

# The Heart Of the Matter



## JUNE 2025 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church

### Summer's Here... and We're Just Getting Started!

Cue the sunscreen, crank up the A/C, and check to see if there are any popsicles left in the freezer—summer is here! It's that time of year when schedules loosen, flip-flops appear, and the phrase "Are we there yet?" echoes from the backseat on family road trips.

And speaking of road trips... we're about to take one together!

But before we start mapping out our summer spiritual adventure, let's take a quick look in the rearview mirror. Wow—what a year it's already been! We've launched into 2025 with energy, hope, and purpose. From powerful worship experiences, growing ministries, deepened relationships, and joyful new faces, God's been on the move among us. And guess what? God isn't done. In fact, we're just getting started.

On June 1st, we wrap up our Voices of Inspiration sermon series with the courageous witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Then on Pentecost Sunday (June 8), we'll throw on our brightest reds and celebrate the moment the Spirit lit the church's flame in Fuel for the Flame—a fiery reminder that God still ignites hearts today.

Then, on Trinity Sunday / Father's Day (June 15), we turn to our youngest disciples and hear from our very own Allyson Ball, who will share encouragement inspired by this year's VBS theme, True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. We'll also give thanks for the dads and father figures who help us navigate life's twists and turns.

And then... it's time to hit the road.

Our summer sermon series, Road Trip: Lessons from the Wilderness, kicks off June 22. Just like the Israelites wandering through the book of Numbers (yes, even Numbers has some great roadside wisdom!), we'll be learning lessons about trust, patience, cravings, conflict, and the companions we choose to journey with. Whether you're navigating a "pit stop" season or asking "Are we there yet?" this series is for you.

We invite you to lean in, tune up your spiritual GPS, and maybe even share your own road trip memories or snapshots using #WildernessJourney. Because life with God isn't about standing still—it's about traveling together, learning along the way, and trusting that even when we take a detour, God knows the way home.

So wherever this summer finds you—at the lake, in the garden, or buckled up in the minivan—know that your church family is still on the move. And we can't wait to travel the road ahead... with you.

Blessings and bug spray,  
Rev. William G. Nickrand

## Seeking Hearts and Eyes for Safety

At Southport UMC, we believe our church should be a place where all feel safe, welcomed, and loved. To help us continue creating such an environment, we recently completed a professional evaluation of our building to assess safety and security practices.

We expect to receive the final report in late June, and we are forming a **Safety and Security Team** to help us take the next steps. This team will review the report, identify opportunities for improvement, and work together to implement thoughtful, practical changes that enhance both the safety and the hospitality of our space.

We're looking for individuals who are observant, level-headed, and committed to keeping our church community secure — all while ensuring we remain a warm and welcoming place to worship and gather.

Whether you have experience in safety, security, emergency planning, or just have a heart for serving and protecting others, we would love for you to consider joining this important new team.

To express your interest or ask questions, please contact **Mindy Bennett** at [mindy@sumc.org](mailto:mindy@sumc.org).

Together, we can ensure Southport UMC remains a safe, secure, and sacred space for all.



### Willing Hands Are Needed!

Do you have a knack for fixing things or enjoy working with your hands? We're looking to *revive* a special group from Southport UMC's past — the **Willing Hands** ministry! Many of you may remember this group of dedicated individuals who quietly kept things running smoothly around the church. We're hoping to bring that spirit back — and we need *you* to make it happen.

Currently, we have a few small-but-important projects that could use some extra hands and hearts:

**Repair the "Jesus" sign** at the front of the church building. Some of the tiles have come loose at the top and need to be secured.

**Fix the privacy fence** between our property and the neighboring dress shop. It's become unstable and is in danger of falling.

**Replace a cabinet hinge** in one of our child care classrooms to keep things safe and functional for our little ones.

**Replace a Toilet seat** in another one of our child care classrooms to keep things safe and comfortable.

Whether you're handy with tools, good at organizing workdays, or just willing to lend a hand when you can — we'd love to add you to our *Willing Hands* contact list for current and future projects.

