

# The Heart Of the Matter



## NEWSLETTER October 2024

### *175th Anniversary Celebration*

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth." -Psalm 100:1*

Dear Southport UMC,

This October marks a monumental moment in the life of our church as we celebrate 175 years of ministry! What a gift it is to reflect on the rich history that has shaped who we are today, and to look ahead with joy as we continue to build upon this strong foundation for future generations. Our anniversary theme, "Make a Joyful Noise," invites us to rejoice in all that God has done and to be part of the exciting journey that lies ahead.

We have so much to celebrate this month! Our sermon series, "Foundation for the Future," is the perfect chance to reflect on the enduring impact of Southport UMC. Each Thursday and Sunday, we will explore key scriptures that remind us of the solid foundation of our faith and point us toward the exciting future that lies ahead.

In addition to our regular worship services, we're setting apart Thursday, October 24th and Sunday, October 27th as special opportunities to celebrate our 175th anniversary. These three services will feature special music and a meaningful message tailored to honor this milestone. After each service, we'll continue the celebration with food and goodies. If you've received your anniversary shirts, be sure to wear them proudly as we come together to commemorate 175 years of ministry with joy, fellowship, and gratitude!

And don't forget that before our official celebration in worship, we'll "make a joyful noise" with a time of fellowship and fun! On October 19th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., we'll be hosting our annual Chili Festival and Trunk or Treat — a day full of fall festivities and community outreach! We're inviting you to sign up to bring your best pot of chili to share. The winner will have the honor of donating all proceeds from the chili event to the ministry or outreach of their choice, making this not only a fun event but also an opportunity to make a real impact in our community. We also need volunteers to decorate their cars/trunks and hand out candy to trick-or-treaters. This is a wonderful way to connect with our neighbors, share some joy, and spread God's love in tangible ways. Please consider joining us in this outreach effort and help us make the day memorable for everyone who attends.

As we embark on this joyful month, I encourage each of you to engage fully in the life of Southport UMC. Let's worship together, serve together, and celebrate this incredible milestone. Our 175 years are just the beginning — let's keep making a joyful noise and building a future filled with faith, hope, and love!

With excitement and gratitude,  
Rev. William G. Nickrand

# Foundation for the Future

Southport United Methodist Church

JOIN US in worship  
on October 24 & 27 as we  
celebrate 175 years!



## SUMC's 175<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration Weekend

Please note your calendar, rearrange your schedule and join the Celebration. Two special event days and everyone is invited to both.

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 AT 6:30 WORSHIP**

We welcome Connie Klipsch as our guest speaker. Many know Connie through her ongoing participation in several SUMC ministries. She uses her musical talents with our choir at Sunday's 9:00 service and studies on Monday mornings with Roof Crashers women's group. By taking a lead with the Debt Elimination Team, she celebrates how our congregation has been successful in paying off an amount which could have delayed SUMC being fully active in ministry. Connie spent over 35 years working for the Wage and Hour Division as an investigator before moving into management positions and ended her career as a Senior Policy Advisor. Connie's commitment to God, her church community and to the ministries in which she serves are examples of dedication and faithfulness to love God and love others. She knows the importance of Bible study, prayer, worship and serving others. Since 2013 with integrity and courage Connie has shared her passion for those who are incarcerated and has assisted in building a Kairos Ministry with SUMC. We will be blessed to hear her message on the 24th.

### **THURSDAY SURPRISES**

Worship, Joyful Music, Handbells, a Charcuterie Box for each person, an Anniversary Remembrance

### **SUNDAY THE 27TH AT 9:00 AND 10:30**

Pastor William's sermon of celebration is "Make a Joyful Noise," which invites us to rejoice in all that God has done and to be part of the exciting journey that lies ahead. This familiar scripture from Psalm 100 is the assurance of God's love and a guide for faithful living.

### **SUNDAY SURPRISES**

Worship, Joyful Music, Handbells and ringing the Steeple Bell, Longs donuts from 9-10:30, Food Stations with Appetizers, and Sweets after 10:30 Worship, an Anniversary Remembrance

Bring family and friends for a weekend celebration event on Thursday and Sunday. This only happens every 175 years and we hope you will embrace every minute.



