

The Heart Of the Matter



CONNECT - GROW - SERVE - GIVE - GO

AUGUST 2025 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church

Shifting Gears & Changing Frames

August is here—and if you’re anything like me, you’re wondering how summer flew by so fast! Backpacks are being dusted off, pencils sharpened, and some of our school-aged kiddos are already back in class (others are clinging to the last few days of freedom). And while August is technically the hottest and most humid month of the year, let’s be honest—July did such a good job prepping us that I’m not even sweating it. Well... not too much.

August marks a time of transition. At Southport UMC, we’ve spent the summer on a powerful road trip with the Israelites through the wilderness—learning, growing, and occasionally wondering if Moses ever asked for directions. But now, as routines return and calendars refill, we’re turning our attention toward vision and calling.

Just like a teacher hands out a syllabus on the first day of school (and the students immediately ignore it), we’re taking a moment to look at our roadmap for discipleship. In our new three-week sermon series, “Living the Call,” we’ll zoom in on the heartbeat of our mission: Connect. Grow. Serve. Give. Go. These aren’t just nice church words—they’re the very rhythms of a life transformed by Christ.

After that, we’ll move into a fresh and engaging six-week series called “Frames,” where we’ll examine the lenses through which we see worship, Scripture, spiritual gifts, community, work, and even God. Think of it as adjusting your glasses—not because the truth has changed, but because maybe our vision could use a little sharpening.

And friends, I’ve got to say: what a joy this summer has been! This has been my first full summer with you all (yeah!)—from VBS joy to loving our neighbors, summer treats to prayer, I have loved every minute of it. And guess what? It’s not over yet.

So, as we head into a new season, let’s recommit to our shared calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—through connecting, growing, serving, giving, and going.

Let’s live the call. Let’s shift the frame. And let’s do it together.

Blessings,
Rev. William G. Nickrand

LIVING  THE CALL

LIVING THE CALL

DATE	TITLE	SCRIPTURE
July 31st & August 3rd	Connect	Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 133
August 7th & 10th	Grow	Colossians 2:6-7; 2 Peter 3:18
August 14th & 17th	Serve	Galatians 5:13-14; James 2:14-17

In this sermon series we will explore the foundational principles of our discipleship process. We will focus on Connect, Grow, and Serve while discussing how Give and Go must be constantly interwoven in our walk. Each week, we will dive deep into what it means to live out our faith through meaningful connections with God and each other, growing in our spiritual journey, and serving our community with love and purpose. Together, we will discover how these points not only define our walk with Christ but also empower us to fulfill our calling as His disciples in the world today. Join us as we embrace the fullness of our faith and the mission to which we are called!



CONNECT - GROW - SERVE - GIVE - GO

1st Friday Family Fun

MOVIE NIGHT

Encanto
August 1st
6:30pm



Snacks and Drinks provided
Remember to bring back your
July Scavenger hunt
for a family prize

FREEDOM SPRINGS



SEE YOU THERE!

Please reach out to Kelley Lego for more info

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL - CHILDREN IN 6TH GRADE AND OVER MAY STAY WITHOUT AN ADULT (WITH SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP).

IF YOU BRING A FRIEND WE WILL PAY FOR BOTH OF YOU. MENTION SUMC WHEN PAYING ADMISSION FEE.



Where in the world is
JESUS



#LilJesus

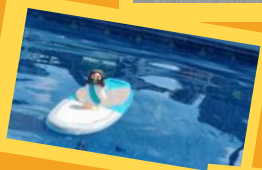
#southportumc



Thank you for getting Lil Jesus out into the world. Lil Jesus has traveled far and wide with sightings reported in places such as Seattle, Cincinnati, Utah, Alaska, and even, Europe. He has also had plenty of exciting local adventures like going to water parks, parades, and baseball games. He's even been seen chilling in backyard pools and on kitchen counters. Thank you for taking Lil Jesus with you and recording your journeys.

And... Thank you for sharing Lil Jesus with others. In just over a month we have already distributed 4,900 of these little guys. Some highlights include giving away several hundred in the Southport Independence Day parade, giving out 750 to Perry Township's 4th and 5th graders through PTREA, and giving out many through the Harvest Table. Keep up the good work!

Did you know... We will even mail Lil Jesus to anywhere in the world. The QR code at the top of this page will take you to the form to fill out to make that happen. Feel free to use it to have us send Lil Jesus to your friends and family.



Thank you for helping to feed our neighbors through the HOPE ministry this summer! These are handprints of people you have helped!

