

The Heart Of the Matter



MAY NEWSLETTER 2025

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Dear Southport Family,

What a joy it is to greet you as Easter people! That ancient greeting isn't just reserved for Easter morning – it's the anthem of our lives. To be Easter people means we carry the hope of the resurrection into every corner of our world. It means living with the deep assurance that even in the hardest moments, God's love has the final word and new life is always possible.

During the church season known as Eastertide, the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, we linger in that good news. Eastertide invites us not to rush past the resurrection, but to soak in its meaning – to let the joy, hope, and power of Easter reshape how we love, serve, and live.

And here in Indianapolis, the month of May feels like the perfect setting for that kind of joyful living! Our city comes alive with celebration – sure, the engines at the Speedway are part of it, but beyond the track, there's a sense of movement and excitement that seems to touch every neighborhood, school, and street. May might just give December a run for its money when it comes to packed calendars and busy schedules.

At Southport U.M.C., May is brimming with opportunities to worship, grow, and serve as Easter people. We'll gather for a special National Day of Prayer Service on May 1st, lifting our hearts in prayer for our community, nation, and world. Throughout the month, our Sunday messages will explore what it means to reflect God's love in everyday life and will introduce us to inspiring Christian voices from the past whose wisdom still lights our way.

I can't wait to see what this season holds for us. Let's enter May with hearts wide open to God's leading – ready to celebrate, serve, and share the resurrection hope that defines us as Easter people.

Christ is alive – and so is his church! Let's make this May one to remember.

Grace and peace,
Rev. William G. Nickrand





CHILDREN'S *Church*

Every Sunday at
10:30 a.m.

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.

This is a vital ministry that helps shape the faith of our children—and we can't do it without you! No teaching experience needed—we provide all the materials, training, and support. Please prayerfully consider leading—even once or twice a month makes a huge impact. Contact Allyson Ball at allyson@sumc.org or stop downstairs in the Children's Church class that myself or Mindy teach in.

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

Hoppin' Success: Easter Festival Brings Joy to 365 Guests!

Southport UMC's Easter Festival was a joyful celebration of community, fun, and faith—drawing a crowd of 365 guests and supported by the incredible dedication of more than 40 volunteers!

From the moment guests arrived, they were greeted with the sights and sounds of celebration. The festival grounds were buzzing with laughter and excitement as families enjoyed a wide array of activities including classic games, colorful crafts, engaging story time, and a hoppin' dance party! A special guest—the Easter Bunny—delighted children and grown-ups alike with cheerful visits and photo opportunities.

One of the highlights of the day was our age-based egg hunts, where over 5,000 eggs were hidden both **inside and outside** the church! Thanks to our amazing church family, every egg was filled, hidden, and joyfully hunted. Church members donated supplies, helped stuff eggs (with special thanks to our Youth!), and ensured everything ran smoothly throughout the event.

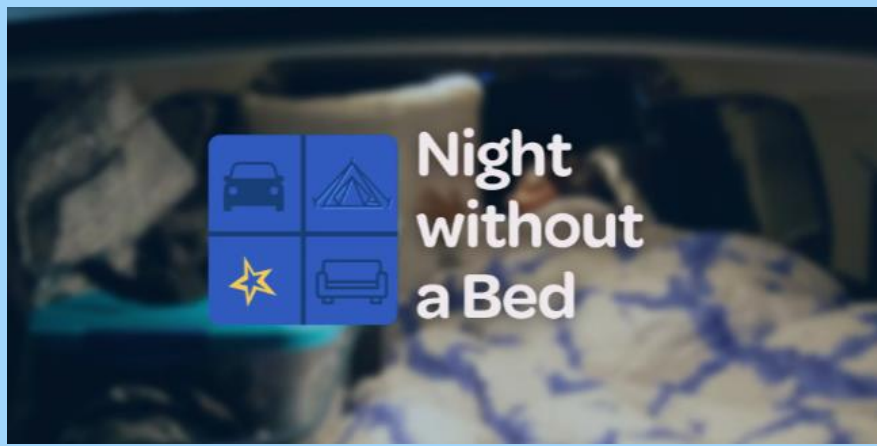
Guests were also treated to a delicious lunch of hot dogs, chips, snack cakes, water, and Capri Suns—keeping everyone fueled for the fun.

