



# SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *Words to the Wise*

May | 2025

### *Pastor's Pen...*

As we move through the Easter Season, 2025 is a special year for our church. It was 100 years ago that the sanctuary we call home was being built. The church itself, that is the people, began 53 years earlier in 1871. We celebrated our 150th anniversary in 2021. Now 4 years later we are ready to celebrate 100 years in our current church building.

Until coming here, the oldest church I ever pastored celebrated 60 years while I was there. Two of the other churches celebrated their 40th while I was pastor. All of them pale in comparison to the long and rich history of Sellersburg UMC. Over the next few weeks leading up to the celebration on May 18th, my sermon series will look at foundations, generations, congregations, and visions. Anniversaries are a good time to take a good look at where you have been and where you are heading.

Over the years whenever I came to a new church, I would hear many stories from the church members. What was common about the stories is that they all seemed to take place "in the last 2 years or so." One story at my first church was about how church members there had visited a nearby apartment complex. The member said, "We tried that, but it didn't work." When the full story came out, the visit they were referring to had taken place 20 years in the past.

None of us were there when they dug the first trench, laid the first brick, or set the cornerstone, but we know the spirit that guided them and the hope for the future they envisioned. We know because it is the same spirit that guides us, and the same future that we envision still today. Too often, we imagine people of the past with extraordinary gifts and abilities, but in reality they were people like us. It is the Holy Spirit that leads them and us to do extraordinary things. Join me as we prepare for this special celebration and get caught up in the spirit.

Blessings,  
**Pastor John**

[john.demaree@inumc.org](mailto:john.demaree@inumc.org)



*Available on Facebook and through  
our website*



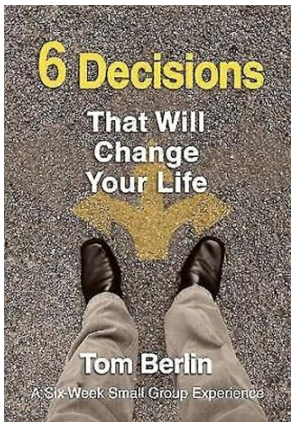
GROW PRAY SERVE

Are you  
receiving  
Pastor John's  
weekly email?

If not, email the  
office and let  
Tony know!

## FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

New Study Begins April 25th



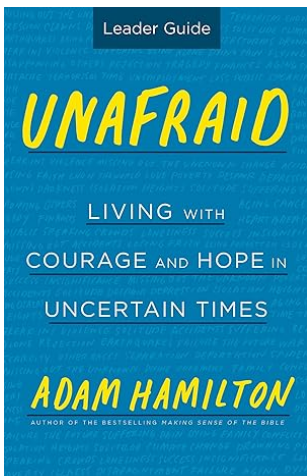
Our busy lives are filled with decisions, but are they the important decisions? In this simple, inspiring study, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us discern six key decisions in our walk with Christ: 1. The Decision to Follow 2. The Decision for a New Life 3. The Decision to Mature 4. The Decision to Respond 5. The Decision to Persevere 6. The

Decision to Surrender

EVERYONE is welcome to join the Friday Morning group which meets at 10:00 am each Friday morning in the church basement, Room 2. The easiest access is from the parking lot and through the backdoor of the church. Our next meeting will be April 25th

## WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

New Study Begins April 30th



Americans are anxious people. A recent study found that one in five of us has an anxiety disorder and we spend over \$2 billion a year on anti-anxiety medications. Often our life events play a significant role in our worries and fears. In this study based on his book Unafraid, Adam Hamilton explores the most common worries and fears experienced by

Americans today along with practical steps for overcoming these fears. This study reflects upon fear in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we don't need to live in fear. We can live with courage and hope.

EVERYONE is welcome to join the Wednesday Evening group which meets at 6:30 pm each Wednesday evening in the church basement, Room 2. The easiest access is from the parking lot and through the backdoor of the church. Our next meeting will be April 30th.



We hope everyone is making plans to attend our special celebration of our sanctuary's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have a special worship service highlighting SUMC's 100 years in this sanctuary. This building and especially this sanctuary has been a part of some of our most memorable life events. We have been baptized, confirmed, married, watched our children grow up in this church, and attended beloved members' funerals. It is where our church family meets and worships together. For some of us, we meet with our church family more often than we can see our birth families.

