



IDOLS

July 2026 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church

The Summer Surprise

I once heard a story about a man who was searching frantically for his car keys. He checked the kitchen, the living room, the bedroom, and even the refrigerator—because apparently when you're desperate, anything seems possible. After nearly thirty minutes of searching, he finally discovered the keys were exactly where he had left them: in his hand the entire time.

It's a funny story, but I think there's a little truth in it. Sometimes the things that most influence our lives are hiding in plain sight. We don't notice them because they've become so familiar.

That's one reason I'm excited about our July sermon series, IDOLS. Admittedly, it may seem like an unusual choice for summer. Many churches spend July exploring movies, popular culture, or lighter themes. Instead, we're jumping into a topic that sounds like it belongs in the Old Testament alongside golden calves and ancient temples.

Yet idols are far more modern than we might think. The Bible uses the word to describe anything that begins to occupy a place in our hearts that belongs to God alone. Most idols don't start as bad things. In fact, they are often very good things that slowly become more important than they should.

This month also marks our nation's 250th birthday. Across the country, people will gather for cookouts, fireworks, and celebrations. As Christians, we can be grateful for our country and the many blessings we enjoy while remembering that every good gift points us back to the God who gave it.

My hope for this series is not that we spend a month hunting for golden calves. Instead, I hope we discover what it means to keep God at the center of our lives. Besides, summer already gives us enough things to worry about—sunburns, mosquitoes, and whether the ice cream will melt before we finish it.

I look forward to worshipping with you this July as we explore one of Scripture's oldest topics and discover just how relevant it remains today.

Blessings,

Rev. William G. Nickrand

Challenge for the Month:

This July, take five minutes each evening to ask yourself one simple question: "What captured most of my attention, affection, and energy today?" Maybe it was work, a hobby, a worry, a relationship, a goal, or perhaps God was truly at the center of your day. Don't judge yourself—just pay attention. Idols often grow unnoticed, but they lose much of their power once they are brought into the light.



IDOLS	JUL 2 & 5	Wooden Nickels Exodus 32:1-6, Jeremiah 2: 11-13
	JUL 9 & 12	Idols We Forge Today Colossians 3:5-6; 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 1:22-25
	JUL 16 & 9	Silent Shrine Ezekiel 14:1-8; Romans 12:1-2
	JUL 22 & 26	Mirror, Mirror: Do We Reflect Whose We Are? Isaiah 44:9-20 or Luke 18:9-14



This series explores the subtle ways idols infiltrate our lives, from material possessions to personal ambitions. Through scripture, we'll examine how to recognize, confront, and remove modern idols, replacing them with a life fully devoted to God.

Communion Schedule
July 2nd, 5th
August 6th, 9th



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, July 2nd
Thursday, August 6th

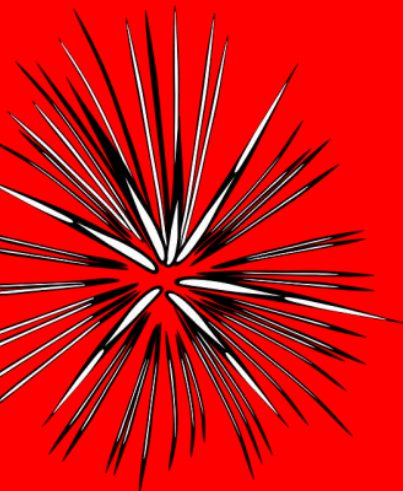
HAPPY 4th of July



★ INDEPENDENCE DAY ★

SUMC Office will be closed July 3rd, 2026 in observance of the 4th of July.

Enjoy some photos from
Southport's Independence Day
Parade!



Art is currently working on cleaning out the Worman st. Garage. He has found items he believes the owner may want back. If any of these items look familiar please reach out to Art at Arthur@sumc.org to claim an item. Thank you!



Jubilee Christmas

As we come to the last few months of summer, the Jubilee Ministry team invites you to a special Jubilee Christmas kick-off and information session:

Thursday, August 6th & 13th

Sunday, August 9th & 16th

Join us in the Gathering Place between and after worship services to hear news about this year's event. This year's Jubilee Christmas will take place on December 12th. There is information on areas in which to serve and how you can make a difference through financial contributions and gifts.

Host a Jubilee Family

Assist with sorting, organizing, shopping, and serving on Jubilee Day
Choose tags from the Next Steps board in November to purchase needed items
Shop online for the children's Christmas wishes
Donate in a variety of ways to the Jubilee Fund which covers additional expenses

We look forward to answering questions and sharing the joyful impact Jubilee Christmas has for families in our community.

SAVE THE DATE

Freedom Springs

JULY 26TH 2026
3:00PM- 6:00PM

Come join us at Freedom Springs

All are welcome. Students 6th Grade + can stay without adult with signed permission slip

Make sure you mention you are with Southport United Methodist to get a discount

If you need more information please reach out to Kelley Lego
Kelley@sumc.org

Popsicles

ON THE PLAYGROUND



First Friday Family Fun Night
Come join us for some fun on the playground with popsicles.
This event is weather dependent*

AUGUST 7TH

6:30PM-7:30PM



1947 E. Southport Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Join us for

18 JULY 19



Pizza with the Pastor 26

25

If you are interested in learning more about Membership or the Methodist Church, join us.
Contact the office for more information.

