



THE HARBINGER

South Side Christian Church



August 2026

Issue 8

Kevin's Korner

Remove your Dirty Shoes

Faith is crucial in our walk with God; it is essential for salvation and without it, we cannot please God (Habakkuk 2:4). However, faith is not meant to be static, but rather it should mature as we grow in Christ. This process is what I like to refer to as "the movements in faith." Over the next couple of months, we will journey together examining these movements as we observe the spiritual life of Moses.

The first movement of faith: an initial response to God's call on our lives. His call for us, through Christ, is to leave behind our lives of sin and journey on His path of holiness. A journey which transforms us to become like Jesus. Moses faced a similar call to leave his sin behind by removing his sandals.

It was a day like any other day; Moses was tending his flock when he encountered something extraordinary, a bush on fire but not being consumed by the flames (Exodus 3:2). This caught his eye and piqued his curiosity. So, he turned towards the bush to investigate when He heard the Divine voice of God calling his name (Exodus 3:4). Moses' response, "Here I am" (Exodus 3:4). It was at this point God commanded Moses to "...take your sandals off your feet..." (Exodus 3:5). Moses reacted with fear (I would have reacted the same way if a burning bush began speaking to me) because he, a sinner, felt the presence of the Holy God. This was his first recorded encounter with the living God, and from it, a valuable lesson was learned; God is holy and he is not. God's intended plan was for Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery, but first he must respond to this initial call to holiness. So, God commands Moses to remove his sandals.

Why did God command Moses to remove his sandals? In Moses' day removing your sandals was a show of respect. The sandals had dirt from the unpaved streets and pathways that would defile a house. So, this action was a mark of consideration and respect towards God. Moreover, since God was Holy, whatever He touched was holy, thus the ground had become holy. His holiness called for the removal of anything that defiled it. Removing the shoes represented an act of removing what was dirty in Moses' life¹.

In the New Covenant, the promise of God is the removal of what defiles us, sin from within us. Our initial movement of faith is the willingness for those "sandals" to be removed; this is called repentance. God's presence within us makes us holy by removing what defiles us. This initial movement of faith is God's call out of a life of sin and into His cleansing grace.

Our journey begins with our desire for God to purify and make us holy, and our response is a repentant heart crying out, "here I am". This is an initial movement from infancy to maturity in Christ as He makes us "Holy as He is holy" (1 Peter 1:15). We need to respond faithfully with a willingness for Him to remove our "dirty shoes". So, are you willing to remove your "dirty shoes" to follow Jesus?

Kevin W. Stoen

¹ The New Manners & Customs of Bible Times.

From The Elders:

Dear South Sider,

The Elders want to remind you that September 27, 2026, will be the Annual Congregational Meeting to affirm the individuals you nominate to be a church officer. We are asking you all to prayerfully consider those individuals whom you consider to meet the qualifications as listed in the nominating form. We need people who are willing to meet monthly with their group, willing to lead in a ministry area, and are willing to participate in making the worship services and the programs offered at South Side pleasing to our Lord and Savior.

Remember that the Second South Side Rummage Sale is coming up on September 18 & 19, 2026. We began accepting donations on July 15, and half of Room 4 is already full. So, if you are planning on bringing in your summer clean-up, now is the time to begin clearing out those closets and garages to prepare room for all of the things you are going to buy at the Rummage Sale!! There is also a Craft Sale as part of the Fall Rummage Sale, so you can buy new things to decorate your house for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas!!

We are still in need of assistance with cleaning up around the outside of the church. Those weeds seemed to thrive in the 100° + heat index we experienced in June and July. We pray that the weather settles into a much more temperate zone and allow those who are able to pull some weeds and trim some bushes.

Please notice that September 20, 2026, is National Back to Church Sunday. Here is your opportunity to invite your family and friends to come to church with you and not appear to be one of those “churchy” people; you will be just another person helping to celebrate a National Holiday!! September 20, 2026, is also the 106 anniversary of the founding of South Side Christian Church—another reason to invite everyone to come and celebrate the founding of our church and National Back to Church Sunday!! As a bonus, Sunday, September 20, 2026, will be the “FREE” day at the Rummage Sale where those in attendance may “shop ‘til they drop” for a free will donation. You can show your family and friends that the church does not always ask for money!!

