SELLERSBURG
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Connection Point

Real Faith. Real Life. Real Community

December | 2026

Pastor's Pen...

In church circles, there is a thing called the lectionary. The lectionary is a listing of Bible scriptures from the old and new testament. There are four readings for each day of the week: An Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a New Testament reading, and a Gospel reading. In a three-year cycle, you can read most of the Bible following this lectionary daily. Many pastors use the Sunday readings as the basis for their weekly sermons. We call this tradition Lectionary Preaching.

While I sometimes write my sermons based on the lectionary, I am more likely to create a sermon series based on a theme and pick scriptures that fit the theme rather than sticking to the rigid selections of the lectionary. Many years around Advent, I pick a theme such as the Angels, or I focus on Characters. Advent being the four Sundays leading up to Christmas often follows a predictable pattern such as Mary's story, which is almost always told on the third Sunday of Advent.

Advent is an interesting time in the lectionary. Only two of the gospels cover the birth of Jesus. This means that one year of the lectionary focuses on Matthew and the next on Luke. However, the third year is a little different. In this third year, the four Sundays of Advent are divided up between 2 Mark scriptures, 1 John scripture, and just 1 Luke scripture. This means that only the fourth week of Advent has a scripture actually from the traditional birth story.

This year happens to be that third unusual year. Instead of ignoring the lectionary and picking my own scriptures, I have decided to stick to the lectionary and see where this lectionary year leads us. It means we won't be hearing much of the Christmas story in worship until Christmas Eve. However, I think there is something to be learned from these selections, and you never know, these lectionary scriptures just might lead us back to the age-old story of Jesus' birth from unique perspectives.

I hope that you will join me for the four Sundays of Advent starting November 29th as we delve into the scriptures of this unique Lectionary year. Come see if I can really pull off connecting these scriptures to the season of Advent, and the coming of Christ child on Christmas Day.

Blessings,
Pastor John

john.demaree@inumc.org







Check out

What's Up Wednesday

Available on Facebook and through our website

SellersburgUMC.com/news

Advent Friday Bible Study



We began our Advent bible study the week before Thanksgiving. The series is entitled "Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience." This four-part series includes reflections by 4 pastors from across the country discussing Advent and John Wesley's writings. Week 2 of the series will be held on December 4th.

We meet in Room 2 in the church basement on Friday mornings at 10:00 am. Please park in the back parking lot and enter through the door off the parking lot. **Note:** there will be NO class on November 27th, December 25th, or January 1st.

SELLERSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *Young at Heart*

🌭🥤 Young-at-Heart Luncheon 🥤🌭

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
11:30 a.m. in SUMC Fellowship Hall

Fried Chicken, Meat Balls and drinks will be furnished. Join us for good food, fellowship and serving others!
Our special guest, Patty Anderson from Trinity UMC, will teach us how to transform grocery bags into plarn (plastic yarn) that we will use to weave sleeping mats for people experiencing homelessness.

Come learn something new and be part of a wonderful mission project!

Young-at-Heart: Serving Missions, One Bag at a Time!

Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)
Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)





GPS
GROW PRAY SERVE

Are you receiving Pastor John's weekly email?

If not, email the office and let Tony know!

SELLERSBURG United Women in Faith

Great News! Sellersburg United Women in Faith Has Two Circles!

Beginning in January 2027, Sellersburg United Women in Faith (UWF) will offer two circles to choose from:

- **Hearts for Missions Circle** – Meets the second Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
- **DIVAS Circle** – Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

All women are invited! You are welcome to attend the circle meeting that best fits your schedule. We hope you will join us!

In December neither circle is meeting, as they are all attending the Cookie Exchange - Dec 6th.

For more information contact:
Phyllis Hunefeld 502-693-3696 /
phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com







Sellersburg Prayer Quilt Ministry News

We are having our next gathering of the Prayer Quilt Ministry team on **Monday, December 14th**, at **3:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Come on by if you want to help with current projects, many of the tasks do not require skills beyond measuring and cutting.

