



September 2026 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church



A New Way Forward

There is something about September that feels like a transition. Summer begins to wind down, school routines settle in, football returns, and suddenly we are wondering how the year is already moving so quickly! New seasons have a way of inviting us to pause, reset, and consider what might be ahead.

That is exactly what we will do together this month as we begin our new worship series, Embracing the New Samaria: A Place Made New.

Throughout September, we will explore what it means to follow Jesus beyond what is familiar and comfortable. Drawing from Scripture and the work of Dr. Alejandro Mandes, we will consider how God calls us toward greater diversity, reconciliation, and community.

And I want to be honest: this may be challenging work.

It is easy for all of us to move through life surrounded by what is familiar. We can unknowingly develop assumptions about people whose stories, cultures, or experiences differ from our own. But Jesus continually crossed boundaries. He went to places others avoided, spoke with people others overlooked, and demonstrated that God's love is bigger than the lines we often draw.

My hope is that this series will help us become more curious, more willing to listen, and more attentive to the beauty and dignity God has placed in every person. This is not about guilt. It is about growth. It is about asking God to help us see our neighbors—and our community—with new eyes.

September will also be filled with opportunities to put our faith into action. We will gather for another Community Picnic, welcome several new members into our church family, and continue participating in outreach events and activities. We may even have a special themed music experience later in the month—more details are coming soon!

I hope you will join us throughout September with an open heart and an open mind. God may be inviting us to something new.

Blessings,

Rev. William G. Nickrand

Challenge for the Month:

This September, intentionally connect with one person each week whose life experience, background, culture, or perspective is different from your own. Ask a question. Listen to their story. Learn something you did not know. At the end of the week, ask yourself: "What did I learn, and how did God help me see someone differently?"

EMBRACING THE NEW SAMARIA

Embracing the New Samaria: A Place Made New	SEP 3 & 6	Recalibrating Our Vision John 4:1-42
	SEP 10 & 13	Seeing the Beauty in Other Cultures Luke 10:25-37
	SEP 17 & 20	Reach Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8
	SEP 24 & 27	One Reconciling Community 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

In this four-week series, we explore how God calls us to embrace diversity, reconciliation, and community renewal. Using the story of Samaria as a backdrop, we'll learn to see the beauty in different cultures, engage others with intentionality, and participate in God's work of creating a place where all are welcome and transformed.



Communion Schedule
September 3rd, 6th
October 1st, 4th



Join us for "The Way Cafe" every month for fellowship, refreshments, and message in a cafe setting! Service Begins at 6:30 p.m.
Join us for our Upcoming Cafes:
Thursday, September 3rd
Thursday, October 1st

Help Us Welcome Our Homecroft Elementary Neighbors!

Southport United Methodist Church is partnering with Homecroft Elementary to host a family festival before the school's movie night on Friday, September 11. The festival will run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. followed by the movie at 8:00 p.m.

We need volunteers to help make the evening fun and welcoming for Homecroft families. Volunteer opportunities include:

Serving food: 4 volunteers

Supervising the inflatable obstacle course: 2 volunteers

Helping Hope at the tattoo station: 3 volunteers

Helping Joe with Nine Square: 3 volunteers

Running additional games: 3 volunteers

Operating the snow cone machines: 2 volunteers

Helping with set up and tear down: 6 volunteers

Wearing a Southport UMC T-shirt and mingling with families

The set-up team will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. to load vehicles and transport supplies. After the festival, we will also need help returning everything to the church.

We are collecting the following donations:

Bottled water, variety bags of chips, small snack cakes, small items or non-chocolate candy to use as game prizes
Please bring donations to The Gathering Place by Sunday, September 6.

To volunteer or ask questions, email Mindy Bennett at mindybenett71@gmail.com, call or text her at 317-473-2975, or stop by The Gathering Place at church.

The Southport Road Meijer Simply Give Campaign continues through September 26th.

September 12th is the final Double Match Day.

You can help the Hunger, Inc Food Pantry buy food, you can donate \$10 in the envelopes on the grocery cart by the bathroom door all of August and September.

The envelopes can be placed in the collection plates. Someone from the church will take the envelopes to the store on the double days. So your \$10 will turn into \$30. Or you can go to the store and find the cards to make your own donation at the store. Thank you for helping make many families coming to the pantry blessed by the foods the pantry can buy from your Blessings of donations.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our All-Church Gathering and Potluck! We are grateful for the wonderful fellowship, delicious food, and meaningful conversations shared together.

A special thank-you to all of our volunteers who helped make the gathering possible, everyone that brought a dish, and our speakers for sharing their time and wisdom with us.

If you missed the gathering or would like to watch it again, the link to the recording is on the website.