We ask that you all be in prayer for those individuals and families in the Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois area that have been decimated by the 59+ tornadoes and severe thunder and rain storms that have destroyed homes, property, and lives. While we normally have 26 tornadoes and storms in a summer, this summer’s weather has challenged everyone, so please pray for all of our neighbors.

Nearly every school in Lake County Indiana and the bordering Illinois community schools during the second or third week in August. Please be in prayer for the students, teachers, and other staff as they begin this new year. Pray for high all involved to experience high success rates and that the peace and calmness of the Lord guide everyone. Please also, be in prayer for the country and all of the leaders as the mid-term elections approach. These elections may potentially bring about some very trying times for everyone.

Remember, this is the perfect time to go back to school—Sunday school that is!!
Think about it!

Jeff, Dan, and Orlando



From The Elders:

South Side Christian Church Calendar for Leadership Nominations and Selection 2026

August 9, 2026	Nomination forms will be made available to the congregation to nominate any SSCC immersion baptized member of the congregation for an office of Deacon, Elder, or Trustee. Nomination forms may be submitted to any member of the Nomination Committee.
August 23, 2026	Last day (12:00 PM, noon) for Nomination forms to be submitted to the Nominating Committee.
August 30, 2026	Elders receive the list of member candidates from the Nomination Committee. Elders vet candidates and inform nominees of the office for which they have been nominated.
September 6, 2026	Labor Day Weekend
September 13, 2026 September 16, 2026	Deacon Class” nominated Deacons must attend this class, or be removed from the nominated list. Candidates will review SSCC’s Belief Statements, verify their support of these beliefs, and the role of Deacons in the church. Nominated deacons must inform the Elders of their intent to accept the office nomination or decline the nomination.
September 20, 2026	Final candidate list is published to the congregation.
September 22, 2026	Any Scriptural objection to any nominated candidate must be submitted to the Elders by 5:00 PM.
September 27, 2026	Congregational Meeting following Worship Services – nominated officer candidates are wither affirmed or not affirmed by the congregation members present at the meeting and casting an “yea” or a “nay” ballot for each candidate.
October 18, 2026 All Deacons, Elders, and Trustees are expected to be attendance at these meetings.	5:30 PM – Elder Meeting- election of officers 6:00 PM – Deacon Meeting- election of officers 7:00 PM – General Board Meeting- election of officers



Kidz and Youth

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School such a great week! We had an average of **27 kids** each night, and it was such a blessing to see them learning about God's love and having so much fun.

Thank you to everyone who donated, prayed, and volunteered. We especially want to thank **Sabrina Alvarado** for all the time and hard work she put into planning and coordinating VBS, **Jen Moore**, **Pam Fordyce**, our amazing youth, and everyone else who jumped in to help before, during, and after VBS. We truly couldn't have done it without all of you!

We're also excited to welcome back our Associate Pastor, **John Helton**! John, we're so glad you're back and look forward to having you with us again. Welcome back!



WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES

South Side Christian Church

MONDAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

*Grow in faith, build brotherhood,
and stand strong in God's Word.
Connect, encourage, and pray
together every week.*

For more information:
Contact Jason Newhuis at
(708) 825-3345



WEDNESDAY

SISTERS IN CHRIST – LADIES BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM

*Prayer Requests: 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Come grow in faith, share in fellowship,
and lift one another up in prayer.*

Contact Carol Joza at 708-955-1257

KEVIN'S BIBLE STUDY

Afternoon Session: 1:00 PM

Evening Session: 6:30 PM

Same lesson at both sessions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

at South Side Christian Church

9:00 AM

DISCIPLE-MAKERS CLASS

*Studying the life and ministry of Jesus,
from a chronological perspective.*

*You are welcome to join us
each Sunday.*

Contact: Kevin
Groben –
(219) 276-0538



CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP CLASS

*Discussion-oriented class,
welcoming people of all ages.*

*We study from the Christian
Standard lesson.*

Contact: Jeff Hayden
(219) 730-2635



≡ 31st ANNUAL ≡
**NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT
AGAINST CRIME**

★ BUILDING A SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITY ★

SOUTH SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

≡ *will participate!* ≡



Stop by and say hello!

