



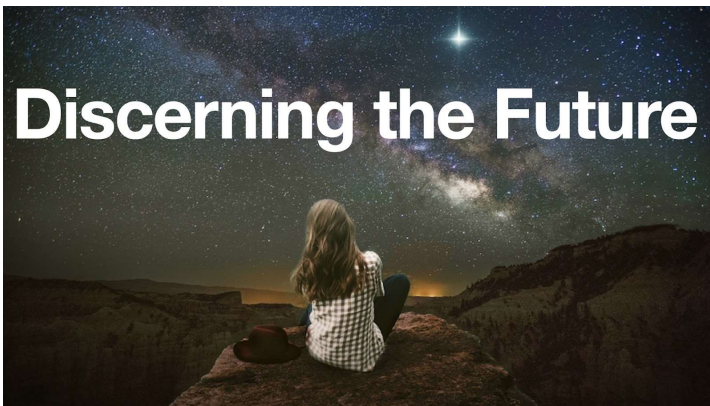
# SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *Words to the Wise*

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October | 2022



I took a class in my undergraduate program called “World Religions.” The opening scene of the main book we read from was the story of anyone who has ever lifted their eyes to the night sky for the first time. Taking in the vastness of infinite space dotted with billions of enormous burning stars is overwhelming for us all. Inevitably, the Religions book said, we cannot take in the beauty of the night sky without pondering our place and purpose in all of Creation and life. Every person’s religious yearning begins with the question of “why?” and “who?” or some variation of these things.

It’s no surprise to me that the great redemption story in our Bible begins with God having Abram look up into the night sky. Genesis 15:5 says, “Then [God] brought Abram outside and said, ‘Look up at the sky and count the stars if you think you can count them.’” Such an odd little dare to be a part of the conversation about the future of Abram’s family as well as the future of the world itself. “Count the stars...if you think you can count them.”

Any one of us would immediately recognize the fallacy of thinking we might even try. But the descendants of Abram are going to match the infiniteness, God says. “Your future will be beyond count...unless, of course, you think you could actually count that high.” Abram probably felt like most of us would in the moment when we stare into the darkness of deep space—very small and filled with both humility and awe.

I wonder if we have done a disservice to ourselves by sleeping under roofs and lining our streets with lights. When was the last time you looked up into the sky? If you have recently, then you know that the pull to be humbled and awed never goes away. We cannot help but to let our eyes and hearts be completely captivated by the same night sky Abram peered upon so long ago. As he pondered his future, the light from those same stars produced in that moment has barely traveled 1% of the way to our own eyes (that will blow your mind if you ponder that too long.)

I wonder if the lack of star-gazing has hindered our chance to continue in our growth of faith. If we aren’t caught up in the overwhelming beauty and size of it all, might we miss the chance to be humbled and swept up in awe? If we don’t have the infinite space against which we can compare ourselves, might we be tempted to imagine ourselves to be much bigger than we really are?

We’ve all had many moments in our lives when we’ve confronted the question of our future. These past few years it’s felt more like those questions have been the ones confronting us more than we might have liked. Nevertheless...here we are...pondering into the vastness of possibilities of our future. Here we are presented with the opportunity to discern together. Perhaps sleeping in our own separate four walls has limited us by obstructing our understanding of one another every bit as much as having those roofs has obstructed our view and lesson of the heavens.

We are standing here together looking into the great unknown of tomorrow...and next year...and next decade...and next century. We have come a long way, SUMC. Thinking back on all that has been witnessed in the existence of our congregation is almost equally overwhelming as looking up. “Why are we here in Sellersburg?” and “Who is God calling US to be TODAY?” are questions still worth pondering. Left on our own, the

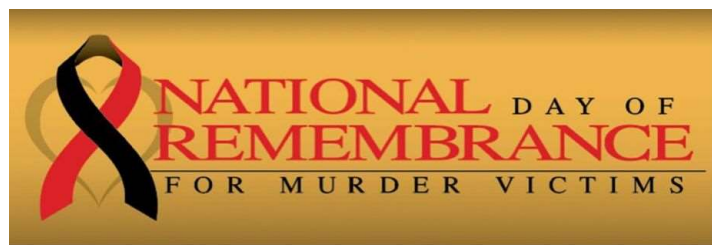
World Religions book said, we tend to develop our own answers forming our own versions of religion. But... together,... discerning,... sharing,... connecting,... listening,... and making a real effort to understand one another's perspective on the deep and foundational questions about our purpose and identity here and now... we just might, once again, be humbled and awed at the work God has placed before us.