Please also plan to stay afterwards for a dinner where there will be a time of fellowship and remembrance. It will be a pitch-in dinner with the meat & dessert provided. Please prepare a salad or vegetable side to go with the meal.

We have invited former pastors and former members to join us for this day. We hope to celebrate with many whose lives have been touched by this church. Extend an invitation to your family and friends for we are and have been blessed to have this beautiful sanctuary to enjoy!

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.* Psalm 100: 4-5



The Young-At-Heart pitch-in will be at **11:30 a.m.** on **Wednesday, May 7.**

The meats this month will be JayC fried chicken and ham. Join us for fun, fellowship, delicious food and a few games of BINGO.

Hope to see you there!



**Everyone is invited!**

**Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)**

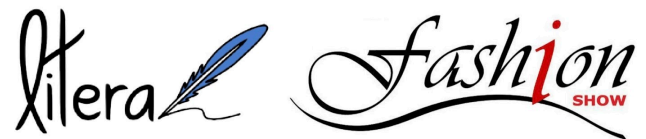
**Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)**



**You are invited to join us!**

**Saturday, May 31 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

*Sellersburg United Women in Faith*  
presents a



**Ladies...mark your calendars!**

This is one event you do not want to miss!  
After the Fashion Show, we will enjoy dips  
and desserts in the Fellowship Hall.

Invite your family, friends and neighbors! Let  
us know you plan to attend by sending a  
quick text to 502.298.2727 with your name  
and the number attending.

If you are interested in modeling, please see Lori  
Shields on Sundays or reach out via text/phone  
to 502.298.2727. We have a lot of great ideas for  
modeling outfits!



## MEN'S WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

We celebrated our 2nd anniversary of men coming together for food, fun, fellowship, and sharing. The Lord continues to bless us. Amen

### BE STRONG IN GOD'S SPIRIT

God wants every man to be strong in spirit. "...To be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man." To be strong in God's Spirit means:

**SENSING** God's presence at all times and developing the fear of the Lord.

**RECOGNIZING** the presence of the Holy Spirit and being aware of spiritual danger.

**UNDERSTANDING** the deeper things in God's Word. Hebrews 5:13-14

**DISCERNING** the wrong kind of attitudes and thoughts in ourselves and others, and knowing how to respond to them.

**UNDERSTANDING** the height and depth of God's love. Ephesians 3:18-19

**ENCOURAGING** others to grow in the Lord and apply Scripture to daily living. Hebrews 10:24

**BUILDING** your life around basic Scripture principles and convictions.

**KNOWLEDGE** to "rebuke Satan" and save members of your family from his power.

Always praying for you,

Men's Prayer Group

**See Rob Lamb for more information.**

[roblamb2567@gmail.com](mailto:roblamb2567@gmail.com)



**Birthday List**

See a mistake or omission? Need a mailing address for a card? Contact the church office  
[sellersburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com)

**May**

- Betty McMillin May 2
- Mark Ritter May 3
- Deb Sappenfield May 4
- Kathy Waterman May 4
- Dalton Daily May 5
- Shawn Riley May 7
- Ellen Money May 7
- Sam Goodwin May 12
- Lilly Hardy May 13
- Jason Werle May 14
- Rev. Joseph Sanford May 15
- Janet Broady May 19
- Stephanie Beyl May 21
- Ron Sappenfield May 27
- Bill Koehler May 30
- Darryl Moore May 30

**June**

- Tracey Beyl June 3
- Debbie Riley June 5
- Maureen Atkinson June 8
- Lisa Goodwin June 9
- Estherline Dessime June 14
- Brenda Croucher June 18
- Lloyd Hunefeld June 19
- Hobson Kahl June 25

**Prayer List**

1. Alice & Denny Jones
2. Janice Jones
3. Ralph Raeinhardt
4. Brenda Croucher
5. Tabitha's family
6. Donna West (Tony's friend that has cancer)
7. Pastor Gary Schaar
8. Shelby Riley & baby girl
9. Peace in Ukraine & the Middle East
10. Sharon (Maureen's sister)
11. Fred & Sue Smith
12. Bishop Malone & Derrick



## Project Exit 0 Update



Once again on Wednesday, April 2nd the Young at Heart attendees joined together to assemble snack bags for Exit 0 shelter. Our congregation generously continues to support this mission project. Again, we were able to make over 50 snack bags and collect a large box of much needed hygiene items. We used up all the donated items and now need to rebuild our supplies. As we hope to make this a yearlong mission project, please continue to donate needed items as you can.

