

The Heart Of the Matter



Dear Southport U.M.C.,

March is here, and with it comes the promise of spring... eventually. While we may still have a few chilly mornings ahead, there's something about turning the calendar to March that reminds us: new life is just around the corner. And in the life of the church, that new life takes shape in the season of Lent.

Lent is a time of preparation, reflection, and renewal, rooted in the early church's tradition of preparing new believers for baptism on Easter Sunday. In those days, the weeks leading up to Easter were spent in deep prayer, study, and fasting—practices that have shaped Christians for centuries. Over time, Lent has evolved into a season for all of us to examine our hearts, realign our lives with God's grace, and deepen our spiritual disciplines.

One of the most well-known Lenten practices is fasting, but let's be honest—fasting often gets reduced to simply “giving something up.” We joke about giving up chocolate, caffeine, or social media, but at its core, fasting is about creating space for God. It's a way of setting aside something that distracts us or consumes us, so we can turn our hearts toward what truly sustains us. Whether it's fasting from certain foods, from excessive screen time, or even from negativity and complaint, the goal is the same: to hunger for God in a new way.

As we begin this sacred season, I invite you to join us for Ash Wednesday worship on March 5th. This service marks the beginning of our journey with the reminder that we are dust, and to dust we shall return—yet we are also beloved, redeemed, and called to follow where God leads. Our Lenten sermon series, *God on the Move*, will walk us through the ways God is active in our lives, constantly drawing us toward renewal and resurrection.

So whether you're fasting, praying, or simply taking time to slow down and listen, I pray this Lent will be a season of transformation for you. And as we journey toward Easter, may we discover that the more we make room for God, the more we find God has been moving toward us all along.

Blessings,

Rev. William G. Nickrand

			
Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter
April 10th & 13th	April 17th	April 18th	April 20th
Luke 23:1-49	John 13:1-17, 31-35	John 18:1-19:42	Luke 24:1-12
God moves the cross	Holy Communion/Hand Washing	The Darkest Hour: A Service of Tenebrae	God moves out of the tomb

2025 LENTEN EVENTS & SPECIAL SERVICES

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner: March 4, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday: March 5, 7:00 p.m.

Psalm Sunday: Celebrated Thursday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. & Sunday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Festival: Saturday, April 12, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday: April 17, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday: April 18, 7:00 p.m.

Easter: Sunday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



March 6th & 9th
 March 13th & 16th
 March 20th & 23rd
 March 27th & 30th
 April 3rd & 6th

Luke 4:1-13
 Luke 13:31-35
 Luke 13:1-9
 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
 John 12:1-8

God moves into the desert
 God moves past all obstacles
 God moves over the fence
 God moves down the road
 God moves us to empty ourselves

As we encounter the life and ministry of Jesus, we cannot stay the same. We ourselves are moved to grow and change as followers and imitators of the gospel. The comforting truth of Lent is that as we delve deeper into our own self-examination, we find that we are not alone. God is still on the move in our lives, walking with us every step as we travel the road to Easter. Throughout this series, we'll explore how God actively engages with us, encouraging transformation, deepening our faith, and inviting us to participate in the divine mission. Join us as we open our hearts to the ways God is moving in our midst, guiding us toward renewal and resurrection. Let this Lent be a time of profound reflection and joyful anticipation as we embrace the journey together.



Easter Festival

EGG HUNT - FREE FOOD - GAMES - CRAFTS - STORY
EASTER BUNNY



April 12, 2025
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Egg Hunt Times
 Infant - 5 yrs. @ 2:30 6 - 12 yrs. @ 3:15

1947 E. Southport Road

NEXT Steps

Make sure to stop by our **NEXT STEPS** table and check out our pin board of items needed for the Easter Festival!



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

Ash
Wednesday



March 5

Service begins at
7:00 p.m.

LENTEN STUDY & FELLOWSHIP MEAL

MOVING **TO THE** CROSS



TUESDAYS MARCH 11TH TO APRIL 8
MEAL @ 6PM STUDY @ 7PM

TRAINING
CROSS

11:45 am—1:45 pm

Join Us!

MARCH 9

1st—6th graders & guardians

Food—Faith—Fun

Passover Seder for the Multifaith Community

Have you ever wondered what a ‘Seder’ meal is? Have you ever been curious about what it would be like to take part in a Jewish celebration or time of worship?

Our church community has been honored with an invitation to a Passover Seder for the Multifaith Community—a gathering where faith leaders and community partners come together to experience the meaning, symbols, and traditions of Passover. This is a unique opportunity to learn, connect, and grow in understanding alongside our Jewish neighbors.

I would love to see members of our congregation join in this meal of learning and community.

If you’re interested, here are the details:

Location: Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, 600 W 70th St, Indianapolis, IN

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 5:30 PM

RSVP & More Info:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/695ar7z>

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Yaniv Shmukler at yshmukler@indyjrc.org.

Let’s take this opportunity to deepen our understanding and build meaningful relationships across faith communities!

