

REFLECTIONS

a Quarterly Newsletter of



Southern Hills
united methodist church



Winter 2022/2023

Top: (L) Harriet Schulz, B'Ann Johnson, and Loretta Barnes took time to pause for a photo op while volunteering at the Fall Festival. (R) Terry and Kathy Rodgers' granddaughter, Caroline, showed off her awesome '80s costume. **Middle:** Children enjoyed trunk-or-treating at a variety of creatively decorated trunks! **Bottom:** (L) Linda Keene and Doug Peebles embraced the dress-up fun as they distributed candy! R) A beautiful butterfly was just one fun costume spotted fluttering through the festivities.



Senior Pastor's Note

I recently stumbled upon an article that was unusual for me. I had been listening to author and pastor John Ortberg, and he mentioned the history of the word "thanks." What he said made me run to the Google machine and search for more information. He said that the root or origin of the word "thank" is the same as the origin of the word "think."

I found an article by Justin Richards entitled, "Giving Thanks: Heidegger's Pathway into Thinking." Heidegger was a German thinker who was trying to understand what thinking really was. This topic is very far from my typical daily readings – German philosophers are not my normal speed! As I read the first paragraph, I thought, "Oh, boy, I'm not going to make it." But I labored on and read this:

"To give thanks means more than the mere performative utterance of saying thank you...pure thanks is rather that we simply think – think what is really and solely given, what is there to be thought. To give thanks one must first be thankful, that is to say, be filled with gratitude."

I pushed myself away from the article and began to let my mind absorb this statement. Like many of you, I was taught from an early age to say "thank you." It didn't come naturally. Think of any baby you have been around. While they are precious and cute, they take a lot without giving a thing. They aren't gracious beings on their own. Gratitude is a learned skill, and it is something that only becomes natural as it is practiced – as it is put into play regularly.

The apostle Paul said that humanity has been given the gift of seeing God through all that has been created. God's invisible nature and power is on display at each sunrise and sunset. It is there in the cool autumn weather and the horses we can watch running across Kentucky hills. Paul is saying, "Look, God is all around," but then he warns us that we become foolish when we ignore God and refuse to give thanks. For Paul, ignoring God and refusing to give thanks are synonymous.

If thanking only occurs when I'm thinking, then how often do I actually give thanks to the One who has given me everything? I want to invite us to pause during the upcoming holiday season and not just rush through a quick "one thing I'm thankful for" during a meal. Instead, let's choose to think and thank.

I'm thankful for you. I'm thankful for our church and for another year together. I'm thankful that God's goodness has been lavished on us. And I'm thankful...for a pause...that says there will be new mercies and new ways to see God's goodness all around.

Grace & Peace, Family! I'm thankful for you!

Pastor Jim



LeTicia Preacely, Associate Pastor

Greetings, Southern Hills Family!



It has been such a blessing to get to know each campus and family more! Pastoral Appreciation Month was wonderful. We are grateful.

As we have spent time with Stewardship, it all comes down to the heart and who is on the throne seat of our life. Stewardship is about moving from socialization to transformation. Transformation is when our internal life, our heart, is so rooted in the Kingdom that it manifests in our external life. In other words, transformation happens when our time, talents, and treasure are in alignment with the spiritual truth we are set apart to live by.

As we anticipate the season of Advent, may the transformation of our hearts make more room for our Lord and Savior always and forever.

Grace and Peace,
LeTicia

Backpack Ministry Update

We are well into another great year of providing food for Lexington's schoolchildren! We pack weekly food bags for Arlington Elementary, and we deliver pantry food and snacks each month for Ashland, Maxwell, Millcreek, and Picadome. We meet in the Activities Building on the Harrodsburg Road campus and begin setting up a little before 10:00 a.m., and we start packing as soon as setup is complete. We are usually done by 11:00 a.m., and we have a place for everyone, whether it be unloading food, opening packages, being part of the assembly line, loading trucks and cars, or delivering to the schools. As everyone knows, costs for everything are increasing, and this includes the food purchased for the schools. We ask for your prayers as we continue the year. Any monetary donations to our Backpack Ministry are very much needed and always appreciated.