For more information on the Prayer Quilt Ministry and how to request a quilt, please see our webpage on the church website: https://www.sellersburgumc.com/quilts

If you have any questions, please ask Jennifer Demaree or Flora Childers at worship or email the office at SellersburgUMC@gmail.com. If you would like to request a quilt, but cannot make it to church, please email the office as well.

Calling All Singers



Regardless of your ability, if you have a love for singing, you are encouraged to join our holiday choir. We had a lot of fun performing in worship on November 22nd. We are now rehearsing for our performance in worship on December 20th. We have two rehearsals left, but there is still time for you to join us. The remaining rehearsals are Dec. 5th and Dec. 19th both are at 11:00 am and take place in the sanctuary.

Incorporation Meeting

December 6th - Right After Church

Per Indiana law, every year we have to have a meeting of our stakeholders (i.e. members) in order to officially vote in our board members for the new year. This requires that we hold a short Incorporation Meeting immediately after service. This year we will be holding this meeting after worship on Sunday, December 6th, immediately following the Benediction. Members are asked to stay, everyone else is invited to stay as well. The entire meeting should take only 10 to 15 minutes.

Angels Among Us!



Thank you to all of you who participated in the Angel Tree Program. We decided to step out in faith and take 45 Christmas Angels this year, that was an increase of 10 over last year! And once again, SUMC's congregation met the challenge with open loving hearts and will show 45 children God's love in action. Individuals, families, Sunday School classes, and UWFaith circles provided clothes for children ages 10 months to 15 years.

Unwrapped Items are due Sunday, November 29th. The unwrapped presents are then delivered to the Salvation Army's facility where volunteers will wrap them and add chosen toys to the gifts. Through this program, we will provide joy and hope to unknown children and families suffering very stressful times. Thank you for being willing, faithful ambassadors of Christ and reaching out to hurting people in our community. Merry Christmas to All!

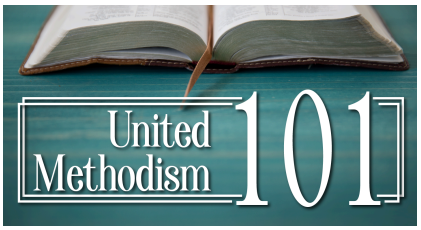
Last Date for 2026 Church Giving

Sunday, December 27th

Our finance team wants to remind you that the last day to get your 2026 donations into the church is Sunday, December 27th. Any donations received after this date will be recorded as 2027 giving and will not appear on your 2026 giving statement. The only exception is online donations that post by December 28th. If you have given online in 2026, you should have received an email regarding changes to online giving that will take place on December 29th. If you give online and did not receive an email, please contact Lori Rice, Pastor John, or the church office.

Thank You,
Lori Rice & Pastor John

Methodism 101



Are you new to the church, or would you simply like to learn more about the history, beliefs, and structure of the United Methodist Church? On **Sunday, December 13th** after church join Pastor John for a pizza party and discussion around Methodist and church membership. A few of our newest friends have expressed an interest in joining the church. This is an excellent way to learn more about what membership means, and how our church fits into the larger United Methodist Church. RSVP is not required, but appreciated, so that we can estimate how much food to get.

Be A Blessing This Christmas

Christmas is a time of generosity both financially and spiritually. The stores are filled with joyful Christmas music, homes are decorated with lights and Christmas scenes, and the church is buzzing with special Advent activities. It is a time of extravagant generosity. We have many ministries that we donate to throughout the year including Exit 0, The Silver Creek Food Pantry, Angel Tree, Midwest Mission, and SOAR. Below, however, are several once-a-year opportunities for generosity during this special season of joy.

The Children's Cookie Decorating party that was very successful last year is becoming a Jesus Baby Shower. "It's A Boy" is the theme of this unique party for all ages. Traditionally at a baby shower, you bring a baby care gift such as diapers, and we are encouraging every household to bring one baby shower type gift. All gifts will be donated to CRADLE Family Resource Center in Scottsburg.

The Longest Night and Christmas Eve worship offerings will once again go to the Bishop's Children Matter Most Christmas Offering. Children Matter Most is a fund that helps children through United Methodist organizations across the state including the United Methodist Children's Home located in Lebanon, Indiana.

