



The Heart Of the Matter

NEWSLETTER

September 2024

A Faith that Works

"For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead." -James 1:26 NRSV

Dear Southport UMC,

As we turn the corner into September, I hope this note finds you well and filled with the anticipation of the new season ahead. The air is SLOWLY starting to crisp, and there's that undeniable excitement of pumpkin patches, and the promise of cozy autumn evenings.

I'm reminded of a pastor who decided to plant his first garden. With great enthusiasm, he bought seeds, prepared the soil, and planted everything with utmost care. As he shared his plans with the congregation, he couldn't help but boast a little about how his garden would be a "bountiful miracle of God's creation." Weeks passed, and his plants struggled to grow. Undeterred, he kept watering and tending to his garden, only to discover that instead of tomatoes, he had been nurturing an impressive crop of weeds. After sharing this story, he concluded, "It seems even a pastor needs to be careful with what seeds they sow—both in the ground and in life!"

This story serves as a fitting prelude to our September sermon series on the book of James: "A Faith that Works." The book of James is like a garden of wisdom, offering practical advice that grows directly from our faith in Jesus Christ. It's a book that gets straight to the point, encouraging us to be doers of the word, not just hearers.

During this series, we'll explore the call to actively live out our faith. We'll discuss the vital connection between our beliefs and actions. We'll delve into the power of words and how they shape our lives and relationships. We'll uncover the wisdom of finding peace and contentment in our daily lives. Finally, we'll wrap up the series by exploring the transformative power of prayer.

In a world filled with noise and distractions, the book of James offers a clear and direct path to living out our faith in practical ways. It challenges us to align our actions with our beliefs, just as we should be careful with the seeds we plant in our hearts and minds. As we dive into these teachings, my hope is that we'll be inspired to cultivate a "faith that works"—one that bears fruit in our lives and in the world around us.

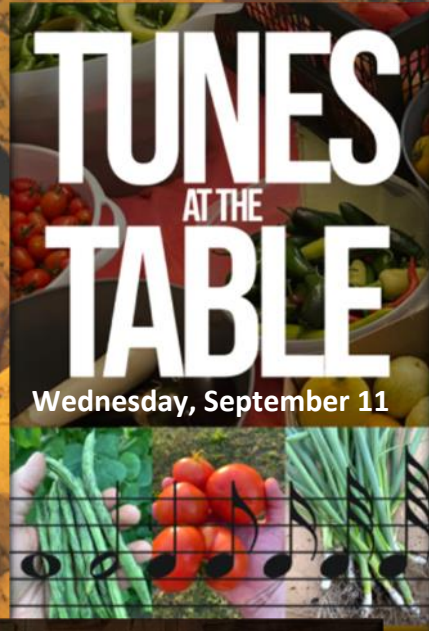
I look forward to exploring this journey with each of you. May we all find encouragement and inspiration in James' words and continue to grow together in faith.

Blessings,

Rev. William G. Nickrand

Join Us!

September



TRANS CROSS TRAINING

11:45 am—1:45 pm

September 8

1st—6th graders & guardians

Food—Faith—Fun

JAMES
A Faith that Works

BIBLE STUDY

Join us as we take a deeper look into the book of James. Pastor William will lead us as we seek to glean from the teaching and wisdom found in this book of the Bible that draws deeply from the gospels and Proverbs.

Tuesdays 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Sept. 3 through Oct. 1

SOUTHPORT
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

1947 E Southport Rd. - Indianapolis IN 46227 - www.sumc.org

SUMC SECOND ANNUAL TEA
Touching a Woman's Heart

**EAT. CHAT.
LEARN ABOUT
HEART HEALTH!**

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 21**
11 - 1

**First Friday Family Fun Night:
Game Night!**

Friday, September 6
6:30 pm

Our Web Group is hosting and preparing fun games! Join Us!

**CITY
BBQ
FUNDRAISER**

**September 19th
open to close**

**More information
coming soon**



Place your request for the 175th Anniversary

T-shirt, youth and adult sizes, in the Gathering Place starting September 12 and 15. More details and specifics to follow. We will wear the joy of our history and celebrate the dreams and possibilities of our future!