Hope provided a total of 81 meals to 34 adults and 47 children over the course of 6 weeks this summer. We served 8 families and sent each family home with at least one bag of groceries after each meal thanks to your generosity and the help of many volunteers. The families were extremely grateful. Here is a note from one of the mom's who came with her family every Saturday:

"I wanted to message you again and tell you thank you so much for absolutely everything. We have hit such a rough patch lately and can't seem to get out of it. But you and everyone else has helped my little family out tremendously. Getting to go to the breakfast every Saturday has brightened up our days and the food we get to bring home has helped more than you know. Thank you again! Hope to see you guys again soon!"

HOPE ministry is also grateful to the AT&T volunteers for giving us 18 backpacks for their children. The parents and children were very excited to receive these at our breakfast on July 12. We also provided some families with toiletries and other much needed supplies.

This ministry really made a difference in the lives of these families. Thanks be to God, to you, our pastors and leadership team for allowing the seed grant to become a reality.

With Gratitude,
Sharon Grayson



Being able to have a meal and a bed close to our little one while he needs us the most has been the only true blessing in our families life as of late and we owe it all to you. Thank you greatly for your affilation & contribution to the RMH of Indianapolis. Without Donations/Donors our family wouldnt have comfort when & where we need it.

much love
The Stickels Family

TRANS
CROSS
CRONING

August 10, 2025
11:45 AM – 1:45 PM
*Second Sunday every month
In the Gathering Place*

Open to 1st – 6th grade.
Parent or Guardian must attend with them.

Food, Games, Hands on project & Devotional

**SAVE
THE
DATES**

SOUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S
3rd Annual Tea
"THE POWER OF ONE"

Saturday, October 4, 2025
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

August Tunes at the
Table:
Wednesday, August
20!

**KAIROS OF INDIANA
Recruitment & Fundraiser
Chicken and Noodles Dinner**

Join us for a night of
great food, fellowship
and mission-focused
fundraising!

**Saturday August 23
5:00-8:30**

Tickets \$15
Table \$90

Southport UMC
1941 E Southport Road
Indianapolis, IN



Menu

Chicken and Noodles
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert

If you are interested in dining with the
Southport Team –
Contact Maggie Lucas 317.513.5492

**ALL CHURCH
GATHERING**

24 August
2025

After 10:30
Service

Financial Peace University class is back at SUMC – SAVE THE DATES!

If you're like most Christians, you wish you could honor God more with your finances. But between debt payments and living paycheck to paycheck, you don't feel like you can. There's hope! In FPU, You'll learn how to get out of debt and free up your money to give and serve the way God is calling you to.

Class dates: 9 Monday evenings – September 8th to November 3rd

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Co-leaders: Barb Dobbs and Chris Patterson

Membership cost: \$72.00 – that is 28% off the regular price. Couples share one membership

Watch for more details coming soon and how to sign up.

If you have any questions contact the church office at office@sumc.org or 317-784-9508



**CHILI
FESTIVAL**

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**

2025

Saturday, October 18

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle will be meeting on **Tuesday, September 9th at 1 pm in the Gathering Area** at church. We will have a program to share with all attending, but not doing the Pledge Service as planned in the last newsletter. (sorry) All are welcome to come and enjoy the faith filled sharing, fun visiting, and great food. So put it on your calendar.

PANTRY NEWS

THANK YOU SO MUCH CONGREGATION!!! YOU provided the Jubilee Families with food all summer through the HOPE Ministry. Also, you provided food to be donated to the Hunger, Inc Food Pantry. The foods you see in the grocery cart are the foods that are dated 2025 and need to be given out soon. So, that food will go to the pantry. The rest of the food donated will be moving to some of the other ministries at SUMC for this year. You have been so generous to help many in need. **You are a blessing to so many!!!**

CREATION CARE

Reminder: the next **recycle event in Beech Grove is September 6th from 9 am-12pm**. Items can be dropped off at **City Hall 806 Main St**. It is a free event. They take Papers for shredding items, metal and appliances, eyeglasses, hearing aids, unused medicine, and syringe disposal.

WE PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE....WHAT ABOUT NATURE DO YOU LOVE?

Please write a thought on the cards provided at the Welcome Center in August that will be shared in future newsletters.

NEXTSteps

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS MINISTRY AT NEXT STEPS - AUGUST 14/17 AND 21/24

Everyone is having a busy summer and now with fall quickly approaching, the Jubilee Christmas Team is actively working on plans for this year's event. First, we want the church family to be aware of how we serve the needs of Homecroft Elementary families, offering them a Christmas celebration that they may not otherwise have. Team members will be at the next steps area prior to and after services on Thursdays and Sundays, August 14/17 and 21/24. We are excited to share details about Jubilee Christmas, answer your questions and provide opportunities for you to participate.