In addition to the festivities, we held a Silent Auction with items generously donated by our church members. Through this effort, we raised valuable funds in support of our **Faith Promise** initiative—further reflecting the spirit of giving that shines so brightly in our congregation.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated, volunteered, and participated. Your time, talents, and generosity made this event a meaningful and memorable experience for all who attended.

Thank you for helping us celebrate the joy of Easter with our community!





Join us Friday, May 2nd for Night Without a Bed in combination with First Friday Family Fun night! Activities for whole family will be from 6:30—8 p.m.

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.

First Meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 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.

FREE COMMUNITY TACO DINNER

Cinco de Mayo

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

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



CROSS TRAINING

MOVED FROM SUNDAY

Mother's Day

May 11, 2025, To May 18, 2025

We will be eating, playing games,
doing projects & devotion

This will be open to 1st – 6th grade. Parent or Guardian must attend with them.

Time: 11:45 AM – 1:45 PM

Location: Gathering Area

Food: Yes, provided for all participants and volunteers. **Let's Race to JESUS.**



Building a race car.

An *Invite* from the Discipleship Path Coordinators!



Donation Opportunity

Would you like to make a difference at Southport 6th Grade Academy? Please donate gently used clothing to the church and leave them in the hall closet, well make, so they go where intended. Jo Ann Weber is coordinating our clothing needs at the school. The following items are needed:

Girls polo shirts: XL & XXL, Any Solid Color, no print.

Girls pants: 12-18+, Color: Tan, Blue, Black, or Khaki

Boys Polo shirts: L - XXL, Any Solid Color, No prints.

Boys pants: 12-18+, Color: Tan, Blue, Black, or Khaki

Helping Our People Eat

Our first seed grant, HOPE, is looking for volunteers and donations. May 4, 8, and 11 they will be at the next steps table to see how you can help. They will be serving meals and providing food on June 7, 14, 21,28, July 12 and 19. Join Sharon Grayson and Sandy Tilton in making this ministry meaningful.

Tea Planning

You are invited to join us for our Annual Tea Planning meeting.

Monday, May 12

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room at Southport UMC



If you are interested in volunteering transportation for seniors in Perry Township, please reach out and we will give more information!

"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

Get Ready for an Adventure at VBS: *True North*

June 8–12 | 5:30–8:30 PM

Southport UMC | For kids entering **Kindergarten through 6th Grade**

At *True North*, kids will embark on an exciting journey where they'll discover they can **trust Jesus in a wild world!** Each evening will be packed with hands-on Bible-learning experiences that spark faith and fun—through **science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable music, and engaging activities!**

Kids will explore what it means to follow Jesus through daily adventures and learn to spot *God Sightings*®—ways they see God working in their everyday lives. (Fair warning: things might get a little messy, so send your kiddos in play clothes and sturdy shoes!)

A full dinner will be served each evening—right in the middle of all the fun!

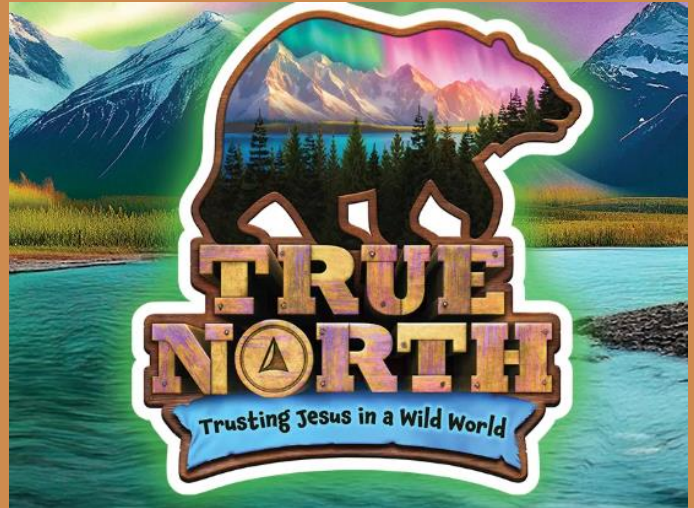
Kids will take a break from their adventures to enjoy a delicious meal together, giving them the energy to finish the night strong.