I know it's easier to look behind us on our journey and relish in the places we've been and the way things were. It's just as easy to lay in our beds in our four walls under our roofs and get our sleep each night quietly and undisturbed. I know we might actually think ourselves so big that we could actually count the stars as Abram might have at that moment.

I pray that God calls us out of our comfort and protection. I pray that we boldly and bravely step out into the unknown night together. I pray that we stand side by side and look up to be humbled and awed as one body of people journeying in this faith together. I pray that we seize this opportunity to embrace the possibilities before us...like Abram and Sarai did. Because...they could have stayed in Haran and chosen familiarity and security over faith and growth. They could've said "No thanks, God. We like things the way they are."

I'm so glad they placed their faith in God to lead them on a journey they could have never imagined on their own. As a group of those descendants God promised Abram millennia ago, we have the choice to stay in the Haran of our past... or place our faith in God to lead us to the future of promise beyond our wildest imaginations or ability to comprehend or count. As you consider your own response to the invitation of faith today, take some time to look around at your people on Sunday morning... go outside and stare at the night sky. May we all make it a point to be humbled and awed by the goodness of God's great and glorious future for us all.

—Pastor Joe



### **Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities Study**

Pastor Joe will lead a 3-week Bible Study using Micah 4:1-4 to understand and connect with the tragedy of gun violence and homicide in our community.

188 people were killed by guns in Louisville in 2021. If each victim had 2 family members, 5 friends, and belonged to a group (church, club, organization) of 50 people...then 94,000 people were directly affected by gun violence last year alone in our own backyard.

Learning how we, as the church, can be a source of goodness in a world of hunting, protection, and security is important. Understanding how we can be a faithful support to those who have experienced trauma and pain due to gun violence is an opportunity for God to use us for the ministry of reconciliation and peace.

Join us beginning October 18th at 7pm via ZOOM for a 3-week study. All are welcome to join! Email Pastor Joe with your interest or questions: [joe.sanford@inumc.org](mailto:joe.sanford@inumc.org)



*Young at Heart*

Young at Heart will meet Wednesday, October 5th at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. YOU are invited. See Elda Myers for more information.





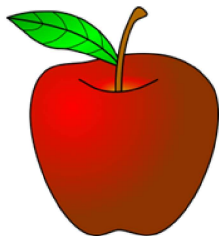
United Women in Faith



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUMC WOW Kids is now **SUMC Kids Club!**

## IT'S APPLE DUMPLING TIME!



SELLERSBURG UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

**APPLE DUMPLINGS FOR SALE**

**\$4 EACH**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022**

Following each worship service at 10am & 12 noon

Until sold out!

Pre-orders call Phyllis at 502.693.3696 or email [phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com)



Phyllis Hunefeld at 502-693-3696 or  
[Phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com](mailto:Phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com)



Calling all kids to join SUMC Kids Club!

We are meeting monthly on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm -  
7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Come join us for food, fellowship and activities!

Our Theme for the next 3 months is on the Fruits of the  
Spirits - Galatians 5:22

September 14-Love, Joy and Peace (Apples)

October 19-Patience, Kindness and Goodness (Pumpkins)

November 16 - Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control  
(Persimmons)

December 18 - Christmas Caroling

Come join us for Sunday Services:

**9:00 am Children's Church**

**10:00 am Sunday School**

**11:00 am Children's Church**

Nursery available for all services.

Contact Brenda Croucher if you would like to get involved  
or support the Children's Ministry.



**Brenda Croucher - Children's Minister**



*Music Ministry*

Incredibly, we are entering the final stretch of 2022! As the leaves are changing colors and we pull out the lightweight jackets, I want to ask you to take a moment to appreciate the beauty of creation around you. Far too often, we get in the daily grind—our routine—and fail to stop to appreciate the majestic nature of our Lord and the daily blessings delivered to us.

Every Sunday, before we hear the Word, before we sing a song—indeed, even before we are called to worship, we make a concerted and intentional effort to prepare our hearts for worship. It is in this spirit that I encourage you to similarly take a moment every day to prepare your heart.

Much like the weather, our church, community, and nation face inevitable changes. As the landscape of our community and lives evolve over time, it is important to always take a step back and consider who is in charge.

Far too often, we place God in the backseat and foolishly believe that we control all things. However, friends, the reality is that we control very little. Fortunately, our God is in control—even when we forget this important fact.

While we navigate the challenges and changes that life presents us with the passage of time, there is a prayer to remember: “lead, guide and direct me according to your will.”