SUMC & the City of Southport Partner for a Community Fall Festival!

Southport United Methodist Church is excited to once again reach beyond our walls and into our community! This fall, SUMC is partnering with the City of Southport to help create a fun, welcoming Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 17, from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

This partnership is a wonderful opportunity for our church to connect with children, families, and neighbors throughout the Southport community. Together with the City, we are planning an afternoon filled with fall fun, including Trunk or Treat, games and activities, food, a chili cook-off, and plenty of opportunities for families to enjoy time together.

As we begin preparing, we need the help of our SUMC family!

We have created an Amazon Wish List with supplies that will help us provide candy, prizes, refreshments, games, and other items needed for the festival. If you would like to help, simply choose an item from the list and purchase it for the event.

View our Fall Festival Amazon Wish List here:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/273VYPQUC94J3?ref_=wl_share

There will be other ways to get involved, too! In the coming weeks, we will be sharing opportunities to decorate a trunk, volunteer during the festival, help with games and activities, participate in the chili cook-off, assist with setup and cleanup, and more.

Events like this are about much more than candy and games. They give SUMC an opportunity to be present in our community, build relationships with our neighbors, and show families that Southport UMC is a church that cares about and is invested in the community around us.

Whether you donate an item, decorate a trunk, volunteer for an hour, or simply come out and welcome our neighbors, there is a place for everyone to be part of this special day.

DID YOU
KNOW?

The SUMC Card Ministry sent its first card on 7/29/19. Since then it has shared the love of Christ with our community over 5,230 times over the last 7 years. Thank you to the Card Ministry for all you do for the members of SUMC as well as our community!

cards to individuals with handwritten notes :	3,058
groups of cards:	1,222
cards at Welcome Center:	950
Total cards made and distributed:	5,230

**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**

**The SUMC office will be closed
Monday, September 7th, 2026 in
observance of Labor Day.**

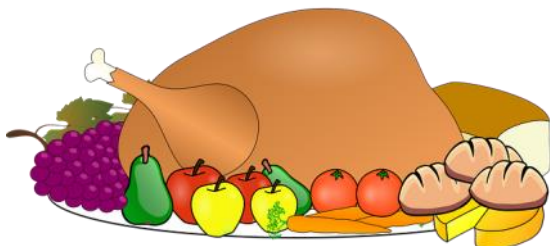
SAVE
THE
DATE



Free Community Turkey Dinner

November 21st, 2026

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



SOUTHPORT
City WIDE
Fall Festival



Date: October 17th, 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us for this free event with a chili cook off, trunk-or-treating, bounce houses, and more!

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS UPDATES

If you had an opportunity to visit the Jubilee Christmas table in August, we are grateful for your interest and willingness to participate.. If you missed us, it is never too late to be part of this ministry which serves approximately twenty families from Perry Township. There are a variety of ways to be involved from hosting a Jubilee family to baking cookies. Stop by or call the church office and share your interest and a Jubilee Team member will contact you.

WHAT'S NEXT?

September - The staff at Homecroft Elementary will select families who will benefit from being part of Jubilee Christmas, many of which will not have any type of holiday otherwise. Their names will be shared with the Jubilee Ministry Team and each family will be guided through the process by their SUMC host.

October - As the hosts and an adult family member work together, decisions will be made on the children's desired gifts and the overall needs of the family.

November - All of the information on the families' needs and the children's Christmas wishes will be ready to share.. Each Thursday and Sunday, Jubilee Team members will be available in the Gathering Place with tag boards full of suggested donations, and to guide everyone on ways to purchase toys or how to support the needs through monetary donations.

December - All toys and gifts are turned in by the 6th. JUBILEE CHRISTMAS DAY on the 12th!

More details coming in the October Newsletter.

CROSS TRAINING

Cross Training

This opportunity is for interaction between the various cultures represented at SUMC is specifically designed for our 1st-6th grade students and their guardians. We participate monthly in an event providing Food – Faith – Fun to all attending.

Our next training is Sunday, September 13th from 11:45-1:45 in the Gathering Place.

Imagine SUMC Gatherings — As we look toward the future of Southport UMC, we want to hear from as many voices as possible. You are invited to join us for a brief 20-minute Imagine SUMC Gathering after each worship service on **September 10** or **September 13** to share your thoughts, dreams, hopes, and vision for the future of our church. The Leadership Team believes every voice matters in this process, and we want to create space for you to be heard. If you are unable to attend one of these gatherings, there will also be an opportunity to share your thoughts digitally.

WOMEN'S NEWS

The United Women in Faith (UWF) Rebekah Circle will be traveling to the Lebanon Children's Home for a tour on Tuesday, Sept. 8th. So there will be no circle meeting at the church on that day. Those going will meet at 10 to travel up to the facility for a 11-12 tour, 12-lunch at Arni's, and then travel home.