JOIN US for some family fun for all ages at our upcoming **FIRST FRIDAY FUN NIGHTS!**



FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Shamrock Shuffle

Dance Party
 Crafts and Snacks
 Friday March 7th
 6:30pm



FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH
AT 6:30 PM

Yes Day

SOUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1947 E Southport Rd.
 Indianapolis IN 46227
 317-787-7595
 www.sumc.org

Southport UMC: A Legacy of Faith and Growth

As we celebrate 175 years of ministry, it's remarkable to reflect on the journey of Southport United Methodist Church and the faithfulness of those who have shaped its history. Here are some key milestones that have brought us to where we are today:

1849 – Our first church building was constructed. This structure served the congregation until 1869 when a larger, 2,800-square-foot brick church was built on a stone foundation.

1883 – A devastating cyclone destroyed the church. Thanks to the generosity of seven farmers, each donating \$1,000, a new church was built just a year later.

1936-1937 – Remodeling took place, and an annex (30x40 feet) was added, connecting to the sanctuary. At the same time, the parsonage—still standing today—was constructed.

1953-1956 – Recognizing the need for more space, the East Wing (Educational Building) was built and attached to the parsonage, which was converted into office space. A new parsonage was purchased on Tulip Drive.

1971-1973 – Plans for a new sanctuary were made, and in May 1973, the current sanctuary was dedicated. During construction, worship services were held in the basement of the Education Wing, now known as “The Underground.”

Late 1980s – The Fellowship Hall (now The Gathering Place) was built, featuring expanded office space and a larger kitchen.

2000 – The West Wing was added, replacing what was once an exterior wall with windows looking outside.

2007 – A significant sanctuary remodel and office renovations were completed.

Through the years, our congregation has faithfully invested in expanding and maintaining our church home. From our 125th anniversary book, records show that approximately \$645,000 was spent on land and buildings prior to 1975. Since then, through your generosity, we have continued to grow—purchasing seven surrounding lots, constructing new facilities, and refurbishing existing spaces.

By the Numbers: Fun Facts About Our Church Facility

Our entire campus spans **36,000 square feet** across five connected buildings.

Approximately **95,000 bricks** make up the exterior walls.

We maintain **360 light fixtures, 24 furnaces, and 24 air conditioners**—a big job, especially in Indiana's unpredictable weather!

There are **14 restrooms** containing **27 toilets and 19 sinks** throughout the buildings.

For hospitality and ministry events, we have **14 kitchen sinks, 6 refrigerators, and a commercial dishwasher**.

Our **120 doors** lead to **48 rooms and 8 hallways**, ensuring plenty of space for worship, fellowship, and service.

Our parking lots cover **45,792 square feet of asphalt**—more than an acre of pavement!

Monthly utility costs range from **\$3,600 to \$4,200**, not including trash removal or security system maintenance.

Looking Ahead

Through your faithful giving, we have not only paid off our mortgage but also positioned ourselves for a strong future. However, maintaining a facility of this size is an ongoing responsibility. Roofs need repairs, air conditioners wear out, and parking lots crack over time. Your continued generosity ensures that Southport UMC remains a place where God's work thrives for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Our church is more than just a building—it is a living testament to God's faithfulness and the dedication of this community. Together, we will continue to grow, serve, and make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Your Leadership Team

CREATION CARE

If you are an AES client, you can support renewable energy for just a few dollars more each month. The **AES Green Power option** allows you to specify part or all of your monthly electricity use to be generated by an environmentally friendly, renewable resource.

- Choose to offset **100%, 50%, or 25%** of your home energy usage.
- The current green power premium is **\$0.0026 per kWh** enrolled and represents renewable energy credits **purchased from Midwestern wind farms.**
- A typical customer using **1,000 kWh per month** enrolled at the **100% level** would pay an additional **\$2.60** on their AES Indiana electric bill.

Benefits:

Advances the development of renewable, environmentally friendly energy sources.

- Diversifies energy supply and lessens demand for fossil fuel generation (*Indiana uses fossil fuel coal*).
 - Reduces carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere.
- If you are not an AES client, check out your provider for similar options.

WOMEN'S NEWS

The **Rebekah Circle** will host their **March meeting on March 11th at 1 PM** in the **Gathering Area** at church.

At this meeting, a program will be hosted by **Kim Kidwell** as she demonstrates **how to make a card**. The cards will then be sent to some of our inactive members, letting them know how much God loves them.

After a short meeting, card-making, and writing, there will be time for **fellowship and food**. **All are welcome to join in the fun!**

FEED A NEED (FAN)

The next bagging of **50 meals** for the unhoused in downtown Indy will be on **March 6th at 1 PM** in the **Gathering Area** at church.

We fill the bags with:

- Spoon, Napkin, Foil tuna pack, Cracker pack, Mayo pack, Fruit cup, Veggie cup, Granola bar, Chips, Candy, Water.

Our deliverer takes the bags to the **Tear Down the Walls Ministry**, which distributes them on the following Saturday.