WE ARE TURNING 175!

"It is amazing how time flies". We hear this often and probably because it is so true. It is somewhat easier to think in terms of 10, 25, 50 and even 100 years. Each one gives us numerous reasons to celebrate and can you imagine what a celebration we will have when we come to the 175th Anniversary of Southport UMC in October. It is coming quickly and will go by even faster, so let's not miss every opportunity to participate in this wonderful event.

Note your calendar, rearrange your schedule when possible and join the party. Thursday, October 24 at our 6:30 worship, our guest speaker is a member from our church family. Her commitment to God, her church community and to the ministries in which she serves are examples of her dedication and faithfulness to love God and love others. She knows how important Bible study, prayer, worship and service to others are. And her integrity and courage has given SUMC the opportunity to be in ministry with those who find themselves separated from loved ones while they are incarcerated.

Come back on Sunday the 27th, 9:00 and 10:30 as Pastor William shares "Make a Joyful Noise" with his message of celebration. The morning will be filled with noise of all sorts, and in some cases gentle and celebrative.

We wouldn't have an anniversary party without food. Special refreshments for Thursday and additional surprises on Sunday. More details on this in the October newsletter.

It is a weekend event. Invite family, friends and neighbors. This is not a secret. It is not a private party. We are 175 and we want to share the excitement with everyone!

LEWIS FAMILY LEGACY

Legacy is a powerful word. One definition says, "Legacy is about life and living. It is about learning from the past, living in the present, and building for the future."

This is a legacy:

My grandparents started attending Southport UMC in the 1950s. My mother walked to church from elementary school to attend Religious Education. My parents were married here in 1962. I was baptized in 1963 and confirmed in 1976.

Sandy and I were married in 1987 at SUMC by Rev. Bill Schwein. Our daughter Kim was baptized in 1989 and our son Scott in 1991 by Rev. Bert Kite, and were also confirmed at SUMC. Both of our children were married by former pastors, Scott in 2015 and Kim in 2020.

My dad and nephew were baptized in 2015. Rev. Duane Thompson officiated at my dad's funeral in 2021.

As a youth I participated in Summer Camp at Indicoso, Junior High and Senior High Youth Ministry. Ministry has kept me very busy serving with Trustees, Finance, Church Work Days, Upper Sand Mountain, Alabama mission trips, Habitat for Humanity, and an Emmaus Walk. Currently I serve with the church's Leadership Team and you can often find me around the building working on plumbing, electrical, lighting needs and lots of unexpected repairs.

Fond Memories are having Saps donuts (prior to Longs), watching the new sanctuary being built, having Sunday School Class in the old Van Dyke house, Saturday night Youth Group in the basement, Mission trips with many church friends which was a great experience especially for our kids. I gave my life to Jesus when I was 12 at Camp Indicoso.

The church has meant a lot to me, as it has been a large part of my life and the life of my family. I have found that much like other aspects of life, the more you get involved, the more that you gain in return.

Oh, yes, BTW. I remember ringing the bell in the old sanctuary with my dad and Jack McElfresh and listening to the bells play over the steeple speakers before and after the service. On October 27, I will be ringing the bell again to celebrate SUMC's 175th Anniversary.

Doug Lewis

SUMC SECOND ANNUAL TEA

Touching a Woman's Heart

EAT, CHAT,
LEARN ABOUT
HEART HEALTH!

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 21
11 - 1

Our purpose is to encourage women's fellowship with one another. We will enjoy brunch and an informative presentation from our guest speakers: Jennifer Cerelius from Indiana Heart Physicians and our church members, Kim Kidwell and Jerrie Snell. We look forward to learning about women's heart health. Reach out to Southport UMC for more information!

TEAM MEMBERS

Kathy Smith
Kim Kidwell
Bobbi Howell
Margaret Trammell
Maggie Lucas
Melissa Hendricks
Jerrie Snell



Prep is underway for SUMC's Second Annual Tea! Sign up at the Next Steps table or get in contact with Jerrie Snell or Maggie Lucas!



