploutz, and myself. We could never accomplish this mission without all the help from our two circles.

Clela Farlee

MCCURDY UPDATE

Thank you all for your support of the McCurdy mission team through your donations, prayers, and agape notes. This year's trip went very well. We traveled to beautiful northern New Mexico to help McCurdy Ministries Community Center with their mission to create hope and empower the lives of children, youth, adults, and families in the Espanola Valley, which is a low-income community where 1 in 5 people are the victim of a crime and the majority of children are raised by their grandparents. While we are there, we typically help the maintenance or office staff with whatever they need. This year we worked with the maintenance department pulling weeds around the administration buildings and under and around the bleachers by the baseball field. We also scraped the old paint off those bleachers and repainted most of them. Unfortunately, we weren't able to finish painting all the bleachers because of the weather and their size. We also cleaned cobwebs and dirt from around the north entrance of the dorm, counted ceiling tiles and outlet covers that need to be replaced in the old high school building - which will become the new administration building, cleared the backyard and shed of one of the rental properties on campus, cleaned the bleachers in the gym to prepare for an upcoming play, and sanded wooden crosses made by Manuel, the head of maintenance, for the after school care kids to paint and decorate. We also got to have some fun while we were out there. On our day off, we went to Pecos National Historical Park which was fascinating and beautiful. Please keep in mind, we were able to do all of this with just three people. Imagine what we could have done with one more person, or two. Imagine what we could have gotten done with you on the team. Next year will be the

20th year Sulphur Grove has sent teams to McCurdy, maybe it's time for you to come and see it for yourself. Hope to see you next year!

Your McCurdy Mission Team

THANKSGIVING FOOD COLLECTION

As we begin November, many of us are preparing to get together with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving with a feast. Out of this abundance, let us expand our regular sharing so the many in our community who lack enough to eat might benefit. *Consider expressing your gratitude to God by bringing grocery bags filled with basic food items. Donations will be accepted on three Sundays this month -- November 5, 12, and 19.* The Mission Committee will deliver Taylorsville donations to food pantries at St. Peter Church, Huber Heights FISH, and Wesley Dayton. All Bridge of Hope donations will go to the Bethel Hope food pantry. For further information contact Don Hayashi at (937) 890-2729 or hayashidon@gmail.com. Please consider filling a grocery bag with the items listed here, but be assured all non-perishable foods are appreciated. Thank you!

2 cans of meat
2 cans of vegetables
2 cans of fruit
6 cans of soup
2 cans of pork and beans
1 box of cold cereal
1 jar of jelly
1 jar of peanut butter
1 jar of spaghetti sauce
1 box of spaghetti
1 box of crackers
1 bag of noodles

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us. 2 Corinthians 9:11



November

Worship SCHEDULE

TAYLORSVILLE

Worship 8:30am & 10:45am

<p>November 5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY COMMUNION <i>"From Every Tribe and Nation"</i> Revelation 7: 9-17</p>
<p>November 12 <i>"It's Not What Goes In, But What Comes Out"</i> Matthew 25: 1-13</p>
<p>November 19 <i>"Do Not Forget the Lord Your God"</i> Deuteronomy 8: 7-18</p>
<p>November 26 <i>"What Does It Mean to Say, "Jesus Is Lord?""</i> Romans 10: 1-13</p>

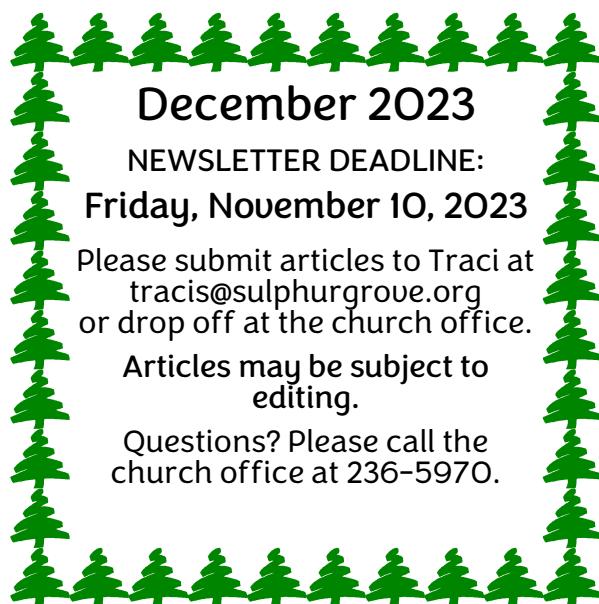
Please keep in mind, if you do not feel comfortable returning to church just yet, online streaming is available.

SULPHUR GROVE GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS—YEAR TO DATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Total General Fund Giving	\$418,119.74
Transfers to Budget	-\$2,450.00
Total General Fund Income	\$415,669.74
Total General Fund Expenses	\$487,860.85
Loan Balance	\$468,381.33
Payment to Loan Principal	\$1,195,216.74

On-line giving available on our website at www.sulphurgrove.org.

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



December 2023

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Friday, November 10, 2023

Please submit articles to Traci at tracis@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 HuntFinancial 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 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 or scan the code with your phone's camera!