



The Heart Of the Matter

November 2024
NEWSLETTER



“Jacob had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.” -Genesis 28:10-13

Dear Southport UMC,

As we enter November, I find myself filled with gratitude for the journey we have shared these past four months. Your warmth and commitment to this church have been a blessing beyond words. Together, we celebrated our 175th anniversary, and what a celebration it was! From the special music to the lively fellowship, we were reminded of God's enduring faithfulness. Thank you to everyone who made it possible, and thank you for dreaming with us about what the next 175 years of ministry could look like.

November is a time of giving thanks. We remember how God has blessed us and those who came before us, as well as the dreams they dared to dream for our church. On All Saints Sunday, November 3rd, we will honor those saints who have passed on, whose lives continue to inspire us as we light candles and call their names. Their witness reminds us that we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses,” as Hebrews 12 tells us, cheering us on to dream bigger dreams for the future.

But what does it mean to dream? Dreams have always been significant in scripture, often representing God's way of revealing God's plans for the future. Jacob's dream of a stairway to heaven wasn't just a dream of comfort or escape. It was God's way of showing him the path to a new future, one that would shape the lives of generations to come. Dreams, particularly “God-sized” dreams, are often bigger than what we could imagine on our own. They call us to be courageous, to step out in faith, and to trust that God is leading us toward something greater.

This November, I want to invite each of us to ask ourselves: Are we dreaming big enough? Are we willing to let go of the small, “just get by” plans and embrace the vastness of God's vision for our lives and our church? Our new sermon series, *Dare to Dream*, is all about this: daring to live into the dreams that God has for us.

Sometimes, like Jacob or Moses at the burning bush, we might be hesitant. God's dreams for us often require more courage than we think we have. But in these moments, we remember that God doesn't call the equipped—He equips the called.

On **November 17th**, we will gather for a special Harvest of Hope Sunday. Not only will we burn the mortgage and celebrate being debt-free, but we will also share in a joyous celebration together. This is a momentous occasion—a time to reflect on how far we've come and to dream about where God is leading us next. This day will be a powerful reminder that when we dare to dream and follow God's call, anything is possible.

So, as we celebrate the saints who have gone before us and dare to dream about the future, let's step forward with courage. Let's be bold in our prayers, hopeful in our dreams, and active in our faith.

I can't wait to see what God will do next in the life of our church. Please mark your calendars for **November 17th** for Harvest of Hope Sunday. Let's celebrate together and step into the next chapter with joy, gratitude, and bold dreams for the future.

Blessings,
Rev. William G. Nickrand

SEED GRANTS

The What if Dept elimination campaign was a success! We are debt free, SUMC! We are grateful for this blessing from God that would not have been possible without the faithful generosity of the congregation. Thank you.

The whole purpose of this campaign was to release us from the burden of debt, so we could put more resources into the community and world. And we want you to be a part of what's next. That is why we are offering SEED GRANTS.

We will be offering several \$500-\$5,000 grants for 2025. These grants can be for new ministries or for considerable additions to current ministries. We are looking for ideas that will have a positive impact on our community and world in places of the most need. We will also be considering how ideas fit with your spiritual gifts and the overall life of the church. Mostly we will be looking to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and how these new ideas will share Christ's love and God's grace.

So, be praying and thinking of what you might want to do to share Christ's love and grace in the community and world and how the church can help.



Join us at the next Central District Lay Servant Academy

Date: Saturday, November 16th ,
2024

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Christ UMC, 8540 US 31
South, Indianapolis, 46227



WE MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Southport United Methodist was indeed a joyful experience. The worship services highlighted our diversity in music and inspirational messages reminding us the journey from 1849 to the present with a dream and vision for the future. Without a doubt, God is not finished with us yet.

With grateful hearts we offer thanks to the many people who contributed in any way to this special event. From the Planning Team, to the Church Staff, the Music Ministry, those who designed the menus and prepared the food, the Beautification Team and Card Ministry Team, and friends and family who offered support and encouragement over the last 6 months.

We welcomed previous Pastors and their wives, friends who have moved out of the area, guests, members of ministry groups and others from the church family and community. We also received several congratulatory notes.

Thomas Vaughn, Southport Police Chief

"Congratulations on your anniversary and thank you for all of your support. We are very blessed to have such a huge support group."

Susan Payne, Alzheimer Groups Leader

"I so appreciate your church offering us the meeting space! We have had several off and on through the years, and it is nice to have a consistent place to call home!"

Rev. William Schwein, former SUMC Pastor

"William, I want to say again how pleased I am you and Lindsey are there."