Want to join the fun?

We're looking for volunteers to help make this experience unforgettable.

Whether you love leading games, guiding small groups, preparing meals, or welcoming families, there's a place for you!

Next Steps Table – Sign Up to Attend or Volunteer!



HARVEST TABLE

We are excited for our 2025 Harvest Table season. We plan to be open on Mother's Day, May 11.

Save The Date!

Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build
Friday, October 31, 2025

It's not too early to be thinking about joining!



WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 1p.m. in the Gathering Area. This is a celebration Pitch-In where each person brings a dish of their liking. This is a good meeting to come and visit and get to know this wonderful group of women. Come join us for a feast and fun.

We do have a summer activity called Mission U. It is a one day, well led spiritual activity put on by the State. It will be held on August 2nd at University UMC (on the UIndy Campus). If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with the office and someone will get in touch with you.

We are going to be on Summer Break for the months of June, July, and August. The Circle will reconvene on September 9th. So, watch the newsletter in September for information on what new things we will be doing. All are welcome.

HOPE MINISTRY

We are still collecting food items for the HOPE MINISTRY during the summer months of May and June. THANK YOU SO MUCH for supporting this ministry already with your donations of canned vegetables and fruits.

For the **Month of May** we are asking the church to bring in the following to help feed these families:

Cans of Tuna and chicken, and soups(tomato, chicken noodle and cream of chicken and cream of mushroom, and Velveeta Mac & Cheese or any box mac and cheese that does not require milk and butter.

We have donations of bread, cereal, and ramen noodles to also put in their bag of food for going home.

This ministry will be feeding the Jubilee Christmas families for the summer.

Our dates are all Saturdays ---June 7,14,21, and 28 and also July 12 and 19. As you have heard recently, the families are not fed in the summer months on Saturday and Sunday. So, HOPE is to fill that gap. We will be feeding families on Saturdays and sending a bag of food items home for the Sundays.

Watch for the **NEXT STEPS table on May 4th , May 8th, and May 11th.** By volunteering time to help with these Saturday events, you are providing HOPE!!! Thank YOU!!!!

CREATION CARE

EASTER AND EARTH DAY!

Resurrection! Renewal! Marvels!

Two days apart, both celebrations inspire awesome wonder and are to be cherished. Neither is just a once a year event. Nature is one of the major things that Jesus talked about and loved. He taught us to be good stewards of the land and to protect it.

That often seems daunting while climate change grows as a major concern in our day. We can't do everything, but we can do something and we should do what we can. There are a few things you might try as a family:

1. Be on the watch to REDUCE WASTE. Aim to improve.
2. At the store and school and home practice GRATITUDE.
3. CHANGE A LIGHTBULB. (Smaller print.) This claim was online at patheos newsletter, 4/3/15. "If every household changed from incandescent to LED, it would be like taking 1 million cars off the road. (For how long?)You would also save \$30 over the life of the bulb.

ROOF CRASHERS BIBLE STUDY

The Roof Crashers group of ladies meets every Monday morning from 9:30-11:00 a.m. We are currently studying with Andy Stanley Tapes and then having a lively discussion. We are focused on praying for the needs of others. Many of our ladies are knitters and produce Prayer shawls for anyone needing one to send to a person in need of prayers. You are welcome to ask for a prayer shawl in the office to send to a loved one.



Retirement Celebration

IN HONOR OF

Kathy McCauley

THURSDAY MAY 29, 2025

Small reception and refreshments in the Gathering Place
after the 6:30 p.m. worship service.

&

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

Worship at 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Reception in the Gathering Place, 10-10:30 a.m.

Small plate appetizers and cake reception in the Gathering
Place, 11:30 - 12:30

Kathy will be honored during each worship service.

We are blessed by the incredible 37
years that Kathy has been a member of
our church staff, receiving and
ministering to each person in whom she
has come in contact.

