

The Heart Of the Matter



CONNECT - GROW - SERVE - GIVE - GO

SEPTEMBER 2025 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist

A Matter of Perspective

In one of my favorite movies, *Big Hero 6*, there's a scene where Hiro feels stuck—he just can't see a way forward. That's when his older brother, Tadashi, lifts him up and tells him to look at things from a different angle. From that new perspective, what once looked like a jumble of pieces suddenly makes sense. The problem hasn't changed, but Hiro's frame has—and that makes all the difference.

Faith often works the same way. Our perspective shapes how we see the world, and sometimes all we need is a shift in frame. Have you ever stood before one of those sculptures that looks like twisted metal from one angle, but when you step a few feet to the side it reveals a face or even a cross? The sculpture itself hasn't changed—only your point of view.

The Apostle Paul reminds us of this truth in **2 Corinthians 5:7**: “**We walk by faith, not by sight.**” Life doesn't always make sense when viewed through our own limited lens. But when we allow God to reframe our perspective, we begin to see things more clearly. Worship becomes more than routine—it becomes an encounter with God's presence. Scripture is no longer just words on a page—it becomes the living Word shaping us. Even our daily work, relationships, and challenges begin to look different when seen through the frame of faith.

The beauty of following Jesus is that life takes on new meaning when viewed through God's perspective. What once felt ordinary can reveal the holy. What once felt like a dead end can open into new beginnings. And what once seemed impossible can, in Christ, become possible.

This September, I invite you to let God lift you up, just as Tadashi lifted Hiro, and allow faith to shift your frame. Sometimes what feels confusing or overwhelming can become breathtakingly beautiful when we look at it from God's perspective.

See you in worship this month!

Blessings,
Rev. William G. Nickrand

DATE	TITLE	SCRIPTURE
August 21st & 24th	How We View Worship	John 4:19-24; Psalm 95:1-7
August 28th & 31st	How We View the Bible	Matthew 5:17-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
September 4th & 7th	How We View God	Luke 15:11-32; Psalm 103:8-13; Isaiah 40:28-31
September 11th & 14th	How We View Community	Numbers 20:1-13
September 18th & 21st	How We View our Work	Matthew 5:13-16; Colossians 3:23-24
September 25th & 28th	How We View Spiritual Gifts	Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11



Join us for our 6-week sermon series, "Frames," where we will explore the various perspectives that shape our faith and how we engage with God, Scripture, and one another. Just like a picture frame defines how we view an image, our perspectives influence how we experience worship, understand the Bible, utilize our spiritual gifts, connect in community, approach our work, and perceive God. Each week, we will examine these important aspects of our faith through Scripture, allowing us to broaden our understanding and deepen our relationship with God and each other. Come ready to shift your frame and enhance your view of faith!

FIRST FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

MOVIE
* *Night* *

SEPTEMBER 5TH - 6:30PM THE GARFIELD MOVIE

Southport United Methodist Church
1947 E Southport Rd Indianapolis, IN 46227

TUNES AT THE TABLE
Free produce. Free Food. Live Music.
WED. SEP. 17, 6 - 7 P.M.

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

1947 E. SOUTHPORT ROAD
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46227
WWW.SUMC.ORG



SUMC Hosted a wonderful dinner for Kairos Prison Ministry with 125 hearts gathered, powerful testimonies, and \$3,000 raised to support this great ministry. Thank you to all that made it possible!

WOMEN'S NEWS

Well, it is finally September, and the Rebekah Circle will be meeting again. Come join our gathering on **Tuesday, September 9th at 1 p.m.** in the Gathering Area. We will be planning many of our year's activities. Following the meeting, there will be wonderful snacks and visits. So, come join in on the fun, food, and faithful serving.

HUNGER, Inc FOOD PANTRY

September starts our collecting of donations each month for the Hunger Inc Food Pantry located at the corner of Madison Ave and Epler. This pantry has been an all volunteer run pantry for 43 Years. The need has increased due to the cost of food. Our current needs are Food, volunteers, and cash donations. Please help the families in our 46107, 46207, 46227 and 46237 areas. The pantry helps some folks in Beech Grove, some of Franklin Township, and all of Perry Township. Some days the need is record-breaking. Recently on one Tuesday, the pantry serviced 71 clients. It is a small pantry, but a mighty provider to so many people. The pantry is open every Tuesdays from 10-1, Thursdays from 4-7, and Saturdays from 10-1. Also, the pantry can help youth if they are needing service hours. All that is needed, is if the youth is under 16, is an adult to come and serve with the youth at any of our open days. Let us know how we can help.