Here are our upcoming packing dates: Thursday, 12/15/22 (at this pack we will be sorting our Christmas Blessing bags and organizing for delivery to the schools!); Thursday, 1/5/23; Thursday, 2/2/23, Thursday, 3/2/23; Thursday, 4/13/2023; Thursday, 5/4/23. We welcome all to join us in this rewarding ministry! If you would like to be on our mailing list, please email sarahhhicks@aol.com.

Christmas Bags

Our annual Christmas Blessings bags project is fast approaching, and it has proven to be quite popular with the congregation! Look for bags to be passed out after services on Sunday, December 4. A list of the requested items will be attached to the bags. Bags will be available at church throughout the following week as well.

We will collect the filled bags at church on Sunday, December 11, and will be delivering to the schools on December 15. If you would like to help other than by filling a bag, donations of bags of individually wrapped chocolate Christmas candy would be appreciated! We are fortunate that this year SHECP will again partner with us on this project by having their annual food drive and donating the food to this project. We appreciate the generosity of the SHECP families! Last year we collected so many bags that in addition to providing bags to the students at our regular schools, we were able to donate to three other schools, The Nathaniel Mission, and the independent living residents from the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Home. We are looking forward to a December full of blessings for Lexington's schoolchildren!

Joan Wooden, Director of Music and Worship

Children's Choir to Present Musical

On Sunday, December 11th, at 6:00 p.m., our Children's Choir will present *Light of the World*, a Christmas musical by Mark Patterson. This very special musical combines original songs and familiar carols from around the world to tell the Christmas story. Children always give us a wonderful glimpse of God's glory, and this presentation will be no exception! A Christmas cookie reception will be held in Herren Hall following the performance. Please make plans to attend!

Festival of Christmas Slated for December 14th

This year's *Festival of Christmas* will be held on **Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m.** This year's concert will feature our Chancel Choir, Men's Only Vocal Ensemble, Ladies Only Vocal Ensemble, Carillon Handbell Choir (under the direction of Bonnie Lynch), and The Source Praise Band. It will also feature some of Southern Hills' very own soloists, including Ginny Bowles, Bob Hooker, Rosemary Souleyrette, and Cooper Bartlett. Scriptures will be read by Rev. Dennis Burrows, and there will be plenty of carol singing. Please "save the date" for this very special annual event.

Sing for Your Supper!

This year's *Sing for Your Supper* caroling event will be held on Sunday, December 18th, at 4:00 p.m. **EVERYONE** is invited to come and sing carols for shut-ins or even those who just might need some special cheer this Christmas. If you know of individuals who would appreciate a visit from Southern Hills' members and friends, please contact Joan Wooden (jjwooden@southernhillsumc.org).

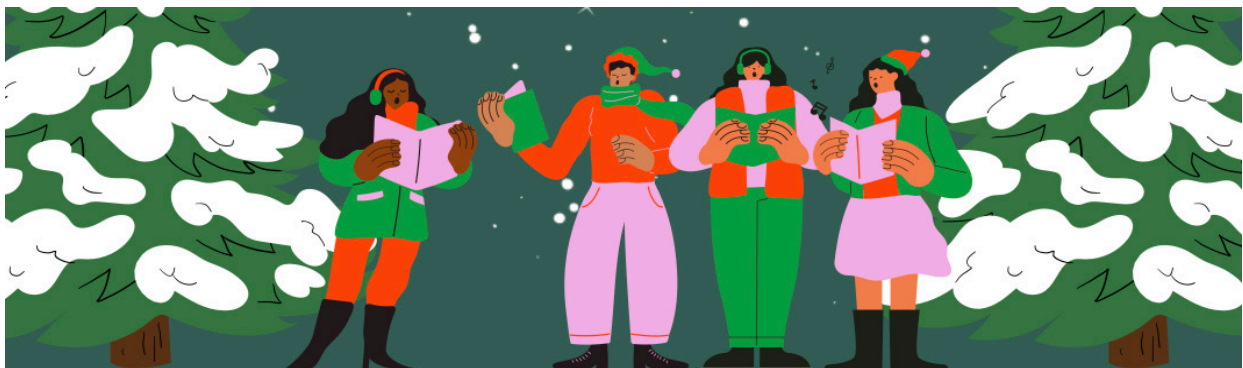
Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m.

Family-Focused Service with Congregation-Wide Interactive Storytelling and Glow Sticks
(as an alternative to candlelight)

6:00 p.m.

