

The Heart Of the Matter

JULY 2025 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church

Free to Journey, Called to Trust

As we flip the calendar to July, cookouts and fireworks are just around the corner. We'll gather with friends and family, celebrate our nation's independence, and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy—freedom to worship, to speak, to live and to love. And yet, true freedom has always meant more than waving flags and lighting sparklers. It's meant the ability to *move forward in faith*, even when the road ahead is uncertain.

This month we continue our summer sermon series, "**Road Trip: Lessons from the Wilderness,**" and we find ourselves walking alongside the Israelites—not just wandering, but *becoming* a free people. Freed from slavery, yes—but still learning what it means to trust God, live with purpose, and journey together as a community.

Freedom is rarely instant. It requires unlearning old fears, letting go of false comforts, and discovering who we are when we no longer serve Pharaohs—be they external or internal.

In a strange way, road trips capture this too. There's something freeing about the open road: the sense of possibility, the loosened grip of routine, the hope that something new awaits just over the next hill. But even a road trip comes with detours, delays, wrong turns, and yes—plenty of backseat complaints (just ask Moses).

True freedom is not the absence of boundaries—it's the presence of **God's guiding hand**, day by day, step by step.

This July, as we celebrate the birth of our nation, let us also remember that we are people of **another kind of freedom**—a deeper one. In Christ, we are free from the power of sin and shame. Free to forgive. Free to serve. Free to hope, even when the world around us feels heavy with division, violence, or despair.

So here's the invitation:

Don't just wave a flag this Fourth of July—**walk in the freedom God has given you.**

And wherever your summer road trip takes you, take your **Lil' Jesus** with you. Snap a photo, tag us on social media, and remind others (and yourself) that we're not wandering aimlessly. We're being led, shaped, and loved every step of the way.

Because freedom, real freedom, always comes with a calling.

Blessings,
Rev. William G. Nickrand



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS JESUS



We here at SUMC are serious about taking Jesus into the world. What better way than to literally take “Lil Jesus” into the world. We are giving away thousands of these pint sized joy makers, so you can spread the joy of Jesus where ever you go.

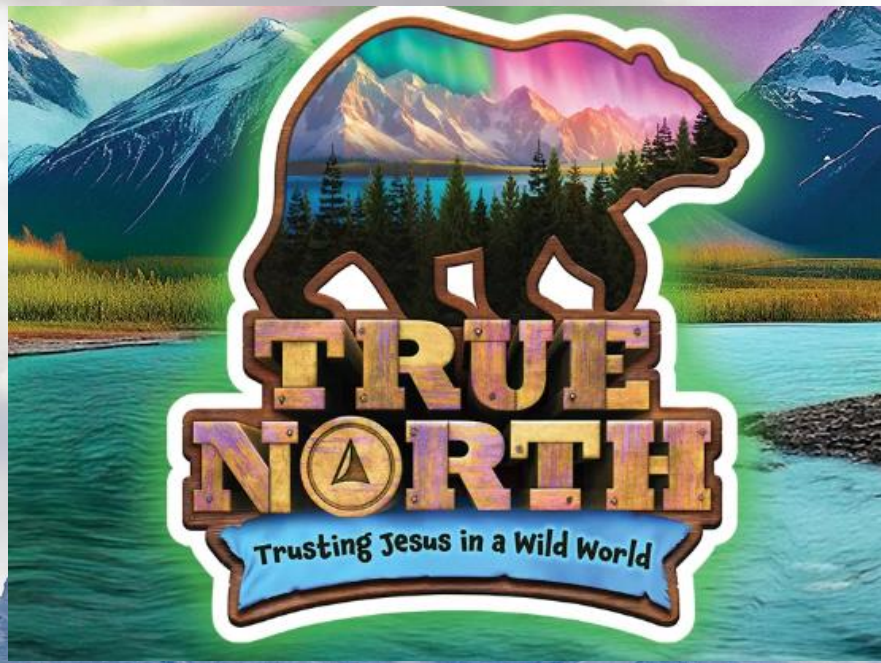
Here’s how it works:

- Take Lil’ Jesus with you on your travels
 - Take Jesus to the park, the store, across the country, or to your backyard!
- Find a spot that brings you joy & snap a photo with Lil’ Jesus
- Post it on social media
- Tag Southport United Methodist Church so we can share the joy:
#LilJesus
#southportumc
- Leave Lil’ Jesus behind in a safe, visible spot for someone else to discover



You can pick up Lil Jesus’s in the church or we will even mail them to you ! Check out www.sumc.org/liljesus for more info. Join us in taking a Lil Jesus everywhere we go this summer!