Blessing of the Backpacks

JULY 26TH
9 & 10:30 services

We invite all Students, Teachers, & any other School Employees to bring in their backpacks/ school bags to be prayed over before the new school year.





Empty egg cartons lying around? Bring them on in! We can use them for the eggs from Fuller Farms.

Join us for free food, music, and community!

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Cross Training

This opportunity is 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 July 12th from 11:45-1:45 in the Gathering Place.



The HARVEST TABLE

Harvest Table Hours:

- Sunday: 10:00am - 12:00pm
- Wednesday: 6:00pm - 7:00pm
- Thursday: 6:00pm - 7:00pm



WOMEN'S NEWS

Enjoy your summer fun and stay safe!! We invite you to join us as we travel up to the Lebanon Children's Home on Tuesday, Sept 8th.. Look for more information in the August newsletter or ask a UWF member about the trip and join us.

HUNGER, Inc FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is in need for the following items:

Cans of a variety of beans , and pancake mix and syrup

Collection dates are July 1-12. All donations can be placed in the grocery cart by the coat hallway. Thank you so much for the help with feeding those in need.

HELPING OUR PEOPLE EAT" (HOPE) MINISTRY

We thank all who helped to provide meals for the families attending the summer breakfasts "HELPING OUR PEOPLE EAT" Program. The families were very thankful of the food they ate each Saturday and the food they were able to take home with them.

We also appreciate all the volunteers that helped each Saturday to provide for the families a pleasant experience as they attended the breakfast. It takes a village to get this ministry to be successful.

Our last 2 meals are to be breakfast on July 11th and July 18th with a cookout for the families. There is no need for more volunteers as we end this year's HOPE families.

FEED A NEED (FAN)

Our next FAN bagging of meals for the unhoused is on July 9th at 1 p,m. in the Gathering area at church. Come join the group to be Jesus's hands and feet on this Earth.

CREATION CARE

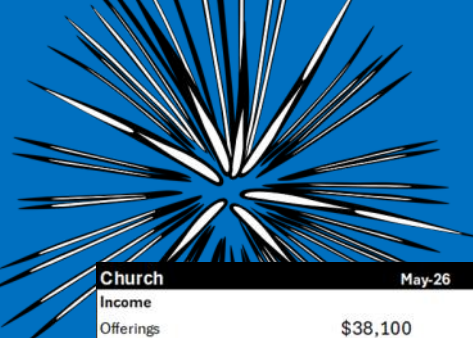
Pastor William recently preached on GOD'S WONDER IN CREATION based on Psalm 104:24-25 and the teaching of the recent VBS studies. We are quoting him and his words to us about creation from his prayer.

"Let us pray. Creator God, how many are your works! In wisdom you have made them all. From towering trees and rushing rivers to colorful flowers and singing birds, your world is filled with wonder and beauty. We praise you for your power, creativity, and love.

Lord we confess that we do not always care for your creation as we should. Too often we rush past the gifts you have placed before us. Too often we forget to marvel at your goodness and trust in your provision. Forgive us and help us live as faithful stewards of all you have made.

We pray for you creation. Teach us to care for this world as a gift entrusted to us. May we see your fingerprints in the beauty around us and be inspired to live with gratitude and wonder". AMEN, AMEN!!!!





Finance

Church	May-26	2026 YTD
Income		
Offerings	\$38,100	\$220,271
Other	\$512	\$4,665
Imagination Station "Tithe/offering"	\$5,045	\$30,243
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$5,069)	(\$27,229)
Administration	(\$12,584)	(\$68,409)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$14,661)	(\$82,296)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$20,089)	(\$111,724)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$2,112)	(\$11,573)
Net	(\$10,858)	(\$46,052)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$36,034	\$224,403
Expense	(\$40,905)	(\$171,133)
"Tithe/offering" to Church	(\$5,045)	(\$30,243)
Net	(\$9,916)	\$23,027
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$74,646	\$449,339
Total Expenses	(\$90,351)	(\$472,364)
Net	(\$15,705)	(\$23,025)

Have you read the book, "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein? When my daughter, Sumner, was younger it was one of her favorites. She even would read it to her little sister occasionally. The Giving Tree illustrates how giving can bring great joy; even more joy than getting. This book makes it easy for us to visualize the act of love through giving. And the act that love through giving can have for generations to come.

Now let's look at how the Apostle Paul mentors Timothy on the subject of giving by reading 1 Timothy 6:17-19: Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm

foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

I'm pretty sure if Paul could read The Giving Tree he'd say, tell them to be like the tree!

Thank you for lovingly giving of your gifts of time, talent, and financial resources in celebration of God's generosity in Jesus Christ. Thank you for sharing God's love and grace so that we can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and the world!

Thanks,

Pastor Brandon

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