The Silver Creek High School Food Pantry is providing Christmas Food Baskets to needy student families. They need donations to help cover the cost of turkeys and hams for the baskets. They would gladly accept personal checks or gift cards from Kroger or Meijer to help purchase these items. You can mail your donation to Silver Creek High School to the attention of Ms. Amanda Ahlbrand and write "For Food Pantry" in the memo field. If you need more information, you can email Amanda at aahlbrand@scsc.school.

The Sellersburg Community Food Pantry and Clothes Closet provides free food assistance and clothing to families in need across Clark and Floyd Counties. It is located behind Kingdom Life Church at 11515 US-31, Sellersburg, IN 47172, and is open on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Contact: April Smith at 502-727-1596 or cameronandaprilsmith@gmail.com; Life Center phone is 812-246-2776

Janet Sims

Thank You for a Wonderful Trunk or Treat!

We had nearly 100 kids come trunk-or-treating. A big thank-you to everyone who joined us for our Trunk or Treat event! We are grateful to all who decorated trunks, handed out treats, volunteered, and brought their families to celebrate with us. Your participation helped make the evening a fun and memorable time for our community. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Birthday List

See a mistake or omission? Need a mailing address for a card? Contact the church office sellersburgumc@gmail.com



December

Sylvia Liburd	Dec 14
Terry Sims	Dec 15
Darrell Boman	Dec 15
Barb Koehler	Dec 18
Jennifer Potts	Dec 25

January

James Wells	Jan 01
Nancy Elrod	Jan 06
Connie Nunn	Jan 15
John Scannapieco Jr.	Jan 21
Andy Beyl	Jan 23
Nora Pritchett	Jan 28



Prayer List

1. Alice & Denny Jones
2. Ralph Raeinhardt
3. Brenda Croucher
4. Jennifer (Maureen's daughter)
5. Fred & Sue Smith
6. Dottie Scannapieco
7. Lois Ketterer
8. Phil (Tony's friend)
9. Jodie Goforth
10. Bobbie
11. Sylvia
12. Jana
13. Sam
14. Willie
15. Baby Benjamin
16. Logan

Shut-ins

Betty Haas
Janice Jones
Lois Cook



UWF Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to join us for our annual United Women in Faith Christmas Cookie Exchange! We will enjoy games, cookie tasting, and selecting cookies to take home. We will also prepare cookie tins to share with our homebound friends.

Come enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and Christmas cheer. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know our new members, too!

We look forward to seeing you there!





Join us for a **Jesus Baby Shower, Saturday, December 12th,** at **2:00 pm**.. Kids and adults alike are invited to join us for a baby shower welcoming the baby Jesus. Baby shower type gifts are encouraged and will be donated to C.R.A.D.L.E. in Scottsburg. There will be games, cookie decorating, crafts, food, and music.



Don't miss our very own Tony Goforth in concert, **December 13**, at **6pm** Join Tony for **A Christmas Concert**. Come hear many of your favorites sung live right here in our church sanctuary. This Christmas tradition is the highlight of the season. A love offering will be taken during the concert. Treats will be available after the event.



Join us **Friday,December 18th**, at **5:00 PM** for our annual **Caroling Party**! All ages are welcome. We will meet at the church and then drive to visit Maple Manor and area seniors singing carols and bringing Christmas cheer. Afterwards, we will then return to the church for light refreshments.



For many the Christmas season can be hard to navigate. For some, grief, anxiety, and depression only increase during this season. On **December 21st** at **7:00 PM**, the **Longest Night** of the year, we will gather for prayer, comfort, and healing. All are welcome to this safe place of hope and peace.



Join Pastor John and his family Sunday afternoon, December 20th for their **Christmas Open House.** The highlight of the open house will be the Christmas Shelf, which was started by Jennifer's grandmother in 1962. It is a large display with over a dozen intricately decorated rooms depicting Santa's home and workshop. Christmas treats and punch will also be available. 300 N New Albany St.



Join us **Christmas Eve** at **7:00 PM** for a joyful celebration of Christ's birth! Enjoy favorite Christmas carols, the story of Jesus' birth, and our traditional candlelight singing of "Silent Night." All ages are welcome!