



August 2026 Newsletter of Southport United Methodist Church

Blessed to Be a Blessing

I once heard about a woman who kept a small basket of umbrellas by her front door. Whenever it rained, she placed the basket outside with a note: "Please take one if you need it." One afternoon, she watched a young mother and child pause in the rain, take an umbrella, and smile toward the house.

It was a small gesture, but it mattered. The woman did not solve every problem in that family's life, but for a moment, someone felt seen and cared for.

That is part of what it means to be a blessing. God places us in the lives of others with opportunities to reflect God's love in practical, personal ways.

Many people know that my own story includes difficult seasons growing up. In the midst of confusion, frustration, and grief, people came alongside me. They loved me, encouraged me, listened to me, and helped me through some hard days. I am blessed because others chose to be selfless and bless me.

This August, we will begin a new sermon series called B.L.E.S.S., inspired by the book *Bless: 5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World*. Together, we will explore five simple practices: begin with prayer, listen, eat, serve, and share your story. These are everyday ways to make room for people and embody Christ's love where we live, work, and spend our time.

My prayer for Southport United Methodist Church is that, no matter what we do, we will be a blessing. We already see that spirit in the ways our congregation serves our community, helps address food insecurity, and participates in so many partnerships and ministries.

My hope is that this series becomes more than a month of sermons. I pray it becomes part of who we are. Because we are blessed, we cannot help but be a blessing.

I look forward to worshipping with you this August.

Blessings,

Rev. William G. Nickrand

Challenge for the Month:

This August, choose one person each week to intentionally bless. Pray for them, listen to them, offer encouragement, share a meal, or lend a helping hand. At the end of the week, ask yourself: "How did I receive a blessing this week, and how did I pass one along?"



B.L.E.S.S.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR & CHANGE THE WORLD

B.L.E.S.S.	JUL 30 & AUG 2	Begin with Prayer Luke 6:12-16
	AUG 6 & 9	Listen Luke 18:35-44
	AUG 13 & 16	Eat Matthew 9:9-13
	AUG 20 & 23	Serve John 13:1-20
	AUG 27 & 30	Story John 3:1-17

Inspired by the B.L.E.S.S. framework for outreach, this series equips believers to bless others through prayer, listening, sharing meals, service, and storytelling. Each week highlights practical ways to embody Christ's love in everyday interactions.



Communion Schedule
August 6th, 9th
September 3rd, 6th



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, August 6th
Thursday, September 3rd



Jenny King



Christine Fultz

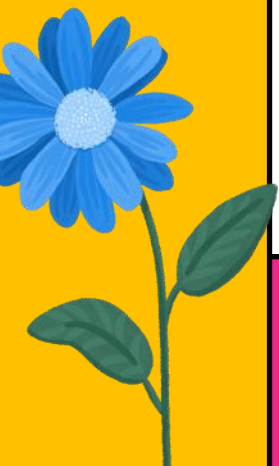
This August, we joyfully celebrate two incredible members of our Imagination Station family who are each marking 20 years of faithful service! Congratulations to Jeny King and Christy Fultz for two decades of loving, teaching, encouraging, and investing in the lives of countless children and families. Your dedication, compassion, and commitment to this ministry have made a lasting impact on our church and community. Thank you for your faithful service—we are blessed to celebrate this milestone with you!

The Southport Road Meijer Simply Give Campaign will start on July 28th-September 26th.

The Double Match Days are August 15th and September 12th.

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.



JUBILEE CHRISTMAS KICK-OFF

Our Jubilee Ministry team invites you to a special Jubilee Christmas kick-off and information session:

Thursday, August 6th and 13th Sunday, August 9th and 16th

Join us in the Gathering Place between and after worship services to hear news about this year's event on Saturday, December 12.

There is information on areas in which to serve and how you can make a difference through financial contributions and gifts,

for example:

- 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 any additional expenses



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



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 or 317.258.6743.

