



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Words to the Wise

January | 2024

Pastor's Pen...

Happy New Year! It has been wonderful sharing with everyone our first Christmas in Sellersburg. Jennifer and I have enjoyed all of the special holiday events. I have enjoyed the special Christmas gifts including the many food items, as well as, the special staff gift to which many of you donated. It seems like a week ago we were collecting food for Thanksgiving and since then we have done Angel Tree gifts, Cookie Exchanges, Caroling, a Christmas Concert, and more. The joy of this season, and the special way that Sellersburg UMC celebrates the holiday has been a blessing to me and my family.

As the New Year rolls in, the Christmas lights will be put away, and the Christmas music will leave the radio stations. Keep in mind though that Christmas doesn't officially end until January 6th. There are 12 days after all. On Sunday, January 7th, we will celebrate the official end of Christmas with Epiphany. Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Magi or Kings from the East. The Season of Epiphany is the season of light. The days grow longer, and we celebrate the light of Christ as it grows in the life of Jesus and in our own hearts. In January, I am offering opportunities for us to get to know each other better and John Wesley's prayer and faith life.

VISITS WITH PASTOR JOHN

I am finally going to schedule the long-awaited visits with Pastor John. I had planned to do them in September, but with getting settled and getting my parents moved into a new home, my

schedule just got too full. Instead, I am going to set out sign-up sheets with dates and times over 3 weeks in January (7th - 26th). The sign-up sheets will be near the front of the church near where the Prayer Cross is located. You can sign up for any available time. We can meet at a restaurant or coffee shop, in your home, at your work, or at the church. Where we meet is up to you. The idea of meeting is to get to know each of you even better, and let you get to know me a little better, too.

Bible Study

The busyness of December will soon be a memory. Take time this month to refocus your prayer and faith life. Fill in the extra time with the things that will build your relationship with God. The Friday morning Bible study is doing a 3-week challenge starting on January 12th. John Wesley, founder of methodism, led his Bible study and prayer groups by asking a series of 21 questions. We are going to look at those questions in groups of 7 each week. The questions are ones that make us look deeper into our relationship with God, our faith journey, and our relationship with others. This is a great opportunity to build your faith. I am also working on scheduling other Faith Development opportunities in the coming months. Keep an eye out for one that might fit your schedule.

Happy New Year,
Pastor John





Beyond the Walls Ministry

Thank you to everyone who sponsored an angel this year. SUMC was able to provide 40 children with a Merry Christmas.



Thank you to the people who helped take the Christmas goody baskets to those members who cannot attend church anymore. They were really appreciated. Communion has been taken to some of these members, More members will receive Communion shortly after Christmas.



Kathy Waterman - 812-256-5298



Fred Smith in his best Christmas attire!



GROW PRAY SERVE

**Are you
receiving
Pastor John's
weekly email?**

**If not, email the
office and let
Tony know!**



Young at Heart

What a great way to end the year! Twenty-one (21) people attended the December luncheon. The Italian meal was a hit, and we learned a lot about Pastor John.

Go into your 2024 calendar and add Young-At-Heart at 11:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every month! Our luncheon in January will be on the 3rd. We will have JayC fried chicken and ham, and we'll play BINGO.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for meats or if you would like to furnish the meat one month. Also, let me know if you have any suggestions for speakers or entertainment for our group.

IMPORTANT: If the schools are closed due to weather, the Young-At-Heart luncheon will be canceled. You will be notified by REMIND and/or an email from me.



Happy New Year's Blessings,

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

The first meeting of 2024 will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 14, at 2 p.m. This will be a planning meeting for the year.



United Women in Faith

Bring your ideas for speakers and/or activities and be sure to join us.

The 2024 Sellersburg UWF officers are:

President – Phyllis Hunefeld

Vice President – Janet Sims

Secretary – Donna Moore (sub is Jennifer Demaree)

Treasurer – Peggy Sayre

Secretary of Program Resources – Anita Tackett

Spiritual Growth Leader – Flora Childers

Ladies, you do not have to be a member of SUMC to join United Women in Faith. If you are not a member, you are welcome to attend any of our meetings that interest you.