# Transformation



An internal shift that brings us in alignment with our highest potential. It affects how we see and relate to the world and how we understand our place in it.

I was born and raised at SUMC, baptized as an infant, and confirmed in 1975. I have never considered going anywhere else as this church is part of me and feels like an extended family.

You could call me a “perpetual acolyte.” I was so happy when I reached this age so that I could volunteer and be part of the church service. When I taught Sunday school and was a Vacation Bible School director, it was a joy to see the children grow and mature in their faith. I have taught a Lenten Bible study even when it took me out of my comfort zone. I participated in an Emmaus Walk even though I was hesitant, yet have never regretted it. I took all of the DISCIPLE courses and feel this was a turning point in my faith. DISCIPLE brought scripture to life for me and was more than a study. It was a life change.....a TRANSFORMATION.

As God works in my life, I have had new opportunities to use my gifts and serve and minister to others. I had the joy of being a Stephen Minister and am currently active in Kairos Prison Ministry serving inside or outside the facilities. Being a member of our Leadership Team challenged me to be both administrative and visionary while seeking God’s will for our church community. Sunday joys: greeting people, serving communion, worship, and spirit-filled music.

Relationships are at the heart of SUMC. So many friends have let Christ live through them for the benefit of others. Every time I think of you, I thank God.

I believe my life has been transformed. I have felt that internal shift so that I can live at my highest potential. It has affected how I see and relate to the world and with God’s help I am finding my place in it.

Karen Decatur



In 1849 a group of individuals from 7 “preaching homes” came together to dedicate their first building off of Main Street to form Southport Methodist Episcopal Church. 175 years later, we are living into a legacy that has proclaimed the good news of Jesus and built the Kingdom of God for generations. This four-part worship series celebrates the grace of God and the history of our church, and points us toward an exciting future for generations to come.

DATE	TITLE	SCRIPTURE	THEME
October 3 & 6	The Church's One Foundation	1 Corinthians 3:10-11	What we lay as our foundation matters!
October 10 & 13	Making God’s Love Real: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow	Ephesians 2:8-10; Psalm 100:5	God’s loving acts of mercy is our way of life.
October 17 & 20	All Things are Possible with God	Matthew 19:16-26	God is in the business of accomplishing the impossible!
October 27	Make a Joyful Noise: Our 175th Anniversary Celebration	Psalms 100:1-4	We are God’s people, let us rejoice!