Each day that we wake to find another troubling news headline, another change or another challenge, we can pray for God’s leadership. We can ask for God’s guidance. We can seek God’s direction. Our creator asks us to commune with him and pray to him. We can ask for God to reveal his will and the path to follow.

At the end of the day, we do not know what tomorrow holds; but fortunately, we do know who holds tomorrow! It is my prayer that regardless of the challenges and changes you face, you remember to take time to appreciate the majesty of our Lord, recall the beauty of the blessings our Lord provides, and seek the will of our Lord in all things.

I will leave you with a song that speaks to this sentiment:

**“I Know Who Holds Tomorrow”**

I don't know about tomorrow,

I just live from day to day.

I don't borrow from its sunshine,

For its skies may turn to gray.

I don't worry o'er the future,

For I know what Jesus said,

And today I'll walk beside Him,

For He knows what is ahead.

**Many things about tomorrow,**

**I don't seem to understand;**

**But I know who holds tomorrow,**

**And I know who holds my hand.**

Every step is getting brighter,

As the golden stairs I climb;

Every burden's getting lighter;

Every cloud is silver lined.

There the sun is always shining,

There no tear will dim the eye,

At the ending of the rainbow,

Where the mountains touch the sky.

**Many things about tomorrow,**

**I don't seem to understand;**

**But I know who holds tomorrow,**

**And I know who holds my hand.**

I don't know about tomorrow,

It may bring me poverty;

But the one who feeds the sparrow,

Is the one who stands by me.



And the path that be my portion,  
May be through the flame or flood,  
But His presence goes before me,  
And I'm covered with His blood.

**Many things about tomorrow,  
I don't seem to understand;  
But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know who holds my hand.**

**Music Ministry Updates:**

Choir has resumed rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. We have changed the start time to 5:30PM. We always welcome newcomers, especially as we come back from summer break and learn new songs for autumn and advent!

Our choir meets every Wednesday evening for a great time of fellowship and fun. We sing and share in a time of worship as we spend time together making music.

Every Sunday morning our choir participates in worship by helping lead singing at the 9:00 service. Please invite any of your musical friends to come try our choir out for size — we would love to have you, even if just for a fun evening!

Following choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings, our praise team rehearses worship music. We now meet weekly at 6:30PM. If you know anyone interested in making music, please let them know to reach out to the pastor or me about joining us. Anyone interested in the praise team can also show up for Wednesday evening rehearsal in the sanctuary at 6:30.

We currently have a need for a percussionist. This can be as simple as someone interested in tapping a box, shaking an egg shaker or clapping a tambourine; we also have a full drum kit.



Anyone with musical interest, instrumental abilities or vocal singing is welcome to rehearse. The only requirement is a heart of worship and desire to glorify God!

**Mark Ritter**

**Choir Rehearsals**

Wednesday - 5:00 PM



**Praise Team Rehearsals**

Wednesday - 6:00 PM

All are welcome to join; no prior experience is necessary, only a joyful heart willing to sing praises.



**Pilgrim Sunday School  
Class May 2022  
Events**

The Pilgrim Class is starting a new Bible Study in September featuring Dr. Amy-Jill LeVine. She expands our understanding of the "Miracles of Jesus" as we explore the deeper meaning of the miracles as recorded in the Bible. Please join us for an hour of discussion, prayer, reflection and deeper understanding of the New Testament.



Grace and Peace,

**Janet Werle - 502-376-9934**

[Advertisingdiva10@gmail.com](mailto:Advertisingdiva10@gmail.com)



## 2022 PIG ROAST REPORT

This year's Pig Roast was amazing! The prices had to be raised to \$12, but it didn't stop the people from coming. The drive thru and dining room went smoothly, and the bake sale table was filled with lots of delicious items. Leftovers were taken to the Community Kitchen in Jeffersonville.

Thanks to all of you who helped make this year one of the best years ever!

Dinners \$3,265.71 (383 Dinners Sold)

Bake Sale 860.00

Total Income \$4,125.71

The event next year will have a new name "Pork BBQ Dinner" and a new leader, John Scannepieco, Jr.

THANK YOU!



Photo by Lyla Sanford

### **A Note from Janice Jones...**

To my church family,

I have been blessed with your cards, thoughts, and prayers. I thank God for your being part of my life; and I feel your loving support, especially now when I am having a difficult time.

Thank you for racing out to me through Jesus Christ, and may God bless you. Hope to be with you soon

- **Janice Jones**

## **SUMC Prayer Chain**

If you'd like to be a part of our prayer chain, you can join by sending the message "@sumcprayer" to the number "81010" in a text using your phone. If you'd like to sign up for emails, then you can send an email to [sellersburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com) and let us know so we can get you signed up.



