



# *The* Heart *Of the* Matter

**APRIL 2026** Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church

## April Moments

It may seem a little early on April 1 to start shouting Easter greetings... but honestly, I think this week gives us permission.

After all, today may be April Fools' Day... but tomorrow we gather for Maundy Thursday, when Jesus gives us the Lord's Supper and shows us the most unforgettable picture of servant leadership the world has ever seen by washing his disciples' feet. The next day, on Good Friday, we enter the shadows together in a special Tenebrae service, remembering the suffering and sacrifice of Christ. And then—after what can feel like the longest weekend in history—we come together on Easter morning and proclaim the ancient greeting of the Church: He is risen! He is risen indeed!

That greeting is more than a tradition. It's a declaration. Christians have been sharing those words for centuries as a way of reminding one another that resurrection is not just an idea—it is the center of our faith. Death does not get the last word. Sin does not get the last word. Despair does not get the last word. Jesus does.

That's one reason you'll often hear me say things like, "In the name of our risen Lord..." when we gather for worship. I don't say it just because it sounds churchy and official. I say it because the resurrection changes everything. We don't gather around a memory. We gather around a living Savior.

And this Easter is extra special for me, because for only the second time in my life, Easter falls on my actual birthday! The first time was in 2015, when I turned 31. This year, I'll turn 42 on Easter Sunday. I can't think of a better birthday theme than resurrection.

Birthdays have a way of making us reflect on life, joy, and the gift of another year. And maybe that's why Easter feels so fitting. In the early Church, Easter was often the great day of baptism, when new believers publicly confessed their faith and stepped into new life in Christ. In a very real sense, Easter has always been a birthday celebration—the birth of new life, new hope, and a new creation.

And since I'm sharing birthday memories... I have to tell you one of my all-time favorites. In 1997, when I turned 13, my parents organized an Easter egg hunt for me. (Yes, an Easter egg hunt for a 13-year-old, which honestly should make a comeback.) The grand prize? After all the clues and searching, I found a Nintendo 64 hidden under my bed. At the time, I was pretty sure I had discovered glory itself. And while Easter morning offers something far better than a game console, there's still something wonderfully childlike about the joy of discovering that what seemed lost is found, what seemed over is not over, and what seemed buried is bursting with life. That's the invitation of Easter for all of us.

As we wrap up our "I Am: Encountering Jesus" series through Holy Week and Easter, we'll continue into a brand-new series called "The Afterparty: What Happens When the Tomb Empties." Because Easter is not just one glorious Sunday—it is the beginning of a whole new way of living. The resurrection means joy can outlast sorrow, hope can walk beside us on the road, and Jesus still offers life to the full.

So this April, I invite you not only to come to worship—but to come expectant. Come ready to receive grace. Come ready to remember your baptism. Come ready to live like resurrection is real. And come ready to share that good news with someone who needs it. Because the tomb is empty. Jesus is alive. And that changes everything. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Blessings,  
Rev. William G. Nickrand

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

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

6:30 P.M. April 2 | Maundy Thursday

7:00 P.M. April 3 | Good Friday

9:00 & 10:30 A.M. April 5 | Easter Sunday

[www.sumc.org](http://www.sumc.org)



**Communion Schedule**  
 A quick reminder that our Communion schedule will be slightly different due to special services. Please see dates below:  
 April 2,9  
 May 3,14

<b>APR 12</b>	<b>The Jokes on Death</b> John 20: 19-31
<b>APR 19</b>	<b>When The Hope Walks Beside You</b> Luke 24: 13-35
<b>APR 26</b>	<b>Life To The Full</b> John 10: 1-10



After Easter, this series reflects on the joy, hope, and life that comes from the resurrection. Using humor, storytelling, and Scripture, we'll explore how the empty tomb transforms our perspective, giving new life, renewed hope, and a reason to celebrate God's victory over death.



**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, April 9**  
**Thursday, May 14**





PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE

# baptism

OF A FEW OF OUR SOON TO BE MEMBERS

APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> • 9:30AM

GREENWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
525 N.MADISON AVE GREENWOOD, IN 46142

ALL ARE WELCOME

CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH? OR LEARNING MORE ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE METHODIST ?  
COME TO...

## PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

April 26<sup>th</sup> 11:45am

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

## PRAYER IN THE PARK

May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm  
Southport Park

Join us for a special community prayer event dedicated to fostering unity, hope, and peace in our community and world. In a time when connection matters more than ever, this gathering offers a welcoming space for individuals and families from every culture, background, and walk of life to come together in reflection and shared purpose. Whether you pray regularly or are simply seeking comfort and community, you are warmly invited to participate. Let's stand side by side, lift one another up, and inspire a spirit of compassion and grace that extends to all.