Join us for a Special message from **Connie Klipsch** on **Wednesday the 24th**

## WE ARE TURNING 175!

Be prepared to celebrate with your faith family with food & fellowship



# Foundation for the Future



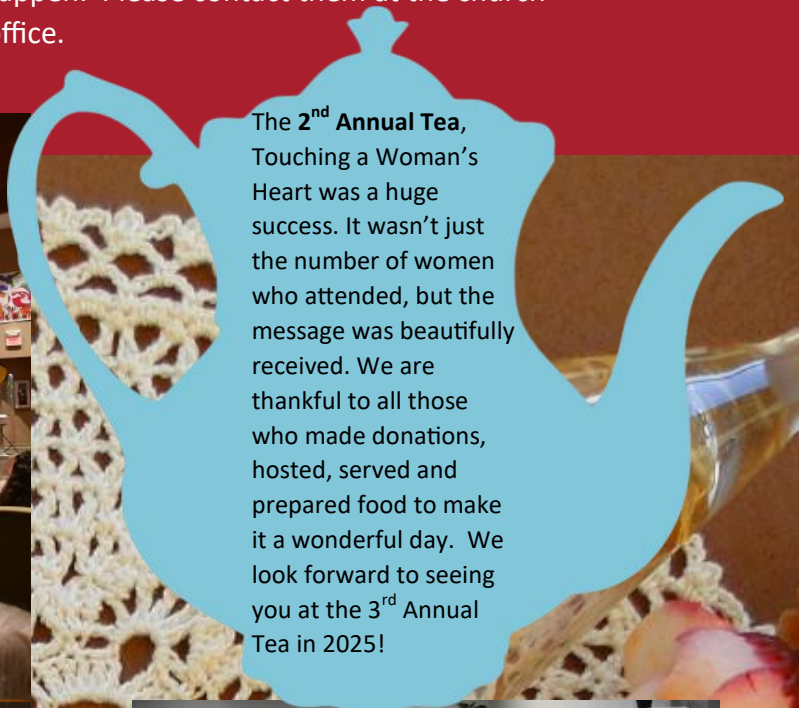
**October 13**

### *Discipleship Path Corner*

There are always opportunities to serve at Southport United Methodist Church. Perhaps you know how you would like to serve or maybe you would like to learn more about the best serve opportunities for you. Call the church office #317.784.9508 to reach Jerrie or Maggie for more information. If they are not in when you call, one of them will call you within two days.

### *Grow Opportunities*

Are you interested in leading or co-leading a small Bible study group? Jerrie and Maggie are here to help you make it happen. Please contact them at the church office.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tea, Touching a Woman's Heart was a huge success. It wasn't just the number of women who attended, but the message was beautifully received. We are thankful to all those who made donations, hosted, served and prepared food to make it a wonderful day. We look forward to seeing you at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tea in 2025!





Looking for ways to read and study the Bible more? INVEST in the lives of our children! Teach 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Children's Church—Read and study the Bible as you prepare for the lesson.

When: Sundays

Time: 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Curriculum is set with supplies and Leader Book

Contact: Allyson Ball



# Jubilee

## JUBILEE CHRISTMAS.....

...is just around the corner. This year we want to serve 15-20 families from Homecroft Elementary through our ministry. Families are selected on a basis of need and referred to us by the Homecroft staff. Each family has a SUMC Host who makes an initial contact and gathers information on the children's needs. This includes clothing and Christmas toys and gifts. December 7 on Jubilee Day, the Hosts and adult Family members meet at church for fellowship and to wrap each family's gifts. Several additional household items are included as well as a gift card for family essentials, and a treat of home baked cookies.

Watch for Amazon online shopping beginning November 7 and many items to choose from the tag board in the Next Steps area. Jubilee Team members will be available to answer questions and discuss how you can participate. Hard to believe, but it is just around the corner!



The Band of Brothers will be hosting our First Friday Family Fun Night this month! Join us in the Underground for pumpkin decorating!

# CHILI FESTIVAL

# TRUNK OR TREAT

It is almost time for our third annual Chili Festival & Trunk or Treat. I can't wait to see all the decorated trunks and taste some amazing chili. It is always such a fun event for our community. But, to make it a success we need you. We need you to sign up to compete in the chili cook off or to give out some treats in the Trunk or Treat. So, scan the QR code in this article or stop by the Next Steps Table to let us know you can help.

If you need a little more incentive, there is a chance for you to win cash for a non-profit organization or a charity you are passionate about. Paul Lucas, last years Chili winner, won \$2,250 for Family Promises of Greater Indianapolis. This year each of our chili contestants will be receiving \$100 for their non-profit of choice and ALL proceeds from the event will be given to our top three chili contenders with first place receiving 50%, second 30%, and third 20% of proceeds. And we don't want to leave out our Trunk or Treaters, so we will do a Facebook competition in which the three trunks receiving the most likes will receive a gift from the Pastor's Ministry fund to be donated to their charity of choice.



Scan here to  
to Sign Up!

## Harvest Table Wrap Up

We had a little bit of a rough start this year for the Harvest Table with our structure getting demolished by an impaired driver. But our faith family rallied together to get a great structure including two new tables built and ready to go for the season.

In spite of the rough start, we had another successful season at the Harvest Table. This year we gave away plants and seeds to expert and amateur gardeners, raised nearly \$1200 for the Faith Promise fund which does so much to support the missions and ministries this church is passionate about, we provided four family friendly evenings full of music and food for the community with "Tunes at the Table", oh yeah, and we gave away nearly 10,000 pounds of fresh homegrown produce directly to the community and to Hunger, Inc Food Pantry. Thank You All!



