



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Words to the Wise

December | 2023

Pastor's Pen...

December 3rd marks the beginning of this year's 22 days of Advent. As Advent begins, we remember the ancient promise told through the prophet Isaiah, which says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6, KJV)

The prophecies of the Old Testament are a reminder to us that Jesus did not burst onto the scene in Bethlehem unannounced. The Messiah was anticipated, and when we start preparing for Christmas weeks ahead of time with our own Advent celebrations, we share in that sense of anticipation.

That word 'Advent' means 'arrival of someone important', and it refers to the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. The Advent season is an old tradition in the Christian church. The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship notes that Advent has its roots in Gaul (modern-day France) in the fifth century A.D.—about the time of the fall of the Roman Empire.

Of course, the world today is not really interested in the religious significance of the season as much as it is in the economic opportunity. The Christmas shopping season seems to start earlier and earlier each year, as retailers cash in on the holiday spirit by decorating their stores in red and green long before we've even thought about putting the Thanksgiving turkey in the oven.

We can't shop our way out of despair, though, and the promise of the babe of Bethlehem offers us something that no Day-After-Thanksgiving Sale can touch.

The mystery of the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ is the supreme word of good news in a world beset by war, famine, disease and economic turmoil. In a time in history when so much of the news seems to be bad rather than good, God's promise to us needs to be heard afresh.

It is the joyful task of the church to proclaim that good news—not just on Christmas day, but all Advent, and all through the year. As we read the old Scripture passages again and light our wreath in worship each Sunday, we tell the world, "Wait.

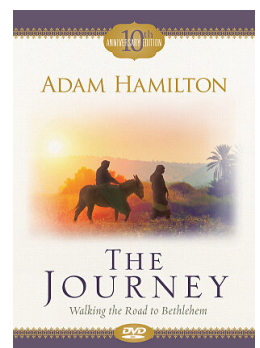
There is something even more powerful than the darkness besetting this world. And he is coming."



Blessings, **Pastor John**

Bible Study

Join us Friday mornings in December for a special 4-week study as we travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem with on-location videos and a study of the scriptures leading up to the birth of Christ. Come learn more of the story and see the locations where it actually took place. We meet each Friday morning at 10:00 am in room 2 which is located in the basement of the church. Everyone is welcome, and it's ok if you can't come every week.





Beyond the Walls Ministry

All the Angels were taken for this years Angel Tree event. Please return your unwrapped gifts by December 3rd.



Cards have been sent and phone calls have been made. Let us know if you would like a visit from Pastor John and/or Kathy.

Kathy Waterman - 812-256-5298



Young at Heart

Young-At-Heart Goes Italian!

If you had too much turkey at Thanksgiving, come enjoy some Italian food at the Young-At-Heart December 6 pitch-in luncheon. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Pastor John will present our program. Don't forget to add YAH to your 2024 calendar on the first Wednesday of each month!



Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)

Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)



United Women in Faith

Sellersburg UWF hosted the Fall meeting of the Indiana South District United Women in Faith on Saturday, October 28. Thirty-one ladies enjoyed a delicious breakfast and an informative program on "Just Mercy" by Indiana UWF Conference President, Kathie Clemenz. The 2024 district officers were also installed at the meeting.

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



Creative Worship Team

The fall season is past and we are looking forward to Advent and Christmas celebrations as we anticipate the birth of Christ. We are planning to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, December 2, at 10:00 am. We have a few volunteers to help and would love to have more of you participating. The beautiful Christmas tree requires those who are able to climb a ladder to decorate the higher sections with lights and ornaments. There are decorations stored in the church basement in totes to keep them clean. It should not take more than a few hours to set up everything if we have a good turnout of volunteers.

If you would like to participate in lighting the Advent Wreath during the December morning worship service, please contact the Church office.

We are pleased to have the Adult Choir practicing special music for the worship services. On December 17, O! Holy Night will be sung during the morning worship service. The choir meets to practice on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. each week. Everyone is welcome to participate.

On December 24 the morning worship will be at the regular time of 10:15 and a special candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the Holy Night of wonder and great joy. Please bring your families and friends to this special Christmas Eve service.

During December and for 2024, we would like to have volunteers assume the responsibility of rotating the altar paraments to each of the seasonal colors of red, white, blue and green. This could be done

after the Sunday worship service or at a convenient time during the week.

Also, having volunteers for the ministry of changing the floral arrangements several times a year would be a huge help.

Where would you like to volunteer?

For further details, please contact Janet Werle or Pastor John Demaree.

With grace and peace,

Janet Werle / SUMC Creative Worship Director

502-376-9934 advertisingdiva10@gmail.com



Pastor Staff Parish Relations Report

Each year we offer our congregation an opportunity to thank the staff members at SUMC. On November 26,

December 3 and December 10, there will be an envelope in the bulletin marked My Staff Appreciation Gift. If you are not in attendance those Sundays, and you want to donate a monetary gift, please send your donation to the church office or add to your online giving.

Our staff works diligently throughout the year and has performed with love and care in their ministry areas. The donations are collected and then divided equally among our staff: Rev. John Demaree, Tony

Goforth, Connie Nunn, Collin Daily, Diana Holman,
Kathy Waterman, Brenda Croucher, Donna Moore
and Darryl Moore.

The pastoral change has been an adjustment in 2023
but everyone has pulled their load of responsibilities
before and since the changes. Not only is the
monetary gift appreciated, but also the support and
encouragement our congregation shows our staff
throughout the year.
We appreciate your generous support in the past and
encourage everyone to show your appreciation
again this year.

