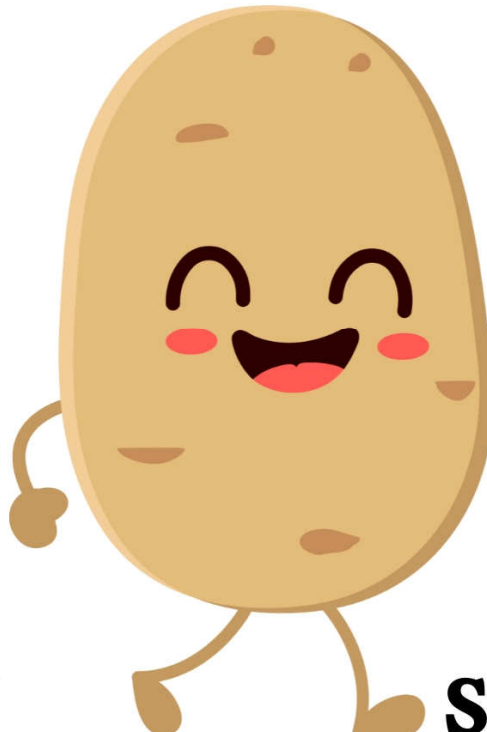




THE SONLIGHT

January 2024 · Volume 33 · Issue 1



Spud Bowl

with
State of the Church
February 4 - noon(ish)

proceeds go toward the
GroveYouth summer mission trip

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



Happy New Year! As people of hope in Christ Jesus we are always optimistic about the future. I do not mean that things in 2024 will be perfect because they will not. What I mean is that Christians know without a doubt that our future here on earth and in heaven is secure. God does not promise that life will be easy but that no matter the situation, God will be there to walk with us through any situation.

I am looking forward to 2024 in anticipation of my upcoming retirement from full-time ministry. You may already be aware of my plans to retire, but this is my “official” announcement. I am looking forward to having more time to spend with Diane, my children, and grandchildren. At the same time, I will miss all of you and the church. At this time my plans for retirement include seeking a position as a hospital or hospice chaplain. I was a volunteer chaplain for nearly 14 years when I served in the Indian Lake region and I am looking forward to serving as a chaplain again.

The former SPRC committee completed Sulphur Grove’s “church profile” last September so the Bishop and cabinet would have it at the start of the appointive season. A survey of senior pastor salaries was also completed for churches roughly the same size as Sulphur Grove in the West Ohio Conference. This was done to make sure the salary we are offering is not too high or too low. The salary survey was also completed to make sure Sulphur Grove is offering an appropriate salary so the church will be able to compete financially for the best pastors in our size range. Yes, it seems worldly, but it is the reality of the matter.

Having written all this, my retirement will be on the normal United Methodist appointment cycle meaning your new senior pastor’s first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 7th with my last Sunday being June 30th. This could of course change if there are extenuating circumstances, but this is the usual appointment change cycle.

I do not intend to just “coast my way out” to retirement. Nor do I intend to be a “lame duck” pastor the next 6 months. I will continue to work to position Sulphur Grove for a bright future with success in the mission Jesus has given us to make disciples of all nations for the transformation of the world. I pray we can continue to work together to strengthen the ministries we currently have and continue to seek new ways of caring for those around us and new ways of reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

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...

Welcome to 2024! I cannot believe how quickly the last year has passed! As I think back, I am amazed at all we accomplished in 2023. Well ... I could use this whole page revisiting the past, but here we are at a new January and it is right that we should begin to look forward.



There are changes looming ahead of us.

- We are seeking a new Youth Pastor to bring about healing and growth within our ministry with the youth.
- Grief Share will begin this month with a new team of leaders, giving the last team a well-deserved time to rest. Our new leaders will continue to support those of you who are dealing with continued grief.
- It won't be long before we receive word from Bishop Palmer announcing the name of the new Pastor who will replace Barry when he retires at our Annual Conference in late May.
- We will begin plans to say goodbye to Barry and Diane as they move on to a new season of their lives.

Oh my goodness ... I just took us to summer and it is still January!

I really want to slow down to enjoy all that will happen from now until then. Do you believe Lent begins with Ash Wednesday ... are you ready for this date ... February 14th! We will celebrate Easter on March 31st.

I really need to slow down and take each day as it comes. I want to practice what I preach ... like when I talked about Joseph and told you that we all find ourselves facing difficult times. I want to remember that "For every problem, God provides us with provisions." But the key to receiving the provisions is to build a strong prayer life so we can hear what God has planned.

I challenged you in November to spend 10 minutes every morning in prayer before you begin your day. I have had days when I failed to "Practice what I preached to you." And I can tell you that when I jumped up and started my day without prayer, my days were less productive. It is January ... let's all challenge each other to be diligent with the "Morning 10."

I will remind you one more time it is January! The list above points out that we are facing many changes in the months ahead ... for those I listed we can begin making plans. But some of us may be faced with issues that are unexpected. In those times remember you have a church family that loves you unconditionally and we will all seek God's provisions for your problems.

Yes ... it is January 2024! Ready! ... Set! ... Go! ... to assure this year is filled with many Holy Spirit moments! I pray God will be with us as we prepare for the changes that lie before us in the months ahead.

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

Pastor Connie

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 December 5, 2023, we served 150 people lunch at St Paul's United Methodist Church on Huffman Ave. We served Johnnie Marzetti, green beans, French bread, and homemade cupcakes. We also brought water, Gatorade, gum, men, and women's socks (for Christmas) and fruit drinks. We distributed devotionals, Reader's Digest, gum, and Bibles to everyone that we could. I want to thank Rita and Jim Carman, Shari Coover, and Dave Farlee for helping to serve and clean up.

