

The Heart Of the Matter



NOVEMBER 2025 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church

A Season of Gratitude and Growth

November always seems to sneak up on us, doesn't it? One day we're still hanging on to the last warm breeze of summer, and the next we're pulling out our sweaters, raking the leaves, and wondering where the year went. The days grow shorter, the air a bit crisper, and before we know it, the smell of pumpkin pie and the sound of football are in the air. It's a month where summer feels like a memory in the rearview mirror, cold weather starts to settle in, and yet—our hearts somehow grow warmer.

It's also a busy month in the life of our church. We'll begin November by concluding our *Dangerous Prayers* series with one of the boldest prayers of all: “**Send Me.**” On **All Saints Sunday**, we'll remember the saints who have gone on to glory, celebrating the lives of those who faithfully served and now rest in God's eternal care. It's a powerful reminder that the people who have gone before us once prayed that same prayer—“Send me, Lord”—and because they did, we stand where we are today.

Then we'll step into one of my favorite sermon series, “**Enough,**” a three-week journey that challenges the constant chase for more and instead invites us to discover the peace and joy of contentment. In a season that often pushes us toward excess—more food, more shopping, more stress—God reminds us that *what we have, and who we are, is enough.*

And just when we think the month can't hold any more, **Advent** arrives. On **November 27/30**, we'll begin our new series, “**The Wonder of It All,**” as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. From the wonder of hope to the wonder of love, we'll rediscover the beauty of slowing down and seeing God's miracles in everyday moments.

Yes, November is full—of events, opportunities, gatherings, and worship—but it's also full of grace. It's a time to pause in the middle of the rush and remember: no matter what this season brings, *we always have something to be thankful for.* Thankful for God's presence, thankful for our community, and thankful for the chance to be the hands and feet of Christ through things like our upcoming **community meal** and all the ways we love and serve together.

So as the temperatures drop and the pace picks up, may we keep gratitude at the center. Because even in the busiest, craziest, most wonderful month of all—God is still good, and we still have so much to give thanks for.

Happy November, Southport family. Let's embrace every bit of it—with grateful hearts and open hands.

Blessings,
Rev. William G. Nickrand

IT'S JUBILEE CHRISTMAS TIME!

On Saturday, December 6th we celebrate Jubilee Christmas 2025. SUMC will be hosting 18 families from Homecroft Elementary who have been selected by the school staff and would not have a Christmas without assistance. We have both Hispanic and English speaking families and each family has a host from our church.

Over the next few weeks we are gathering details about personal needs, clothing information and gift and toy wishes. Every child/youth in the family, from birth to 18 years old is included. On Jubilee Day, Hosts, adult members of the Families and extra Helping Hands gather at church for a time of fellowship, gift wrapping and surprises.

The Jubilee Christmas ministry happens because of your involvement and support. We have a short timeframe this year to shop (online and in stores), gather items needed for Jubilee Day (wrapping supplies, gift cards) and arrange for home baked cookies to enjoy Jubilee Day and to send home for the families to share.

Members of the Jubilee Team are available to answer questions and assist with your desire to participate. We hope the following information is helpful as you prayerfully consider the opportunities to serve our Jubilee Families.

We will open the Jubilee season on Thursdays and Sundays starting November 6th and 9th in the Gathering Place.

Shopping begins November 6th.

You will find tags on the next steps board for personal items, coats, gift cards, household needs. Browse and select what you would like to donate. **REMEMBER TO CHECK BACK THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER. ADDITIONAL FAMILIES WITH NEEDS WILL BE ADDED.**

The link to Amazon online shopping will be available November 6th. Team members will assist if you would like to make an Amazon purchase while you are at church. Items from Amazon are shipped to a Jubilee Team member's home. Please do not change this shipping method.

If you would like to provide home baked cookies or help with wrapping on Jubilee Day, place your name on the appropriate form.

All online gifts need to be delivered to our team member's home by November 30th. Tag items to be returned to church also by November 30th.

We appreciate your participation in all ways. We covet your prayers for the Jubilee Families, the Homecroft Staff, our Hosts and the Jubilee Ministry.

Sandy Lewis

Kim Distel

Bethany Brock

Karen Kegerreis

Pam Clough

Jennifer LaMar

Laura Littlepage

Jerrie Snell

Sherry Davis



Pop Up Pantry

Last month, with the help of many volunteers, we bagged and distributed meals for our community! They have also been a staple in our own food pantry here at the church!

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle and many church members helped us to get 448 Food products collected to donate to the Lucille Raines Residence for their "RAINES FEST" This is an activity where each resident gets play money to shop for many food items and household products that they need. This facility has been in existence for 48 years and is owned and funded by the United Women of Faith memberships. As a circle our donations help fund all parts of this building on North Pennsylvania St in downtown Indianapolis. It has been a "home away from home" for many persons in need. Thanks to all who helped support this collection of products to help the residents living there. The Circle is now collecting items for Fletcher Place Community Center Christmas Program in December. The center is located at Prospect and State St. in Downtown Indy. Local residents are in need of many items, but our circle is focused on providing help for the smallest of babies in need.