SAVE THE DATE!
ALL CHURCH GATHERING
AUGUST 23RD, 2026
More information to come

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
22	23	24

One service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a potluck meal, and meeting.





Join us at SUMC for day of teamwork and making a difference around the church! There are a variety of projects so there is something for everyone. It's a great way to connect, grow, and serve!
Sign up now.

AUGUST 29TH, 2026
9:00 A.M. -1:00 P.M.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

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



Community PICNIC



AUGUST 5TH, 2026
6:00 P.M. -8:00 P.M.

Join us for music, food, and community!

1947 E. Southport Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46227

UMC 101

Walking in Faith Through
Methodist Traditions

Each Wednesday August 12 to September 2
Food @ 6pm
Study @6:30pm



Thank You From the Hope Ministry!

In our second year of the HOPE ministry, we were able to feed a total of 37 adults and 26 children over the course of six weeks with your help! Last year we provided meals to 34 adults and 47 children. This summer families went home with the Target bags of food and a recipe provided by you, as well as other essential pantry staples. With money from the seed grant, families were also given meat, cheese, eggs and frozen food such as pizza and chicken nuggets. This year families also received some non-food items such as toiletries, paper products and even diapers! The families were extremely grateful.

In addition to all of the food that was provided, we were also able to give out 16 back packs and Walmart gift cards to help families buy school clothes or other needed items.

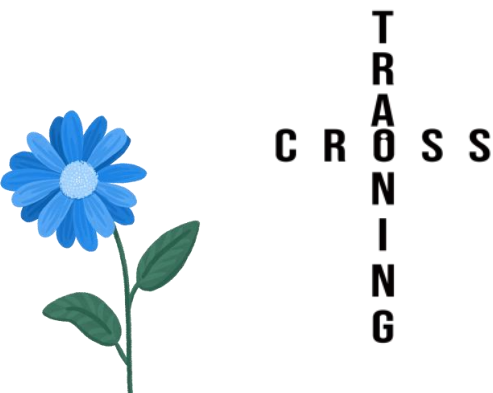
None of this would be possible without your generosity and without the help of many volunteers who showed up each week to cook, greet, serve and assist families in taking home their food. Also, a big thank you to our volunteers who reached out to families each week to see if they were coming to breakfast.

So, thank you to all who helped make this possible!

Hope ministry is small but reminds me of the story about the little boy picking up starfish off the beach and throwing them back one at a time into the sea. When a man walking by scoffed and said he couldn't possibly make a difference, he picked one up and throwing it back in said he made a difference for that one. This ministry is really making a difference in the lives of these families. Thanks be to God, to you, our pastors and leadership team for allowing the seed grant to continue making a difference in the lives of our families.

With heartfelt thanks,

Sharon Grayson



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, August 9th from 11:45-1:45 in the Gathering Place.



WOMEN'S NEWS

The Rebekah Circle is back to having meetings!!!! Our Tuesday, September 8th meeting is really a field trip to the Lebanon Children's Home.

We will be meeting in the Church parking lot at 10 a.m. to carpool up to Lebanon. We will have a tour of the Home facilities from 11-12. Then at 12 we will travel to Arni's Pizza in Lebanon for lunch and then return back to the church. Let us know if you want to go, too. We will have a sign up sheet In the Gathering Area.

HUNGER, Inc FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is in need of workers. We have a Sign Up Genius system that lets you pick what works for you. All training is offered on a day that you want to work.

The days the pantry is open are : Tuesday 10-1 Thursday 4-7 and Saturday 10-1. The pantry is very busy due to the need for food by many. We also need help with all the donations that do come in. The donations need to be date checked and then sorted and stored. There are many jobs at the pantry. We usually need around 11 people to work the pantry each day we are open. We are also in need of helpers to pick up the donations as they are offered to us. If interested, look for the sign up sheet in the Gathering area and we will get you in contact with the pantry trainer. The pantry is located at the West corner of Madison Ave. and Epler Ave. behind Kim's Bakery.

