

The Heart Of the Matter



OCTOBER 2025 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church

Bold Prayers & Big Dreams

Ah, October—the month when the leaves turn brilliant shades of red and orange, pumpkin spice fills the air, and football, bonfires, and cozy sweaters take center stage. There's something about this season that makes us slow down, breathe a little deeper, and notice the beauty all around us.

This fall at Southport UMC, we're kicking off a brand-new sermon series called **"Dangerous Prayers."** Have you ever caught yourself praying the same safe prayers over and over? "Bless this food." "Keep everyone safe." "Help me have a good day." Those are fine prayers, but sometimes God calls us to something deeper—to pray with boldness and passion, to step outside the spiritual "safety bubble."

These are prayers that might just change everything. Over the next few weeks, we'll explore raw, daring prayers like: **Search me. Break me. Help me. Strengthen me. Send me.** These aren't easy prayers, but they are the kind that move us closer to the heart of God and open the door for transformation.

Praying boldly is like when Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on water with Jesus. He could have played it safe and stayed where it was comfortable, but instead, he took a step of faith—and experienced God's power in a life-changing way. That's what dangerous prayers do: they move us out of comfort and into trust.

October will be full of opportunities to live out this bold faith. We'll come together for a special **Homecoming Sunday**, with meaningful worship, powerful music, and a guest preacher. Later in the month, we'll throw open our doors to the community with one of our biggest outreach events of the year—complete with chili, candy, kids' activities, and a few fun surprises (think monster trucks and Rowdy the mascot!).

And of course, there's **Operation Bring the Heat**, where, if we raise \$25,000, I've promised to eat an *ungodly* hot pepper. (I'd appreciate your prayers on that one—bold, powerful prayers!)

As the leaves change this season, let's ask God to change us too. My hope is that we'll be a church marked by bold prayers, daring faith, and unstoppable love. October is going to be an incredible month, and I can't wait to see how God moves among us.

Blessings,

Rev. William G. Nickrand

CHILI COMPETITION

FALL FESTIVAL AT SOUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TRUNK OR TREAT

This years Fall Festival is shaping up to be an amazing event for our community. We have a great turn out of both chili competitors and trunk or treat trunks. Also, many of you have volunteered to serve as well. If you would like to participate in anyway there is still time. Just email office@sumc.org to let us know how you would like to help.

We hope to see you at the festival

October 18th from 11am to 2pm

Don't forget to invite your friends, family, and neighbors. Maybe, even invite someone you don't like, I don't know, live a little. But be sure to spread the word.

We need your help in one more way. Our chili competitors will be competing for some amazing non profits and the maestros of the three winning chili's will get to make a donation to their charity. How much? Well, that is up to you. You can give now to help your favorite team/charity win. Below is a list of the current teams with their charities,. Just note who you want your contribution to benefit and anything you give now will count towards their winning (and how hot of a pepper Pastor William has to eat).

We have raised:

\$3,419

	\$25,000
	\$20,000
	\$15,000
	\$12,000
	\$10,000
	\$8,000
	\$5,000
	\$1,000
	\$500
	

Paul Lucas

Ronald McDonald House

Ashley Collins

CureKARS Laia Foundation

Criss Marshall

Upstream: Suicide Prevention

Allen Davidson

Mt. Zion Cemetery

Jim Whisner

Wounded Warriors

Amy Allen-Fodrill

Southside Animal Shelter

Kathy Smith

Hunger, Inc.

Art Littlepage

Habitat for Humanity

Rhonda Collins

Beech Grove High School Music
Scholarship

Lucas Klipsch

Hoosier Hills Chrysalis

FALL FESTIVAL AT SOUTHPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Text **Southport** to **73256** to give

Join us this Friday for our First Family Fun Night!

All ages welcome!

OCTOBER 1ST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD 6:30PM



Come join us for a night of good company and s'more.
This is a family event the playground will be open.

Come meet Kelley Lego at the Guest Services table to register for the tournament.
Either a team of 2 or we can help find you a partner.

Email Kelley@sumc.org if you have any questions.

Caring for Our Community

Volunteers are needed on **Monday, October 6** to pack meals for the next Caring for Our Community event (scheduled for October 8). Volunteers will be placing food, recipes, and SUMC information in plastic zipper bags. Some volunteers will be needed to carry flats of grocery items short distances.

Volunteers are also needed on **Wednesday, October 8** for distribution from 5-7 p.m. Please arrive by 4:30 p.m.



