

The Heart Of the Matter



APRIL 2025—Newsletter for Southport United Methodist Church

Dear Southport Family,

April is here, and we are moving toward the greatest celebration of our faith—Easter! But before we reach the empty tomb, we walk the road of Holy Week, following Jesus as he moves through suffering into victory.

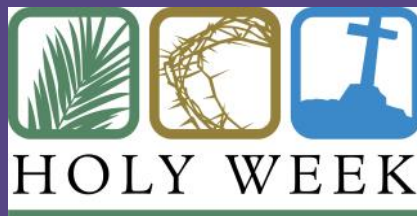
Our journey begins with Palm Sunday, as Jesus moves toward the cross, greeted with shouts of *Hosanna!*—a parade that quickly turns into the path of sacrifice. Maundy Thursday invites us to move to the table, where Jesus bends low to wash feet and calls us to love as he loves. Good Friday moves us into the deepest shadows, where we sit with the weight of Christ's sacrifice in our Tenebrae service. And then, **Easter Sunday dawns with earth-shaking news—God moves out of the tomb!** Death is defeated, hope is alive, and the story of redemption continues.

But Easter isn't just a one-day event—it's a way of life. **As Easter people, we believe that God is still on the move.** Resurrection is not just something we celebrate; it's something we live. Wherever there is despair, we bring hope. Wherever there is brokenness, we bring healing. Wherever there is darkness, we shine the light of Christ. And speaking of joy, on April 27, we'll celebrate **Humor Sunday**—a time-honored tradition that reminds us that the ultimate joke was on the enemy. The world thought Jesus was gone, but **God had the last laugh!** So come ready to rejoice, smile, and celebrate the joy of resurrection together.

God is on the move, and we are moving with him. May this Easter season fill your heart with renewed hope, deep joy, and the unshakable promise that the best is yet to come.

With joy and anticipation,

Rev. William G. Nickrand



**2025 LENTEN EVENTS &
SPECIAL SERVICES**

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.

**SOUTHPORT
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

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



Prep is underway for our Easter Festival! It's not too late to contact Mindy Bennett if you are interested in volunteering!
Mindy@sumc.org



An *Invite* from the Discipleship Path Coordinators!

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 fourth and fifth Graders. Contact Maggie Lucas for more information: maggie@sumc.org or 317.513.5492. To learn more about PTREA, visit their website below!



"I have started driving and I am enjoying the experience and meeting some new people. It normally takes only 2 hours for an appointment, not an entire day. Join me in the ministry!" -

Alice

Ensuring a Safe and Secure Worship Environment

At Southport UMC, our church is not just a place of worship, it is a community, a family, and a sanctuary. With that in mind, we are taking proactive steps to ensure a safe and secure environment for all who gather here. To support this effort, we are forming a Safety & Security Team and invite members of our congregation to consider joining this important ministry.

What is the Role of a Church Safety & Security Team? This team will be dedicated to creating and maintaining a secure environment for worship services, ministry activities, and community events. Whether you can offer your time regularly or prefer to contribute behind the scenes, there are many ways to get involved. Some key aspects of the team's work include:

Facility & Practice Assessment – A professional consultation will be conducted to evaluate our current safety measures and identify areas for improvement.

Emergency Preparedness & Response – The team will help develop and implement plans for medical emergencies, security concerns, and general safety awareness.

Training Opportunities – Members will have access to free resources and training provided by professional agencies and partner churches. No prior experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and serve.

Flexible Commitment – Whether you want to serve on Sundays, assist with planning, or contribute in other ways, there is a role for everyone.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider being a part of this vital ministry. Your participation will help strengthen the safety and security of our church, ensuring that all can worship and serve with peace of mind.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please reach out to Mindy Bennett, Church Administrator at mindy@sumc.org. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact on our church community!

TRAINING
CRONSS
 11:45 am—1:45 pm
Join Us!
APRIL 13
 1st—6th graders & guardians
Food—Faith—Fun

JOIN US for the first Friday of every month for some family fun for all ages!

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

FREE COMMUNITY TACO DINNER

Monday, May 5
5:30pm - 7:30pm

Southport United Methodist Church
 1947 East Southport Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227



March was a fun month! Feel free to email any photos you take during April or anytime to Makayla! makayla@sumc.org



WOMEN'S NEWS

The next meeting of the Rebekah Circle will be April 8th at 1 p.m. at church. We will be sharing our annual **Call to Prayer and Self Denial** program. This program will focus on Women and their role as leaders to help grow God's kin-dom. Come join the circle and share your experiences with women mentors that have influenced you.

We will also be discussing Easter basket donation, sharing a book talk, food to eat, and time to visit with other women. All ages of women are welcome.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you so much for your donations to the Hunger, Inc Food Pantry located on the corner of Madison Ave and Epler Ave, behind Kim's Cakery. This small pantry services some 180 clients a week. So you can understand how important donations can be.

Items needed for the month of April are:

canned fruit..any kind of fruit

Collection dates are from Thursday, April 3 ---Sunday, April 13.

FEED A NEED (FAN)

The team will be bagging the 50 sack meals on **Thursday, April 10th at 1 pm. at the church** in the gathering area. These meals help feed the unhoused in downtown Indy. The meals are distributed by the Tear Down the Walls Ministry on the second Saturday of each month. If you are interested in helping with this ministry let the church know and you will be contacted.