Thank You, VBS Team!

We are so incredibly grateful for the amazing leaders and volunteers who made this year's Vacation Bible School a huge success! Your energy, creativity, and love brought the stories of Jesus to life in a way that inspired and uplifted every child who walked through our doors.

Because of you, kids left with hearts full of joy, faith, and a deeper connection to God. Thank you for planting seeds that will grow for years to come!

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS INVITATION – TRANSLATORS NEEDED

Over the last few years SUMC has served fifteen to seventeen family groups for Jubilee Christmas including six Hispanic families in 2024. Through a recent conversation with the Homecroft Elementary Social Worker, we know that the Hispanic population is steadily growing and in much need. We have the opportunity to increase our ministry to include additional Hispanic families this year and in the future.

We have one translator from Homecroft who assists with conversations and information for each SUMC host and their family. We are hoping to increase the ways we interact and minister to the families and having additional Spanish speaking helpers will be invaluable.

Our invitation to the church family is to consider if you or a friend has the gift and/or skills to partner with the Jubilee Team and work as an interpreter. Adults and youth who have a background or are actively studying Spanish will make a difference as we communicate with families.

Please contact the church office, 317 784-9508, or email office@sumc.org and a member of the Jubilee Team will respond to answer questions, offer additional information and provide specific details. Your response is much appreciated.

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. Any questions contact the church office

THANK YOU Southport UMC Community & Friends:

Thank you for the generosity you have shared with the children at the Southport 6th Grade Academy CARE Closet through your donations of new &/or gently worn school dress code clothing collections at SUMC. We continue to be in the process of ramping up for academic year 2025-26 with the continued effort & support of the school dress code clothing donations.

We will still accept children's sizes & clothing needs for 2025-26. Below are details:

School Dress Code Clothing Needs:

Girl's & Boys Pants & Shirts: Sizes 12-18+

Short or long sleeved shirts polo shirts, solid in color & NO advertising of any kind on the shirts.

Pants are solid in color, no Jeans: Navy, gray, black, khaki & olive green are dress code appropriate for both boys/girls pants colors.

Solid color sweatshirts (NO hoods, please) are also a needed & received well from all the children.



HARVEST TABLE

JULY Tunes at the Table: JULY 16!

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



Happy Independence day. Our offices will be CLOSED
on Friday, July 4. Enjoy your holiday and we will see
you on Monday!



**A BIG
shoutout to
everyone
who
participated
in the
Southport
Freedom
Festival with
us!**

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle is again on a summer break. We will resume meeting on September 9th at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Area. We will be doing our Pledge Service program that day. This is a good time to see what the purpose and work of the circle is about. So put this date on your calendar and come join the group!

PANTRY NEWS

The Hunger, Inc. Food Pantry located at the corner of Madison Ave. and Epler Ave, behind Kim's Kakey and Bakery. Thank you all from the church who have signed up to help serve at the pantry to help the Local neighborhoods. The food supply is very well stocked as of now. The August Newsletter article will again list the needs for the pantry at that time. You have all been very gracious by donating food in June and July to the HOPE MINISTRY for the families attending the HOPE Breakfasts. Thank YOU so much for being such a giving church.

FEED A NEED MINISTRY (FAN)

We will be meeting in the Gathering Area on July 10th at 1 p.m. to bag the 50 meals for the ministry "Tear Down the Walls". Our team fills the sacks with food for the non-permanent residents in downtown Indy. The sacks are filled with food and love for the 50 people we serve. It has been said that the recipients run to get the bags before they run out. If you are interested in helping with the team to fill the bags, just come on the above date. It only takes 30 minutes out of your daily life to help with this ministry.

CREATION CARE INFO

The next Recycling and Shredding Event in Beech Grove is on September 6th. Help the EARTH that God gave us to keep healthy. GOD's Earth needs our help. They take paper for shredding, recycling items, appliances, meds, needles, syringes, hearing aids, and eyeglasses. It is at 9 am-12 pm at the City Hall. There will be another reminder in the August newsletter.