MULTIFAITH
BUILD

The Multifaith Build brings together congregations from different faiths to strengthen relationships while building and advocating for affordable housing for everyone. Working side-by-side, the Multifaith Build embodies the power of unity through diversity. Our goal is to put faith and love into action to make them come alive for people. This belief is at the core of Habitat's mission to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. We invite you to join fellow churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples investing in affordable homeownership in our community.

How Multifaith Builds Homes & Hope



bring together more than
200 of different faiths



build interior and exterior wall
frames for two homes



raise \$150,000 toward
Habitat's mission

What is the Timeline?

August Partnership Engagement and Commitments
September Volunteer Recruitment
October Volunteer Registration Deadline: **October 11th**
November Multifaith Build: **Friday, November 1st**

On November 1, you can be a part of the **Habitat for Humanity** Multi Faith Build. More information will be available at a next steps table in September.



Dave & June Owen surprised with new classroom named after them for their generous support through the years.

Dave & June Owen had a classroom named after them at the Fletcher Place Community Center called "Owen's Optimists". They have been long time supporters. All rooms were open in August for the new school year. To learn more about the Fletcher Place Community Center, visit their website at www.fletcherplacecc.org.

The HARVEST TABLE

Harvest Table Hours:

Sunday:
10:00am-12:00pm
Wednesday:
6:00pm-7:00pm
Thursday:
6:00pm-7:00pm



TUNES AT THE TABLE



Live Music

Free Food

2nd Wednesday
of each month
(while Harvest Table is open)

6pm to 7pm



Jubilee in July

Thank you for participating in this year's Jubilee in July event. We are grateful to all who completed the congregational survey and offered thoughts on how you would like to be involved in the Jubilee Christmas ministry this year. Additional opportunities to be connected will come soon or you can contact the church office and a Jubilee Team member will respond. The staff at Homecroft Elementary are working now on the selection of families who will be part of Jubilee Christmas and the more individuals from SUMC who are interested in hosting will allow us to minister to more families.

You responded to our request for the children's early needs and we have lots of underwear and hygiene items to deliver to Homecroft for the start of the school year. Because of your generosity these necessities will be available now and as needed. Thanks to those who gave us a headstart on blankets for Jubilee families. We covet your prayers as the planning continues and please include the wonderful Homecroft staff and the many families in need.



United Methodist Churches of Indiana



We are pleased to share that Bishop Tracy S. Malone has been assigned as the resident bishop for the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, effective September 1, 2024.

A service celebrating Bishop Malone's assignment will take place on **Sunday, September 15, 2024**, at 3:00 p.m. (ET) at St. Luke's UMC ([100 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260](https://www.stlukeumc.org/)). There will be a meet-and-greet at the end of the service with Bishop Malone and her family. Please save the date and plan to join us for this service of celebration as we welcome Bishop Malone.

Bishop Malone was elected to the episcopacy at the 2016 North Central Jurisdictional Conference and has served as the resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference since that time.



Sign Ups!

If you are interested in entering the chili cookoff or a trunk for Trunk or Treat, please fill out a form! We have them available in the Gathering area or you can submit online. Please contact brandon@sumc.org for any questions!



SAVE THE DATE

Make your appointment to be included in the new pictorial directory!

Southport United Methodist Church
Indianapolis, IN

Photo dates: OCT 3, 4 2024

Reverend CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Spots are filling up for portraits. Please schedule a time and reach out to the office if you need assistance.

NEXT Steps

Information Tables Located in Gathering area

Tea and Pictorial Sign Ups

September 1, 5, 8

Habitat for Humanity

September 8, 15, 22

175th Anniversary

Pick Board—September 19, 22, 26, 29

TShirt Sign Ups—September 12, 15, 19, 22

Chili Festival/Trunk or Treat

September-22, 26, 29 October 3, 6, 13

Thank you

Dear SUMC family
Now! What a special day and days you prepared leading up to Duane's retirement. The many expressions of love were overwhelming.
SUMC is in all ways generous. The celebration was no exception. You were generous in the monetary and number of gifts and the delicious homemade food as well as your time, cards + greetings.
SUMC is thoughtful—each gift was uniquely + carefully chosen, as if we had chosen them ourselves.