With grace and peace,
Janet Werle, PSPR Chair
Sonya Tawney Member

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.



Music Ministry



Interested in singing with the choir?

See Diana after our Sunday
service for more information.

dholman@ius.edu



The Weather is changing...

Please make sure your events are on the church calendar. This is the resource Darryl uses to make sure heat is on at those times. If your event is not on the church calendar, please contact Tony in the church office at sellersburgumc@gmail.com.

2024 COOKIE EXCHANGE

**Sunday, December 10 at 2 p.m. in
Fellowship Hall**

All ladies of the church are invited!

Bring 3 or more dozen of your favorite cookie(s)

Bring your cookie recipe if you're willing to share

Bring your own carry home container

Containers of cookies will be made up for

SUMC friends who are homebound

Join us for fun, fellowship and cookies!



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!



Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 10, 2023

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Our Children and Youth Ministries invite families and individuals of all ages to join us as we go caroling around the community and then return to the church for soup, cookie decorating, and ornament making. It all begins at 3pm on Sunday December 10th. Singing ability is overrated when it comes to the fun of caroling with friends. We will sing all of your favorite Christmas songs from "Away in a Manger" to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Then the fun continues as we share a warm meal and fun for the kids (of all ages).

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

Birthday List

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

December

- Bill Nunn Dec 3
- Jacob Loppnow Dec 12
- Lois Pickel Dec 12
- Sylvia Liburd Dec 14
- Terry Sims Dec 15
- Darrell Boman Dec 15
- Barb Koehler Dec 18
- Joyce Adams Dec 19
- Jennifer Potts Dec 25
- Lillian Curtis Dec 25

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

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Don Broady Family in their sorrow
3. Lisa Nale Family in their sorrow
4. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
5. Jan Johnson
6. Dianne Merillats family in their sorrow
7. Alice & Denny Jones
8. Janice Jones
9. Harlo Hardy's sister Heather for healing
10. Larry Dewitt
11. Monte & Anna (Carol Voyles' brother)
12. Danny Mills family. He passed 11/4
13. Pastor John's parents in their recovery
14. Brenda Croucher and her family
15. The people of Ukraine
16. Jennifer Demaree's cousin Eddie
17. Paulette Davison
18. Bob Johnson
19. Pam Gaines daughter, Brittany
20. Lori Shields friend, Janae
21. Sonya Tawney's nephew Declan
22. The people suffering in the Israel/Hamas War



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is the SUMC financial report for October, 2023:

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

Income for first 44 weeks in 2023 (29Oct23):	\$176,756.95
Income for first 44 weeks in 2022 (30Oct22):	<u>\$202,334.08*</u>
Difference:	\$ -25,577.13

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

- **Projected Giving for 2023**

Income for first 44 weeks in 2023 (29Oct23) from above:	\$176,756.95
Number of Sundays:	44
Average Giving per Sunday:	\$ 4,017.20
Projected Giving at this Rate to End of Year:	\$208,894.58
Approved Budget per Governing Board, 23Jan23:	<u>\$240,671.76</u>
Projected Giving in Comparison to Budget:	\$ -31,777.18

- **Income versus Expenses**

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

Income through End of September, 2023:	\$158,893.64
Expenses through End of September, 2023:	<u>\$157,957.99</u>
Net Income:	\$ 935.65

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
November 14, 2023

Thanksgiving Baskets



A huge thank you to everyone who donated food, time, or funds to help with our Thanksgiving Baskets. In the end, we donated 7 baskets of food to families in our

community. We did this work through the Silver Creek Food Pantry and through an individual family that was brought to our attention. A special thank you to Angie Hendrix and her helpers, the Koelers, who coordinated the entire project and made sure the food was delivered.



Amanda, who runs the Silver Creek Food Pantry, was delighted to receive our donations.

Some of the food before it was bagged up and taken to the Food Pantry.



Christmas Eve

Join us for a very special Christmas Eve Worship. The service is designed for people of all ages to enjoy. We will sing many of our favorite Christmas Carols as we remember the story of Jesus' birth. The service will end with the traditional candle-light singing of "Silent Night."



GOD'S TOOLS

There is a story told about a house which was badly in need of paint. "I am going to paint the house," said a can of paint, waiting, already mixed, in a shed. "No, I am going to paint it," the brush asserted, bristling with impatience. "You are, are you?" sneered the ladder, lying against the wall. "How far would either of you go without me?" "Or without me to pay the bill?" arrogantly added the checkbook belonging to the owner of the house, in a voice muffled by the pocket of the coat hanging on a nail. Just then the painter, who had overheard the proud remarks, ventured to put in a word. "Perhaps I'd better take a holiday," he said quietly. "I wonder if the house would be painted by the time I got back."

Even the most efficient among us are only tools in the hands of the Great Master Worker. As we work with him and for him, he works in us and through us. One worker is not more valuable or important than another. He that plants and he that waters have a unity of purpose. There is no reason for rivalry. Each has his task; each has his place. Perhaps it is our task to plant-or it may be to water. There may be times when we plant and other times when we water. But whatever our place may be, we are laboring with and for God. Then God will give the increase.

MILLIE STAMM



*Tony Goforth's
Christmas
Special*

SELLERSBURG UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
SELLERSBURG, IN

DECEMBER 17TH
5:00PM

LOVE OFFERING
WILL BE TAKEN