

The Heart Of the Matter



Dear Southport U.M.C.,

February is here, and let's be honest—aren't we all ready to pack away the snow shovels and trade frostbite for sunshine? While January gave us its best impression of a winter wonderland, here's hoping February leans more toward warm cups of goodness than frozen toes. If nothing else, we can dream, right?

January truly was a fantastic start to the New Year! Together, we received star gifts to guide us, recommitted ourselves to Christ through the Wesley Covenant Prayer, and reaffirmed our baptisms. Our first all-church gathering with me as your senior pastor was such a joy, and your energy and excitement were contagious. We also partnered with the Indiana Conference for MLK Days of Service during our "Caring After Christmas" event, answering the prophet Micah's call to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Now, as February begins, we're diving into a brand-new sermon series, Unplugged: Disconnect to Reconnect. This series will challenge us to put down our devices and take a closer look at how technology impacts our lives. When used wisely, it's a tool for connection, but when it takes over, it can leave us feeling isolated and burned out. Together, we'll explore how stepping back can create space to reconnect—with God, with others, and even with ourselves.

Looking ahead, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, marking the start of a season of reflection and renewal. Our Lenten sermon series, God on the Move, will take us on a journey with Jesus toward Easter, reminding us that God walks alongside us, transforming us every step of the way.

I hope you'll join us in this meaningful season, not only through worship but also by contributing to our Lenten devotional project. Let's embrace this time of preparation together as we step into all that God has planned for us.

Wishing you a February filled with warmth, connection, and maybe even a little sunshine!

Blessings,
Rev. William G. Nickrand



RECAP

Heart of the Matter: *An all Church Gathering*

Thank you to everyone that attended our all church gathering to review current happenings in the church. If you were unable to attend, we have resources available online, including a recording of the meeting. You can find this at:
sumc.org/leadership-team/



A flyer for a pancake dinner. At the top, there is a decorative border of golden syrup dripping down. Below this, the text 'FREE COMMUNITY Pancake Dinner' is written in a mix of fonts. In the center is an illustration of a stack of pancakes with a pat of butter on top and syrup drizzled over them. Below the illustration, the text 'Come join us for a Free Pancake Dinner' is followed by the date 'March 4th' and the time '5:30pm-7:30pm'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'OUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH' with a stylized heart and cross symbol. Below the logo, the address '1947 E Southport Rd Indianapolis, IN 46227' and the website 'SUMC.ORG' are listed.

FREE COMMUNITY
Pancake Dinner



Come join us for a
Free Pancake Dinner
March 4th
5:30pm-7:30pm

OUTHPORT
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

1947 E Southport Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46227
SUMC.ORG



Caring After Christmas Event

With over 60 volunteers Caring After Christmas was a great success. Not only did we get to follow up with our Jubilee families with food and household baskets, but we also were able to touch other lives. Shopping bags were assembled and delivered to Perry Senior Center with the fixings to make SUMC's 2X Chili Cook Off winning recipe. 250 Dental hygiene bags were assembled, and over 100 Agape gifts were assembled for men and women who will be attending upcoming Emmaus Walks.

Bishop Malone recently shared with us Isaiah 43:19 - in which the prophet declares that God is making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. She stated, God has a plan and a purpose.

We (SUMC) are part of that plan and purpose.

We need to be "All IN" to cultivate Joy, Love and Hope in our communities. Caring After Christmas was a great way to do this. It was a day of service to our community. Looking at the faces of those attending it was a Joyful event, there was Love in the room and going out the doors. My prayer this event and others like it will reflect the Hope we (SUMC) have for our community and world and send my heartfelt THANK YOU to all who participated.

Margaret Trammell

C
R
O
N
I
N
G
S
S

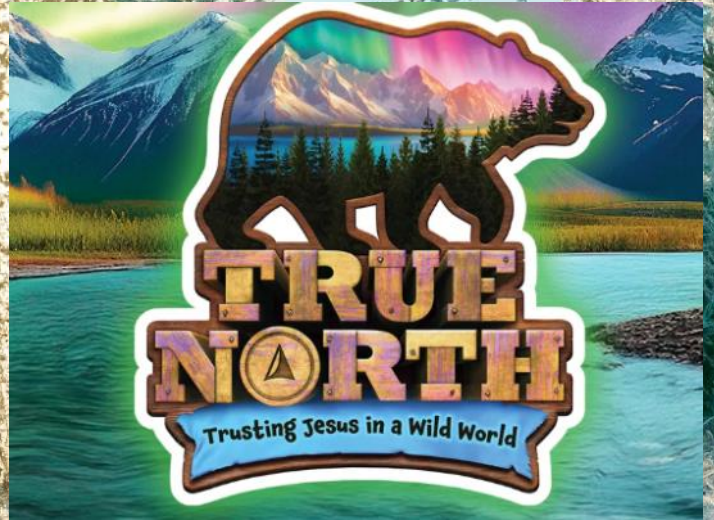
11:45 am—1:45 pm

Join Us!

FEBRUARY 9

1st—6th graders & guardians

Food—Faith—Fun



VBS *Save The Date:*
June 8-12!

There is still time to sign up for our Lenten Devotional! Deadline is February 18.



GOD ON THE MOVE

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

SIGN UP USING THIS QR CODE
OR AT THE NEXT STEPS TABLE
TO HELP WITH THE LENTEN DEVOTIONAL



JOIN US! We have plans for our next three First Family Fun Nights! Information below.



An Invite from the Discipleship Path Coordinators!

If you are interested in joining a small group, we would love to hear from you. Please visit our website for more information on the small groups that we have at SUMC! Email Maggie Lucas with questions at maggie@sumc.org.

We have received wonderful letters thanking our congregation for the contributions and how they have helped in 2024! Below is one from Family Promise!