*Beyond the Walls Ministry*

Please continue to remember our members who have been in the hospital and are now recuperating at home. They appreciate your prayers and your cards. If you are interested or want more information on how you can be part of this ministry, please see me or give me a call.



**Kathy Waterman -  
812-256-5298**

## **Welcome Our New Members**



### **Joe, Shannon, Charlotte and Abigail Hart**

Joe and Shannon met in Florida. Joe is from Louisville and with God's leading and a few moves back and forth they have settled in New Albany, IN.

Joe was raised Catholic and Shannon a Baptist but they really found their church home when they started attending a United Methodist Church.

They have two daughters. Charlotte will be 9 and Abigail just turned 4. God has blessed them as Shannon is able to stay home with their children and homeschool them. Joe works for Baptist Health in Louisville as a PACS administrator.

The Harts enjoy helping their church get involved in the community with kid's programs, community get togethers, and helping those less fortunate with gathering of resources to help.

When they moved back to this area and started researching UMC's to attend they felt God leading them to Sellersburg UMC. They are excited to help their new church family grow and expand its outreach into the community.



## Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Don & Janet Broady
3. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
4. Patricia Wallace, friend of Elda Myers
5. Sue Smith recovery
6. Jan Johnson (cancer treatment)
7. Dianne Merillat
8. Aiden Potts continued recovery
9. Sylvia Liburd - recovering from surgery
10. Carolyn Curtis
11. The people of Ukraine and world leaders
12. Tim Johnson - waiting for heart transplant
13. Unspoken Prayer Requests
14. Alice & Denny Jones
15. Scott Bliss, Yvonne Frederick's nephew
16. Kathy Waterman & brother Paul Powell
17. Leroy Coulter-had a stroke and COVID
18. Nora's granddaughter Stephanie-health concerns
19. Tony's friends mother-Bonnie-has cancer
20. Connie Schlieker & family
21. Shannon Hart & family
22. Nora Pritchett's niece Eva
23. Connie Ford's brother Carl
24. Janice Jones
25. Sabrina Raab



## Birthday List

See a mistake or omission?  
Need a mailing address for a  
card? Call the church office  
(812) 246-2502 or email  
[sellersburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com)



### October

- John Wesson Oct 5
- Joe Hart Oct 6
- Doris Prentice Oct 8
- Charlotte Hart Oct 11
- Bob Waterman Oct 13
- Taylor Brown Oct 16
- Jack Myers Oct 17
- Calista Werle Oct 21
- Peggy Sayre Oct 28
- Regina Kerber Oct 28
- David Pickel Oct 31

### November

- George Brenner Nov 2
- Lisa Nale Nov 9
- Noah Sanford Nov 9
- Jerry Landers Nov 11
- Connie Ford Nov 12
- Ariana Dessime Nov 14
- Betty Haas Nov 14
- Jan Raeinhardt Nov 14
- Beva Caines Nov 17
- Tony Kummer Nov 20
- Christina Brown Nov 21
- Lois Cook Nov 23
- Carolyn Nunn Nov 26
- Shelby Riley Nov 30



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**Financial Update  
August 2022**

Below is the SUMC financial report for August, 2022:

- **Income Comparison 2021 vs. 2022**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Income for first 35 Weeks in 2022 (through 31Aug22): | \$157,989.05         |
| Income for first 35 Weeks in 2021 (through 29Aug21): | <u>\$172,850.13</u>  |
| <b>Difference:</b>                                   | <b>\$ -14,861.08</b> |

As shown above, the giving for 2022 continues to track below the giving for 2021.

- **Projected Giving to End of 2022 at Current Rate of Giving**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Income:                                    | \$157,989.05        |
| Weeks:                                     | 35                  |
| Average Giving Per Week:                   | \$ 4,513.97         |
| <b>Projection to Years End (52 weeks):</b> | <b>\$234,726.59</b> |

- **Income versus Expenses through end of *August*:**

The Income versus Expenses Report for August is not yet available; however, Expenses exceeded Income through the end of *July* by nearly \$ 11,000.

The church remains current in their obligations to the United Methodist Church. All other bills are also current.

The Pig Roast Committee has decided to direct the proceeds from the recent 2022 Pig Roast of approximately \$ 4,200 to the General Fund. This will help off-set the current deficit where Expenses exceed Income. The funding from the Pig Roast is not included in the above totals.

If you should have any questions or comments, please call or e-mail me.

Bob Waterman - Finance Chair

bobwaterman@msn.com