## Lay Servant Academy

You are invited to join us for the Lay Servant Ministries Academy to begin or continue training for living out the call to make disciples for the transformation of our churches, communities, and world. This session will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> right down the street at Christ United Methodist Church. Classes being offered include the Basic Course, Leading Public Prayer, Living Out United Methodist Beliefs (History), and Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Brandon or email him at [brandon@sumc.org](mailto:brandon@sumc.org).

**November 16, 2024**  
**8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (ET)**  
**Indianapolis Christ United Methodist Church**  
8540 US Highway 31 South  
Indianapolis IN 46227

## Women's News

Rebekah Circle will be meeting on **October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the Gathering Area** for the General Meeting. At this meeting we discuss the plans for the 2025 year and vote in the officers. It is very informative meeting if you are new and would like to join this group. We will also **have a guest speaker from Metro Ministry** to explain how they help many churches (Like the grant they gave us to start Feed A Need Ministry). We end the meeting with light snacks. Come join the group...All are welcome.



United  
Women  
in Faith

We are also collecting **socks for the Fletcher Place Community Center's Christmas Give-Away**. Socks are needed for babies and ages 2-12. Adult socks are taken care of by others. A box labeled United Women of Faith sock collection will be placed in the coat hallway for items you would like to help donate.

Church Women United has a meeting at Broadway UMC located at College and 29<sup>th</sup>. It is Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. All women are welcome to attend

## Food Pantry

The Hunger, Inc food pantry thanks Southport UMC for their many donations in September. September's donation to the pantry was 258 lbs of canned goods from YOU. YOU also donated 180 lbs from the Tea. And 25 lbs were on the table recently. That is a total of 463 lbs in just the last week (September 16-23). You are blessing many people by your donations.

Since the pantry has had a tough time being able to afford the food from Meijer, Southport has been asked to be the Saltine Cracker Church (no we are not crackers). So for the Month of October we will be collecting :

**SALTINE CRACKER BOXES ONLY** (no name brands are welcome) They were \$1.72.

How many boxes can we collect ...this will be very interesting to see the supply come in.

We will collect from **OCTOBER 1-OCTOBER 14**.

The new Meijer Campaign will run from September 29<sup>th</sup> to December 28<sup>th</sup>. This is for the Southport Road Meijer store only. Cards are available for \$10 at the store. We will have a display on the Food Table in December if you want to donate money to be taken to the store for you on the Double Day, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks again for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

## Feed A Need (F.A.N.)

Southport has been fanning the flame for the hungry people in downtown Indianapolis for 4 years this October. The bagging of the 50 meals will occur on **Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. In the Gathering Area at church**. The "TEAR DOWN THE WALLS MINISTRY" has been our meal deliverer for these years. The need for food is greater this year than ever, as we all know. This ministry is so thankful for Southport's continued service. So, way to go SOUTHPORT!!!

## Creation Care

Big problems, small steps. What can one person do? Many Climate experts suggest that some of the big problems we face can be helped greatly with small steps by many people. A very small LOW TECH game, maybe one of the very oldest, uses tiny objects and calls for all the fingers, not just a thumb. JACKS@ Ask an older person—many remember that game. Just a small reminder to do what we can. You might discuss electronic games with some people who find them compelling.



**GET A FREE SET OF JACKS AT TRUNK OR TREAT ON OCTOBER 19.** Be on the lookout for one new practice, even through small, that you might take.

CROSS TRAINING

11:45 am—1:45 pm

OCTOBER 13

Please join us as we will be recording something special for our Christmas Eve Services!

1st—6th graders & guardians

Food—Faith—Fun

# NEXT Steps

Information Tables Located in Gathering area

## Chili Festival/Trunk or Treat

October 3, 6, 13

## Kairos Prison Ministry

Sunday, October 6

Stop by the Next Steps Table on Sunday, October 6 to learn more about Kairos Prison Ministry and see how you can be involved in bringing hope with or without entering the prison. Let your light shine.



## 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.