If you can help with one of the above projects — or just want to be part of this renewed ministry — please reach out to **Mindy Bennett** at [mindy@sumc.org](mailto:mindy@sumc.org). Let's work together to care for God's house and serve one another with willing hands!

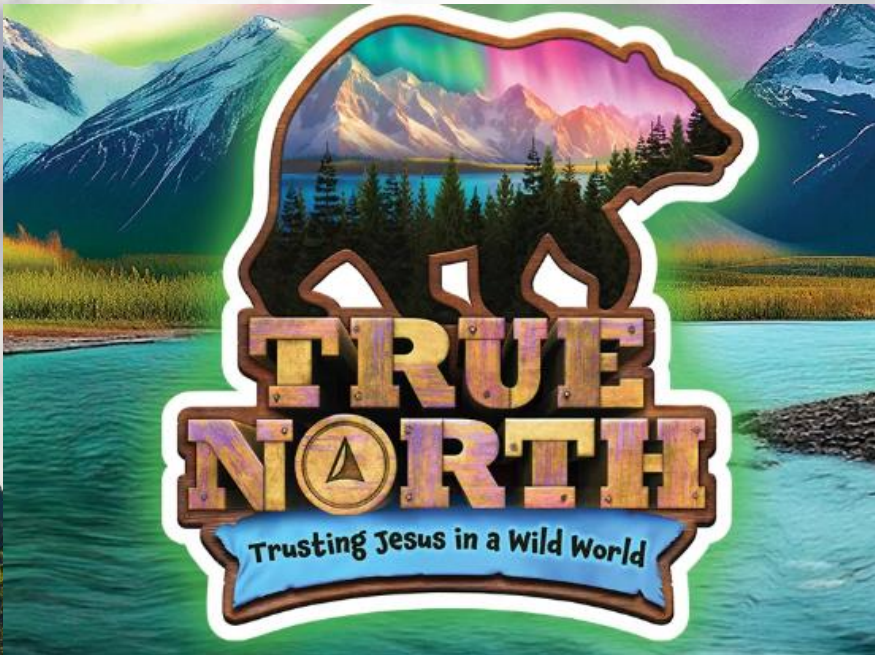




## It's VBS Month!

Vacation Bible School begins **Sunday, June 8** for Kindergarten through 6th graders! Times are 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served! Our closing celebration will be Thursday, June 12.

It is not too late to register and we are still in need of crew leaders! Contact the office for more info!



### CONGRATS Imagination Station Preschool Grads!

The preschoolers had a blast for their end-of-year celebration!

Have a great summer!



### Leaders Urgently Needed for Children's Church!

We are in desperate need of volunteers to lead our Children's Church classes. Without enough help, we will not be able to offer Children's Church in the coming months.

Please prayerfully consider leading—even once or twice a month makes a huge impact.

Contact Allyson Ball at [allyson@sumc.org](mailto:allyson@sumc.org) or visit us at the playground during children's church that myself or Mindy teach.

Let's work together to keep this important ministry going!

-Allyson Ball







## Prioritize Your Health: Life Line Screening Event at Southport UMC

Southport United Methodist Church is pleased to host a Life Line Screening event on **Wednesday, June 25, 2025**, at our church (1947 E Southport Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46227).

Held in recognition of **Men's Health Month**, this event is an excellent opportunity for everyone—men and women alike—to take proactive steps toward better health. Life Line Screening offers affordable, non-invasive screenings for conditions such as stroke, cardiovascular disease, and other serious health risks. These screenings can help detect issues early, before symptoms appear, when treatment is most effective.

**Pre-registration is required.** To register for your appointment:

Call: **1-844-591-7160**

Online: Visit **LLSA.SOCIAL/HS**

Use Priority Code: **HSCA001**

Appointments are limited, so don't wait to reserve your spot!