## HOPE

The HOPE Ministry will once again be Helping Our People Eat this summer! This ministry provides a hot breakfast during the summer on Saturday mornings to our Jubilee Christmas Families. This ministry started last year as a result of a seed grant in order to feed children who may not get breakfast after the school year ends, and their families. With your help we were able to provide a total of 81 meals to 34 adults and 47 children over the course of 6 weeks. We served 8 families and sent each family home with at least one bag of groceries after each meal. We are hoping to serve even more families this year and to streamline our process. We will have a Next Steps Table on April 9 and April 12 where you can learn more and sign up to volunteer.



**CAMP IMAGINATION**  
Summer Camp at Imagination Station

**OUTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
CONNECT | GROW | SERVE | GIVE | GO

GET READY FOR A GREAT ADVENTURE!


**JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> - JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
1947 E. SOUTHPORT RD.

REGISTRATION IS OFFICIALLY OPEN!  
TO ENROLL, CALL US AT:  
(317) 780-4624

Hands-on learning, outdoor and water play,  
themed days, walking field trips, and so much  
more!

**LYNCH SCHOLARSHIP**

Open to All High school seniors  
Reach out to Kelley Lego  
(Kelley@sumc.org) or The Church office  
for more information.




**Garden Cleanup**

APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
UNUSED CARDBOARD LYING AROUND?  
BRING IT! IT CAN BE USED IN THE GARDEN.



**In Loving Memory of Bobbi Howell**

We will gather to lay the ashes of Bobbi Howell to rest on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at

Vernon Cemetery 315 South Pike Street,  
Vernon, IN 47282

A brief graveside worship service and time of remembrance will be held as we honor Bobbi's life and commend her to God's eternal care. If you would like more information, please reach out to

**Joe Howell.**

<b>SAVE</b>	<b>GRADUATION SUNDAY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2026</b>
<b>BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2026</b>	<b>THE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	





## Free Community Taco Dinner!

May 5, 2026

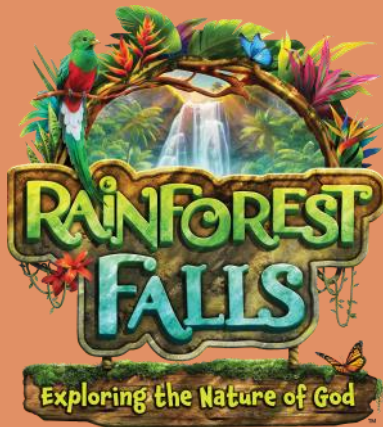
5 p.m.-7 p.m.



## First Family Fun Night: Night Without a Bed

Friday May 1, 2026– Saturday May 2, 2026

6:30 p.m.– 10:00 a.m.



## VBS

New friends, amazing experiments, creative games, fun snacks, surprising adventures, incredible music!

Location: Southport United Methodist Church

Date: June 7-11, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Call 317-780-4624 for more information or to register!



## March Cross Training

This opportunity for interaction between the various cultures represented at Southport UMC 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 April 12th from 1:45-1:45 in the Gathering Place.

## WOMEN'S NEWS

The April Meeting for the Rebekah Circle will be on April 14th at 1 pm in the Gathering. We will be having some great discussions on some of the Reading Program books for this year. These books are informative about many of the issues going on in the world today. Come join us to hear more and enjoy the fellowship. This group is fun and active with their faith. We have recently serviced the Indiana Children's Home in Lebanon by providing them with Bibles for the youth groups and we are planning a visit to the Home in September. Come to hear more about all we do to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus.

## HUNGER, Inc. FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry is in need of volunteers for every day they are open. The schedule is:

Tuesday 10-1 Thursday 4-7 and Saturday 10-1 every week

The need is growing every day due to the lack of services and the rising costs of everything, You can let the church know that you are interested and they will send the information along so that you can get a training date on the calendar. Kathy Able is the training leader and you will be trained in every position by helpful volunteers working with you.

SINCE IT IS EASTER MONTH, enjoy a month off of donations to the pantry. We are so busy providing for the Easter celebrations. The pantry has been so blessed with many donations of food. New donors are joining the list every month. Blessed is the pantry at a time of great need.

## FEED A NEED (FAN)

The next Thursday gathering for bagging the 50 meals for the homeless downtown is on April 9th. We meet in the Gathering Area at church at 1pm. It is a 30 minute activity therefore It does not take up to much of your time.

Come join the group to be a helper for all those in need.

We also have a tote in the coat Hallway for scrap materials that help make the bags we use to place the food items in. We need strong materials like towels, sheets, etc. and ribbon to use as ties for the tops to be closed. So time to clean out those areas and donate these things to the ministry. Thanks for all the help so far.

## CREATION CARE

Just another reminder of the next time Beech Grove has their shredding activity is June 6th. Mark your calendar and watch for more information in the June Newsletter.