Happy New Year's Blessings,

For more information please contact **Phyllis Hunefeld** at 502-693-3696 or phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com.



Pastor Staff Parish Relations Report

In January do you reflect on the past year? Do you remember events, gatherings and meetings that you attended and how those dates impacted your life? As I look back to January 2023, I had no inkling that we would have a pastoral change; that several friends would leave our congregation or that there would be those I cared about who would pass away. Life is certainly not static and changes are to be expected but not always welcome.

The reflecting sometimes brings to mind our anxiety, embarrassment, levity or joy. Various landmarks, sounds, textures or scents can bring to mind a memory of the past. We are the product of our memories and experiences; they also define our path. In this Christmas and Epiphany Season this newsletter hopes to bring joy to your heart that will sustain you in the coming months.

The main work of the PSPR Team is to offer support, encouragement and a listening ear to our pastor and staff whenever they have questions or concerns. We also want to know what they like about their position and how they interact with our members.

The staff was invited to share the aspects of their job that brings joy. As you read their comments, please pray over each staff member and at some point in this Advent Season or New Year share with them how they have brought joy to you in the past year. We have an amazing assemblage of talent and skills in the staff ministry teams at SUMC.

This is what brings JOY to me....

Student Ministry Assistant – Donna Moore: "The look of joy on their faces (the children) when they walk in and we greet each other on Sunday mornings."

Student Ministry Assistant– Brenda Croucher –
"To see God through the eyes of a child."

Administrative Assistant – Tony Goforth:

"Working with the brilliant John Demaree."

Music Minister – Collin Daily: "I love getting to see the joy that singing praise brings to the congregation. It's very moving."

Worship Pianist – Diana Holman: "What a privilege it is to make a "Joyful Noise"; that puts a smile on faces ... or maybe helps soothe a wounded soul. Its truly a blessing to be "back home again" @ SUMC!"

Visitation Minister – Kathy Waterman: "One aspect of my job that brings joy to me is praying with each person that I visit."

Minister – Pastor John: "Working with the brilliant Tony Goforth."

Custodian – Darryl Moore: "The ability to serve the church and take pride in my job."

Treasurer – Connie Nunn: "Joy- my first thought was it brings me joy when the accounts reconcile. But seriously it brings me joy that this is a way I can give back. A lot of people sing, work with children, preach, do missions but I can give back by accounting for the finances of the church."

Thank you Staff Members for sharing your Joy with others now and during the past year. We also extend many thanks to those who contributed to the Staff Christmas Gift Fund. Your support and encouragement is a blessing to our staff as they serve each week with love in ministry for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Happy New Year and I pray that 2024 be a year filled with Love, Peace and Joy,

Janet Werle, Chair
Sonya Tawney



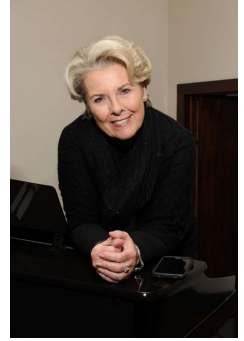
SUMC Prayer Chain

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 and let us know so we can get you signed up.



Interested in singing with the choir?

See Diana after our Sunday service for more information. dholman@ius.edu



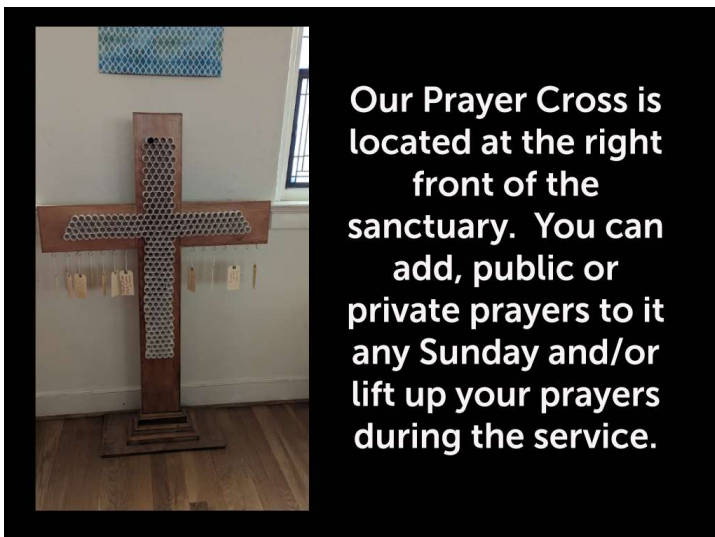
A special thanks...