A list of needed items for August and dates will be on the grocery cart by the bathroom doors.

FEED A NEED (FAN)

The FAN team meets on Wednesday, August 6th at 1 pm in the gathering area to bag the fifty meals needed by the unhoused. We put together a homemade sack with the following inside: Tuna packet, mayo, cup of vegetables, cup of fruit, granola bar, cookies, bag of chips, fruit snacks and candy. Come join the group in the gathering area at church. These meals are given to the "TEAR DOWN THE WALL" ministry for delivery. This is the 6th year for this ministry--thanks to the workers and donations.

****We are also in need of material and T-shirts to make the bags. A tote is in the coat hallway labeled for you to place your donations in to help with this ministry.

God Blesses so many with this ministry from our church.

CREATION CARE INFORMATION

Southport is a GREEN Church in many ways. One is letting you know of how you can help keep America with this much needed effort afloat. The Environment is sadly at the bottom of the list. We need to worry about our EARTH. Our church wants you to be able to know how we can do that. First, our church has a recycle area at the back of the Gathering Area by the kitchen. We collect glasses, egg cartons, grocery bags, pop tops, and plastic bottles, cans and glass items. Check it out to see how you can help. Thank you for worrying about the EARTH .



Finance

Church	Jun-26	2026 YTD
Income		
Offerings	\$90,420	\$310,671
Other	\$322	\$4,987
Imagination Station "Time/offering"	\$5,122	\$35,365
Church Expenses		
Conf. & Dist. Support	(\$3,665)	(\$30,894)
Administration	(\$12,372)	(\$80,778)
Maintenance & Utilities	(\$12,961)	(\$95,258)
Connect, Grow, Serve	(\$20,324)	(\$132,048)
Youth & Child Ministry	(\$2,960)	(\$14,534)
Net	\$43,582	(\$2,489)
Imagination Station		
Income	\$36,586	\$260,989
Expense	(\$37,651)	(\$208,784)
"Time/offering" to Church	(\$5,122)	(\$35,365)
Net	(\$6,186)	\$16,840
All Together		
Total Incomes	\$127,328	\$576,647
Total Expenses	(\$89,933)	(\$562,296)
Net	\$37,396	\$14,351

Faithful Stewardship: Finding the Balance

One of the many blessings of our church family is the generous spirit that shines through your faithful giving. Your gifts support worship, ministries, outreach, and the many ways we share Christ's love with our community. Thank you for your continued generosity.

As we think about stewardship, we must remember that faithful financial living involves both wisdom for today and preparation for tomorrow.

Proverbs 21:20 tells us, "Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it." This verse encourages thoughtful planning and prudent saving. Setting aside resources for future needs is not a lack of faith, it is an expression of wise stewardship. By living within our means, avoiding unnecessary debt, and preparing for life's uncertainties, we honor the gifts God has provided.

Yet, Jesus cautions us not to let saving become our ultimate purpose. In Luke 12:19-21, He tells the parable of the rich fool who believed his accumulated wealth guaranteed security. God reminded him that earthly possessions hoarded and misused cannot help build God's kingdom.

Together, these passages present a beautiful balance. God calls us to save wisely, but never to place our hope in what we save. Financial planning is an act of stewardship and generosity is an act of worship. When we hold our resources with open hands, we recognize that everything we have comes from and ultimately belongs to God.

It is possible to plan responsibly for the future while continuing to invest generously in God's kingdom today. Through your giving, lives are touched, needs are met, and the hope of Christ is shared in meaningful ways.

As we continue this journey together, may we seek God's wisdom in every financial decision. May we save with discernment, spend with purpose, and give with joyful hearts, always remembering that our greatest treasure is found not in what we possess, but in the One who has richly blessed us.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship, your generous hearts, and your partnership in the ministry of SUMC.

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