DATE	TITLE	SCRIPTURE
Oct 2nd & 5th	Search Me	Hebrews 4:16, Philippians 4:6, Psalm 139:23-24
Oct 9th & 12th	Break Me	Mark 14:3-9, Mark 12:22-24, Psalm 51:16-17
Oct 16th & 19th	Help Me	Matthew 6:9-15
Oct 23rd & 26th	Strengthen Me	2 Kings 19:14-19, Micah 6:8-8, Psalm 94:17-19
Oct 30th & Nov 2nd	Send Me	Exodus 3:10-4:13, Jonah 1:1-3, Isaiah 6:8



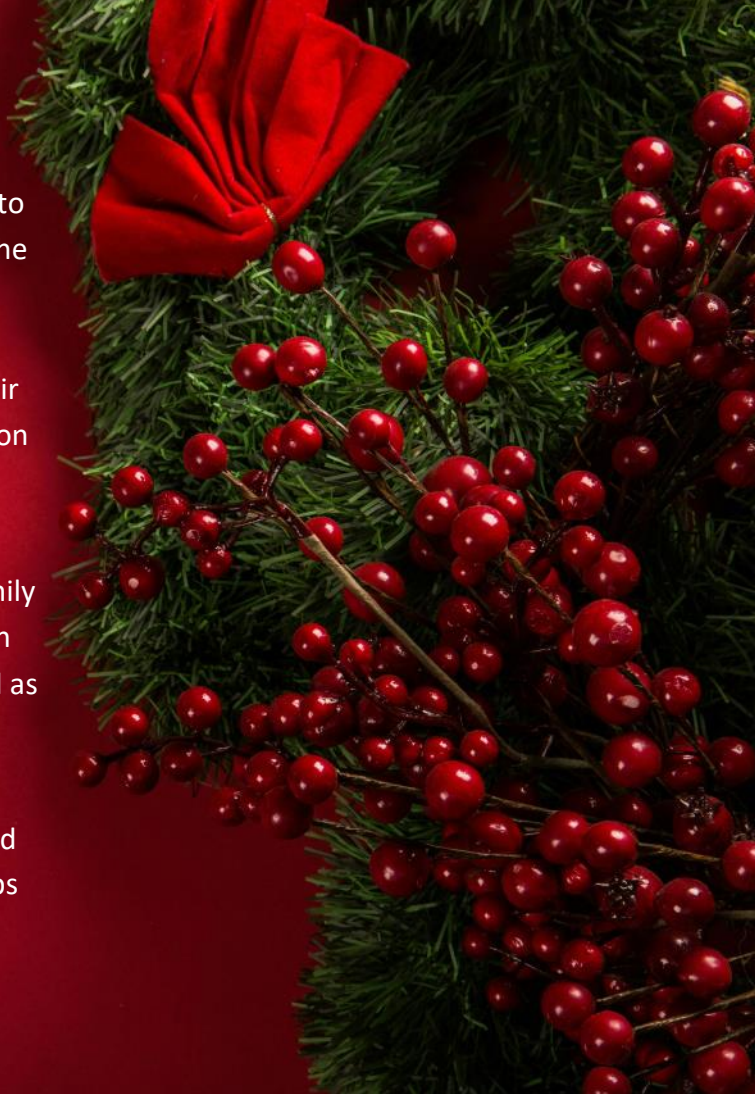
Do you ever wonder if God answers your prayers? Do you wish you could see the evidence that prayer changes lives? Do you long for more than playing it safe in your faith? Discover the power of authentically communicating with God, breaking out of the restrictive spiritual safety bubble, and expanding your ideas about what's possible with God. Be inspired to pray boldly, pray powerfully, pray with passion, and trade ineffective prayers and lukewarm faith for raw, daring prayers that will transform your daily life.

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS.....

...is just around the corner. This year we have an opportunity to serve eighteen families from Homecroft Elementary through the Jubilee Christmas ministry. Families are selected on a basis of need by the Homecroft staff. Each family is paired with a host from the church who is that personal link, connecting with their family and gathering information to share with the congregation for shopping. This includes clothing needs and especially each child's desired toys or gifts.

Jubilee Day is Saturday, December 6 when hosts and adult family members gather at church for fellowship and wrapping of each family's gifts. Several additional household items are included as well as a gift card for family essentials, and a treat of home baked cookies.

Watch for Amazon online shopping beginning November 6, and additional items to choose from the tag board in the Next Steps area. Jubilee Team members will be available to answer any questions and discuss how else you might participate.



Beginning November 6

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.



Donation Opportunity

Would you like to make a difference at Southport 6th Grade Academy? Please donate gently used clothing to the church. There is a green bin in the hallway next to the women's restroom for collection. The following items are needed:

Bottles of Shampoo and Conditioner

Girls Polo shirts: XL & XXL, Any **solid** color
Girls pants: 12-18+, Color: Tan, Blue, Black, or Khaki

Boys polo shirts: L - XXL, Any **solid** color
Boys pants: 12-18+, Color: Tan, Blue, Black, or Khaki



SAVE THE DATE
Turkey Dinner—November 22
5:00—7:00 p.m.

**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.

Choose all that you would like:

Donate a turkey (18-20 pounds) raw or roasted, Donate a dessert, Set Up, Serve, Clean Up,
Delivery to shut-ins, and/or Cook! Please reach out to the office for more info!