Joyce Adams is now in Maple Manor, in room 208. Anita Tackett wants to extend a very special thank you to the church family thanking them for all the prayers and letters for Joyce. Keep up the prayers. They are heard and greatly appreciated!

Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due by the 17th of each month. Please submit any and all articles by then to the church office.

sellersburgumc@gmail.com



Our Prayer Cross is located at the right front of the sanctuary. You can add, public or private prayers to it any Sunday and/or lift up your prayers during the service.

Pick up Your Name Tag in the entreway by the Fellowship Hall or request one on the form there.



Please wear your name tag to help everyone remember your name.

Birthday List

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

January

- James Wells Jan 1
- Nancy Elrod Jan 6
- Connie Nunn Jan 15
- John Scannapieco Jr. Jan 21
- Marilyn McClure Jan 23
- Andy Beyl Jan 23
- Gloria Hutchinson Jan 24
- Nora Pritchett Jan 28
- Leone Carter Jan 31

February

- John Scannapieco Feb 2
- Dennis Wood Feb 3
- Liz Hardy Feb 3
- Pamela Gaines Feb 3
- Anita Tackett Feb 9
- Susan Riley Feb 19
- Janet Werle Feb 20
- Janine Lickliter Feb 20
- Kathlynn Kahl Feb 21
- Harlo Hardy Feb 22
- Shirley Carmichael Feb 22
- Connie Schlieker Feb 22
- Aiden Potts Feb 22
- Jodie Goforth Feb 26
- Donna Moore Feb 27
- Trudy Landers Feb 27
- Joan Holloway Feb 28

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
3. Jan Johnson
4. Alice & Denny Jones
5. Janice Jones
6. Harlo Hardy's sister Heather for healing
7. Larry Dewitt
8. Monte & Anna (Carol Voyles' brother)
9. Pastor John's parents
10. Brenda Croucher and her family
11. The people of Ukraine
12. Jennifer Demaree's cousin Eddie
13. Paulette Davison
14. Bob Johnson
15. Pam Gaines daughter, Brittany
16. Gloria Hutchinson's recovery
17. Lori Shields friend, Janae
18. Jodie Goforth's recovery from surgery
19. Monica Sorg & sister
20. Charlie Jackson family in their sorrow
21. The people suffering in the Israel/Hamas War



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is the SUMC financial report for November, 2023:

- **Income Comparison 2022 vs. 2023 per ChurchTrac:**

Income for first 48 weeks in 2023 (26Nov23):	\$192,008.25
Income for first 48 weeks in 2022 (27Nov22):	<u>\$220,732.13*</u>
Difference:	\$ -28,723.88

**Includes \$4,329 from the proceeds of the Pig Roast in 2022.*

- **Projected Giving for 2023**

Income for first 48 weeks in 2023 (26Nov3) from above:	\$192,008.25
Number of Sundays:	48
Average Giving per Sunday:	\$ 4,000.17
Projected Giving at this Rate to End of Year:	\$208,008.94
Approved Budget per Governing Board, 23Jan23:	<u>\$240,671.76</u>
Projected Giving in Comparison to Budget:	\$ -32,662.82

- **Income versus Expenses**

The Income versus Expense Report for the end of November, 2023, is not yet available. However, below is the information from October:

Income through End of October, 2023:	\$176,777.84
Expenses through End of October, 2023:	<u>\$174,472.94</u>
Net Income:	\$ 2,304.90

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

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

R Waterman
Finance
December 15, 2023

Some photos from the Advent Season of 2023 here at SUMC