Life Line Screening is a trusted name in preventive health services, providing peace of mind through early detection. Take advantage of this opportunity to invest in your health and encourage loved ones to do the same.

**Mark your calendar for June 25 and take a step toward a healthier future.**

For more information about the types of screenings offered, visit [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com).

Let's care for our bodies as part of our spiritual stewardship—because your health matters!



Thank  
You  
Kathy!







# HARVEST TABLE

**JUNE Tunes at the Table: June 18!**

Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Will open on Wednesday and Thursday nights 6-7 p.m.  
when more produce is available!

On the corner of Southport Rd. &  
Washington St next to Southport  
United Methodist Church

## Save The Date!

Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build  
Friday, October 31, 2025  
It's not too early to be thinking about  
joining!



**OUTHPORT**  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

**FIRST FAMILY FUN NIGHT**  
**WATER FUN!**  
Friday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Bring a Towel!

We will be handing out a July activity  
for a prize in August!

*Congrats  
Graduates!*

**Daniel Hiller,**  
Purdue University

**DeShay Thompson,**  
Greenwood High  
School

## WOMEN'S NEWS

Reminder that the Rebekah Circle will **not be meeting in June, July, and August**. We will be meeting on **Sept. 9th at 1pm** in the gathering area

## HOPE ( HELPING OUR PEOPLE EAT) MINISTRY

Breakfasts will start on June 7th for the Jubilee Christmas Families at 9:30-11am. All volunteers need to come to help at 9am for set up and directions.

Our first menu will be pancakes, sausage, juice, cereal, fruit, and OJ.

The families will be taking home a bag of food items also.

Some items for the bags are still needed for all Saturdays in June and two in July (July 12 and 19)

**Items needed: (canned goods, pasta, rice, cereal)**

**Soup - cream of mushroom and chicken, tomato and chicken noodle**

**canned chicken and tuna**

**egg noodles**

**Rice - any kind: white, instant or Rice a Roni**

**Baked beans**

**Mac and cheese that have the sauce packet (milk not required)**

**Cereal**

**Spaghetti and Spaghetti sauce**

Place your items on the table by the coatroom for the months of June and July. These items will stay at the church this summer.

## HUNGER, Inc. Food Pantry

The food pantry is not in need of food at this time. Thanks to all the donations that have come in.

But they are in need of volunteers to help hand out the food. The needs are about 8 people each day they are open. **The pantry is open Tuesday 10-1, Thursday 4-7 and Saturday 10-1.** If you are interested please let the church know and you will be contacted on how to get signed up to help the many hungry people served each week.

## CREATION CARE

Reminder----Beech Grove City Hall is having a Recycle Day on Saturday, June 1st from 9A-12P. **City Hall is located on 806 Main St.** They do shredding materials, **Appliances drop-Off, Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids Recycling, Meds drop Off and Syringe disposal.** The next one is in September. You do not have to live in Beech Grove to use this service.

If the Earth were only  
a few feet in diameter, floating a  
few feet above a field somewhere,  
people would come from everywhere to  
marvel at it. People would walk around it,  
marveling at its big pools of water, its little pools and  
the water flowing between the pools. People would  
marvel at bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they  
would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and  
the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at  
all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at  
the creatures in the water. The people would declare it  
precious because it was the only one and they would protect  
it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the  
greatest wonder known, and people would come to  
behold it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know  
beauty and to wonder how it could be. People  
would love it, and defend it with their lives  
because they would somehow know that their  
lives, their own roundness, could be  
nothing without it. If the Earth  
were only a few feet in  
diameter.



ROMANS 1:20

*For since the creation of the world  
God's invisible qualities - eternal  
power and divine nature - have  
been clearly seen, being understood  
from what has been made. . .*

## Serving Opportunity

Would you like to serve at Camp IndiCoSo this summer?