Please join us, as you are available, to
celebrate her ministry and presence at
Southport United Methodist Church
1947 E. Southport Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227

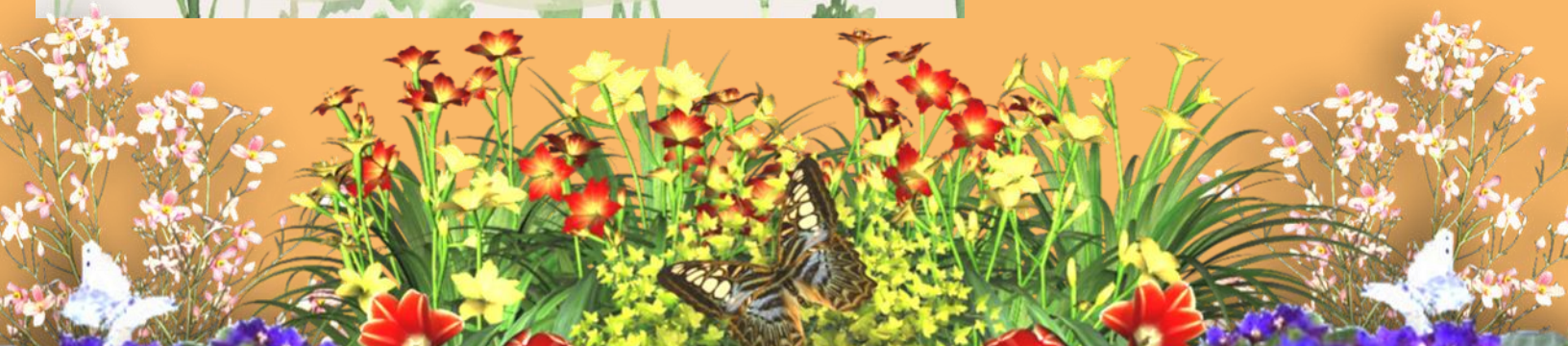
Retirement Celebration

As we honor the
extraordinary commitment that Kathy has
made to Southport UMC, the congregation
and the community, your personal notes
will add to our appreciation.

Please submit cards, notes and love gifts
to the church office by Wednesday, May
28. They will be placed in a basket and
presented to Kathy at worship services.

Some of Kathy's
favorite places to shop are:
Maurices, Macys, Amazon and speciality
boutiques. Favorite eating locations are:
Panera,
LongHorn SteakHouse,
PF Changs, Mexican
restaurants; she enjoys new places
too. An occasional treat from Starbucks is
always welcome.

Thank you for joining in the celebration
and for sharing your gratitude with
Kathy.



Finance

Pat Hulfachor (our LT chair) and I got to do something really cool today. We went to a luncheon to receive a grant on behalf of Southport UMC from Metro Ministries, Inc. The grant is \$2,000 and it is to help us start a new ministry called Caring for our Community (keep your ears open about more of that soon). And we were not alone. Fourteen other United Methodist Churches and organizations also received checks for what sounded like some amazing programs and ministries. The total amount given out was over \$33,000!

But it got me thinking. What about the organizations that didn't receive grants? I'm sure there were some great ones that didn't make the cut. And now, what type of responsibility do we have to not only Metro Ministries, their donors, but also, these other organizations? Oh, and don't forget God! The pressure was almost enough to make me want to hand the check back (I did not). That responsibility is called stewardship.

Stewardship is a word taken from the Gospels, and not just from the Gospels, but from the lips of Jesus. This is what Jesus says in Luke's Gospel: "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.'" (16:1-2)

"Steward" and "stewardship" mean to administer what belongs to someone else.

Nowadays we might use a term like "money manager." When a person gives their savings over to a money manager, it's clear who owns what. The money doesn't belong to the money manager, it is entrusted to them. They may get some of it, but the money belongs to the person who gave them the money. Imagine how off based it would be if a money manager took all the money and acted as though it belonged to them to spend as they alone wished to spend it. That is the key: a steward is the "ward" of what belongs to someone else.

Stewardship is not about occasional acts of generosity, or now and then making contributions to good causes. It's not even about money; it goes deeper than that. The core of stewardship is seeing things differently. Seeing everything with new eyes.

It's not complicated. We simply realize that everything we have, our existence, our life, our goods no matter how we got them, all come from God and belong to God, and we are stewards of all this. Once we see it that way, we live it that way. We try to administer well God's goods on behalf of God. That's what stewardship is.

Thank you for being good stewards,

Pastor 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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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.