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS needed ARE: Canned beans: Pork and Beans, kidney beans, chili beans, refried beans and black beans.

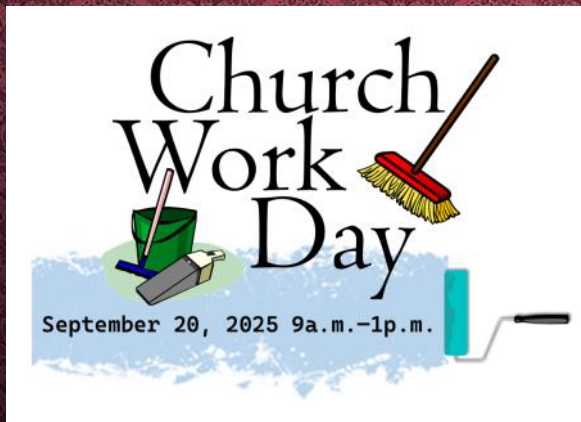
Dates : September 3rd ---September 14th. All donations may be placed in the grocery basket next to the Coat Hallway. YOU are the hands and feet of Jesus in your service.

FEED A NEED (OR FAN)

The FAN Team is getting ready to celebrate the end of their 5th year bagging meals for the unhoused in downtown Indy. We bag lunches on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT 1 P.M. IN THE GATHERING AREA.** We set up an assembly line and usually get done in about 20-30 minutes. Then the bags are delivered to our helping service called "Tear Down the Walls" and they distribute our food sacks to the people downtown in need. This service also has knowledge of places that can help the folks with other needs while we help with food for a couple of days. We are needing another helper to get the meals downtown and unloaded. If you are interested, please let the church know and you will get a call.

CREATION CARE

Free Recycle on September 6th from 9-12 at Beech Grove Town Hall, 806 Main Street, 9 am. to 12 pm.
Paper shredding, metal and appliance drop off, eye glasses, hearing aides, unused medicine, and used syringe disposal.



Church Workday – Saturday, September 20 | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Come join us for a church-wide Workday as we come together to care for our building and grounds!

This is a great opportunity for fellowship while helping keep our church home safe, welcoming, and beautiful.

We have projects for all skill levels, including:

- Trimming bushes and cleaning gutters
- Picking up branches and tree debris
- Repairing fences and replacing a broken faucet
- Painting gutters, doors, and wood trim
- Replacing and painting car stops in the parking lot
- Cleaning pavers, mulching, and pulling weeds
- Cleaning up around the kitchen area, sheds, and playground

If you have tools that may be useful—like a chainsaw or painting supplies—please bring them along.

Snacks and water will be provided to keep everyone refreshed while we work.

Every hand helps, and together we can accomplish a lot in just a few hours.

Whether you can stay for the whole morning or just part of it, we'd love to see you there!

Please email **Mindy Bennett** at mindy@sumc.org if you are able to attend.

If you have any questions about the projects or tools needed, you can reach out to **Art Littlepage** or **Phil Whisner**.

Financial Peace University begins

Monday, September 8th!

It is not too late to sign up for Financial Peace University. You can come to the first session and get signed up.

Dates: 9 Mondays from September 8th to November 3rd - 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Cost: \$72.00 (engaged or married couples share one membership)

Co-coordinators: Barb Dobbs and Chris Patterson

Any questions, please contact the church office at (317) 784-9508 or at office@sumc.org

The SUMC Choir is returning in September!

We would LOVE to have more voices to add to our joyful noise!!

The choir sings at the traditional 9:00 worship services in addition to Christmas Eve, Holy Week/Easter, and special events.

Attendance can be flexible.

If you are interested, please contact the SUMC Music Director Rhonda Collins at rhonda@sumc.org.



LIVE MUSIC!

FREE FOOD

CHILI
COMPETITION

FALL
FESTIVAL

AT
OUTPORT
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

TRUNK
OR
TREAT

OCTOBER 18TH
11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Put down the pumpkin spice and pick up the candy bowl because it's Fall Festival time! OK, not yet, but I just want to make sure we were all getting geared up for this thing because it's going to be here before we know it.

A trunk or treat, chili competition, and our home cooked music will anchor this event, but we plan on spicing it up a bit this year. We are adding a Kid's Zone which will be "sponsored" by Imagination Station and several SUMC focused tents (a prayer area, a Lil Jesus tent, the Harvest Table will be running, and a Find out about SUMC tent). We are bolstering our trunk or treat lineup by inviting some classic car and hot rod clubs to participate. And we will have some special guests including ROWDIE from the Indianapolis Indians and two MONSTER TRUCKS and their drivers!