I want to congratulate Southport United Methodist Church on a very significant accomplishment. Staying vital and relevant for 175 years is no small achievement. It's a wonderful congregation Still my favorite of the ten churches I served. I thank God for the privilege of being the pastor for eight of those 175 years.

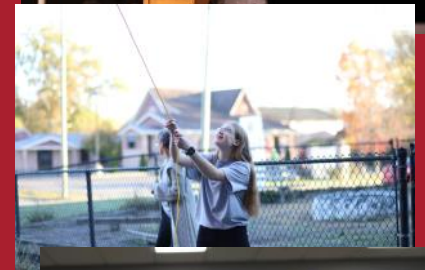
Please convey to the congregation my gratitude for partnering with me during those years. And remind them of one of my favorite quotations: 'For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes.' I pray for your time there with my friends. I know the future is bright!" Bill

Rev. Mark Dicken, former SUMC Pastor

"Congratulations on your 175th anniversary of your founding as an outpost for the gospel of Jesus Christ!"

I am deeply grateful for the four years I was able to spend as your associate pastor under the tutelage and leadership of Dr. Ann Glass. Those years were transformative for me. What I learned from her and from you positively impacted my ministry – leading mission teams, starting new ministries, working with wonderfully gifted staff, experiencing triumphs and tragedies. I continue to have wonderful memories of introducing more contemporary worship music with Boanerges and am thankful that Gary Dunn, Jeff Horne, Doc Williams, Mike Burkhart and others made my pedestrian guitar and vocal offerings passable.

I celebrated the appointment of Rev. William Nickrand to your congregation. I have a long history with him and his family and know you will thrive under his pastoral leadership. I know you will continue to serve Christ and his mission on the Southside of Indianapolis and continue to keep you in my prayers. May God continue to bless Southport United Methodist Church!" In Christ and in hope, Rev. Mark Dicken





Discipleship Path Corner

Call for Carolers

Do you love to sing Carols?
Do you want to share Christ love?
Do you want to have fun?

Join Phil Sell and a group of others on December 15 at 11:30 for refreshments and practice. You will be blessed when you go to Crestwood Village to sing with others at 1:00.

New Ministry

Joann Weber is the coordinator for our newest ministry at Southport UMC. JoAnn is working with the Southport 6th grade academy to help meet the physical needs of students. Our church will be the site for monthly collection drives. Each month we will share the primary needs and collection dates. Please see the next Weekly for November.

Hospitality

The hospitality shown by our church during our 175th weekend was so joyful. We would love to see that kind of hospitality continue throughout our 175th year. We invite you to be a part of the hospitality team to share your love. Reach out to Jerrie or Maggie to join in spreading the joy through hospitality.

Join us for our Debt Elimination Celebration

Harvest
of
HOPE
Sunday

November 17th

We will have one combined service Sunday at 10:00 am



IMAGINATION STATION

Come play with children! Imagination station has full time and part time employment opportunities in childcare!

Full Time Hours: 7am—3pm Monday through Friday

Part Time Hours: 3pm-6pm Monday through Friday

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Our 1st and 2nd grade children's church class is looking for a LEAD teacher to teach children about the Word of God on Sundays from 10:15-11:45 am. Curriculum is provided for the lead to build the lesson plans.

Please contact Allyson Ball for more information: Allyson@sumc.org

Please pass along above information to anyone who may be interested!

IT'S JUBILEE CHRISTMAS TIME!

On Saturday, December 7th we celebrate Jubilee Christmas 2024. SUMC will be hosting 16 families from Homecroft Elementary who have been selected by the school staff and would not have a Christmas without assistance. We have both Hispanic and English speaking families and each family has a host from our church.

Over the next few weeks we are gathering details about personal needs, clothing information and gift and toy wishes. Every child/youth in the family, from birth to 18 years old is included. On Jubilee Day, Hosts, adult members of the Families and extra Helping Hands gather at church for a time of fellowship, gift wrapping and surprises.

The Jubilee Christmas ministry happens because of your involvement and support. We have a short timeframe this year to shop (online and in stores), gather items needed for Jubilee Day (wrapping supplies, gift cards) and arrange for home baked cookies to enjoy Jubilee Day and to send home for the families to share.

Members of the Jubilee Team are available to answer questions and assist with your desire to participate. We hope the following information is helpful as you prayerfully consider the opportunities to serve our Jubilee Families.

We will open the Jubilee season on Thursdays and Sundays starting November 7th and 10th in the Gathering Place. Shopping begins November 7th.

You will find tags on the next steps board for personal items, coats, gift cards, household needs. Browse and select what you would like to donate. REMEMBER TO CHECK BACK THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER. ADDITIONAL FAMILIES WITH NEEDS WILL BE ADDED.