SUMC is in all ways creative. What perfect and fun decor on Sunday!
SUMC at all times shares in thoughtful generous and creative worship which profoundly blessed us.
Thank you, SUMC family, for all your gifts for the Retirement Celebration and for the gift of yourselves over the years.
We loved every minute of it!
Pastor Duane + Brenda

WOMEN'S NEWS

Our Tuesday, September 10th meeting of Rebekah Circle is almost here. We will be meeting in the Gathering Area at 1 p.m. to celebrate WORLD THANK OFFERING CELEBRATION. Bring a dime for every hanger in the closets in your home. Remember ..this is a worthy cause to help the women and children around the world. Enjoy counting!!!

Our October meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct 8th at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Area. We will be holding our General Meeting. Come see what our Circle is all about.



United
Women
in Faith

HUNGER Inc FOOD PANTRY

So Monday August 19th, the Harvest Table donated 105 lbs of tomatoes to the Food pantry. WOW!! Everybody loves good tomatoes. Thanks to all the gardeners and your donations.

For September the Hunger, Inc food pantry desperately needs:
Any Canned vegetables. (green beans, corn, peas, mixed vegetables, carrots, potatoes, etc)
Brand name cans are not a necessity.

Donations are due between Thursday Sept 5th- Sunday Sept. 15th

Thank YOU all so much for August's donations. It was 93 lbs and that was with so many diapers. Southport is truly the hands and feet of Jesus here on Earth.

CREATION CARE

We are still recycling items in the church bins at the east wall of the Gathering Area. Check out the bins for what we do collect. The city bins are hard to find, but we can still do our part.

There is a **FREE DRIVE UP RECYCLING** in Beech Grove on **September 7th from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.** It is being done at the Beech Grove City Hall at 806 Main St. They are taking paper shredding, appliance drop off, eyeglasses, hearing aids, unused medicine disposal, and used syringe disposal.



FEED A NEED (FAN)

Our team will meet to bag the 50 meals for the ministry "Tear Down The Walls". They hand out our meals to the unhoused individuals in need of food in downtown Indy. Come join in this on **Thursday, September 12th at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Area.** You are welcome to participate.

Hugs and Prayers,
Sandy Tilton

Choir Opportunity

The SUMC Choir is looking to recruit people who love to sing! We sing at the 9:00 am traditional service and for special events like Christmas, Easter, and the 175th Anniversary Celebration on October 27! All are welcome (13 and up) and no auditions are required. We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am and you get advance access to the songs for self-preparation. Please contact our Music Director, Rhonda Collins, if you would like to join us this fall!
rhonda@sumc.org



Join us each Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm for a Bible study based on the scripture & sermon from the previous week.

SERMONS

DATE	TITLE	SCRIPTURE	THEME
August 29 & September 1	Just Do It!	James 1:17-27	Be doers, not just hearers, of God's commands.
September 5 & 8	Body and Soul	James 2:1-17	The body matters: using our physical means to meet physical needs.
September 12 & 15	Taming the Tongue	James 3:1-12	The tongue is a small organ that can do great damage.
September 19 & 22	Keys to Contentment	James 3:13-4:3; 7-8	Gentleness and wisdom are the keys to contentment.
September 26 & 29	Powerful Prayer	James 5:13-20	Prayer is a healing balm for physical suffering and broken communities.

Looking for practical biblical knowledge you can put into practice TODAY?! You are in luck because over the next few weeks we are going to go through the New Testament book James which stands as a no nonsense, practical, proverbial wisdom. There is very little cryptic language or mysterious imagery in the way that the book of James calls us to live out our discipleship in Jesus the Christ. A faith in Jesus is a "Faith that Works."

JAMES
A Faith that Works



CHILDREN'S *Church*

Every Sunday at
10:30 a.m.



Facebook is a great way to follow everything happening at SUMC! Make sure to Like and Follow!



"The Walk", our weekly bulletin, is now emailed out on Thursday mornings! Contact the office if you are not receiving our emails.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pat Hulfachor
William Nickrand
Karen Decatur
Sherry Davis
Doug Lewis
Travis Miller
Margaret Trammell
Kathy Smith
Jeff Horne
Kathy Campbell



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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.*