We will be collecting All November: sleepers, socks, mittens, and hats for the sizes 1-6 months old. We want them to be warm for this winter. If interested in helping please place your new items in the totes in the coat hallway on the right hand side-labeled for Fletcher Place. They will be delivered before the first Saturday in December. We need your generous help to share God's love to the littlest of God's people.

FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is in need of volunteers to work, The number of clients coming has been increasing and the need is great since to get food is expensive. The pantry is filled with food donated, but we can't get the food out without the workers helping. If interested please let the church know and you will be contacted. Working folks can help, too. We have Saturdays from 10 AM-1 PM to cover and Thursday evenings from 4-7pm. We need so much help to cover our parking lot. Students can get hours for service projects, too.

FEED A NEED (FAN)

The bags will be filled on **November 6th at 1 PM in the Gathering Area at church.** Come join the group as we put the 50 bags together. It is a very short activity for you to donate your time.

CREATION CARE

The Beech Grove Free Shredding Activity is happening for the last time this year on November 8th from 9 AM- 12 PM at the City Hall on Main Street.

Isn't God so good by giving us the pretty fall colors in the trees. We are blessed by his creation and we need to take care of it everyday. Enjoy this Thanksgiving Season and thank God for all your blessings.

Join Us!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

SUNDAY, NOV 23
11:30 A.M.

JOIN US TO PREPARE THE CHURCH SPACES FOR ADVENT SEASON!
SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

OUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONNECT | GROW | SERVE | GIVE | GO



FIRST THURSDAY CAFÉ

Every first Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM

Join us for a relaxed evening of acoustic worship, light snacks, and communion around the table.

Beginning November 6



CROSS TRAINING

November 9, 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



Movie Night
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

November 7th 6:30pm
All are welcome

OUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
www.sumc.org



Turkey Dinner

Saturday, November 22 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m
1947 E. Southport Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46227



Free Community Meal

You are invited to a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings!

**You are invited to participate
in the Turkey Dinner
Community Outreach Event!**

You are not limited in how you participate we
have opportunities for everyone.

Please reach out to the office for more info!

Habitat For Humanity

Perfect weather for the Multi-faith Panel
Build that happened on October 31! Thank
you for our crew from SUMC.



Another successful **Harvest
Tea** is in the books! Great
guests and fellowship!



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

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.

mouthful of questions?

PIZZA with the
PASTOR



You are invited to the next Membership Class

Sunday, November 16

After the 10:30am worship service

Southport United Methodist Church

Summer Camp 2026

It's never too early to be thinking about Summer Camp!
Want to give an experience that will impact their lives for Jesus and be filled with excitement and fun?

Block off a week on your (and their) calendar to send them to church camp in the summer of 2026. If you have kids K-8th grade send them June 28-July 3 to Pine Creek.

Lauren Hacker and Jordan and Lacie Radar will be directors for the middle school camp, and the younger kids will have a great time with the Radar boys. That same week high school teens may want to join Tabytha and Magdalena Hite at Indicoso.

If that week won't work for you, check out [Impact 2818.org](http://Impact2818.org) to find a camp and week that is right for you. Rivervale, Lakewood, Camp Adventure, and Epworth Forest also provide opportunities to love Jesus and enjoy an experience with low and high ropes, climbing walls, ziplines, muddy creek trails, canoeing, big swings, swimming, archery, paint ball, yummy food, devotions, and worship.

CHILI COMPETITION

FALL FESTIVAL AT SOUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TRUNK OR TREAT



THANK YOU

to everyone that
Volunteered,
participated, and
enjoyed the 2025
Fall Festival! We
had a
wonderful turn
out and cannot
wait to do it
again next year!



Finance

Church	Sep-25	2025 YTD
Income		
Offerings	\$52,399	\$428,660
Other	\$31	\$2,147
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$6,811	\$55,474
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$4,910)	(\$53,613)
Administration	(\$18,137)	(\$179,865)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$13,116)	(\$119,238)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$17,396)	(\$163,875)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$2,110)	(\$19,513)
Net	\$3,572	(\$49,823)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$48,651	\$381,785
Expense	(\$35,454)	(\$285,177)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$6,811)	(\$55,474)
Net	\$6,386	\$41,134
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$101,081	\$812,592
Total Expenses	(\$91,123)	(\$821,281)
Net	\$9,958	(\$8,689)

My kids were moaning and groaning the other day about having to do chores. So, my wife sat them down and talked to them about how it is a lot easier for everyone if we all pitch in and do our part.

Reviewing our budget reminded me of that conversation. I noticed that 22% of our budget goes to facilities; that's stuff like utilities and insurance, but a big portion of it is maintenance. For a bit of perspective, a good average for how much of a church's budget goes to facilities is 30%. Our number is so much better than average in large because of all the time and talent that you give. It ranges from skilled work, like electrical and concrete work, to "elbow grease" work like pulling weeds and cleaning chairs, but it all adds up to make a big difference. It means that we can pour more resources into ministry, and that is a very good thing.

So, thank you for being so willing to lend a hand. Now, how do I get my kids to get this?

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.*