ROOF CRASHERS BIBLE STUDY

The Roof Crashers Bible Study group of ladies will be starting new video classes given by Andy Stanley. The class meets on Mondays from 9:30-11 am. in the Gathering Area at church. We watch the video and then have a leader lead a lively discussion on the items presented. All women are welcome to join the group. The **next meeting on March 17th**, we will be collecting our donations for our Easter Basket. The theme of the basket will be S'mores. Yummy!!!!

CREATION CARE NEWS

APRIL is when we **celebrate ARBOR DAY**. It is usually celebrated on the last Friday in April. On this day many groups get together and plant trees all over the nation. We all have a role to play in shaping a greener future. One with a thriving neighborhood tree canopy, vibrant forest ecosystems and a healthier planet for the future generations. So help leave a legacy through trees. Care for your trees or plant a new tree to help our world last forever. God gave us this great planet to care for now and in the future.



Our Imagination Station teachers attended the Indiana Early Childhood Conference!



**Night
without
a Bed**

SAVE THE DATE:
Friday, May 2 at
Southport United
Methodist Church

Southport UMC Attends Seder Meal

A group from Southport UMC had the wonderful opportunity to attend a Seder meal at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, where we experienced a beautiful evening of learning, fellowship, and delicious food. The meal was both fun and deeply meaningful, as we gained insight into the traditions and symbolism of Passover while engaging in thoughtful conversations with our gracious hosts. We are incredibly thankful for this invitation and look forward to future opportunities to connect and grow in understanding with our neighbors in faith!



SEED GRANT

Southport UMC is excited to announce that the first Seed Grant has been awarded to Sharon Grayson and Sandy Tilton for their project, **HOPE (Helping Our People Eat)**.

This project will focus on serving Jubilee students and families from Homecroft Elementary. To supplement what Perry Township provides during the week, **HOPE** will offer a hot breakfast and a bag of additional food and basic necessities every Saturday during the summer.

When & Where:

Families will be served on six Saturdays: **June 7, 14, 21, 28, and July 12, 19** from **9:00 to 10:00 AM** at **Southport UMC**.

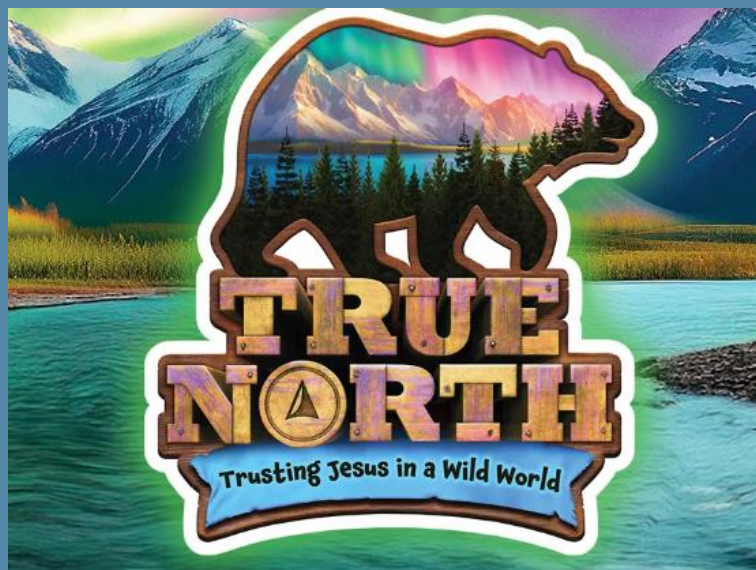
This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer and serve at the church. Keep an eye out for the **Next Steps Table** coming soon for more information.

Food Collection for April & May:

During April and May, instead of collecting food for the pantry, we will gather items for families to take home on Saturdays.

- **April:** We are collecting canned fruit (mandarin oranges and peaches) and canned vegetables (green beans and corn).
- **Collection Dates: Thursday, April 3 – Sunday, April 13.** Our goal is to support **16 families**, so we need lots of cans. Please join us in our effort to **Help Our People Eat**.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact the church office.



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

VBS save The Date:
June 8-12!

Finance

Here at SUMC we encourage tithing. That is simply giving a part (usually 10%) of what you have been given. We encourage you to do this without reluctance or compulsion. We in turn do everything we can to make sure that the funds you give bless the church, community, and even, world, and ultimately serve God.

So, the ways to give that you see listed on this page are considered above and beyond giving funds. These funds are important to the life of the church, but we can't properly utilize these funds unless our budgetary needs are fulfilled. So, these are ways you can give if you are already tithing and feel so blessed that you'd like to share more of your financial resources. If you are not yet tithing, no problem, thank you for what you are able to give, and we would encourage you to do your best to move towards tithing by continuing to give without designating the funds you give.

I do want to highlight one of these funds, Faith Promise Missions. Your contributions to this fund are how much of our outreach and mission efforts are funded. In 2024 this fund supported 24 programs with over \$44,000 to feed people, clothe people, house people, and bless people in many other ways. Keep an eye out for the Faith Promise 2024 Activity Report (soon to be published) to learn more about these efforts.

So, thank you for all the ways you give. Thank you for being the church.

Keep growing & giving,

Brandon

January to February 2025		
Designated Fund	Given	Used
Music Fund	\$0	\$0
Pastors' Benevolent Fund	\$1,497	\$3,428
Youth Fund	\$0	\$0
Church Improv/Expansion	\$4,810	\$17,695
Capital Stewardship	\$4,412	\$12,000
Faith Promise Missions	\$4,200	\$3,185
Pastor's Ministry Fund	\$350	\$3,775

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.