ROOF CRASHERS BIBLE STUDY

The Roof Crashers Bible Study Class is studying the Book, "the Rock, the ROAD, and the RABBI" with Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel. It is an inspiring book and video series. The discussion sessions are uplifting and eye-opening. Come join the group for the joy of studying together with other women. The class meets every Monday from 9:30-11:00 a.m. (or 11:30 depending on how much we discuss and learn together) in the gathering area at church.

CROSS TRAINING



Food, Games, Hands
on project &
Devotional

Open to 1st – 6th grade.

Parent or Guardian must attend
with them.

Childcare provided for younger kids

Next Meeting: July 13, 2025

11:45 AM – 1:45 PM

In the Gathering Place



A Great Local Project: Crystine's Closet

Crystine's Closet helps people who are starting over and hoping to get a second chance in life. They help with the basic things a person needs to start over. Crystine's Closet is located in the basement at the Johnson County Probation office 101 E. Jefferson Street, Franklin Indiana 46131.

The closet has toiletries, men's and women's clothes including socks, underwear, pants, shirts, dresses, slacks, business attire and some formal wear. The closet also has men's and women's winter coats, boots and shoes -including tennis shoes. They have some household items.

All items available through Crystine's Closet are received by donation and are gently used. Participants receive items free through the Drug Court, ReEntry Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, Community Corrections and regular probationers. All donations are appreciated. To donate to Crystine's Closet, call 463-666-0927. If there is no answer, please leave a message. You can also email ccox@johnsoncounty.in.gov.

Thank You from Kathy McCauley

Thank you all for the kind words, warm hugs, thoughtful gifts, and for your presence at my retirement celebration. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with the service, preparation, baking, cooking, and serving—it meant so much to me.

I truly appreciate each and every one of you for supporting me all these years and making my farewell so special. Southport Church has been a great place to work! It was a wonderful send-off, and I already miss you all!

With gratitude and love, Kathy



An *Invite* from Hospitality!

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 dinning with the Southport Team –
Contact Maggie Lucas 317.513.5492

Finance

Church	May-23	Year To Date
Income		
Offerings	\$35,797	\$234,055
Other	\$975	\$1,240
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$5,652	\$28,390
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,224)	(\$34,584)
Administration	(\$13,823)	(\$70,475)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$12,760)	(\$71,405)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$25,144)	(\$116,939)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,339)	(\$8,857)
Net	(\$15,867)	(\$38,575)

Imagination Station		
Income	\$38,986	\$207,783
Expense	(\$36,281)	(\$160,584)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$5,652)	(\$28,390)
Net	(\$2,946)	\$18,808

All Together		
Total Incomes	\$75,758	\$443,078
Total Expenses	(\$94,572)	(\$462,844)
Net	(\$18,814)	(\$19,767)

Schools out for summer...

If you are like me Alice Cooper is now playing in your mind.

Anyway, on to business. If you are paying attention to these finance articles you just might notice that our income is down \$20,000 from April to May. Why, might you ask? Well, I think it's because school's out. Half of that difference I can say for sure is because school is out because our Imagination Station Preschoolers are on their summer break and that means we are not receiving any income from preschool. The other half is church giving. Now, I can only speculate here, but with school being out I think a few of y'all are going on some much-deserved R & R. Maybe, hitting the beach or the backyards or just going to see some out-of-town friends.

So, just a reminder that when we are on vacation our church is still open and active. This May several brave souls spent the night in the building (no beds) for Night without a bed and raised over \$1000 to support Family Promises

mission to end homelessness. We devoured some amazing nachos & tacos with 200 of our neighbors during our taco night community meal which is free and open to all. Feed-a-Need packed 50 sack lunches for the homeless. A new small group, Fear Not, was formed to help us folks with anxiety. The Jubilee Christmas team started planning for this year's Jubilee program. We celebrated a wedding, had cross training, oh yeah, and gathered for worship four times each week. Of course, a lot of other stuff happened too, but I only get a certain amount of space in this article.

I bring this all up, to encourage you to give even when you can't make it to church. I hope you can see I am saying this out of love and not judgment because you are a truly amazing congregation.

Oh, and it may be good to take a look at how you give. If you are giving via check or cash just know that you can also set up your gift to be given automatically weekly or monthly (just email office@sumc.org). Or, if that doesn't make sense for you remember you can give online at www.sumc.org even if you are out of town (of course make sure to worship with us online too)!

Thank you for being the church!

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.*