The assembled bags and hygiene items were delivered to Exit 0, which is housed at West Maple Street Baptist Church in Jeffersonville on Palm Sunday, April 13th. At that time members of the mission team toured the facilities and helped with the meal that is provided on Sunday afternoons. The leaders and the recipients of the services at Exit 0 were very appreciative of SUMC's donations that we delivered. On their FaceBook page they posted pictures of the large amount of donations and their thanks to our congregation.

The facility provides nearly 150 people's lunch each Sunday. The people receive meals either at the church or at satellite sites in the community. The mission team hopes that our congregation will agree to provide meals for this group some Sundays this year. More information on this opportunity will be shared once dates are determined. We invite anyone who would like to support this mission project to join us on

Wednesday, May 7th for hands on involvement or please continue to contribute snack items or hygiene items. There is a table in Fellowship Hall with totes for the collection of any donated items. Since we started this project in March, we have delivered 100 snack bags and a large amount of hygiene products. SUMC continues to show Christ's love to people in our community!

🎵 **Love Music?** 🎵

**Start Your 2025 New Year  
Singing!  
All to His Glory!  
Practice: Wednesday, Feb.  
26  
@ 5:00-6:00pm  
Diana #812-207-3087**



## Sunday School Opportunities



We have multiple adult Sunday School classes, classes for children, and nursery care starting at 9am, downstairs and in the Fellowship Hall

Check out What's Up Wednesday...



## Prayer Quilt Ministry Work Gathering

Monday, May 12th, 6:00 pm

We had a great kickoff of our Prayer Quilt Ministry on Easter Sunday when two prayer quilts were prayed over by Pastor John during the worship service and by many individuals in the Fellowship Hall after the service. The quilts were for Janice Jones and Fred Smith who both were contacted in advance to make sure they were willing to receive the quilts and were blessed to receive them from members of our Prayer Quilt Ministry team. There are two main additional items covered in this article: How to Get Involved and How to Request a Quilt

### How to Get Involved

We are having our next gathering of the Prayer Quilt Ministry team on Monday, May 12th, at 6:00 pm in Room 2 in the church basement (enter through the back door of the church off of the parking lot). We are looking for anyone who wants to help with this budding ministry whether they attend our church or not. Helping can be as simple as threading on the prayer ties, cutting up fabric, or fringing fleece among other tasks. We will also gladly accept finished lap quilts (around 3' by 4') or prayer squares (12" by 12") and we will add the ties. In addition, we are accepting donations of:

- Any cotton, fleece, or blended fabric (including any size scraps or even quilt tops if you have one laying around you will never finish)
- Embroidery floss, yarn, or pearl crochet cotton for prayer ties
- Used or new flannel back tablecloths to cover the work tables
- Well-loved or new fabric scissors
- Monetary donations for us to buy any of the above are also accepted (write Prayer Quilt Ministry in the memo section of the check or the offering envelope)

### How to Request a Quilt

Prayer Quilts can be requested by anyone for anyone, whether they attend our church or not. The quilts are gifts from the church to the recipients—they are all about the prayers that are attached to them. There are forms in the entryway by the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board. Please take a blank form from the folder labeled "Prayer Quilt Request Forms." **Please complete it after you ensure that the person you would like to receive a prayer quilt is willing to accept it.** Once the form is completed, please put it into the "Completed Prayer Quilt Request Forms" folder also on the bulletin board.

If you have any questions, please ask Jennifer Demaree or Flora Childers at worship or email the office at [SellersburgUMC@gmail.com](mailto:SellersburgUMC@gmail.com) and Tony will forward the email to them.

Blessings and love,  
Sellersburg UMC's Prayer Quilt Ministry Team



*The blue one was for Fred Smith and the multicolor one was for Janice Jones*



Join us June 23-27 for a Fun-Filled  
Road Trip to Exciting Destinations

We are inviting you and your friends to join us for five nights of fun. We will have music, games, snacks, and Bible lessons.

Questions? Want to volunteer?

Contact Lori Shields at [burgstudentministry.com](http://burgstudentministry.com)  
or via text/phone call at 502.298.2727.

Registration details coming soon!