There are a lot of serving opportunities involved with the Fall Festival, so keep your eyes open for NEXTSteps tables with those sign up forms. If you want to participate in the Trunk or Treat or chili competition sign up forms are already available. SEE YOU THERE!



SCOVILLE SCALE

2,000,000



\$25,000

1,000,000



\$20,000

500,000



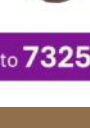
\$15,000

400,000



\$12,000

350,000



\$10,000

100,000



\$8,000

23,000



\$5,000

5,000



\$1,000

1,000

\$500



Text Southport to 73256 to give

OPERATION BRING THE HEAT



Southport United Methodist Church is really spicing things up at this year's Fall Festival. Each year we have a chili competition and reward the best chili cooks by contributing 50% of the festival's proceeds to nonprofits of their choice.*

This year to really bring the heat Pastor William is going to risk taste bud and tummy by eating a hot pepper. How hot of a pepper? Well, that's up to you. The more you give the hotter the pepper Pastor William eats the day of the festival.

We hope to see you October the 18th from 11am to 2pm at the festival!

*The remaining 50% goes to funding the festival and assisting with the maintenance of SUMC's facilities.

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS 2025

Jubilee Christmas planning has begun and even though it may seem early, we are just 3 months away. Jubilee Day is Saturday, December 6. Over the next few months our schedule will be:

SEPTEMBER - with incredible assistance from our partners at Homecroft Elementary, families will be determined and invited to participate while we welcome SUMC hosts, both new and prior for each family.

OCTOBER – we offer an orientation and training for all hosts, they receive their family's information to begin calls and obtain specifics for Christmas (toys, gifts, clothing and other needs).

NOVEMBER – Thursdays and Sundays there will be opportunities listed at the Next Steps area for all to shop, online and in person, and provide the wishes and needs of the Jubilee families. Jubilee team members are always available to answer questions and help.

DECEMBER – Adult family members, SUMC hosts and many supporting hands gather Jubilee Day to wrap gifts, enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

CURRENT REQUESTS

Additional hosts and co-hosts, cookie bakers and helping hands

One or two Hispanic interpreters to work with hosts and ESL families

Homecroft is in need of children's underwear (boys size 6 and 8), uniform bottoms fall and winter, (boys and girls size 6, 8 and 10). Some sales are still in progress too. Place donations in the crate marked for Jubilee.



No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world.

Dates and Locations:
Saturday, September 27 at 9:00 AM
Rosedale Hill UMC
4450 S Keystone Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46227

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	Jul-25	2025 YTD
Income		
Offerings	\$35,429	\$330,524
Other	\$120	\$1,824
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$8,280	\$41,783
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$6,714)	(\$45,236)
Administration	(\$15,361)	(\$107,250)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$11,139)	(\$91,992)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$23,863)	(\$163,803)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$3,581)	(\$15,452)
Net	(\$16,829)	(\$49,602)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$58,904	\$309,298
Expense	(\$31,770)	(\$215,397)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$8,280)	(\$41,783)
Net		
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$94,453	\$641,646
Total Expenses	(\$92,428)	(\$639,130)
Net	\$2,026	\$2,516

Our budget is just about where it needs to be this time of year. Regardless of several unplanned expenses we are currently "in the black" as they say. So, thank you and keep it up.

Your tithes and undesignated gifts are what keep this place going. They pay the staff salaries, keep the lights on, and the doors open. They are essential to the running of Southport United Methodist Church.

But, there are other ways to give to. Designated funds like Faith Promise, Pastor's Ministry, Pastor's Benevolence, and even a Church Improvement Fund. These funds are also extremely helpful. They help us spend money on unplanned opportunities. The community event at Homecroft Elementary is an example of the Pastor's Ministry fund being put to good use. And, in the case of the Church Improvement fund, they help us out when disaster strikes. Sometimes trees fall down,

canopies blow away, and entryways get hit by Uhaul trucks.

So, it's good that you give to these things too. We will have several opportunities for these kinds of above and beyond gifts in the near future. So, keep an eye out for them. But, remember it is important to continue your regular giving. If you can't do both, no worries. We understand. And the good news is someone else is in a season that they can give more. That is part of being the church. Giving and doing when you can and resting when you need to. We lift each other up. Thanks 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



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Phone: 317-784-9508

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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.*