Multifaith Build

October 31
8:30 am – 11:30 am



WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle is hosting a **donation to Lucille Raines** for their "Rainfest" celebration in October. There is a list of items needed for this activity at the Welcome Desk. The items collected will be delivered to Lucille Raines **by the 19th of October**. If you are interested in helping with this, please check out the list and bring your donations to the totes located in the Coat Hallway. All the residents will be very blessed by your help. This facility is owned and operated by the United Women of Faith and needs our support. Items needed are simple: microwave popcorn, microwave mac & cheese, peanut butter and cheese crackers, soups, individual fruit cups, foil packs of chicken and tuna. Thanks for your help. Our **October meeting will be held on October 14th at 1pm. in the Gathering Area**. We will be celebrating our WORLD THANK OFFERING PROGRAM. Come join us in the conversations, information, and great food. A new way to serve will be presented for the months of October/November.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The Hunger, Inc Food Pantry needs workers and donations for the month of October. We pray that you will support the Chili Cook-off and Trunk 'n Treat at church to help the pantry. There will be workers that can take your information if you are interested in helping. The pantry serves 60-70 people each day they are open, and they are open 3 times each week. Donations are being collected at the Tea in October. All foods are appreciated.

Thank you, Church, for the 80lbs. of canned beans and foods you donated in September. Food for the struggling families is needed more now than ever before. Also, the donations of produce have been wonderful for the families as they enjoy fresh food.

FEED A NEED (FAN)

The next bagging of 50 meals will be held on **October 9th in the Gathering Area at 1 pm**. These 50 meals are helping the unhoused to be fed some nourishment for their days when food is scarce. Come join the group for a 30-minute activity that brings joy to the folks in need.

CARD MINISTRY

The Card Team needs help to write cards. We have cards going out to schools, fire and police servants, prayer concerns, and the many services provided by you to help our church be a GREAT church by reaching out to others. If interested, please let the church know you are interested.

CREATION CARE

Climate Change...What comes to your mind about this? Youth will have to deal with this in the future.

One young member responded this way:

" I definitely think that people are aware of climate change, but I'm not sure they know what to do about it. Last year I took an environmental science class where we talked about it and it definitely made me more conscious of it now. I try to make an effort to do what I can!! "

What can we do about it??? Talk to the youth to share your concerns or share your thoughts with a friend.



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

Discipleship Corner

It is a wonderful time to discover or rediscover your spiritual gifts. Do not neglect or underestimate the gift within you. Commit to growing and operating it in love and humility. When you serve faithfully, you contribute to the Body of Christ and participate in the expansion of God's kingdom here on earth.

Equipping Ministry Surveys are still available. Please see Maggie Lucas to get yours!
maggie@sumc.org

Finance

Church	Aug-25	2025 YTD
Income		
Offerings	\$45,737	\$376,261
Other	\$413	\$2,236
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$6,880	\$48,663
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$3,467)	(\$48,703)
Administration	(\$20,538)	(\$169,503)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$14,130)	(\$106,122)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$16,614)	(\$138,255)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,951)	(\$17,403)
Net	(\$3,670)	(\$52,826)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$41,502	\$333,134
Expense	(\$34,325)	(\$249,722)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$6,880)	(\$48,663)
Net	\$296	\$34,748
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$87,652	\$711,631
Total Expenses	(\$91,025)	(\$729,708)
Net	(\$3,374)	(\$18,078)

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7

I love that. Paul tells this church in Corinth that they are doing a great job in so many things. That's how I feel about our church. I'm so proud to be a part of a faith community that cares about the community so much, that does all it can to reach children and youth, and is a safe place for people to hear about the life-changing message of Jesus.

Then Paul challenges this church to excel in the area of giving. This is a vital part of a healthy church. We must push ourselves to provide for this faith community from what God has blessed us with. But, we have to be careful how we do this.

One chapter later, Paul encourages the church with this verse: **Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7**

This article isn't about me guiltig anyone into giving (though I would point out that negative number in the net year to date column). Paul actually says, and I believe, that we shouldn't give reluctantly or because someone coerced us. The pastors or leaders of the church shouldn't try and scare people into giving – which is a tactic that works, but doesn't honor God. Instead, people should give cheerfully and because they believe in what they are giving to.

The Bible says to give cheerfully because generosity isn't just something you do – it's an attitude. God wants us to have a generous spirit, and a generous attitude. It's not that we have to give...it's that we GET to give. When it comes to my personal giving to this church, that's how I feel...I'm honored to be able to join God in what is happening here, and I'm happy to give cheerfully. I feel like I am giving to something that is much bigger than me, something that really makes a difference. I hope you feel the same.

So, as you consider what you give, think about that. Are you giving out of guilt, or are you giving out of a generous heart? I pray it's the latter. Let's continue to grow together and to build up this faith community in a way that honors God.

Thank you for GIVING of your gifts of time, talent, and financial resources in celebration of God's generosity in Jesus Christ.

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.*