We look forward to connecting with our community, sharing resources, and having fun with you and your family!



**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 4, 2026**



5:00PM to 8:30PM



MUNSTER COMMUNITY POOL
8837 Calumet Avenue • Munster, Indiana



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
COMMUNITY PARADE BEGINS AT 4:30PM**

*(Runs South on Lions Club Drive through
Community Park to the Event)*



**WE ARE HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



Free Swimming
for Residents*



Kids Games
& Prizes



Photos With
Bluey, Chase,
Marshall, Mario,
& Luigi



Emergency
Vehicle
Displays



Door Prizes
& Giveaways



Barrel Car
Train Rides



Police K-9
Demonstrations



Free Glow
Necklaces
for Kids



AND MORE!

• Meet Area First Responders • Crime Prevention Information • Food Vendors • Meet Area Veterans • And More!



≡ *Fall* ≡

CRAFT, BAKE & RUMMAGE SALE

≡ *Now Accepting Donations* ≡

Our Fall Craft, Bake & Rummage Sale will be held on
Friday, September 18 & Saturday, September 19.



**DONATION DROP-OFF:
ROOM #4**



**PLEASE NOTE:
WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING CLOTHING.**

Thank you for your generosity.



1000 Broadmoor Ave.
Munster, IN 46321



Contact Diana Gilbert
219-671-8308



— *You Are Invited to* —

NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY



Join us for worship and fellowship on
September 20, 2026 • 10:30 AM

National Back to Church Sunday is the perfect
opportunity to invite a friend, a family member,
or a neighbor to church.

*Join us for a welcoming morning of worship,
encouragement, and fellowship*

Come worship with us!



South Side Christian Church
1000 Broadmoor Ave.
Munster, IN 46321



219-836-2110



ssccmunster.org



Down Under Ministry

SSCC is partnering with Love INC to provide clothing essentials to families in our community throughout the year. Join us in blessing those in need.

We are currently collecting underwear in the following sizes: girls 2T–3T, 6, and 10–12; women's S–XL; boys 2–6; and teens S–L. We are also collecting socks.

Donations can be placed in the bin outside the office. Thank you for your generosity and for helping make a difference.



The Salvation Army

As we prepare for the upcoming school year and continue to care for those in need, we are collecting nonperishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank and back-to-school supplies for local students.

If you would like to help, please bring your donations and place them in the collection bin located just outside the office door. We ask that all food items be unexpired. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your support helps provide practical assistance and encouragement to families in our community.



*South Side Christian Church,
in partnership with the Salvation Army,
is putting together*

Care Packages FOR HOMELESS

WE ARE COLLECTING:

- TRAVEL SIZE TOOTHPASTE
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- TRAVEL SIZE MOUTHWASH
- DENTAL FLOSS
- DEODORANT
- TRAVEL SIZE HAND SANITIZER
- ADULT SIZE SOCKS
- GALLON SIZE ZIPLOCK BAGS



Thank You!

Your generosity helps bring dignity, hope, and care to those in need.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Eyeglass Collection

for Medical Missions Outreach



Bring your gently used eyeglasses to the Welcome Center drop-box for donation.

Your donation helps provide clear vision and a brighter future for those in need around the world.



See the world.
Change a life.

Kara Ladies Group

The Kara Ladies have a busy August ahead as we prepare homemade jam, tamales, and empanadas for our upcoming Craft, Bake & Rummage Sale! They were so popular at our last sale that they sold out quickly, so this time we're gladly accepting preorders. If you'd like to preorder any of these, please contact Diana Gilbert. Our next fellowship meeting will be Thursday, September 3, at noon in the church fireplace. We'd love to have you join us, and new members are always welcome!