There is a need for volunteers the week of June 29-July 4. There are openings available for single day, multi-day, and full-week service. Folks are welcome to spend the night in Merryman Center if you'd like. If so, please visit this link:

[impact2818.org/indicoso-kitchen](http://impact2818.org/indicoso-kitchen)





## Now Hiring: Building and Grounds Coordinator

Southport UMC is seeking a part-time Building and Grounds Coordinator (10–15 hours/week) to help maintain a safe, welcoming, and well-kept environment for worship, events, and child care. This hands-on role includes basic repairs, light landscaping, room setups, and coordinating volunteer workdays.

For full job description, please visit [www.sumc.org](http://www.sumc.org).

## New Small Group: *Fear Not*

We're excited to launch a new small group focused on supporting those dealing with anxiety. *Fear Not* will use faith-based study materials to guide group discussions and provide encouragement.

**Meetings:** Tuesdays, W103, from 7:00–8:00 PM

**Facilitators:** Dick Bender & Margaret Trammell

**Study Material:** *The Answer to Anxiety* by Joyce Meyer

Available through the church for \$13

During the first session, the group will decide on the most convenient day and time for future meetings.

Whether you're seeking support or want to walk alongside others, all are welcome.



How Can I Help You?

## An *Invite* from Hospitality!



## Save the Date

Southport UMC Third Annual Tea

## The Power of One

Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

*Collection Request: Please bring in empty egg cartons!*



## Aid for disaster survivors, strengthening Native American communities, and more ...

The mission of the General Board of Global Ministries is to equip and transform people and places for God's mission around the world. Our four mission goals are:

1. Make disciples of Jesus Christ;
2. Strengthen, develop, and renew Christian congregations and communities;
3. Alleviate human suffering;
4. Seek justice, freedom, and peace.

Learn more at [umcmmission.org](http://umcmmission.org)!

# Finance

Church	Apr-25	Year To Date
<b>Income</b>		
Offerings	\$47,491	\$198,258
Other	\$25	\$265
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$6,649	\$22,573
<b>Church Expenses</b>		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,761)	(\$29,360)
Administration	(\$14,364)	(\$62,809)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$10,349)	(\$58,645)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$25,751)	(\$91,795)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$2,072)	(\$7,517)
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$4,132)</b>	<b>(\$29,030)</b>

<b>Imagination Station</b>		
Income	\$46,880	\$172,324
Expense	(\$38,079)	(\$124,711)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$6,649)	(\$22,573)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$2,152</b>	<b>\$25,040</b>

<b>All Together</b>		
Total Incomes	\$94,396	\$370,847
Total Expenses	(\$96,376)	(\$374,837)
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$1,980)</b>	<b>(\$3,990)</b>

Money and the church. It's an awkward relationship. Have you noticed that?

Church finances involve navigating a unique mix of spiritual and practical considerations. Beyond the practicalities of budgeting and financial management, we also grapple with the intersection of faith, generosity, and the church's mission. This includes balancing the needs of ministry, the well-being of the congregation, the maintenance of the building, and the expenses of reaching out into the community. It's a lot to juggle.

Thankfully, I can report that our year to date giving as of the end of April is at a better place than it has been in the past three years and it is up 3.5% from where it was at this time last year. That is great news.

The unfortunate thing is even though our giving is up 3.5% from last year, our expenses are up 5%. Despite some in-depth planning and budgeting stuff has just happened. The list of unexpected expenses already this year includes 3 broken computers, broken sound equipment, a busted sump pump, a blown-up furnace, and a partridge in a pear tree. And I'm sure I missed a few. This all adds up to over \$10,000 in unexpected expenses.

This also all adds up to putting me in the awkward position of saying thank you, you are giving well, you are giving more, you are giving faithfully. But please prayerfully consider what else you might be able to do to help support SUMC financially.

Let's grow together,

Pastor 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](mailto:office@sumc.org)

Website: [www.sumc.org](http://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.*