The link to Amazon online shopping will be available November 7th. Team members will assist if you would like to make an Amazon purchase while you are at church. Items from Amazon are shipped to a Jubilee Team member's home. Please do not change this shipping method.

We provide blankets for the cold winter months. Some will be purchased and others will be kit-made with instructions available.

If you would like to provide home baked cookies or help with wrapping on Jubilee Day, place your name on the appropriate form.

All online gifts need to be delivered to our team member's home by December 1st. Tag items to be returned to church by the 1st.

We appreciate your participation in all ways. We covet your prayers for the Jubilee Families, the Homecroft Staff, our Hosts and the Jubilee Ministry.

Sandy Lewis

Kim Distel

Bethany Brock

Karen Kegerreis

Pam Clough

Jennifer LaMar

Laura Littlepage

Jerrie Snell

Sherry Davis

Join Us!



OUTHPORT
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

November 1st @ 6:30 pm

"The Star"



TRAINING

11:45 am—1:45 pm

CRONINGS

NOVEMBER 10

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

1st—6th graders & guardians

Food—Faith—Fun



OUTHPORT
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

CHILI TRUNK OR TREAT
FESTIVAL



OUTHPORT
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

CHILI TRUNK OR TREAT
FESTIVAL

WINNERS

3rd  1st  2nd 

FamilyPromise

KAIROS

OUTHPORT
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

CHILI TRUNK OR TREAT
FESTIVAL

WINNERS

3rd  1st  2nd 

SUMY
Southport United Methodist Youth

pioneers
a volunteer network

RUPERT'S
KIDS

Thank you to all of our Chili Festival and Trunk or Treat participants! We had a great turn out.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE MANY BOXES OF SALTINE CRACKERS. We collected 120 lbs of crackers and other items. That is such a great way to help the pantry.

We also provided over a 100 lbs of produce from the gardens in the month of October. Thanks to the garden pickers we got the last of the tomatoes and other produce before the frost came in October. The clients love to have even the green tomatoes to make salsa. It has been a great year for produce!!!

Again, we are going to help provide things for the pantry that are not being bought by the pantry.

NOVEMBER COLLECTION will again be:

CRACKER BOXES (Any type of crackers. They have many saltines after last month's collections)

CANNED BEANS (pinto, chili, kidney, garbanzo, cannellini, and baked beans)

It is the season for soups to be made.

The collection dates will be from **Sunday, November 3rd** to November 10th

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle had a wonderful meeting in October with our guest speaker from Metro Ministries. We were informed about all the help available from them for the church.

Our next meeting will be on November 12th at 1 pm in the Gathering Place at the church. We will be holding our General Meeting where officers are elected. Come join the group for fellowship, faith moments, and food.



United
Women
in Faith

FEED A NEED (FAN)

Our next activity day to bag sack meals for the downtown unhoused will be on November 7th at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Place at church. This activity only takes about 30 minutes to achieve. It is a time to get to know new people. Our December bagging activity is on December 12. Come join the group anytime.

CREATION CARE (add Logo)

Now is the time for the seasonal and super-valuable gift of Creation that falls freely, ready to feed and cool our Earth--LEAVES!!!!. They seem so common, but they are POWER FOOD that can benefit us all.

As in the forest, the leaves need to help replenish the Earth with moisture, help to feed, and help to cool. We can make "brown gold" by mulching the leaves and using them in our gardens and yards. Enjoy the leaves by playing in them, and avoid burning them. Curbside side composting programs vary so check out how you can help. Put the leaves to use to protect God's wonderful Earth. They provide for an abundant community of plants and soil building creatures.

Take a look at "Compost in a Jar" on-line and see how the magic works.



Dare to
DREAM



DATE	TITLE	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
November 7 & 10, 2024	"Dreaming the Dream"	Genesis 28:10-13	Allow yourself to not only dream but to do dream "God Sized" dreams!
November 24	Harvest of Hope Sunday "Your Burning Bush "	Exodus 3:1-12	To live the dream, we must do what God is telling us now.
November 21 & 24, 2024	"The Called"	Exodus 4:2-5	God does not call the equipped but instead equips the called.

Are your goals too small? Are you living the "just get by" plan? Or is there a greater "God dream" for you that, if lived to the fullest, could permeate and inform every move you make? Join us during this 3-week sermon series in November for the Dare to Dream sermon series, where we'll focus on God's dream for the church, God's dream for each of our lives, and to celebrate the fulfilled dream of our "What If" campaign.



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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Website: www.sumc.org

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.