A Special Opportunity to Give!

We have a special opportunity this year at Southport United Methodist Church to come along with Josephine Vandi, family, and friends in support of the school in Kenema, Sierra Leone. We will be collecting much-needed school supplies for 550 students.

Josephine will be available at the next steps table with more information on August 3, 7th and 10th. Supplies are due by August 17, 2025. When shopping for your children/grandchildren, you can pick up something extra for the students in Sierra Leone.



Back to School!

Imagination Station Preschool
begins Aug 11th!

Back to school night will be
August 6 from 5—6 p.m.!

SCHOOL TIME!

Tabytha & Magdalena Hite led worship as we helped our children & youth get ready for back to school and acknowledged the growth in faith happening through our children's church programming.



ALL CHURCH BIBLE STUDY



Fall Bible Study: The Gospel of John – Come and See

Tuesdays | 6:30–7:30 PM | Sept 2 – Nov 18

Leaders: Bill Holwager, Brandon Collins, & Rev. William Nickrand

This fall, join us for an 11-week journey through the Gospel of John as we explore the life and identity of Jesus—and what it means for us today. Each week centers on a practical theme and life application question, inviting honest conversation, spiritual reflection, and deeper faith.

Whether you're starting fresh, longing for peace, or simply curious about Jesus, this group is a space to grow together. Each session includes prayer, Scripture, a brief teaching, and guided discussion. No prior Bible experience needed—just come as you are!

Weekly themes include:

- *When life runs dry...*
- *What are you really hungry for?*
- *Who's leading your life?*
- *Where do you need healing, hope, or peace?*

Come for one week or all eleven. Each session stands on its own, but the whole journey paints a powerful picture of Jesus—and his call to us today: *Come and see*.

Held in person at Southport UMC

Try to read the Gospel of John before study begins

Bring a Bible if you have one (we'll have extras too!)

No registration required—just show up!

Questions? Contact Pastor William at william@sumc.org.

Finance

Church	Jun-23	Year To Date
Income		
Offerings	\$57,717	\$291,771
Other	\$464	\$1,704
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$4,695	\$32,299
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$3,938)	(\$38,521)
Administration	(\$13,663)	(\$91,891)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$9,547)	(\$80,953)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$22,997)	(\$139,939)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$3,014)	(\$11,872)
Net	\$9,717	(\$37,402)

Imagination Station		
Income	\$33,533	\$241,793
Expense	(\$26,417)	(\$183,627)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$4,695)	(\$32,299)
Net	\$2,421	\$25,867

All Together		
Total Incomes	\$91,714	\$535,268
Total Expenses	(\$79,576)	(\$546,803)
Net	\$12,138	(\$11,535)

Today we will look at the finances as of the end of June. I know that was like two months ago, but that is just how it works with our reporting. The good news is that halfway through 2025 we have only overspent our income by 2%. The bad news is because of the scale of our finances that 2% is equal to \$11,535. More good news, I think this is actually a pretty strong half of the year for SUMCs finances. Oh, sure, we'd love to be "in the green," but considering some of the additional expenses we've had come up we aren't doing too bad.

So, I would encourage you to consider if you can give just a little extra to help us close this gap and be as financially health as possible.

In other news, Lil Jesus is getting around! We have given out nearly 4,000 of these pint-sized saviors! We handed out several hundred person to person at the parade. We have mailed close to a hundred. The Perry Township Religious Education program is giving out 750 to our local 4th and 5th grade students. And, of course, many of you have taken several Lil Jesus's out into the world with you to share with friends and family and, well, everyone!

We also are planning several outreach opportunities soon including a presence at Southport's National Night Out event, a community night at Homecraft Elementary, our Trunk or Treat and Chili Festival, and maybe even a community style Thanksgiving meal (shh... I don't know if that want is official yet). Not to mention the many things we do regularly like Cross Training, Tunes at the Table, and First Friday Family Fun Nights just to name a few.

I bring all of this up because Lil Jesus and all of these events are funded by the Pastor's Ministry Fund, which is funded by you. So, prayerfully consider an above and beyond gift to the Pastor's Ministry fund. You can give to this fund by putting a note on your check telling us how much of your gift you would like to give to Pastor's Ministry, or you can give online by selecting Pastor's Ministry for the fund code.

Thank you for all the ways you give. Thank you for your generosity and your willingness to share the love of Christ with everyone!

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

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.*