As you do your back-to-school shopping, please consider picking up a few extra pencils and erasers for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Donations can be placed at the Welcome Center.

Be sure to stop by the Fireplace Room to check out our homemade jam. You'll also find a variety of handmade gifts, including teacup and saucer sets with tea and chocolates, garden flowers made from dishes, and decorated rocks. They make thoughtful gifts or a little something special for yourself.

Thank you for your continued support. It helps make these ministry efforts possible!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9-Aug	Mary Lynn Gricus
9-Aug	Miguel Tovar (JR)
14-Aug	Nancy Bales
16-Aug	Brianna Irvine
19-Aug	Sharon Atkinson
20-Aug	Julie Gephart
23-Aug	Art Haag
20-Aug	Tim Tucker
20-Aug	Patricia Zaborowski
26-Aug	Edward Manly
28-Aug	Carla Greenya
31-Aug	Jennifer Garcia

Senior Saints — News for You!

I hope everyone is having a great summer and loving the beautiful flowers, the singing birds the colorful butterflies and the fresh produce. The Lord gives us such a lovely world.

We will meet again on September 8th at noon. Mark your calendar, we will have more information next month. I'll see you soon. Stay cool and safe.

Donna Abercrombie

Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, August 2nd

10:00 AM to 10:25 AM

The Kara Ladies will be serving coffee along with some treats.

Join us for a warm time of fellowship before the morning service.



August

New Testament

► LUKE

1. ☐ 13:1-9
2. ☐ 13:10-21
3. ☐ 13:22-35
4. ☐ 14:1-14
5. ☐ 14:15-24
6. ☐ 14:25-35
7. ☐ 15:1-10
8. ☐ 15:11-32

9. ☐ 16:1-9
10. ☐ 16:10-18

11. ☐ 16:19-31
12. ☐ 17:1-10
13. ☐ 17:11-19
14. ☐ 17:20-37
15. ☐ 18:1-8
16. ☐ 18:9-17
17. ☐ 18:18-30

18. ☐ 18:31-43
19. ☐ 19:1-10

20. ☐ 19:11-27
21. ☐ 19:28-38
22. ☐ 19:39-48
23. ☐ 20:1-8

24. ☐ 20:9-19
25. ☐ 20:20-26

► 1 TIMOTHY

- ☐ 1:1-11
- ☐ 1:12-20
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3:1-10
- ☐ 3:11-16
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5:1-15
- ☐ 5:16-25

- ☐ 6:1-10
- ☐ 6:11-21

► 2 TIMOTHY

- ☐ 1:1-7
- ☐ 1:8-18
- ☐ 2:1-13
- ☐ 2:14-26
- ☐ 3:1-9
- ☐ 3:10-17
- ☐ 4

► TITUS

- ☐ 1:1-9
- ☐ 1:10-16

- ☐ 2:1-10
- ☐ 2:11-15
- ☐ 3:1-8
- ☐ 3:9-15

► PHILEMON

- ☐ 1-11
- ☐ 12-25

Old Testament

► PROVERBS

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8

- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10:1-16

- ☐ 10:17-32
- ☐ 11:1-15
- ☐ 11:16-31
- ☐ 12:1-14
- ☐ 12:15-28
- ☐ 13:1-12
- ☐ 13:13-25

- ☐ 14:1-18
- ☐ 14:19-35

- ☐ 15:1-17
- ☐ 15:18-33
- ☐ 16:1-16
- ☐ 16:17-33

- ☐ 17:1-14
- ☐ 17:15-28

► EZRA

- ☐ 1-2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4-5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10

► NEH.

- ☐ 1-2
- ☐ 3

- ☐ 4-5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10
- ☐ 11

- ☐ 12
- ☐ 13

ESTHER

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3-4
- ☐ 5-6

- ☐ 7-8
- ☐ 9-10