Traditional Intergenerational Service with Carols, Communion, and Candlelight
(nursery care will be provided for this service)



Southern Hills UMC Foundation

You Have a Superpower—The Ability to Change Lives Through Your Legacy

Did you know...

...any gift that can be made to charity can be made to your church?

We need to be reminded that Southern Hills UMC can receive and benefit from all the types of gifts which our colleges, hospitals and community agencies often publicize. These include not only gifts of cash, but gifts of stock; gifts of real estate and property; and other non-cash assets.

Did you know...

...we have different “pockets” from which to consider gifts?

When we examine our finances, we should consider both income and assets. We usually make our weekly gifts to our church’s operating budget from our income “pocket,” but other “pockets” with non-cash assets often provide a good source for a legacy gift to Southern Hills UMC.

Did you know...

...anyone can make a planned gift?

Everyone needs a will. Everyone. Sadly, over 60% of people die without a will. The easiest and most common planned gift is one made in your will. Including Southern Hills UMC is simple, inexpensive, and perpetuates your values about the worth of the church and its life-changing ministries.

Did you know...

...leaving a legacy has nothing to do with wealth?

A legacy doesn’t depend upon the size of the gift. It results from simply taking the action necessary to combine your love of the church and its ministries with an actual plan to include the church in your will.

Did you know...

*...84% of people who attend church give to it financially,
but only 7% include the church in their will or estate plan?*

Most people who care about the church never get around to including it in their wills. Some people don’t even get around to writing a will. Some didn’t think about including their church. Most say they would, but they simply weren’t asked. Consider yourself asked in a gracious way.

Did you know...

...some planned gifts pay you a lifetime income first?

Some planned gifts are designed to pay you a lifetime income that may actually increase your retirement income from the assets used. Other planned gifts take effect only after your lifetime so you can use those assets now to help provide you with needed retirement income.

Your legacy gift to Southern Hills UMC will be administered by the Southern Hills UMC Foundation
Contact the Business Office or a member of the Foundation committee for more information:
Harriet Schulz, Gary Coyle, Glenn Dussinger, Tom Hatfield, David Bowles, Steven Stuckert

Steven Stuckert, From the Business Office

Financial Condition

Southern Hills UMC and Southern Hills Early Childhood Program (SHECP) continue to be financially stable even though we show a \$164,000 deficit for 2022 year to date. However, if we had not received funds from the American Rescue Plan we would have an additional \$605,000 deficit for a total deficit of \$769,000. Offsetting that some, payroll expense for SHECP is up to \$400,000 year to date. The church does continue to need to control our spending. This continues to be very difficult in the face of rising costs and inflation. Our 2023 budget will have to address these issues, and I anticipate a long and difficult budget process.

*Note: Through October is 83% of the year. Income or expense percentage over 83% is over budget.

Current Income / Expense October 31, 2022

Income	(in thousands)	% Budgeted
SHECP	2,109	98.8*
Contributions	863	74.8
The Source	99	86.0*
Other Income	329	
Total Income	3,400	99.3*
Expenses		
SHECP	1,992	97.8*
Capital	84	70
Property	119	80.5
Personnel	734	83.3*
Debt Retirement	220	
Designated Funds	133	
Administrative	108	78.4
Education & Worship	32	91.5*
The Source	77	92.4*
Leisure & Outreach	65	
Total Expenses	3,564	102.7*
Balance	(164)	

Faith Formation

From Kristina White, Director of Faith Formation:

Across the two campuses, we are exploring Pete Scazzero's *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship*. Staff, small groups, and most of our teams have already started diving into these courses and books together. According to Pete, "You can't be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature." We are learning both from each other and from examples from scripture. Some of our classmates have experienced deeper quiet times with God, freedom to set limits for themselves, learning to deal with ignored emotions, and even learning how working for God has been an excuse to run from God. We will be offering more and more of these courses. I really believe these can be life-changing experiences for our congregation, as a whole church, and as individuals.