Also, have you found the recycle bins in the back of the Gathering Area at church?? Check them out. The grocery bags you have donated have been such a blessing for the Food Pantry..Thank you so much.

## BEECH GROVE FREE RECYCLING DRIVE

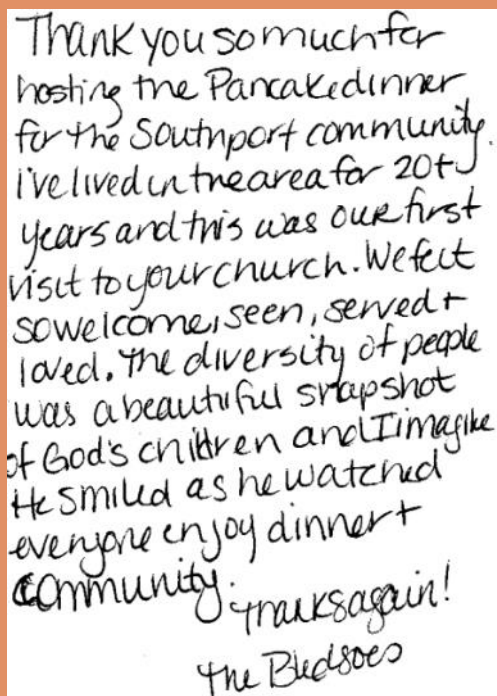
JUNE 6 SEPTEMBER 5 NOVEMBER 7 9A-12P 806 MAIN ST. CITY HALL

They take the following:

paper shredding, metal appliance drop off, hearing aid recycle, unused medicine disposal, and used syringe disposal.

ALSO: The back wall of our Gathering Area has collection bins by the Kitchen for:

LIONS CLUB –eyeglasses, empty brown medicine containers, egg cartons, grocery bags for the pantry, and pop top tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.



Thank you so much for hosting the Pancake dinner for the Southport community. I've lived in the area for 20+ years and this was our first visit to your church. We felt so welcome, seen, served + loved. The diversity of people was a beautiful snapshot of God's children and I imagine He smiled as he watched everyone enjoy dinner + community. Thanks again!  
The Bledsoes

Our church recently received a thoughtful note from a member of the community expressing appreciation for the pancake dinner we hosted for our community. The pancake dinner positively impacted someone in our community and reminded us how simple gatherings can strengthen relationships and fellowship. What a wonderful event at our church for members of the community!





The Easter festival at our church was a joyful celebration filled with faith, fellowship, and community spirit. Families gathered to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus through uplifting worship, inspiring messages, and festive activities for all ages. From music and prayer to shared meals and laughter, the event brought people together in a meaningful way and reminded everyone of the hope and renewal that Easter represents. It was a wonderful time of connection, reflection, and celebration .





# Finance

Church	Feb-25	2026 YTD
<b>Income</b>		
Offerings	\$36,360	\$83,371
Other	\$2,200	\$2,200
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$5,959	\$12,113
<b>Church Expenses</b>		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,282)	(\$12,632)
Administration	(\$15,852)	(\$30,057)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$16,904)	(\$34,874)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$20,222)	(\$45,056)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$1,959)	(\$4,449)
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$15,700)</b>	<b>(\$29,384)</b>
<b>Imagination Station</b>		
Income	\$42,561	\$86,524
Expense	(\$27,302)	(\$51,197)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$5,959)	(\$12,113)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$9,300</b>	<b>\$23,214</b>
<b>All Together</b>		
Total Incomes	\$81,121	\$172,095
Total Expenses	(\$87,521)	(\$178,265)
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$6,400)</b>	<b>(\$6,170)</b>

During Holy Week we are invited to slow down and reflect on the depth of love poured out for us through Jesus' life, sacrifice, and resurrection. It is a sacred time marked by humility, remembrance, and overwhelming gratitude. From the triumphant entry to the quiet sorrow of the cross, and finally to the joy of the empty tomb, we are reminded that everything we have is rooted in grace freely given.

Considering this, I feel compelled to remind you that giving is not an obligation, it is a response. We give not out of duty, but out of thankfulness for what has already been done for us. Jesus held nothing back. He gave it all for us.

Generosity is integral to the spirit in which we follow Christ. This is the spirit in which we are the Church. This is a place where burdens are shared, hope is renewed, and transformation happens. And we are a people that believe this transformation happens through Jesus. So, when we give, whether through our resources, time, or talents, we are participating in that ongoing work. We help ensure that others can experience the same grace, encouragement, hope, belonging, and love that we ourselves have received.

I am thankful that I am part of a faith community whose heart is shaped by gratitude. And from that gratitude, generosity flows, faithfully, joyfully, and with the same love that was first given to us. Thank you for being the Church!

## 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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 Website: [www.sumc.org](http://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.*