If you are interested in **helping pass out the bags downtown**, let the church know, and you will be contacted. We also include **Upper Room and other devotional pamphlets** in the bags. Please place your items on the table near the restroom door.

HUNGER INC. FOOD PANTRY

For the month of **February**, you provided **37 lbs. of diapers** for young families in need. That was many packages! **Thank you** for helping our local community **keep grocery costs down** and use their money for food.

For **March**, we are collecting:

- Baked Beans Cans
- Chicken Noodle Soup Cans

Collection Dates: Thursday, March 5th – Friday, March 14th



Creating Meaningful Impact

Since 1975, Perry Township Religious Education Association has provided public elementary school students the opportunity to attend religious education (R.E.) classes during the regular school week. PTREA is governed by a board of directors composed of teachers, parents, and interested area church members.

"Release time" laws here in Indiana allow children, with parental permission, to be released from their regular classrooms once a week to participate in R.E. during regular school hours or after school.

Approximately 70% of the children who attend these classes have no church affiliation. PTREA's R.E. classes provide one of the few, if any, opportunities that these young people have to read the Bible and learn about Jesus.

PTREA is an IRS-registered 501(c)(3), publicly supported organization.

Southport United Methodist Church provides financial support to PTREA and we look forward to having you be our hands in feet in sharing the Bible with 4th and 5th Graders.

Contact Maggie Lucas, maggie@sumc.org, 317.513.5492 for more information.



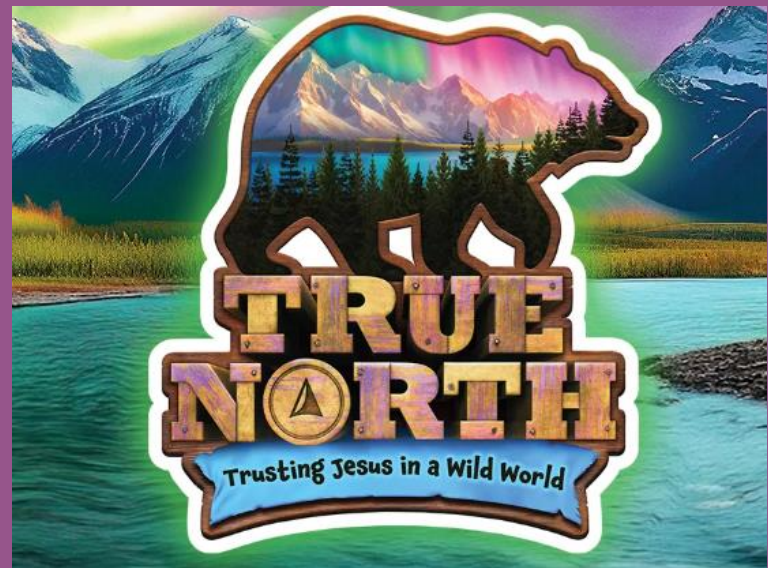
MEMBERSHIP CLASS—PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

Sunday, March 2 at 11:45 in the Music Room

You are invited to join us to learn more about membership in our church led by Pastor William. You will not only learn the Five Things Every Member Needs to Know, you will also enjoy pizza for lunch. Please check the box on the Connections Card if you would like to join us.



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



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

Finance

Church	Jan-25
Income	
Offerings	\$65,159
Other	\$30
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$6,250
Church Expenses	
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$12,775)
Administration	(\$19,067)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$15,853)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$24,403)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,896)
Net	(\$2,555)
Imagination Station	
Income	\$44,645
Expense	(\$26,842)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$6,250)
Net	\$11,553
All Together	
Total Incomes	\$109,834
Total Expenses	(\$100,836)
Net	\$8,998

Hello SUMC,

It's been a while since I've written one of these finance articles. As you may know, I had a house fire about a year ago, and to help manage my load, I took a hiatus from writing these articles. While I'm not yet back in my house (no worries, it should be soon), it's time to start keeping you all in the loop on SUMC's finances.

To get us back on track, this article will be very to the point.

First, the good news: the numbers look good. Now, the bad news: the numbers aren't as good as they appear. But don't stress—I'd say we are holding steady for our first month of 2025.

Giving appears to be at a near all-time high for the month. However, know that a significant portion of this month's giving came from QCDs (Qualified Charitable Distributions), which tend to be given quarterly or sometimes even annually. So, some of this giving is actually for multiple months.

As for expenses, they appear high, and they are somewhat, but not as high as they seem. It snowed, and it was cold, which is expensive for a building and parking lot like ours. These expenses were nearly double what they were last January. You will also notice that our tithe expense seems a bit high. Normally, it will be 11% (10% to the conference and 1% to the district), but we had been paying quarterly in 2024 instead of monthly, so this payment is for the 4th quarter of 2024.

With all of this said, thank you for giving faithfully to the church. Thank you for giving without reluctance or compulsion. Thank you for being the church.

Brandon

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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 Indianapolis, IN
 Phone: 317-784-9508
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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.*