Our UWF Circle will be hosting our East Central Heights District meeting on Saturday, September 19th from 9-12 in the gathering area. If any ladies are interested in attending please let Sandy (317-431-3068) know so we have enough food for the breakfast treats we serve from 9-9:30.

PANTRY NEWS

Thank you all for donating to the Meijer's Campaign. If you still wish to donate please fill out an envelope from the grocery cart bag in the gathering area. All envelopes are due by Sunday, Sept. 6th. The double match day is September 12th. Your help is greatly appreciated as you are the hands and feet for Jesus here in our community.

FEED A NEED (FAN)

The bagging of the 50 meals will be held on Thursday, September 10th at 1pm in the Gathering Area. . We have the ministry called "Tear Down the Walls" that passes out our meals each month. The leaders have shared with us how needed and grateful the individuals are that come for these meals.

We are still collecting any items to make bags out of like: blankets, sheets, unused materials, T-shirts to make strings, and shoes strings to close the bags. There is a tote in the coat hallway to collect any items you can give our bag makers.

CREATION CARE

As you may have heard, our church is a Green Church. Our front door covering will be recycled items when the new one is ready to put up!! Amazing!!! We still have the center for recycled items back by the kitchen. Check it out!!! Blessings to all who served those surviving the rains and flooding in Indiana. God wants us to care for our Earth. With our Fall cleaning, there is a free Shredding event in Beech Grove on Sept. 5th, from 9-12 at 806 Main St. Come early and get your car in line and there will be people to help get your items unloaded. IT IS A FREE EVENT. They take electrical items as well and meds.

Southport UMC Annual Tea Update

Saturday, October 10 from 11 to 1

If you are attending or serving at the tea or just wanting to support Isaiah House we are collecting gifts for the children and toddlers. For the children dolls, squishies, wireless earbuds, sketchpads and for the toddlers puffs or yogurt melts.

If you are interested in serving contact the church office and let them know if you are interested in preparing or serving food, set-up or clean-up.

Joe Howell will be with the servers

Paul Lucas will be in the kitchen



Criss Marshall will be helping host Soup's On Roberts Park 150th anniversary meal and feeding the unhoused from 12:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m. on September 20th. Look out for Next Step's Table to see how you can help set up, cook, serve, and clean up. There will be a team meeting September 20th at 9:00 a.m. before the event as well.

Finance

Church	Jul-26	2026 YTD
Income		
Offerings	\$51,494	\$362,165
Other	\$0	\$4,987
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$6,119	\$41,484
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$9,946)	(\$40,840)
Administration	(\$13,544)	(\$94,323)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$14,786)	(\$110,044)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$23,401)	(\$155,449)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$2,419)	(\$16,954)
Net	(\$6,483)	(\$8,974)

Imagination Station		
Income	\$44,472	\$305,461
Expense	(\$43,125)	(\$251,909)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$6,119)	(\$41,484)
Net	(\$4,773)	\$12,067

All Together		
Total Incomes	\$95,966	\$672,613
Total Expenses	(\$107,221)	(\$669,519)
Net	(\$11,256)	\$3,093

If you have been paying attention to the finance articles lately (and I hope you have been) you may have noticed a little bit of a yo-yo effect. We had a very poor looking month, followed by a very strong month, followed by a so-so month.

This is for several reasons, mostly pertaining to both income and expenses not necessarily always being consistent from month to month. And this yo-yo effect can make it a little challenging to tell how we are doing as an organization in regard to financial health.

Well, in my opinion, cautious optimism would be the correct mentality to have towards SUMC's current financial situation.

We certainly see strong trends in income. Both giving to the church budget and income through the school are up compared to this point last year, averaging out to about 7% over 2025's figures at the same point in the year. Expenses, however, are also trending higher than

expected. Around 5% over what we had projected at this point in the year. This is largely due to unexpected expenses and, well, in many cases, things are just costing more. So, again, in the short term, cautious optimism is appropriate.

If you are wondering how, you can help us stay on track financially, of course, your continued support is critical.

Important next steps for SUMC's financial health are continued steady (not necessarily drastic) improvement to budget giving and support for our designated funds and the good work done through them. So, prayerfully consider if a marginal increase to what you give to the budget is possible or if giving to our designated funds such as Pastor's Ministry, Pastor's Benevolence, Church Improvement, or Faith Promises might make sense for you.

Regardless, please hear sincere gratitude and thankfulness for your consistent generosity.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Connie Klipsch
 Kathy Smith
 William Nickrand
 Rebecca Hamm
 Sherry Davis
 Pat Hulfachor
 Travis Miller
 Margaret Trammell
 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