January 17, 2025

Southport United Methodist Church
1947 E Southport Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46227-5215

On behalf of all of us at Family Promise, thank you so much for your generosity last year! I note for tax purposes that you received no goods or services in exchange for your donation(s), which we note the total of below.

It was a pivotal year for the staff here at FPGI with promising transitions and additions to the team. With a full roster, our programs have expanded with the Apartment Shelter Program at a capacity of 28 units (3 of which are part of winter contingency), and Diversion and Aftercare serving a record number of families as well. We look forward to a bright and impactful 2025!

Here are just a few examples of what you made possible last year:

- Case management for 177 Diversion and 209 Aftercare members
- Shelter for 185 Apartment Shelter Program members (105 children)
- Investing \$283,598.71 on families in our programs for things such as first month's rent, job certifications, childcare, and transportation from the Family Assistance Fund – an initiative that you have continued since 2016!

The need continues to grow, but your continued support has been monumental in navigating the journey of homelessness and helped pave the way for a path to permanent housing for our families! We know that we couldn't do the work we do without each and every one of you. Thank you for your support in 2024!

With deep gratitude,

Matt Fultz
Executive Director

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle at Southport is meeting on February 11th at 1 p.m. in the Gathering area. We will have a Pledge Service where you learn all the information about what our Circle supports. After that a Book Talk will be given by Elizabeth Harmon on Harriet Tubman. This talk is on one of the books that can count towards our Reading Program for United Women of Faith. Come join the faith group, fun and food.

FOOD PANTRY

For the month of **February we will be collecting Diapers for all the young women for their little ones. The diapers should be sizes 1,2,3,4,5,6 in the smaller packages.** The smaller packages help the moms get through until they can get their own or get help from many suppliers offering free diapers.

Thanks so much for all the help last year donating food, diapers, and money for the Meijer Simply Care Campaign in December. There will be another Campaign again in the Spring.

Meijer is the store that fills the orders for food each month when needed. They also offer it at a discounted price which helps the pantry when supply is low.

We will be collecting the diapers from February 1st until February 10th.

FEED A NEED MINISTRY

The Feed a Need Team (FAN) will be bagging the 50 meals for the *Tear Down the Walls* ministry. We have been bagging meals for the last 4 years and are starting our 5th year. Recently many suitcases were donated to the ministry that the unhoused use to store and travel with their belongings. Also, 50 hand warmers were donated as well. These were very helpful for the last cold blast of days. Anyone is welcome to come help or just visit to see how we do things.

Bagging is on February 6th at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Area. We are also collecting Upper Room or other small devotional pamphlets. These fit nicely in the bags for the recipients to have to show the love of God.

CREATION CARE MINISTRY

Whatever your reason for planting a tree in your yard, that tree is an important part of providing profound layers of good for everyone.

Cooling shade helps lower city temps by as much as 10 degrees.

Cleaner Air helps improve the quality of the air we breathe

Rainwater Management by intercepting 1,000 gallons of rainwater per year to help preventing floods.

Wildlife Habitats for providing food and shelter for a wide range of wildlife.

Community Wellbeing by improving mental health and physical activity.

Combined with your neighbors trees, all those layers of good stack up to a better quality of life for everyone.



Beech Grove Clean City Initiative
FREE DRIVE UP RECYCLING
March 8, June 7, September 6, November 8

Paper Shredding
Metal 7 Appliance Drop Off
Eyeglass Recycle
Hearing Aid Recycle
Unused Medicine Disposal
Used Syringe Disposal

Location:
Beech Grove City Hall
906 Main Street
9:00 a.m.—12 p.m.





The Youth had a great time Ice Skating at Perry Park!

For resources regarding 2025 church camp, please Visit impact2818.org



IMPACT 2818: Outdoor Ministries
of the United Methodist Churches of Indiana



make a
Splash!



Finance

Church		2024
Income		
Offerings	\$520,402	
Other	\$8,335	
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$69,913	
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support		(\$62,973)
Administration		(\$157,076)
Maintenance & Utilities		(\$151,305)
Connect, Grow, Serve		(\$291,278)
Youth & Child Ministry		(\$26,508)
Net		(\$90,490)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$465,206	
Expense		(\$374,048)
"Tithe/offering" to Church		(\$69,913)
Net		\$21,246
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$993,943	
Total Expenses		(\$1,063,188)
Net		(\$69,245)

If you were able to make it to the "Heart of the Matter: All Church Gathering" we had on January 26th you probably heard, we ended 2024 with a deficit of just under \$70,000 (By the way, if you didn't make it to that meeting, we did record it and there is a brand new "Leadership Team" page on our website at which you can find that video).

I know \$70,000 sounds like a lot of money, and it is, but our total budget for 2024, that is the amount of money we expected to both spend and bring in was \$1,050,000. Well, we sure did spend that much. We spent right at 1% over what we budgeted for. However, we did not bring in that much. The total for our income was 5% less than expected.

I hope we can see that being 6% off budget is an obstacle we can overcome. And it's not that surprising, all things considered. Please remember we paid off a huge debt in 2024, and although you are all faithful givers, this puts a strain on budgetary giving. We also had pastoral change, denomination issues, general economic turmoil, etc., to deal with. We also had several unplanned expenses that were good expenses but didn't help our budget.

Overall, I can honestly say that I feel we are in a decent financial position. We do need to see a boost to budget giving in 2025, and if we do instead of reporting we are in a decent financial position I will be able to report we are in an excellent financial position. So, please prayerfully consider what you can do to help. As always, thank you for giving faithfully and without compulsion and trusting us to use your gifts to do the work of Christ.

Gratefully yours,

Brandon

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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



1947 E Southport Road
 Indianapolis, IN
 Phone: 317-784-9508
 Email: office@sumc.org
 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.*