Clela Farlee

BRR! IT'S COLD OUTSIDE



Do you wrap your children up nice and warm before they go outside? Help all the children in Huber Heights stay warm this winter. From January 7 through January 21, we are collecting clothing to be given to children in need. Please continue to

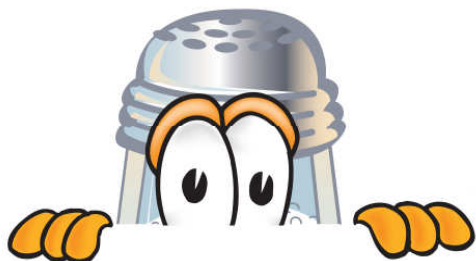
reach out to these children by donating **new or gently used mittens, gloves, hats, jackets, scarves, new underwear or new socks.** Deliver your donations to the bin near the elevator.

Help HH children feel the warmth of God's love through your warm gift. God bless you.

The Mission Committee

NEW SALT SHAKERS WELCOME

Looking for a place to get to know your Sulphur Grove Family better? Join one of the Salt Shaker Groups to experience an informal home setting where members of Sulphur Grove meet to have fun, food (always food) and fellowship. It's a great way to be in a fun group. Interested couples and singles call Peggy Beavin (937-236-6260) to become part of one of these groups. You'll be glad you did and feel even more comfortable in your church home.



WANTED!

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES DEADLINE: Sunday, January 28

We plan to send our second care package of the year to our college students just in time for Valentine's Day. It is extremely important, parents and grandparents, that you submit new information or verify old addresses so that we do not miss anyone. Please turn the names in **ASAP** to Nancy Trent at Tonyponcho@aol.com or text 937-681-2701. Providing this information in a timely manner helps with buying supplies and allows those making or supplying goodies to budget accordingly. Thank you.



IT'S COLLEGE COOKIE TIME! SUNDAY, February 4th

We will be sending our second care package of the year to our college students on Sunday, February 4th, just in time for Valentine's Day. If you would like to bake cookies or send any treats, such as **individual packages of popcorn, pretzels, Chex mix, candy, etc., or anything else you think they might like,** please contact Nancy Trent at 937-681-2701 or send an email to Tonyponcho@aol.com. Please provide your name, what you plan on donating, and your best contact number or email. **Plan on 30 boxes.** Please bring your items to the kitchen on Sunday, February 4th before 10:30 and be sure to label them "FOR COLLEGE KIDS", so they do not get mixed up with the goodies for any other group. Our students really appreciate that we are thinking of them while they are at school, so **THANK YOU** in advance for volunteering to provide goodies for them.

Nancy Trent



FROM THE OFFICE ...

REMINDER ...

The office will be closed on Monday, January 1st for New Years Day and on Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd and Tuesday, January 16th at 9:00am.



January Worship SCHEDULE

TAYLORSVILLE

Worship 8:30am & 10:45am

<p>January 7 COMMUNION <i>"Discipleship Commissioned in Baptism"</i> Mark 1: 4-11</p>
<p>January 14 <i>"Discipleship Called to Follow Pt. 1"</i> John 1: 43-51</p>
<p>January 21 <i>"Discipleship Called to Follow Pt. 2"</i> Mark 1: 14-20</p>
<p>January 28 <i>"Discipleship Authority Given"</i> Mark 1: 21-28</p>

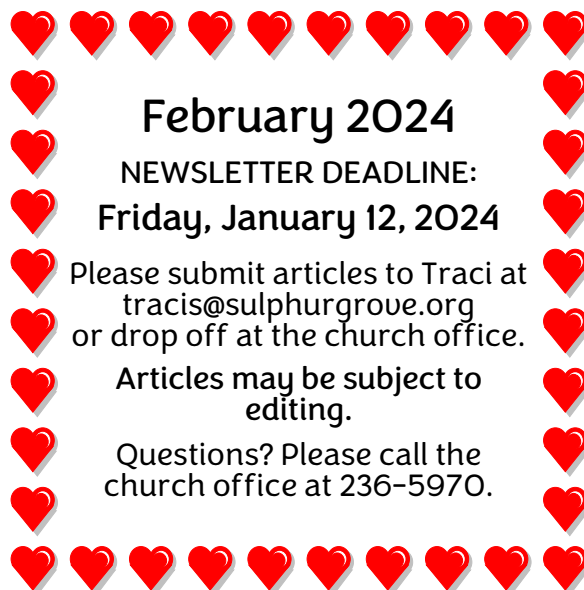
Please keep in mind, if you do not feel comfortable returning to church just yet, online streaming is available.

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

Total General Fund Giving	\$513,701.29
Transfers to Budget	\$252.24
Total General Fund Income	\$513,953.53
Total General Fund Expenses	\$589,348.40
Loan Balance	\$465,297.55
Payment to Loan Principal	\$1,198,300.52

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.



February 2024

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Friday, January 12, 2024

 Please submit articles to Traci at 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

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 SchaafAdministrative Assistant

SULPHUR GROVE CHURCH
 7505 Taylorsville Road
 Huber Heights OH 45424
 (937) 236-5970
 Worship ~ 8:30am & 10:45am

 Kiawanda Language Worship
 4:00pm-6:00pm in Holden Chapel

Bridge of Hope
 6805 US 40
 Tipp City, OH 45371
 937-845-8025
 Worship ~ 11am

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!