From Shawne Carter, Director of Children's Ministry at The Source:

On the Sunday before Halloween, the Faith Formation Team hosted the Fall Festival at the Harrodsburg Road campus. The glory sightings from that afternoon were numerous, starting with the gorgeous weather! A second was the 29 spectacularly decorated trunks for our Trunk-or-Treat, provided by congregation members and staff. And the biggest glory sighting for me, personally, was the unbelievable turnout. I have been serving as children's pastor for seven years, and this event was, by far, the most well-attended of that time. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to share the joy and love of Jesus with the community.

From Sequoia Wheeler, Director of Children's Ministry at the Harrodsburg Road Campus:

Another season has come and gone right before our eyes. Children's ministry has been busy nonetheless!

First, a big thank you to all of our church family and community. We have had two fundraisers this year, and you all have come out to support us each time. We are so thankful to have a church that wants to invest in their children's ministry, not just with prayers, but also with time and money. Children's ministry has been able to start a designated fund and get funds flowing in because of your willingness and generosity. Children's ministry is blessed to have a church family like you!

Our children's ministry also had the opportunity to help lead worship this past October. I cannot tell you, as your children's director, how much of a blessing that was for me. To see an element that we work on and incorporate in our Sunday school lessons and children's worship each week offered in the church service made my heart so happy. It is important to me that the children are learning the fundamentals of having a Christian faith, and being able to show and share that with our church family is a part of it! I hope that having the children's ministry be a part of worship was as much of a blessing to you as it was to me.

Faith Formation



From Tori Brown, Director of Youth Ministry:

One of my favorite sayings is, "God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good." God is so good that through the hands and feet of our congregation members, we have raised \$4,100 for our mission trip to the Henderson Settlement next year! This means that every student who attends will be able to receive a full scholarship! These funds give our youth group at Southern Hills the opportunity to witness for Christ through home repair. Thank you, church family, for answering the call from God to help and support these students. We can't wait to build true reflections of God's amazing love in Appalachia!

From Chelsey Clark for Young Adult Ministry:

This semester with our young adults has been so refreshing! We embraced the renewal that the fall season brings and spent time around a fire growing with each other and with God. We celebrated Thanksgiving a little early this year by doing a joint celebration with the youth ministry. We participated in Holy Communion, a potluck-style dinner, and learned new ways of expressing gratitude to each other and to God. We're looking forward to the Christmas season. This year we will be working on service projects each week of Advent in the hopes of spreading the love of Jesus to those who need it most.

United Women in Faith

The Sarah Bagby Circle has been collecting items for "Kristin's Closet" at the Children's Advocacy Center for the Bluegrass (CACBG) located at 162 N. Ashland Ave., Lexington, KY. The CACBG serves 17 counties, providing a child-centered, friendly, and safe environment to assist in the sexual and/or physical abuse investigation and healing for youth victims. See their website for more information: www.kykids.org. Last year, 1,000 children received services from CACBG. In June, we started collecting clothing, journals, and hygiene items and, more recently, sweatshirts and coats. We reached out to the SHUMC congregation and are very grateful for your donated items. Your demonstration of love will certainly impact the lives of these children.

The Sarah Bagby Circle meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon for fellowship, devotions/prayers, and a program on UWF, church, or community activities. At the December meeting (Dec. 14), we will have finger foods, sing carols and hymns, and reveal our prayer partners. You are welcome to join us.



UWF Christmas Lunch
Wed., December 7th
1:00 p.m., Herren Hall
Lunch will be provided by our circles, and all ladies are invited! More info to follow!

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Head of School, Southern Hills Early Childhood Program

Barbara Williams
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Top: (L) A "Before" photo of Kristin's closet. (R) Kristin's Closet full of items ready to be donated! Thank you to all from our congregation who contributed! **Middle:** (L) A group photo of the ladies of Sarah Bagby Circle at the CACBG. (R) Volunteers hard at work at our most recent Backpack Ministry pack. **Bottom:** Our crowd of eager volunteers filled the Youth Room to pack food for our local elementary schools. Our next pack will be our special Christmas Blessing Bag pack in December!



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Building true reflections of God's amazing love.

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Harrodsburg Road Campus:

2356 Harrodsburg Road

Lexington, Kentucky 40503

Worship Services at 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sundays.

Sunday school classes offered at 9:30 a.m.

The Source:

3330 Partner Place, Suite 130

Worship Services at 10:30 a.m. Sundays

Source Studies Sunday school classes offered at 9:15 a.m.